

THE
REBLOOMING
IRIS RECORDER

Spring 1999 ** VOL 53

RED ECHO

Reblooming Louisiana Iris



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A Section of the American Iris Society

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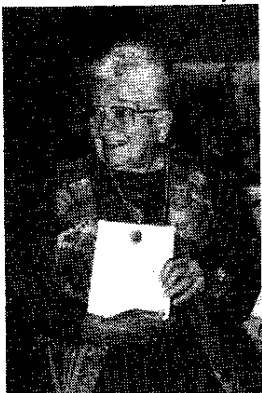
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Dear Rebloomer

Enthusiasts:

I am so excited and thrilled about the program for the National Convention in Oklahoma. On Wednesday, May 5, at 11 a.m.,



we are in for a fabulous treat. For the first time ever, we have a speaker who is the author of a brand-new hard-back, color-illustrated book about irises. He is none other than Bill Shear, a biologist at

Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia who has written for *Natural History*, *American Scientist*, *Flower and Garden*, and *Fine Gardening*. Bill's *THE GARDENER'S IRIS BOOK*, covers everything from planting . . . to replanting. He has had 40 years experience growing various kinds of irises in various regions of the country.

Bill will show a selection of the slides (many taken in our members' gardens), and he will give tips on the basics of iris culture that will be useful to the experienced as well as the novice. With beautiful graphics and "how to and not to" slides he will discuss the Borer, other pests, leaf spot, soil, how to plant, and more. Bill's book has been added to AIS Storefront, and he will be able to autograph your copy in Oklahoma.

Each year we have managed to have an exciting and unusual program and this year carries on the tradition — to have Bill as our speaker is a real coup. I hope you can be there!

The board meeting will be Tuesday, May 4, 1 to 3 p.m. in Presidential Room # 403. The general meeting, where I hope to see you all, is Wednesday, May 5, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,

in the Morgan Horse/Appaloosa Rooms, but check the final schedule. We will vote for new officers and on a slight change in the bylaws, present the Distinguished Service Awards to three outstanding supporters of the reblooming iris: Ben Hager, Earl Hall, and Frank Jones and also welcome our new president — Charlie Brown. All of you have had some contact with Charlie, who has been our excellent membership chairman.

Note that, if you want to save the \$3 postage, Charlie will have copies of the *Reblooming Iris Checklist* available at the convention for \$10.

I want to note my particular appreciation to John Weiler, twice past president; he has been a source of wise counsel during my term. Special thanks go to Kathy Guest who edited this outstanding issue of the *Recorder*. You know the saying — if you want something done, ask a busy person.

I have enjoyed being your president, and special thanks should go to Clarence Mahan who persuaded me to accept the nomination. It's been a challenging and rewarding three years. See you in Oklahoma!

Your retiring president,

Rosalie

Note from the editor:

Hello happy iris folks....

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *RECORDER* as much as I've enjoyed putting it together. Lots of meaty stuff in here... and lots of fun too. I think you'll find something for everyone, and I hope you'll be inspired to add your voice in the

next issue.

I am indebted to the many kind people who stepped forward to help with this issue — some of whom were innocently posting online when they were ambushed and asked to submit an article — thank you to Betty Wilkerson, who added two delightful articles to this issue, and to Dennis Kramb who suggests that there is rebloom outside of bearded irises. There's a great article from a northern hybridizer, Mike Gullo and lots of other notes and tidbits.

And thank you to the folks who always come through; Anner Whitehead, Sterling Innerst, Roy Epperson, Mike Lowe, Clarence Mahan and Bill Maryott. These folks are virtual bottomless pits of education and information.

There are too many people who contributed to name each one, so please know that I appreciate every golden word.

And thank you most of all to Rosalie Figge who charmed me into undertaking one more issue, and who supported me the entire way with encouragement, faxes and eagle-eye proof-reading.

One final **big** thank you to Christy Hensler who provided all the artwork!

Kathy

Choose Your Ancestors With a Little More Care, Please

By Mike Lowe

I have always wanted to grow a good selection of reblooming MTBs. At present, this is an unfulfilled dream. It is my contention that a well chosen I. aphylla clone could make this wish come true. Selected clones of aphylla bring many benefits to MTB offspring-tetraploidy, excellent low branching, intense color, and cold weather dormancy. However, some few aphylla clones confer a 'win the lottery' trait-rebloom! Thereby hangs a tale.

It starts in a Swedish garden with Maj Öhrström's mother's iris. It is a mystery story, unfolding via the internet, an unknown iris, old, small and a rebloomer. To condense a delightful exchange into a paragraph, late in the summer, Maj obtained photos of the unknown's flower, stalk, rhizome and seedpod and posted them to her webpage, <<http://www.algonet.se/~pajden>>. Several people made a tentative identification that the unknown iris was either an aphylla clone or a first generation aphylla hybrid. What, you may ask, is the significance of this to obtaining reblooming MTBs?

It appears to me that the THISBE, HARMONY, LUSTRE iris lines of William R. Dykes have a strong dose of aphylla in their background and that, of these varieties, LUSTRE expresses a 'not-before-recorded' reblooming trait. I obtained LUSTRE in '96 and it struggled in a poor location until this past summer when I moved it into a better spot in the garden. Every fan in a reset clump of LUSTRE (Dykes '25) rebloomed in late November and early December. LUSTRE's rebloom tendency appears strong albeit late. LUSTRE has no

recorded pedigree but, its growth habit exhibits the branching characteristic of a strong dose of aphylla breeding. LUSTRE is about 24 inches tall, branching starts at the base of the stalk; the bloom is a violet self or slight bi-tone (Standards RHS 82A, falls 83C); bluish white beard tipped yellow; self haft veining, overlaid on a white area around the beard, white area carrying out to shoulder margins.

Acceptably MTB sized, rebloom progenitors are always of interest to hybridizers working to stay within the rigid size constraints of the MTB class. However, when departing from the Sass brothers' iris lines it is difficult to point to any one ancestor and say with a high degree of confidence, "the rebloom trait entered here!" A good example of this (although short, not an MTB!) is POLAR KING (Donahue '39), introduced as a rebloomer and it is the first iris introduced as a reblooming cultivar to be awarded an AIS Award of Merit. POLAR KING has a recorded pedigree of: MOONLIGHT (Dykes '23) X Dominion seedling. DOMINION (Bliss '17) is ubiquitous in iris pedigrees, however, many students of rebloom are uncomfortable in ascribing a tendency to foster rebloom to the Dominion influence. On the other hand, rebloom in William R. Dykes' line of iris introductions is poorly documented. When faced with the choice as in POLAR KING, either pointing to something such as DOMINION as the carrier of rebloom or ascribing the trait to a William Dykes cultivar, the tendency has been to credit the reblooming genes to DOMINION, by default.



Until recently, both our outlook and our foundation stock has been too narrowly circumscribed to achieve success in obtaining remountant tetraploid MTBs. The times, however, are changing. THISBE, an aphylla derivative, was employed by Ben Hager in his MTB program. The Craigs are using a Werckmeister aphylla variety. Other MTB hybridizers are broadening the genetic mix behind their MTB

lines. Just coming on the market is reblooming MTB by Dr. D. C. 'Charlie' Nearpass that has a remountant aphylla clone in its background. Meanwhile, we can still obtain and use reblooming aphylla strains of MTB breeding stock such as LUSTRE, Maj's little aphylla rebloomer and others yet to be found and identified.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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REBLOOM FROM OUT WEST

(Well not exactly)

By Michael Gullo

Oh, the joys of living in the mild Mediterranean climate of southern California. I don't, but you could not tell it by the irises blooming as they were in early December here in balmy western New York. Okay the comparisons to southern California are a bit of a stretch since late autumn temperatures here will never be confused with the sixty, seventy or eighty degree temperatures experienced there. Somehow the temperatures managed to stay just warm enough, the skies cleared just frequently enough and the precipitation managed to stay just liquid enough (if you know what I mean) that some of the most rugged and determined irises were still in bloom the first week of December. Sure, they were battered and bruised by the cold windswept rains and the mid twenty degree nighttime temperatures and yet there they were. Perhaps even more amazingly, buds continued to appear from plants that just didn't want to give up. If only the weather could have held till January or February or March or ... well anyway the buds were there, Mid-December brought me back to reality - "THIS IS NEW YORK, MAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" Cold temperatures and snow put an end to what might have been a "career season" for iris bloom.

I have been hybridizing irises for about 9 years and fairly early on, iris rebloom became one of my prime objectives. I soon found that the climate of the region presented special challenges in the pursuit of this objective. I live just east of Rochester, New York and officially we are listed as zone 6 here. New York State contains 5 climate zones ranging from zone 3 in the north Adirondack region to zone 7 on Long Island. Yet while we are considered zone 6 one gets the impression that not all zone 6's are cre-

ated equally. Fall rebloom here I doubt will ever be comparable to that experienced in zone 6 areas of Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Tennessee, and so on. Likewise fall rebloom here may never be as convincing as in some zone 4 or 5 regions at similar or more southerly latitudes. The reasons, in my opinion, are twofold. First, the use of winter minimums to determine hardiness zones while vital for questions of plant survivability is of little value for predictability and reliability of rebloom. Second, the effect that special climatological conditions in New York, certain other states bordering the Great Lakes and other areas of the northeast have, which hinder rebloom even when compared to areas with colder winter minimums. In regards to the first point I

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suspect that latitude, the length of the growing season (the time between the last hard frost of spring and the first hard frost of autumn), precipitation, average daily high temperatures and the percentage of time skies are overcast, coupled with cultural practices and soil conditions are more indicative of whether or not rebloom will occur in a given region. Regarding the climatological conditions, I suspect that, like much of the northern sections of the United

States, New York suffers from the more southerly storm track, as compared to the summer when storms generally pass farther north in Canada. Concurrently the lowering angle of the sun drastically reduces the amount of light and thus energy that the plants so heavily rely upon, especially during a high energy undertaking such as blooming. Certainly New York suffers as do certain other areas bordering the

Great Lakes from a phenomenon known as "Lake Effect". The proximity of the big lakes is a mixed blessing, helpful on one hand for their ability to soften weather extremes by keeping average daily temperatures a bit warmer in the winter and a bit cooler in the summer. On the other hand, the lakes also have the less than appreciated ability to create seemingly unending cloud cover and generous amounts of precipitation particularly during the mid-late fall through much of the winter. In regards to the precipitation, one can easily imagine how difficult a task it is for irises to rebloom when buried under significant snow (November snowfall totals here can approach 2 feet as it has in each of the 3 preceding Novembers prior to 1998). This year snow was not a problem as October was snow free and only a trace fell in November, but the effect of the cloud cover and the resulting lower daytime highs (due to the effect the cloud cover has on solar heating) was perhaps more apparent. 1998, it must be added, was an exceptional year. In a more typical year November and December skies are overcast approximately 70% of the time, a fact which contributes to average daily high temperatures in the low forties in November and low thirties in December. In light of these climatic conditions, one begins to get a picture of the challenge faced by irises attempting to rebloom. The lower available solar energy due to the lower sun angle and the cloud cover, compounded by the resulting colder tempera-



tures of late October, November and December slows stalk elongation and bud development to a crawl. Then the first significant snowfall or arctic blast terminates the rebloom season. I have had irises rebloom in early November on a couple of occasions in the past, but to get an additional month of rebloom this season was unprecedented.

I read recently that 1998 was the warmest year on record in the northeast and so I may never experience December iris bloom again (outdoors anyway). Without a doubt, it was the best year I have experienced in the years that I have been growing irises. 1998 started with a mild winter and an early spring, MDB's and SDB's began the show on April 25th (around 1 1/2 weeks early for our location). Despite the early start, we were fortunate to avoid any damaging cold snaps that occasionally affect developing buds or blossoms. With ample warmth and moisture to work with, the iris bloom was spectacular. Significant credit (and thanks) for such an outstanding season also must be extended to advice from Marie Gerbert. Her article appeared in an article in the January 1998 AIS bulletin (p.24) recommending the use of Murphy's Oil Soap (1/2 cup to 1 gallon water) for iris borer control. Weekly sprayings commencing prior to the appearance of the first borers and continuing throughout the bloom season, taking care to reapply after rain, seems to have been a tremendous success. Spraying coupled with a thorough late fall or early spring cleanup kept the borers in check. This is the first season I have tried this method of control and the results have been better than I could have imagined. I have my fingers crossed that it continues to be an effective treatment in the future. In the past, I have had varying degrees of success combining garden cleanup and different brands of beneficial nematodes, but of course by 'varying degrees' I mean results ranging from moderately successful borer control to "Oh my God I hope they don't eat the house". Anyway I

digress, I just want to suggest that if you are like I am and you will not spray insecticides to save yourself from being carried away by Pterodactyl sized mosquitoes, then this is a promising route to alleviate the suffering.



With borers essentially a non factor, near perfect growing conditions led to an exceptional spring bloom season from healthy vigorous plants. By late June the spring season was wrapping up with the last TB's and Siberians opening their final blossoms. I was able to reset one of my reblooming beds in June, working in compost and a touch of bone meat to improve water retention and provide the plants with an early boost for the fall season.

Late summer brought drier conditions and although tempted to haul out the hose and sprinkler, I just let nature take it's course. I've been trying hard not to baby my rebloomers (a difficult task considering most of them are my own seedlings) by not giving them additional watering or covering them up on frosty autumn nights. Admittedly, once I do discover a plant trying to push up a bud, I do tend to give it a splash of collected rainwater as needed (there seems to be nothing like the natural stuff to give the plants a jump). The first plant to rebloom for me was a small light yellow SDB seedling out of Golden Child (Byers 88) which opened on 8-21-98 and later tried to bloom a third time near the end of October. Toward the end of September, Baby Blessed (Zurbrigg 79) and two yellow E3 seedlings started to rebloom. Things really got under way in October, Sugar Blues (Zurbrigg 84) sent up a single stalk with 10 buds and plenty of time to enjoy each one. Sugar Blues is an iris I would grow even if it were not the beautiful blue violet rebloomer that it is, for its wonderfully fragrant blossoms which can be appreci-

ated even many feet away. Other irises contributing October bloom included Belvi Queen (Jansen, Carol 75), Golden Child (Byers 88) and a host of seedlings, making October the peak month for rebloom with 5, 6 or 7 plants blooming on any given day. A late October scare prompted me to bring in a number of stalks and plants attempting to rebloom, otherwise November might have challenged for peak fall bloom. Well, despite a couple of late October nights dropping down to 27 degrees, the irises kept going. In addition to many holdovers from earlier months, a white SDB seedling out of Baby Blessed bloomed, followed by I Bless (Zurbrigg 84) and later on 11/13/98, a TB seedling from a cross of Eternal Bliss (Byers 87) X Champagne Elegance (Niswonger 87). That same night temperatures dipped to 20 degrees F. I went out late that night, after realizing that the temperature had dropped so low, with the intent of saving what stalks I could. When I got outside, I beheld a sight which I figured spelled the end of the fall season. Many of the stalks had a shiny dark green glaze to them and a wrinkled surface texture. It was quite apparent that some of the stem tissue was frozen, and water that had collected in the spathes was frozen solid. Amazingly the stalks I had brought in which had displayed these signs looked perfectly normal within an hour and proceeded to open their buds. Even more incredible was the fact that many of the buds that remained outside (and unprotected) continued to develop, with some even blooming right though the first week of December. So just what irises can one find blooming in December in western New York? Baby Blessed, I Bless, Lo Ho Silver (Byers 88) and an IB seedling from a cross of I Bless X Sugar Blues. The shame of it is that there may have been others had I not brought in so many stalks and plants when early cold weather threatened. Mind you, it was interesting to have plants blooming in the

kitchen window and then walk outside and have blooms still in the garden. All told, 42 plants attempted fall bloom (including 2 first year seedlings) with 88 total fall stalks and 21 plants successfully managed to open at least 1 blossom. As I mentioned, this has been the best season to date, but I know how fickle fall bloom can be around these parts. In the fall of 1996 I had a significant number of plants rebloom (13 of 19), with many comfortably early (September and October). One year later only 2 plants (2 of 12) bloomed before harsh weather put an end to the rebloom season. Humbling to say the least. Still there is reason to be optimistic that earlier, more reliable, more prolific and better quality rebloomers can be obtained with well thought out hybridizing. The list of irises reported to rebloom in New York is growing steadily, providing a wider selection of cultivars to brighten New York gardens in autumn and furthering the hybridizing effort. The key to rebloom here is that it must come early. Irises attempting to rebloom in August, September or early October tend to perform extraordinarily well, having sufficient time and warmth to open all their buds. Late rebloom attempts are fraught with difficulties. Clouds, cold temperatures, shorter days, lower sun angles and snow all threaten to end the show. On the positive side, late rebloom means the presence of iris flowers when ordinarily there wouldn't be any and also once open, an iris bloom can last 5 - 6 days.

1998 was a gift season which may never be equaled in terms of quality and duration of rebloom in this region. Only time will tell. Several irises put on spring-like displays including Baby Blessed (16 total stalks over 2 1/2 months), I Bless (2 clumps, 9 stalks), a yellow IB seedling C- 14- 1 -R (7 stalks over 2 months) and E- 1 63-2-R (1 0 stalks). Perhaps not California type numbers, but we are making progress.



Irises and Their Companions: Some Thoughts for Novices

by Anner Whitehead
HIPS Sourcing Chair

While many people prefer to grow their irises in special beds devoid of other ornamental vegetation, many of us will want to incorporate different flowers into our iris gardens, or integrate our irises into our larger garden design. Provided some realities are borne in mind, this is not only possible, it is desirable, both for aesthetic purposes and for the health of the irises.

The basic literature on irises tends to suggest that many of them, particularly the bearded ones, are best grown in isolation to ensure that their cultural requirements are well met. These requirements involve sun, soil, water, nutrients and drainage, and, however your irises are grown, these must be met to assure success. However, the presence of other flowers in an iris planting does not necessarily cause problems if these are well chosen. Indeed, irises grown in combination with appropriate companions may have fewer problems, and less severe problems, than those grown in isolation. Mixed beds are usually healthier than monocultures because diseases and pests cannot sweep through them as easily, and because all of the plants do not affect the soil in the same ways.

Just as there are different kinds of irises with different needs, so must there be different kinds of companion plants. These may include shrubs and trees, as well as short lived and perennial plants, and even bulbs. They may range from the formal to the informal, and from the demure to the extravagant, and may be horticultural favorites, natives, or exotics, as your fancy leads you. It is, after all, your garden. Your intent may simply be to complement the irises, or to provide additional interest and color throughout the season, or lend structure to the garden throughout the year. But whatever aesthetic effect you seek, the

chief criterion in selecting your companion plants must be cultural compatibility with the irises.

Bearded irises of all sizes require sun and adequate water, superior drainage, and a neutral to slightly alkaline soil which is not too rich, especially in nitrogen. They also need good ventilation and periodic division. They tolerate mulches poorly since mulch holds moisture close to the rhizome and blocks the sun which the rhizome needs to ripen well. Iris roots run wide and close to the surface. Thus they do not enjoy weeds, nor crowding, nor do they enjoy aphids and slugs. It follows

that heavy feeders, plants requiring a mulch or heavy seasonal watering, plants with leaves that will overgrow or shade their companions or harbor pests, plants that also have extensive shallow root systems, or resent root disturbance, or which are vigorous increasers, or plants which produce large numbers of unwanted seedlings, or fruit, or other detritus, are not the best choices to grow with them.

Companion plants tend to be used with bearded irises in four ways. In more formal schemes, they may be used to border the planting. Or, for a cottage effect, some few may be allowed to seed freely throughout it. They may be dotted throughout an iris border, or the entire bed may consist of groups or "drifts" of different perennials and annuals, including your irises. The latter scheme tends to work better than the third since the plant groups are larger and so may receive more specialized consideration.

To border a planting, whether all irises or mixed, do consider the pansy, and its diminutive cousin the viola, both of which offer a wide range of complementary colors and a tidy mounding habit which is an attractive foil to the



vertical leaves of the irises. Coral bells also show this habit and their foliage, now available in a wide variety of mottled and silvered forms, is interesting. Dianthus, gray velvet lamb's ears, dark green germander, and other drought tolerant herbs or perennials are also effective, especially the prostrate veronicas, phloxes, and campanulas. Candytuft is a classic choice, especially with stones, although the white can be very assertive. Miniature ivies, including variegated sorts, are very fine in combination with brick edging. Always remember that with spreading plants, care must be taken that they do not encroach, nor harbor slugs. As the season progresses, spent edging plants may be replaced by lively or restrained annuals such as portulaca, dusty miller, creeping verberna, or ageratum.



Allowing a delicate flower to colonize a bearded iris bed works well when these are managed carefully and excess seedlings and dead foliage promptly removed. Good choices here are columbines, flax, nigella, annual poppies, tall verberna bonariensis, cosmos, European toadflax, and, where the irises are well apart, larkspur or cornflowers. Beardless irises in moister locations may coexist nicely with blue forget-me-nots, or some primulas.

When bearded irises and larger companions are combined, great care must be taken to ensure that the irises are not overwhelmed. Three classic choices are peonies, tall phlox, and hardy chrysanthemums. Many gardeners also use daylilies, although these can require supplemental water and their foliage can become exuberant and harbor aphids. Lupines may pose the same problems. But many perennials will mingle effortlessly, and clear blues such as those of echinops, nepeta, or Russian sage are always welcome in the garden. Here one may also use seasonal bulbs or tubers, such as daffodils, although the dying foliage of these may be unsightly. Oriental lilies, dahlias, and the autumn blooming sternbergias and colchicums will continue the display. Shrubs are often the backbone of the mixed bed, providing com-

plementary foliage effects and winter interest. Gray things, such as lavender, artemisias, and elaeagnus bring out the best in the many colors of the iris blooms, and variegated euonymus is effective with all type of irises with variegated foliage. Old roses, especially the Albas and Damasks, are superb companions for bearded irises, as are heathers and heaths. Some aesthetic cautions may be born in mind when selecting your shrubs. Things with very bright emerald spring growth, things with very shiny foliage, and things with too much bloom at the same time as the irises will tend to detract from them, and golden and red foliage may also be difficult to use well.

Beardless irises are also complemented by, and, in their turn, complement many garden plants. The woodland irises such as cristata, tectorum, and foetidissima enjoy bright shade and moist, loamy, soils. Thus they mingle well with like-minded perennials such as hostas, ferns, trilliums, toadlilies, and pulmonarias, and shrubs such as rhododendrons and daphne. Slugs should be anticipated.

Currently there is a tendency to see the Siberian irises as less formal plants than the bearded irises and to use them accordingly, mixing them with ornamental grasses, flowering herbs, butterfly bushes, daylilies, geums, asclepias, baptisia and the like. Irises can easily get lost in the visual abundance of companion plants and here, as in all garden planning, a little restraint often pays off. Siberian irises must have sun and good drainage, but they appreciate a moister situation than bearded irises with acid soil that is deeply cultivated, and a light mulch that does not cover the crown. The foliage is slender and grassy, and the plants do not require frequent division. Siberians can also be incorporated successfully into more formal schemes,

especially those featuring brickwork. Their color range is not as wide as the bearded irises, but there are clear blue violets, rich purples, roses, and clean whites. Thus colorful mixed tulips and bright Iceland poppies may be used to good effect, perhaps with camasia bulbs and, for late season interest, plume poppies and Japanese anemones.

The Japanese irises are the last spring irises to bloom, and, while the species forms, especially the excellent one with white striped leaves, are fine border plants, the extravagant beauty of the modern hybrids is such that they really need little accentuation. Requiring sun or high shade, copious moisture, regular feeding and frequent changes of soil, but abhorring lime, they are, perhaps, best grown alone, ideally near running water, with some interesting rocks and Japanese maples or wisterias close by. But it is your garden, and if you want some white European foxgloves and trollius, or a Carolina silverbell tree and Corsican hellebores, I certainly won't object!



Did you know that placing a cut iris bloomstalk in a glass of citrus soda (such as Sprite), can not only preserve the plant, but encourage bloom if the stalk is cut when the bud is showing color?



Sutton's 1999

REBLOOMING INTRODUCTIONS

REBLOOMING AND SPACE AGE SPECIALISTS

DOUBLE OH SEVEN (Sutton '99) TB RE SA M-L 35" Violet-blue standards lightening at midrib sit on semi-flared falls. The falls are violet-blue with white veining and a white flush around the yellow-orange beards. 1-1/2 inch long petaloids end in tiny upside down flounces. Nicely ruffled, this large flower reblooms with larger rightside up flounces in the fall. (Dauber's Delight X Morwenna) \$40

ENGLISH KNIGHT (Sutton '99) TB RE M-L 35" to 37" We were looking for a black rebloomer with this cross. A dark pansy self that has a sheen on it making it glow in the garden. Not a strong rebloomer but a good start towards a reblooming black. Ruffled and nicely branched. (Titan's Glory x Watch It) X (Holy Night x Blue Anew) \$35

ENTERTAINER (Sutton '99) TB RE M-L 35" An "over the top" iris, not for the faint of heart! We've called the standards shell-pink and the falls violet-purple (claret) edged pale violet. A whitish pink spray pattern spreads halfway down the falls. Indian-orange beards add an extra kick. Ruffled and laced. (Mother Earth X Double Agent) \$35

HIGH POINT (Sutton '99) TB RE SA M-L 38" Bright! A garden favorite. White-pink standards and bright plum-purple falls with a 3/8" band of white blended pale violet on the falls. Yellow-orange beards end in red-violet horns. Well spaced branching and good bud count, medium sized flowers. A wild cross that worked well! (Thornbird x Platform) X Sweet Reflections. ORDER EARLY \$40

INNOCENT STAR (Sutton '99) TB RE E-M 35" What a grower! This is one of the most vigorous TBs we have ever seen. A multiple rebloomer for us, Innocent Star bloomed for five months in 1998. Standards are white heavily washed beet-root, the falls are both yellow and white ground edged, veined and dotted beet-root. Cream beards are tipped beet-root. Nicely ruffled and branched with 9 buds. (Innocence Abroad X Rock Star) \$35

LEGENDS OF FALL (Sutton '99) TB RE E-M 36" A consistent rebloomer here. The violet-purple standards are blended darker. The falls are violet-purple veined almost black giving this flower a charcoal sheen. Violet purple beards are tipped bronze. (Titan's Glory X Violet Classic) \$35

Shipping

1 through 10 plants - \$5

11 through 20 plants - \$7

21 through 30 plants - \$9

Over 30 plants - \$9 plus \$.20 per additional rhizome

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Take a Walk on the WILD SIDE of Rebloom!

By Dennis Kramb

Imagine an avid gardener of roses who grew only hybrid teas and never considered for a moment the joys of growing anything else such as floribundas, miniature roses, or climbers. You'd think that person was pretty peculiar, right? Well there are thousands of avid iris growers that do just that!

Many irisarians are interested in growing only bearded irises, especially the Tall Bearded. Sure, they might have a smattering of medians or dwarfs in their garden, but when it comes right down to it, such as displaying them at shows, the TBs definitely come out on top. Even in the world of rebloomers, most irisarians focus on the TBs and ignore the rest.

As obscure as reblooming TBs are to the average run-of-the-mill gardener, reblooming beardless irises are equally unfamiliar to the average iris lover. But all that is about to change.

Hybridizers around the world are developing reblooming characteristics in a wide variety of irises including Siberians, Louisianas, and Arilbreds. Likewise, explorers and plant collectors are introducing new specimens of well-known species which exhibit reblooming tendencies. For example, the last SIGNA seed exchange offered hundreds of seeds of reblooming forms of *Iris setosa* (a beardless iris native to Siberia, Alaska, and Canada).

Last year I decided to try some of these exciting rebloomers myself. So I am just as new to this field as many of you. But I've read a lot of books and catalogs and I've learned of quite a few cultivars you may be interested in trying. (Regrettably I do not have any information about which zones these have rebloomed in.)

Note: This is by no means an exhaustive list. It's just something to get you started!



Some repeating cultivars include:

GAMLIN BLUE (*I. ruthenica*, 5", 1998 Gamlin)
ARIL REVERIE (1/4-arilbred, 1990 Moores)
REPRISE (Siberian, 32", 1987 Warburton)
SPRINGS BROOK (Siberian, 40", 1988 Warburton-Schafer/Sacks)
PLEASURES OF MAY (Siberian 30", 1995 Schafer/Sacks)
MAD MAGENTA (Siberian 26", 1987 Warburton)
GEORGE HENRY (Siberian, 35", 1983 Warburton)
CARELESS SALLY (Siberian, 26", 1996 Schafer/Sacks)
DEVIL'S DREAM (Siberian, 33", 1990 Schafer/Sacks)
SUMMER REVELS (Siberian, 28", 1999 Schafer/Sacks)
DANDY'S HORNPIPE (Siberian, 29", 1999 Schafer/Sacks)
BUTTER AND SUGAR (Siberian, 28", 1977 McEwen)
DANCING NANOU (Siberian, 36", 1983 Miller)
INDY (Siberian, 32", 1985 Hollingworth)
MY LOVE (Siberian, 42", 1948 Scheffy)
WINE WINGS (Siberian, 32", 1977 Varner)
TEMPER TANTRUM (Siberian, 1986 McGarvey)
MAGGIE SMITH (Siberian, 1976 McGarvey)
ERIC THE RED (Siberian, 1943 Whitney)
HELIOTROPE BOUQUET (Siberian, 1986 Hollingworth)

Some reblooming/repeating Japanese cultivars include:

SUMMER STORM (Japanese, 42", 1955 Marx)
JAPANESE PINWHEEL (Japanese, 40", 1988 McEwen)
DRAMATIC MOMENT (Japanese, 40", 1982 McEwen)
EMPEROR'S BRIDE (Japanese, 1995 Ackerman)

ILA NUNN (Louisiana, 1969 Arny)
RED ECHO (Louisiana, 1984 Rowlan)

Some species known to occasionally rebloom and/or repeat include:

Iris cristata
Iris lacustris
Iris lactea
Iris setosa
Iris ruthenica (repeats)

I should point out that there is a difference between repeating and reblooming irises. Reblooming irises bloom in spring and then again in summer or fall. Repeating irises bloom in spring or summer and then again about 2 to 4 weeks later. Personally, I don't consider one behavior better than the other. I'm just glad to get multiple blooms! Those in northern climates (Zone 5 & colder) might prefer the repeaters since rebloomers may get zapped by early frosts.

So I encourage you to try them! If you don't grow anything but TBs then you simply have no idea what you're missing! You will kick yourself for not trying these other irises sooner. Just be sure you get a book on growing them because some of them require different growing conditions from TBs in order to thrive.



One Not So Humble Opinion

by Bill Maryott

In the Fall of 1997, we relocated our iris garden in Northern California from San Jose to Corralitos, a sleepy little agricultural community. While the new garden is only about 35 miles from San Jose, it is an entirely different micro-climate. We knew that iris rebloomed more freely in this area on the coast than the more inland areas of San Jose; however, we did not anticipate how significant this would be.

The rebloom here was extensive and impressive in 1998. As the Spring bloom season ended in mid-May, the extended bloom season began and continued throughout the mild summer and was still continuing into mid-October when the field was replanted. At no time during the entire season did we have less than 50 bloom stalks on various varieties. It is interesting to note that rebloom was consistent with specific varieties. That is, non-rebloomers did not rebloom and rebloomers did consistently rebloom. Reviewing the RIS reblooming checklist, we found almost complete correlation to those listed. If they were reported to rebloom anywhere, they rebloomed here as well. If they had never been reported to rebloom, they also did not rebloom here. There were a few exceptions that I attribute to reports of rebloom where there were external night light sources. We know that any variety will rebloom if it gets night time artificial light even with low intensity. (I had once planted HINDENBURG (Maryott '83) in a curb side garden under a street light in San Jose. It bloomed profusely throughout November).

I want to mention a few cultivars with

unusual rebloom characteristics. First would be FEED BACK (Hager '83), which happens to have somewhat smaller flowers and less ruffling. It has very consistent rebloom everywhere in the country and perhaps has the strongest growth of any rebloomers we grow. It bloomed during the iris season on the mature mother rhizomes (planted the previous September), then again in May, June and July. Each side increase bloomed, making about 6 bloom stalks per rhizome planted with almost no available plants to ship. By September, each side increase had 6 or 7 new increases, making beautiful rhizomes for shipping. By October, the entire 40 foot row was back in bloom again. Amazingly, even though the form is not the most modern, I may actually use it in breeding this Spring due to its tremendous vigor. Another iris of Ben Hager's, BOUNTIFUL HARVEST ('91) was absolutely stunning when I first viewed a very long row of it at Melrose Gardens in the Fall of 1990. In my garden, it would bloom on virtually any rhizome that obtained the size of about 5/8 inch across, making it virtually impossible to find shippable sized rhizomes. Sadly, it had to be discontinued. The third iris is CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE (Niswonger '87). It performs similarly to FEED BACK with massive flushes of bloom, making it difficult to find large shippable rhizomes. Due to our mild summer where temperatures rarely reach 90 degrees, the color is outstanding and we simply love this variety.

Now I would like to mention some specific cultivars we found impressive. The most notable is SONATA IN BLUE (R. G. Smith '94). This cultivar is a cold-weather bred (Indiana) rebloomer with all the refinements of any warm climate non-rebloomer. Wide, heavily ruffled, beautiful medium blue with good growth habits. I am so disappointed I did not have enough stock to picture it in full color before Dr. Smith passed away this last year. Fortunately, he knew how good it was and so it be-

comes his legacy to us. Another treasure is UNBELIEVABLE LOVE (Grise '98). This is another cold-weather bred (Kentucky) rebloomer with tall, stately stalks, good bud placement, modern form with an unusual dimple in the falls. So fragrant, even I could find this one in the middle of the night without a flashlight!

Lilly Gartman created FROSTICO ('92) using a Ghio seedling that contained SOAP OPERA ('82). (Few people realize that while Ghio actually made the SOAP OPERA cross, he gave the seedlings to Gartman before they bloomed. When the seedling which was to become SOAP OPERA bloomed in Gartman's garden, she gave it back to Ghio for future introduction.) In my mind, FROSTICO is simply a wonderful rebloomer. Unfortunately, it will likely be reliable only where SOAP OPERA reblooms. MOTHER EARTH (Hager '88) is another rebloomer that deserves special note. It is so consistent and so refined that everyone should grow it. Another cultivar I found outstanding is ALL AMERICAN (Byers '92). I'm not always too fond of some of Monty's cultivars (including THORNBIRD ('89) and CONJURATION ('89)) but ALL AMERICAN is just superb. It is big, well formed, and a reliable rebloomer. Another of Monty's irises, with a name he registered before Ghio could claim it for his bubble ruffled series, is BLOWING BUBBLES ('88). It is an improved LEDA'S LOVER (Hager '90) with tremendous form and reliable rebloom. Yet another iris which should not be overlooked is COMPOSED (Hamner '90). It is beautifully formed and reliably reblooms here, but I suspect it wouldn't rebloom in cold climates. All of the "color-breaking" iris of Kasperek's rebloom reliably, but unfortunately, the GNU series also lacks good growth habits. TIGER HONEY (Kasperek '94) is the big exception. It shows tremendous vigor and consistent rebloom. As for smaller irises, the IB SEASON TICKET (Gattv '95) was one of the most consistent rebloomers. It

continued from page 10

sometimes gets confused about how many petals an iris should have and only rarely has just six, but the growth, form and rebloom is impressive. I would be remiss if I did not mention STRICTLY BALLROOM (Lauer '94). This introduction, bred from BREAKERS (Schreiners '86) and EDITH WOLFORD (Hager '86) shows great promise from a talented new hybridizer. It reblooms well and in our field, the best neglecta we've seen anywhere. The significance of the name escapes me, but we consider this Larry Lauer's best neglecta introduction to date. Most of Lloyd Zurbrigg's introductions either do not grow well for us or are not modern enough in form. CLARENCE (Zurbrigg '91) is clearly an exception. Great form, great growth, unusual and reliable rebloom.

In conclusion, let me reiterate what many of you have heard me preach before. Rebloom is THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT feature in a modern iris. In my opinion, it is perhaps one of the ONLY improvements we've really made with iris during the past fifty years. Irises today are no more disease resistant nor more vigorous than fifty years ago; just packaged in brighter colors with bigger boxes and more ribbons. Some DO bloom longer and more often than they did fifty years ago but I assure you, just as with daylilies, nearly all iris will rebloom fifty years from today.

Membership Report

Submitted by Charlie Brown
Membership Chairman

There were 227 Renewal Notices mailed the 13th of Feb. Counting those renewals, we are just at 700 members. We had 56 new members join during the last 6 months, but I had to delete at least that many who had not renewed since January 98. We have had about 60 orders for the Re-blooming Checklist. Again the Checklist is available for \$13.00 US and \$16.00 Foreign.

IRIS ODYSSEY 2001 FOR MEDIAN & MDBIS

ATTENTION HYBRIDIZERS GUEST IRIS REQUEST

The Iris Society of Massachusetts will host the IRIS ODYSSEY 2001 convention in eastern Massachusetts, May 18 through May 20, 2001.

Hybridizers are invited to submit miniature dwarf, standard dwarf, intermediate, arilmeds, miniature tall, border, and bearded species and species crosses irises recently introduced, or seedlings under consideration for introduction. These irises will be exhibited in eight gardens.

Send guest irises to:

Bill Godfrey, Guest Iris Chairman 3 Pierce St (Rte 140)
Foxborough MA 02035 508-543-2711

When sending guest irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Up to five rhizomes of each variety or seedling will be accepted.
2. Guest irises will be accepted from July 5, 1999 through August 31 1999.
3. The name or seedling number must be clearly indicated on each rhizome.
4. A master packing list is to accompany each shipment with the:
 - a. Hybridizer's name, address, and phone number;
 - b. Name or number of the variety/seedling;
 - c. Year of introduction;
 - d. Type of iris;
 - e. Height and colour;
 - f. **IMPORTANT: SEASON OF BLOOM** (Early, Mid, Late, etc.).
4. When guest irises are named after shipment, please notify the guest iris chairman before September 31, 2000 for accurate recording.
5. An acknowledgment of receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Contributors will later be asked for instructions regarding disposition of plants. Failure to reply by May 1, 2001, will be considered as an order to destroy all stock. All returned guest plants will be shipped postpaid.
6. The Convention Committee will exercise all precautions to see that no plant is traded or sold, and that no seed is set, or pollen used:
7. The convention committee will adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. Only rhizomes received through the guest iris chairman will be listed in the convention booklet.



The Dreaded Iris Borer

Some folks on the Iris e-mail forum have been discussing alternate controls for iris borer.... some of these exchanges have been thought provoking.....

Q. Has anyone considered putting out baited moth traps during the evenings in the weeks when the moths are flying?"

Sandy Ives replied

Pheromone traps have been used for a couple of decades for commercial fruit crops. For example, the codling moth trap is employed in apple orchards quite extensively. However, the value of such traps is misconstrued. They're not used to eliminate the pests themselves, but to identify when they are out and breeding.

Once a moth is caught in the pheromone trap, the clock starts. After a given number of days, (which varies from species to species), the pesticides are applied. This kills the larvae before any significant damage can be done.

The key point is this: If you don't see the moth in your pheromone trap, you don't spray or soak! In the case of apple pest management, this can have the effect of cutting down the number of pesticide spray cycles from as many as ten per season to three or four. In the case of iris borer, there are several issues to be addressed beyond the development of an iris borer pheromone trap:

First: the egg has to hatch if this procedure is to be effective. Given that the iris borer lays eggs in the fall, which hatch in the spring, there is not a great deal to be gained by knowing when the borer emerges. If, however, the moth emerges in the spring, there is a great deal to be gained.

Second: Knowing when the moth has emerged is not sufficient. We live in different climatic and geographic regions. I have not seen the life cycle of the iris borer described in the detail necessary to make full use of a pheromone trap.

We need such information as:

1. How much time elapses between the time the larvae pupates and the moth emerges?

2. How much time elapses between the time the moth emerges and mates?

3. How much time elapses between the time the moth mates and lays eggs?

4. How much time elapses between the time the eggs are laid and hatch?

By 'time required' I do not mean measurements in calendar days, but in degree-days (d-d). In simple terms, this is the number of degrees over a base temperature for a base period.

If the borer eggs are laid in the fall, when is the earliest date the eggs will hatch? This time period may change based upon the number of d-d. If we know that the eggs hatch after 300 d-d C (Celsius) or 540 d-d F (Fahrenheit), then we can ignore the calendar and rely on our respective departments of agriculture to notify us how many degree-days have passed. We can then spray at exactly the same time... in degree-days.

So, the number of degree-days for each of these steps needs to be determined. Once determined, then we could identify the optimal time to apply the pesticides. The additional precision provided by the pheromone trap is useful, but not essential. It becomes essential only when conditions allow two generations within a single growing season.

This is an extremely precise method with excellent benefits to those who wish to make the effort and conduct the necessary research. The number of applications of Cygon (for



example) could be reduced from 3-4 to 1-2.

The information on d-d detail might already exist. If anyone has such information, I would greatly appreciate receiving it

Sandy lives and gardens in Ottawa, Ontario

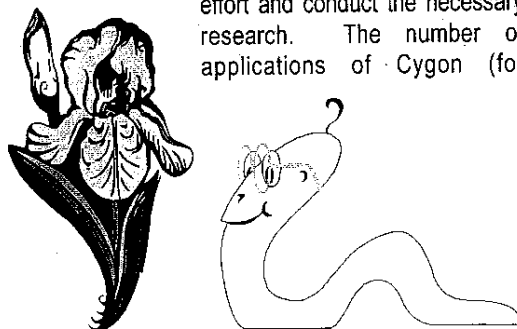
Ian Efford in Ontario offered

I have just had a discussion with Dr. Lafontaine, the Canadian Government expert on the Nocturidae, the group of moths that include the iris borer. We discussed control. He said that the moth can not be controlled by pheromones used as attractants because tests on Gypsy moths have shown that the elimination of 90% of the males still resulted in all the females being fertilized!

He also said that, despite statements to the contrary, iris borers are attracted to light, although not very strongly. This means that light traps might reduce the population in the vicinity of beds enough to reduce the damage significantly.

In his view, fly or hymenopterous parasites would be the best approach to find a biologically safe control method.

Ian concluded his post by suggesting that the time is NOW to sponsor research on the subject of safe control of this iris pest for the good of the future of iris growing.



What does 'RE' Mean?

by E. Roy Epperson

Obviously, RE stands for Roy Epperson! That (Innerst '96) also bloomed in September 1997 was my reaction when I first encountered the and was registered as RE. I do not purchase term as an iris grower. I began growing irises on the basis of their ability to rebloom. as tall bearded once-bloomers ONLY! I did not Therefore, it is always a wonderful surprise know that any other kinds of irises existed. And it was many years before I became "educated."

The first remontants in my garden exhibited that characteristic the first year that they were planted in my garden, coming directly from California hybridizers. BROADWAY (Keppel '81), CHATTER (Ghio '92) and PURE AS GOLD (Maryott '93) all bloomed in September-October after being planted in late July-August. PURE AS GOLD was registered as RE. No one of these has even hinted at rebloom since the year of planting. Obviously, the second bloom was set under California cultural conditions.

The most consistent and prolific rebloomer for me has been VIOLET MUSIC (Mahan '91). Another reliable one is ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew'93). Both of these are children of VIOLET MIRACLE and were hybridized in Region 4. I have had stalks of both of these in bloom at Thanksgiving. It would appear then that RE success here in Piedmont, North Carolina, may depend upon the cultural location where the cultivar was hybridized. Not a single stalk appeared in this garden for fall 1998! There was no evidence of effort to rebloom on any of the cultivars that have rebloomed before. I am reasonably certain that this is the result of the near-drought conditions this past summer and fall. George Sutton (CA) indicates that one of the keys to success for rebloom is to keep the plants in full growth from the spring bloom season throughout the summer and fall bloom season. I do not practice watering established bearded irises. They are on their own. I do water newly planted beardless and even the established ones.

ANGEL HEART (Aitken '96) is an IB registered as RE in September in Washington that bloomed for me in August 1997. DANCE HALL DANDY (Maryott '96) was not registered as RE but bloomed here in August 1997. CEE CEE

I do not purchase irises on the basis of their ability to rebloom. Therefore, it is always a wonderful surprise unexpectedly to find an iris bloom stalk.

You are probably wondering about IMMORTALITY (Zurbrigg '82). Well, I must confess that IMMORTALITY either does not like me or my garden techniques. This cultivar has been a very poor performer for me and I am lucky to get a bloomstalk in the spring, much less the fall. My friends in Region 4 know that it took a very long time for me to accept that there was any value in RE iris. At one of the fall re-

gional auctions, Joan Roberts offered a collection of three (3) rhizomes of IMMORTALITY. Much to the surprise (and delight) of most persons there, I presented the highest bid. Joan was so determined that I get good rhizomes that she dug some that she had not intended to put at auction. The sad truth is that her good intentions did not help IMMORTALITY in my garden.

Will I add cultivars to my collection because they are RE? Probably not. Will I purchase cultivars that demonstrate RE tendency? Most probably. For after all, any good irisarian should make every effort to have irises in bloom in as many months as possible. Therefore, RE is the way to go!!



Reblooming Siberians??

From: Ellen Gallagher <e_galla@moose.ncia.net>

Since I live in a cool, cloudy mountainous climate, rebloom is not something I strive for since the few that do rebloom do so scantily and are not noticeable except to me. However, I am interested in rebloomers thinking that someday one will come along that blooms mightily as in the first spring bloom.

*ILLINI ENCORE (ALWAYS REBLOOMS - I have three clumps and one or the other seems to be spitting out bloom after initial bloom period)

*SKY WINGS (CONTINUOUS BLOOM for a long period and also some rebloom)

*HARPSWELL HAPPINESS (rebloom not reliable but has rebloomed - Tet., McEwen)

*HIGH STANDARDS (rebloomed in '98 - Tet. by Bob Hollingworth)

SNOW PRINCE (CONTINUOUS BLOOM for a long period - maybe a little rebloom)

Jls: (just for fun :)

LITTLE SNOWMAN (reblooms scantily but consistently)

RASPBERRY GEM (always reblooms here - Anna Mae's gem - has rebloomed in Sept.)

SAPPHIRE STAR (reblooms every year but not much - early JI)



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Mike Sutton writes:

We have arrived at everblooming plants in our climate. Many have nice modern form with good color. We are now strenuously working on irises that will be everbloomers from spring to frost in every zone. From some of the advance reports around the nation, we are getting there, but still have a long way to go. Many hybridizers are working on this concept and it's just a matter of time until we see one of those 'breakthrough' irises. What we need is an everblooming iris with good form that consistently passes on its traits to its offspring. Here SEPTEMBER FROST seems to do this. The jury is still out elsewhere. A *plicata* seedling, H51, is doing the same thing. Soooo... maybe with some time, it will happen soon.

CRIMSON KING

by Mary Forte - Atascadero, CA 29

The first reblooming iris I ever saw was a small deep purple with a white beard. Having just moved away from Los Angeles, I had never seen any irises that weren't lavender neglectas. So when I discovered yellows and whites and reds growing in the yard of the house I bought, I thought I had discovered the New World. But I thought the little purple I saw one day by the post office was the most gorgeous iris ever. Imagine my surprise when I saw it blooming again that fall and then again that winter. And when I really started paying attention, I found it blooming nearly year-round!

Of course, I had to find out the name of this iris. My quest brought me to a local grower of modern irises (Iris Hill Farm) and there I fell in love with the modern form, but I still had to know about that little purple rebloomer which I now knew was quite old. I joined AIS and from there HIPS. And HIPS helped me to identify this iris as CRIMSON KING (IB, Barr 1893). It grows almost wild all over California and reblooms very well in some parts. I find that it takes a year to get reestablished after dividing, so I try not to divide it more than every two or three years. BABY BLESSED, JULY BEAUTY, LO HO SILVER, DARK CRYSTAL and CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE also have rebloomed more than once a year from me, but nothing compares to CRIMSON KING.



Quoted from
the British Remontant Iris Group:
NEWSLETTER,
August 1981

THE FIRST REMONTANT TB GOES TO WISLEY

This is a landmark for remontant irises in Britain. To be selected for inclusion in the Iris Trials at the R.H.S. Garden at Wisley, an iris must impress the Joint Iris Committee, made up of R.H.S. and B.I.S. judges who are very experienced and not easily impressed. 'Violet Classic' has achieved selection and now has a minimum of three years in which to show that it is one of the top irises. Bred by Lloyd Zurbrigg in America, this has rebloomed regularly there and is currently reblooming in Margaret Owen's garden. On 16th June 1981, a beautiful spike which was part of an entry awarded a first prize was shown by Margaret to the J.I.C. and selected - the first remontant to go to Wisley but not, we can be sure, the last."

key: RHS = Royal Horticulture Society
BIS = British Iris Society
spike = bloomstalk

Lloyd Zurbrigg is the hybridizer credited with creating the "breakthrough" irises that caused the world to realize their advantages.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

James L. Ennenga, Chairman

Due to unforeseen personal problems, our Presidential Candidate, Leslie Jobé, was forced to withdraw her name from our proposed list of nominees.

All of you in the RIS know of the fine work Charlie Brown has done with membership. Your nominating committee considered him to be the best person to serve as President. Since it was determined that he could continue as membership chairman, Charlie has accepted our invitation.

Therefore, the nominating committee consisting of *Florence Wheat, Mike Lowe, and Jim Ennenga* have come up with the following slate and recommendations:

President: Charlie Brown

Vice-president: Dennis Connell

Secretary: Claire Honkanen

Treasurer: Florence Wheat

Southern Director (for three years):
Everette Lineburger

Eastern Director (for four years):

Joan Roberts

MEETING REMINDER

OKLAHOMA CITY

Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 4th - 1 pm - 3 pm
Presidential Meeting Room #403

General Meeting
Wednesday, May 5th 11 am - 12:30 pm
Morgan-Appaloosa Rooms

Election and Bylaw Amendments to be voted upon
Short business meeting - outstanding speaker at general meeting

The Quest for Reblooming Louisiana Irises

Clarence Mahan

Henry Rowlan introduced the Louisiana iris 'Red Echo' in 1984. I immediately ordered it. I had learned that this iris, which resulted from a cross of 'Tarnished Brass' and a clone of *Iris fulva*, would sometimes rebloom. 'Red Echo' grew in my northern Virginia garden for several years producing lovely red flowers in the spring but no rebloom. I had almost given up on it when the late Rich Randall of Virginia Beach brought a stalk of 'Red Echo' to our local fall iris show. The very next year 'Red Echo' rebloomed for me in October.

There are occasional reports of fall bloom on several Louisiana iris cultivars. 'Blue Duke' (Arny 63) and 'For Dad' (Pryor 96) are two that come to mind. The fall performance of these Louisiana irises does not begin to approach the level of dependability of the best of our modern tall bearded irises, nor does the performance of 'Red Echo', which is the cultivar most prone to remontancy in the mid-Atlantic area.

Louisiana irises are hybrids of iris species in Series Hexagonae. The most commonly recognized species in this series are native to the wetlands of the semi-tropical regions of the Gulf States. The exception is *Iris hexagona* whose home ground extends along the Atlantic coast from Florida to the Carolinas. *Iris brevicaulis* and *Iris fulva* have extended their natural habitat up the Mississippi River, with occasional clones found in areas along the Ohio River. *Iris fulva* has even been reported growing in the wild as far north as Ontario, Canada.

Almost all the modern hybrid Louisiana irises have resulted from interbreeding of only four species: *Iris fulva*, *Iris brevicaulis*, *Iris gigantea*, and *Iris nelsonii*. These are the species growing in abundance in Louisiana. *Iris hexagona* has played but a minor role in the development of today's Louisiana irises.

One of the most significant events in Louisiana iris breeding was the introduction of tetraploid cultivars by Joseph Mertzweiller. Mertz-

weiller doubled the chromosomes of diploid cultivars with colchicine. His first tetraploid cultivars, 'Professor Ike' and 'Professor Claude', were introduced in 1975. He subsequently introduced a number of additional tetraploid Louisianas.

If one wanted to hybridize Louisiana irises with the objective of achieving reliably remontant cultivars, how would one go about it? There are several facts that should be considered in searching for an answer to this question. First, most, if not all, dependable cold climate reblooming bearded irises are hybrids. Second, all reblooming bearded irises seem to be either sterile or tetraploid cultivars.

Another important fact to keep in mind is that the capability to rebloom requires an iris with great vigor and a favorable climate. Even a superlative remontant bearded iris such as 'Immortality' will not produce fall bloom with abandon in the Syracuse, New York area. The growing season is simply too short to facilitate frequent rebloom.

How does one obtain hybrid vigor? The answer to this question is, of course, that one obtains hybrid vigor by introducing new species into one's hybridizing program.

development of Louisiana irises. This gene pool is to be found in Florida. The best article on this subject is Philip Ogilvie's "Louisiana Iris: A Literature Review" in GARDENING WITH IRIS SPECIES (St. Louis, 1995).

Ogilvie suggests that there may be five Hexagonae iris species native to Florida that have been prematurely dismissed by taxonomists: *I. savannarum*, *I. kimbali*, *I. flexicaulis*, *I. rivularis* and *I. albispirtus*. Although some taxonomists have classified these irises as subspe-

cies of *Iris hexagona*, most have just ignored them. One fact is irrefutable. The genes of these Florida irises have not been incorporated into today's Louisiana irises. An enterprising hybridizer might obtain seedlings displaying great hybrid vigor by crossing these irises with Louisiana iris cultivars.

Bringing new species into one's iris breeding program would be worth doing even if remontancy were not obtained. Great breakthroughs in form and color have been produced in bearded irises by just such means. The possibilities of such results are apparent when one examines the beautiful and unique flower of *Iris albispirtus* shown in Plate 450 of *Addisonia* Volume 14, Number 1 (March, 1929). Some clones of *Iris hexagona* have a vibrant, pure blue color which I believe is unrivaled by the color of any species except *Iris laevigata*. Breeding new Louisiana irises using this species might produce very exciting results.

Remembering that dependably remontant bearded irises did not appear on the scene until tetraploidy was established, the iris breeder seeking reblooming Louisiana seedlings might be clever and consider using colchicine to elevate the chromosome level of *Iris hexagona* and the other Florida natives. This is not an easy task. One must expect many losses before viable tetraploids are obtained. Chances of success with this technique could be improved by consulting with iris breeders who have successfully used this technique with other types of irises. Currier McEwen and John White are two hybridizers who are very knowledgeable about the use of colchicine, and in my experience they are both quite willing to share their experiences.

Which of the modern Louisiana irises might prove to be the best candidates to cross with the Florida irises to obtain rebloom? 'Red Echo' is a logical candidate because it has demonstrated a remontant tendency. Knowing that some Louisiana irises are not cold hardy, one might be wise to choose cultivars from lines with strong backgrounds of *Iris fulva* or *Iris brevicaulis*. Colchicine could be used to bring these irises to tetraploid level. The Mertzweiller tetraploid cultivars might also be good candidates to use for remontant breeding.

Continued on pg. 22

Winterberry Gardens Rebloomers for 1999

by Don Spoon

CRYSTAL HONEY TB, 34" (86 cm), ML & RE (zone 7). Amber gold standards finely veined rose; style arms amber gold; falls are amber gold with white ray pattern around the darker amber gold beards. Slight lavender blaze on center of falls. Ruffled. Pleasing sweet fragrance. A unique and unusual color, especially for a rebloomer. (Summer Olympics X Sheba's Queen).....\$30.00

DUNE SEA TB, 34" (86 CM), M & RE (zones 6 & 7). Rose standards and style arms; plum falls with prominent white ray pattern around the yellow beards. Looks like a beautiful species iris with modern rebloom traits, excellent branching (up to 11 buds), ruffling, and arching falls. Nice display of color in the landscape. Requires little maintenance. E.C., best fall seedling. (Winter Olympics X Spinning Wheel) \$30.00

MIDSUMMER'S EVE BB, 27" (69 cm), EML & RE (July through November in zone 6). Standards and style arms baby ribbon pink. The lighter falls are peach pink with darker venation, yet smooth peach hafts. Lightly ruffled and flared. Bright orange beards. A highly dependable, continuous rebloomer for us. It sometimes puts up an additional, later rebloom stalk from the same rhizome. Nicely proportioned border bearded with smaller flowers and stalks. Fertile both ways. A new path to pink rebloomers. Limited stock, order early. E.C. (Immortality X Enchanted World)\$35.00

RIELLE BB, 24" (61cm), M & RE (zone 6). White standards brushed and overlaid bright yellow. Falls white bordered bright yellow. Medium yellow beard. Ruffled and lightly laced. Dependable October rebloomer for us. Fertile both ways. This one is a charmer. (I Do X Other Mary)\$25.00

SNOW PARASOL TB, 30" (76 cm), M & RE (Oct. in zone 6). Nicely ruffled, brilliant snow-white self with horizontally flared falls with great substance. Domed, closed standards. A white rebloomer with the purity of new fallen snow. Excellent branching with 7 buds. White beards with light yellow deep in the throat. Much admired by our friend, Dr. Charlie Nearpass. Blue ribbon, runner up best seedling. Fertile both ways. ((Lucie Andry: Winter Olympics X Spinning Wheel) X (Chaste White, sibling of Immortality))\$40.00

STRAWBERRY APRICOT BB, 27" (69 cm), EM & RE (Oct. in zone 6). Smooth, pastel peach-pink self with pink-orange beards. (This iris is the color of the strawberry apricot ice cream we used to make in the Spoon's Ice Cream store in Charlotte, NC.) Graceful ruffles. Domed, closed standards and arched falls. Border bearded sized blossoms and stalks with 5-7 buds. Sweet fragrance. Very dependable rebloomer. Large number of fall stalks per clump. Fertile both ways. (TB Roney's Encore X MTB Ozark Evening) \$25.00

The following iris is the first Introduction approved by C&P Judges and authorized by Dr. Katie Ogden to be introduced for the late Dr. D. Charles Nearpass as (Nearpass/C&P) with all profit split equally between his family and the C&P Iris Society.

EMMA DOODLE MTB, 20" (51 cm), EML and RE (July to November in Zone 6) Sdlg. #94-404. Rosy pink self with slightly darker venation. Tangerine beards. Closed, domed standards. Ruffled and flared. Meets all standards for the MTB class, the table iris, but has a slight, sweet fragrance. Sends up two or more well branched stalks per rhizome, 5 to 9 buds per stalk. Remarkable growth and new increase and amount of bloom stalks, a continuous rebloomer. This iris met Charlie's prerequisites for a reblooming landscape iris. Hardy and disease resistant. Fertile both ways. Named for one of Charlie's granddaughters plus the name that Katie, Charlie's daughter, called him as a child. Limited stock, order early. Two E.C.s 91-138: (88-23: (New Idea X ((Baby's Bonnet X Champagne Music) X *I. apylla cerulea*)) X Unknown, Tag lost) X (89-21: Abridged Version X (Hager 2542 X (Peach Paisley X April Melody))).....\$35.00

To order from this advertisement send check or money order plus \$4 for postage to:

To receive our complete 72 page catalog with over 750 rebloomers listed send \$2 to:

Winterberry Gardens
Don and Ginny Spoon
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, Virginia 22625
(540) 888-4447 e-mail: VSpoon@aol.com

More e-mail musings.....

☞ Is there such a thing as a reblooming LA? If there are such creatures are they worth the garden space? In other words, how do they stack up against non-reblooming LA's for color selection and vigor?

There are a few LA's that have been known to rebloom. Red Echo, Blue Duke, Urraba Gold. They are just the same as the once bloomers. Remember tho, that some of the new ones are Tets, which means there is a chance they might be hard to grow. Full sun, plenty of moisture in the spring, and plenty of good "stuff" for them to eat (they are heavy feeders) and they should do fine in your area.

Hope this helps, and Good luck!
Dennis Stoneburner
drstone@roanoke.infi.net



☞ This should probably have gone under the moles-voles thread, however it fits the Louisianas...and Re-bloomers? better.

I have had RED DAZZLER and RED ECHO rebloom in our garden. Unfortunately, voles love Louisianas almost as much as they relish tulips. We mulched our LAs heavily and that is a recipe for disaster vice voles. We lost about 80% of our LAs on an upswing vole year (They follow a cyclical population pattern as do varying hares, lynx, lemmings, etc) and lost the rest in the next, peak, year.

Have not solved the LA problem yet -- have put all my hostas in 1/4 inch mesh wire cages sunk 18 inches deep -- works most of the time. So far have done without LAs rather than trying to grow them in jail.

Best regards,

Mike Lowe, enjoying rebloom on GOLDEN ENCORE, waiting for BROTHER CARL to open.

WHEN IS AN IRIS A REBLOOMER??

The 1999 catalogs are appearing -- can Spring be far behind? The Winterberry Gardens catalog of Don and Jenny Spoon offers a cornucopia of iris, nearly all unified by the tendency to rebloom. One Winterberry listing in particular caught my eye. The catalog offers GAY PAREE (Gorden Plough 1954) as a 'TB RE HIS' and gives its description as 'Re z-7 38" EM blue white to white, red tangerine beards.' No 'X' appears with GAY PAREE (X is used to indicate a cultivar that has rebloomed at Winterberry Gardens).

GAY PAREE has appeared, by virtue of one report of rebloom, in every Check List published by the Reblooming Iris Society since the first, in 1976. The notation in that first Check List, compiled and edited by Lloyd Zurbrigg, reads: (Re. in Indiana). No further reports of rebloom on GAY PAREE have ever been reported.

GAY PAREE has been a feature in our garden since 1965. It is noteworthy for its outstanding garden qualities, and for the bloom's greenish cast (described as a 'chartreuse influence' in its registration listing). In the 33 years that GAY PAREE has grown in our garden it has never initiated an out of season bloom stalk. During those years we have had many long and warm falls which have coaxed late season, infrequent, rebloomers into performing.

Should the Reblooming iris Society continue to list 'once reported' iris as rebloomers in the RIS Check List? Would it be practical, with the upsurge in interest in remonotancy, to 'raise the bar' for designating an iris as a rebloomer? Would we, and the buying public, be better served by segregating those cultivars with very few reports of rebloom into a separate section labeled 'Possible rebloomer or carrier of rebloom'? Should a 'disclaimer' accompany such listings?

The Reblooming Iris Societys present system can give a false impression of what is, and what is not, a rebloomer. Listing an iris such as GAY PAREE as a rebloomer, based on one reported instance of rebloom, is misleading. The reporting system should be changed to more accurately reflect performance. RIS cannot expect catalogers to detail number of reports and areas of reported rebloom. We must craft a better, more user friendly system.

Mike Lowe

An increasing technique from Margaret Owen:
(England 1992)

"So, assuming there are two or more increases reasonably established, in the spring (earlier if any show signs of rot) on a DRY day, I take a knife and cut the rhizome as evenly as possible into as many pieces as there are increases, e.g., if 2, straight down the middle, 3, down the middle and half one again, etc., ease all gently apart, certainly NOT digging them up. Past all cuts with Benlate and I think you will find new treasures will increase more quickly. Once a variety is established, I am not quite so finicky!"

Editor note: Anyone have a report on this technique??

The Ones That Got Away

by Betty Wilkerson

Like fishermen, iris hybridizers tell stories about the ones that got away. The seedling patch is unpredictable, especially with first year bloom. The irises that get away, and the stories about them, make hybridizing even more fun for me. In the iris beds, I've seen my own little miracles that no one else will ever see.

In an age in which we compulsively identify personality disorders, I will tell you that I have an impatient-compulsive disorder. I want everything and I want it NOW! This is not necessarily compatible with iris hybridizing. I bear my soul to help you understand some of the dumb things I've done in the iris patch.

During a ten-year stretch, from 1986 thru 1995, I harvested approximately 480 different TB crosses. Well, to be precise, it was 488. Ah, a compulsion for precision! Most of these crosses were for rebloom, except for the first couple of years when I crossed California rebloomers because I didn't have many 'real' rebloomers in my garden.

In addition, there was the end of each bloom season when I'd run out of rebloomers to cross, but had not reached the end of my pollen daubing compulsion for the year. Also, there were people who taunted me with remarks like "she'd be a good hybridizer, if she'd leave those rebloomers alone!" These are reasons, not excuses mind you, why I occasionally made 'regular' crosses. Well, you get the picture.

The first bloom on Spiced Orange in my yard came late in the spring of 1988. I was in love. It wasn't a reasonable love. This iris had only four blooms per stalk. But, I loved orange irises and I loved any iris with lace so their combination in one blossom was irresistible. When I looked around, the only iris in bloom that seemed worthy of contributing pollen to this orange goddess was Laced Cotton.

This cross produced several seedlings that were creamy yellow with some degree of lace. One had white standards and yellow falls with muddy hafts that turned out to be a repeat bloomer. Most were tall and each was pretty in its own way. The one that got away? That was C69-3. It bloomed later than its siblings and it was a bright shiny yellow with heavy lace. I walked a path into the yard as I waited for it to open! I was a bit disappointed that the first bloom

opened when the stalks (2) were about 12 inches tall, but, when it finally opened, it had bright lavender beards! I was spell-bound. I couldn't wait to tell the iris world!

Everyone was breeding for a lavender bearded yellow, and I'd gotten one with tremendous intensity by sheer accident! I was new at hybridizing, and didn't understand the 'weirdness' of first year bloom. I can't say that I understand it, still, but I know it exists. I told everyone that would listen about C69-3, and, that fall, I even sent a rhizome to Lloyd. You can imagine my disappointment when it bloomed the next year with a yellow beard. The only remaining purple was a very small point just below the beard. I grew it for years and it never bloomed more than 18 inches tall on stalks that looked like broom handles. The purple beards never returned.

Bridge in Time bloomed for the first time in October of 1990. It was a cold dreary day, after a hard freeze, and the stalk was in a vase in my living room. It bloomed with heavy ruffling and the consistency of soft plastic. Hurray! When it bloomed again the next spring and fall, neither the ruffling nor the consistency was the same. In the beginning, I questioned if the bud count would be high enough, but one spring we counted 14 buds on nearly every stalk. Although Bridge In Time didn't really 'get away', the intense ruffles and extra heavy consistency did.

As time passed, I collected a group of irises that I considered to be 'hard core' rebloomers. Blazing Sunrise was in this group. In 1990, I crossed Precious Moments onto Blazing Sunrise. Three years passed before I saw any of these bloom, but, when I did, I witnessed another anomaly. The second seedling to open from this cross was a pale creamy yellow with red veins in the standards, an incredibly beautiful sight. It was located at the back of the property, and I found every excuse to take a walk up that way. In the following years, the red veins disappeared.



Play With Fire by Summer Olympics produced an iris with the color of PWF, the form of Summer Olympics, and a small yellow spot under the beard with yellow veining that extended about an inch from the beard. Each stalk grew to exactly the same height, bloomed at the same time, had an unstable terminal bloom, and fell over with the weight of the second bloom opening. I kept it for years, and staked the blooms. I forgot to dig it when I moved.



Also, there is D34-1, a seedling from Latest Style X Glistening Icicle. The first year's bloom on this was 'sorry,' discouraging in every way except the color pattern. The blooms were small, the branching was bad, and the plant didn't increase well. It sat in the back of the bed for a couple of years, doing nothing that was particularly noteworthy.

In 1993, I decided to rework the entire area, and normally I would have thrown D34-1 into the pond with the other discards. The only thing that saved it from extinction was that I love the color pattern, near white standards over pale blue falls. It has a darker blue line down the middle of the falls. I lined out the small handful of rhizomes.

Apparently, this seedling liked the move. In the spring of 1994, I was looking for a seedling to take to the iris show at Lebanon, Tennessee. D34-1 had been in bloom all week, and I didn't think it would hold up for the show. But, on the last tour around the garden, I decided to sacrifice the best stalk. This specimen was 38 inches tall, and had the stalk, branching, and bloom size of Dusky Challenger. To say it was greeted well at the show would be an understatement. There was the largest selection of seedlings I've seen at a show, and D34-1 easily won best seedling.

The problem with D34-1 is that the rhizome still doesn't increase well, rots with the first spring rain, and doesn't appear to be strong in any way. Fortunately, it doesn't seem to pass this problem to its children.

Continued Pg. 19

Enjoying Iris in the House

by: Jay Hudson, Fort Bragg, California

Forcing reblooming iris for winter enjoyment is a very easy thing to do. At our home, we plant divided rhizomes of SDB's in the early fall and leave them outside to get their winter chill. For this, we use a prepared soil mix called Supersoil and a six inch round colored pot. Since Supersoil has a slight amount of fertilizer added, we do not add any additional, but make sure the containers are kept watered until the rains come.

Beginning near the holiday season, we start to have buds showing, and at this time we bring them in the house to a light, room-temperature area, place a saucer underneath and keep them watered. If you use different varieties, you can stagger the bloom all the way to spring and have a house full of irises until it's time to cut bloomstalks to fill your vases. After blooming, you can either leave them as foliage houseplants or look forward to rebloom later in the year. Either after their final blooming, or in the late summer, put them back outside. Around September, divide the rhizomes and start the process all over.

Ones that Got Away - continued from 18

As judges, we're required to give a registered iris two years of viewing time before we vote awards based on their garden qualities. Many hybridizers clear out the seedling patch every year, throwing away anything that doesn't bloom to their predetermined standards. For every seedling that bloomed beautifully the first year and then fell apart in the following years, there is a seedling that bloomed poorly the first year and then was great in later years. The first bloom season, or any one bloom season, does not give the hybridizer a clear picture of the irises growing in their patch. This includes seedlings.



We have had excellent luck with two particular SDB varieties, **Dark Crystal** (M. BYERS 1988) *Standards deep wine-purple; Falls wine-black; medium blue-violet beard*) and **Plum Wine** (J. WEILER 1986) *Standards full plum-violet; falls dark red plum-violet; dark red-violet beard; slight sweet fragrance.*

If you live in an area that doesn't get the cold and since the SDB's need to fully reach their bloom potential, you can place the pots in a freezer for about a week late in the

fall. Another possibility is to make a few applications of ice cubes in the pots. This also works well for peonies and other plants that require a winter chill. We really appreciated this when we visited Currier McEwen's garden on the coast of Maine. We had never seen peonies nor Siberian irises like that in our life. Mother nature knows best what our plants like.

This is an excellent way to spread the beauty of iris and possibly create a new irisarian



From Iris Talk - Drying Irises

I have dried *I. reticulata*, *I. danfordiae*, and bearded. I used Silica gel (sand) on all of them. I used butter containers for the small blossoms and a larger bowl with a lid for the large bearded. The flowers need to be removed on the large ones and a wire inserted in the 1/2 inch of stem you leave. Pour some silica gel in the bottom of the containers and gently place the Blooms face up. (you can bend the wire, just make sure it is secure in the stem). Then gently sift the silica around and in the bloom until it is completely covered. Put the lid on and store for 1-2 weeks.

When you remove the flower you need to be very careful! Gently pour the silica out. After the bloom is removed, gently brush off as much of the silica as you can. Be VERY GENTLE as the flowers can tear now since they are very thin. I then would hang them upside down to complete the drying since the base is still not completely dried. In doing this, I would find something or make something tubular for the standards to go in. While the falls rested on the edge. (to try to keep the form as close to the original as possible) If I didn't, then they would flop while finishing drying. the *I. reticulata* and *danfordiae* usually came out all finished and didn't need the extra drying procedure. I also would dry some stalks separately so that after they were finished I could hot glue the blooms back on. I also used the green wrapped wire stems cut from silk flowers to glue the blooms to.

They are very fragile and must be kept in a dry place or else they will start to droop. I used mine in a large dried mass arrangement for a winter, all city, flower show in Omaha a few years back. I won the arrangement sweepstakes with it. No one could get over the fact that there were dried iris in it. Of course, people had to feel them and some of them got torn. The little iris hold up better, I kept them in my curio cabinets for a number of years, before they became too limp. I think the dwarf iris would dry pretty good too. Siberians would also be good. I'm going to try some of those this year!! You can get the silica at Wal-Mart, in the craft dept.

Leslie Jobe'
In KY.

STORY OF AN IRIS OR GARDEN LOST

by Maj Ohrstrom, Sweden

Dear Irisarians

This last summer was more rainy than our rainy summers usually are and the little purple iris without a name which has followed me for so long surprised me and did not stop blooming in June as usual but kept popping up flowers still in August. My sons have tried to teach me a little "computerizing" lately, you can hardly avoid that nowadays, and suddenly it occurred to me, you can search "The Net" for the name of this iris! I threw a question into cyberspace like a fisherman throws his fly and it bit! Many kind people answered. My rudimentary knowledge of irises grew immensely in just a couple of hours and now, after many more mails, my little unknown has got, not a name, but at least a possible parentage and that is a lot more than nothing.

Some had the kindness to find the story interesting and Rosalie wanted me to write it down for "The Recorder". I am deeply honoured and will do my best. Please be indulgent towards my linguistic blunders. She wanted me to add some biographics so I had better do that first.

I am an ordinary amateur gardener outside Stockholm, Sweden. My husband is an engineer and we have three grown sons. Strong men in the family is practical for digging or cutting down trees.

Like most Swedish people I have a couple of cousins in America, we sometimes visit each other. I must not forget to mention our little dog, a white Jack Russell terrier, she is very nice and does not dig up plants and bulbs in the garden.

The most beautiful flower in my garden is an iris and this is how it came into the family. In April 1959 I got my driver's licence and mama said: "Let's take a little trip to my grandmother's place in Ostergotland, it was my childhood's land and I haven't been there for many, many years!" And off we went. It was quite an adventure. The big road southwards from Stockholm, now named E4, was narrow then and very

winding and went through every little town and village along its way. I drove very respectfully and after four hours or so we arrived at last at my Great grandmother's cottage, hidden far away in the countryside in the parish of Skarkind, Ostergotland.

Mum got a shock; the house was nearly in ruins. The roof was falling in, the windowpanes were gone, the door stood open and the doorsteps were rotten. Some sprouting peony buds and a row of grape hyacinths was all that was left of the garden. Abandoned more than twenty years, what could you expect? Cutting a long story short, after about a year of hard work we could go to bed under a new roof and listen to the crackling of a new fire in the old fireplace. Then my mother started with the garden. Great grandmother's place was very suitable for a garden, being a sandy hill with both a pond and a well nearby. Mom was good at flowers and gardening and it did not take long before people came from far and near to look at her flowerbeds. As usual. I still remember the smell of the lilies, martagons and regales. Dear readers, now you are impatient, I understand. What about the iris then!

One day this summer 1960 or maybe 1961, I was digging up rocks and boulders. I was not trusted with planting, mum wanted to do that herself, but don't pity me, I do really like digging up rocks and boulders, it lies in my smalandish genes. Well, as I was digging mama came home with an iris plant and said she had taken it from a stone-wall, [that's a type of fence common in Sweden] near a farm some kilometers away. The farmer did not know where it came from. I am sorry now I did not pay more attention to what she said but I was young and had other things to mind. But I have thought back and, as I wrote to the iris list, maybe my mother knew this flower since she was a schoolgirl, collecting plants in this region around 1915, how else could she go straight for it like a homing pigeon? You see, in those years, the early 1900's, every schoolchild had to collect a minimum of 100 plants, press them

in a plant press and mount them in an herbarium [reminiscences of Linnéan days]. Not all kids did manage that of course but my mom enjoyed the task and she collected far, far more than 100 plants. Unfortunately her herbarium was destroyed when all attics had to be emptied when Hitler invaded Denmark and all landlords became afraid of bombing and fire. She was very sorry for that. Maybe she had this iris in that herbarium. But that's just a guess. Facts are that the region this iris has come from is good farming land with many wealthy farmers, some of which may have been interested in gardening. The town of Linköping has, or had in the sixties anyway, an old botanical or commercial garden called "Tradgardsforeningen". We used to buy roses and other plants there. Thus there are many possible sources for this iris. Maybe some traveler brought it home from Germany in the 1800's.

It grew nicely in my mother's garden and when I married and got a garden of my own, she gave a clump to me. This little iris has a wonderful deep violet color that's why I love it. It is not fragrant but it is a rebloomer. The flower stalks are usually shorter than the leaves, about 20 to 30 cm only but this rainy summer some of them grew to 50 cm. The beard is white. I have managed to take it with me from garden to garden during all these years. Sometimes it has been near extinction but this last rainy summer the blooming was unusually rich and it formed a conspicuous, dark violet spot in the garden. That is why I began to wonder if it had a name and asked the members of the Iris-talk mailing list for help.

I did not know there were so many kinds of irises and so many iris lovers in the world! I have got many interesting answers and suggestions and I am thoroughly impressed by the enormous amount of knowledge hidden in the list.

If you want to look at this iris there are some pictures on my website <http://www.algonet.se/~pajden>

According to Mr. Clarence Mahan who has seen the pictures, this iris is not a pure aphylla but a hybrid, possible parentage Iris aphylla or Iris albertii. I wished to name it **AMANDA** to the

Continued pg. 21

continued from page 20

memory of my grandmother who first brought the love of flowers into the family. But AMANDA was taken so I will follow the excellent suggestion from Mr. Dennis Krumb and call it GRANDMA AMANDA. I never knew my grandmother but I hope she smiles in her heaven.

The pictures do not show the full beauty of the flowers because of another consequence of that wet summer — slugs. When blooming starts again in June I will put better photos on the page, if the poor plant survives this winter, one day it is +6 degrees C and raining, next it is bitter cold, -12 degrees and no snow.

When summer comes I will go back to Ostergotland and look for the stonewall and see if it still has a purple iris growing on it. But I don't think it has. And my mother's garden is no more, I saw it a couple of years ago, overgrown by fir trees and birches.

A garden is a delicate and precious thing and it's beauty is gone with the wind like a butterfly when the loving hand is no longer there.

But GRANDMA AMANDA will grow and bloom, I hope.



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BYLAWS CHANGE

The following technical change to the bylaws will be voted upon at the meeting in Oklahoma City:

Article V, Section 3:

There shall be five Directors to represent five geographic area, which shall be comprised of the AIS Regions as follows:

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

The Northeastern and Eastern Area Directors' terms shall coincide

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Garden Mischief

by Betty Wilkerson

Garden mischief goes beyond the regular everyday adventures of gardening. Every iris garden has its mishaps: rain the day you planned to make the big cross, hail the day before the local iris show, or a late freeze that blasts half of the terminal blooms in the garden. I've run across a few things in the garden that can be classified only as sheer mischief.

One spring in the early 90's, I was planting seedlings into a newly prepared bed which was less than fifty feet from a man-made pond at the back of the property. I placed garden markers, six-inch white plastic pot markers, at the beginning of each cross. When I returned to the iris beds the next morning, I found tags and seedlings scattered over a ten-foot area. A garden chart allowed me to return the row to some semblance of order, and I continued to plant more seedlings.

The next morning, I returned to find the same tags and seedlings scattered, in the same pattern, once more. A few days of careful observation revealed that a family of groundhogs lived in the bank of the pond, and they were making nightly trips into the garden. Since nothing was eaten or damaged in any way, we came to the conclusion that they were playing. Maybe a game of toss the tag! A heavy soaking of the area late in the afternoon spoiled their fun.

When I started making iris crosses, I cut about two hundred tags from clear plastic milk jugs. I punched a hole in one corner of each tag and tied a length of yarn through the hole, which allowed me to attach the tag to the pod parent. The tags each have a number written on them that corresponds to a number in a note book each year. The tags are collected, along with the pod or pods it represents, and accompanies the pod or pods until all pods are properly identified in drying containers. During the winter, the tags are cleaned, sorted, and put in numerical order before I place them into small plastic bags in groups of twenty.

Each morning during bloom season, I would

toss a handful of tags on my garden table, and I'd pick up a few tags each time I passed the table. I keep my crosses in order so I knew right away that a couple of the tags were missing. I thought I'd dropped them as I went from clump to clump, but an extensive search of the garden didn't produce the missing tags. One day, a couple of years later, my attention was directed to something glittering in the tree above my gardening table. There was a bird's nest, and from the nest hung my tags, flashing in the sunlight, with their red yarn tightly woven into the bird's nest.

I've recently moved from Alvaton, Kentucky to Bowling Green, Kentucky. My garden is much smaller, and I'm managing it differently from what I did at Alvaton. Making the adjustment would be a lot harder if I didn't find humor in gardening.

Mischief is still alive and well in my garden. Just last week, I saw evidence of this year's first occurrence of the white crested tag puller, the city's equivalent of the birds in my trees. A pile of gardening tags mysteriously disappeared from my irises and reappeared in one corner of my iris bed. The welcome mat to my front door was also missing, leaving no question in my mind that this was truly the work of a specific two-year-old, two footed, white crested tag puller.

This poor darling is missing his mother hen. His was no homing pigeon, and she flew off into the wild blue yonder, never to return. The two-year-old tag puller is nesting with the rooster of the family, who is giving it his best, but is obviously short on temper. A Bantam species, perhaps.

I have a good map for the iris bed. However, I foresee serious problems over the next couple of years. Irises and the 'terrible twos' are a serious conflict of interest. As any mother who has ever tried to accomplish anything during this fledgling period of life knows—the hands are full.

The number of irises I can grow is greatly reduced. At this point, I know my irises well enough to recognize them when they bloom; however, when new irises are planted, I will follow advice Kathy Guest gave on iris-talk, the e-mail iris list. I will plant a garden marker under each iris rhizome. Sealed off from the rays

of the sun, the marker will remain in pristine condition and anyone can correctly identify the clump of irises when digging. Even if the clump has spread and mingled with its neighbors, I will be able to identify the center of each clump. I issue this warning to all mischief makers of the garden variety, "I am armed and ready."



Reblooming LA's

Continued from page 15

I recently learned that Harry Wolford, who lives on the East Coast of central Florida has been having considerable rebloom on his Louisiana irises. This is not as surprising as it might at Reblooming LA's first seem when one considers that his growing season is virtually year round. This reminds me of Gigi Hall's telling me that many Japanese irises rebloom in her garden in Fremont, California. When reliably remontan roses first came to Europe and the United States they were derived from crosses between tender Chinese rose species and rose species native to Europe.

Almost all of the first generation of reblooming rose cultivars were very tender and rebloomed only in areas of mild climates. Indeed, most survived only in mild climates. This may also prove to be the history of remontan Louisiana irises. The day may come, however, when reliably remontan Louisiana irises will, like modern roses, rebloom almost everywhere. It will take some adventurous and persistent hybridizers to achieve this goal



LOOKING & SEARCHING FOR A RELIABLE COLD WEATHER REBLOOMING TB.

By Dorothy Schröter (Switzerland)

Everything started around 1970. I had my new own garden and a friend of mine gave me a little book about Irises, written in German by a Mrs. van Nes. The book was very informative and since I was a trained flower gardener it broadened my knowledge about Irises considerably. A small chapter mentioned reblooming Irises and gardens, where I could buy them. I bought immediately, "Lieutenant de Chavignac" and found out now, after 30 years, that I always have pampered the wrong plant! But it rebloomed once 25 years ago and never after (so much about patience and perseverance.) This book also mentioned the German Iris Society, now called German Perennial Society and the American Iris Society. I became a member of both Societies. At that time when I joined conventions in both Societies and mentioned reblooming Irises I met mostly no understanding, let alone people who were interested or even worked with remontant Irises.

But I have bought "Lovely Again" from Melrose Gardens among others and it REBLOOMED- RELIABLY. So that was the beginning. First I read a lot about genetics, there were specialists who talked very wise with me about inheritance and the impossibility to reach my goal. And at the end I decided to put away my books and just go on and cross and intercross and recross, whatever was in bloom at the right time. I took great care to leave at least a minimum trace of "Lovely Again" because its offspring DID rebloom sometimes.

After 6 years or so I had a rebloom on a cross of "Joseph's Mantle" with "Tan Sun", a child of "Cayenne Capers". So there were some variegated colors. I did not pay very much attention on matching colors, - do they rebloom was always the question! Out of 70 crossings per year there were sometimes only 10 plants left after two seasons. Once I had to move a long bed with seedlings, I lost them all, but there were anyway no reblooming plants in the collection. I just remember among them "HR 23" from Mr. North in England, an extremely ugly, leafy yellow-brown

flower, very reliable in October but not fertile. I have incorporated in my breeding program: "Lugano" out of a reblooming clone, but never did so with me, "Corn Harvest", "Victoria Falls", some reblooming unknown blue bicolored Iris aphylla, pretty, "Butterfly Baby", "Joseph's Mantle" x "Lovely Again", "Joseph's Mantle" x "Tan Sun", a very nice November Rebloomer from L. Zurbrigg and lately "Champagne Elegance" from Mr. Niswonger, which did not rebloom yet but is so pretty and stately. My first, really reliable Intermediate is "Sangreal". Up to now I have some seeds, but no germination. Let's try an see! By chance I have met Mr. Weiler in Sacramento and he has sent me some of his rebloomers. They are still alive, but it is too early yet to expect rebloom.

To my great astonishment in the seventieth or beginning of the eighties, I found a growing interest in rebloomers in the US. I joined your RIS, but I found that our weather conditions are much harsher than yours. We still need really cold weather resistant Irises in Germany and Switzerland, which should persist at least in our wine-growing climate.

In the mean time I have learned a lot from my Irises. Out of a huge batch of seedlings survive only the fittest and there are often very ugly plants, which can sometimes look like a miss-fitted "Lovely Again" and are sterile. When I am at that point I dig all these plants and put them on the compost. But in the same batch can be some light-blue or off-white flower- extremely nice and clean cut, branched, the inheritance of a modern Rebloomer made in USA-. I really need this genetical input for my breeding program. Reblooming Irises have a tendency to bloom somewhat earlier in May. They have healthy blue-green foliage and look still nice after the first bloom, probably an inheritance of "Lovely Again". I also think that this very short resting time in Summer is an important additional fact for the next building of buds in Fall.

I do not pamper them, I fertilize in Spring with bonemeal or low-nitrogen fertilizer, they get good weeding in hot summer weather and IF I am at home they receive thorough watering. And that is it! When I replant, I add old compost and perlite in the planting soil. People here are not used to reblooming Irises, so they will treat them like perennials and my aim is to find Irises which meet this requirement.

TDBITS

By Sterling Innerst

☞ WHEN PLANTING IRISES IN VIRGIN SOIL DO NOT FERTILIZE FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS. THE EXPERTS TELL ME IF YOU DO, YOU GET EXCESS GROW AND LOTS OF ROT.

☞ DO NOT LISTEN TO TOO MUCH THAT THE "EXPERTS" SAY.

☞ PLANTS NEED AIR - OXYGEN IN THE SOIL. I KEEP SCRATCHING AND HOEING. FARMERS NO LONGER DO. SHOULD I STOP HOEING?

☞ IF YOU ARE A HYBRIDIZER DO NOT GIVE NUMBERED SEEDLING TO FRIENDS TO GROW UNLESS YOU WANT THEM TO GET AROUND.

☞ IF YOU ARE AN IRIS GROWER, AND A FRIEND THINKS ENOUGH OF YOU TO HAVE YOU GROW HIS/HER NUMBERED SEEDLINGS, DO NOT SELL LOADS OF ONE OF THE NUMBERED SEEDLING AT THE LOCAL SALE THE SAME YEAR IT IS NAMED AND INTRODUCED.

☞ IF YOU ARE A SHOW JUDGE DO NOT PENALIZE FOR SUPERIOR GROWTH. SUPERIOR PERFORMANCES ARE USUALLY REWARDED.

☞ REBLOOMERS ARE NOT REBLOOMERS UNLESS THEY REBLOOM.

☞ DO GROWERS WHO TELL PEOPLE THAT REBLOOMERS NEED EXTRA WATER AND FERTILIZER REALLY GIVE EXTRA WATER AND FERTILIZER TO THE REBLOOMERS THEY GROW? I DO NOT.

☞ I'LL BELIEVE ONLY HALF OF WHAT I HEAR ABOUT YOU, IF YOU PROMISE TO BELIEVE ONLY HALF OF WHAT YOU HEAR ABOUT ME.

☞ SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME THAT BEING AN OFFICER TO THE AIS IS WORTH 25 VOTES FOR IRISES TO THE OFFICER-HYBRIDIZER. IS THIS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

☞ JUST TALKED TO A FRIEND WHO THINKS THAT HYBRIDIZERS SHOULD NOT BE OFFICERS OF AIS. IS THIS A VALID CONCERN?



OF IRISES AND CYBERSPACE

Have a question but don't know whom to ask? - Irises on the Internet may be your answer.

—Article by John Jones.

The advent of computers in the 1940's with Eniac brought the information revolution first to businesses and finally, after a lot of technology development, to the desktop of every personal computer user. And now, there are irises on the internet, or at least volumes and volumes of information about irises from experts, commercial growers, experienced hobbyists, casual growers, and beginners.

The Internet, World Wide Web, WWW, Net or what ever you want to call it (because they all mean the same thing) is a network of computers (called servers) that allow worldwide communications right from your own living room or office.

One of the capabilities provided by this network is the electronic equivalent of a letter "Robin." Now, in a letter robin, you receive the robin package from the previous member on the list, read all the letters in the package, add your letter (taking out your previous one), and send the package on to the next person on the list. Depending on how many people there are on the list and how long each takes to read and forward the robin, it could take as long as a year or more to make the rounds. The Triple R Rebloom-ing letter robin that I belong to takes about 6 months to go around and I think there are 9 or 10 people on it.

Electronic mail robins (which are actually called "lists" or "reflectors") work a little differently. If you want to belong to one of these electronic robins, you email your request to the "robin server", a computer program designed for the purpose, and your email address is added to the list of subscribers. Everyone who is a member of the list can send messages to the list, and any message that is sent to the list is redistributed (or reflected) to everyone on the list (hence the name "Reflector"). The advantage here is that it happens at the speed of email.

I started a list called "iris-talk" in July of 1998. It was actually a replacement for a list named "Iris-L" started by Tom T. Little in Feb of 1996. For a number of reasons he had to shut the list down, and I started a replacement list.

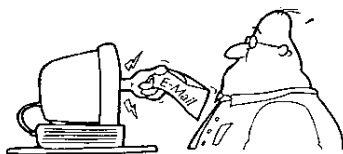
iris-talk (sic) has over 270 members now, and the discussions cover almost any subject you can imagine. Borers, potting irises, shaving roots, catalogs, raised beds, hybridizing, genetics, what's a luminata, what irises survive best in cold weather freezes, which irises rebloom in which region (a subject close to all our hearts...) and a multitude of others. Below is an example post concerning a discussion on the use of marigolds to eliminate nematodes (don't know what a nematode is? We talked that one on the list too)

In replying to a previous post on the list Bill Shear wrote:

Thanks for the good sense about marigolds and nematodes. Summing up:

1. Nematodes are slowly killed by chemicals released from the roots of some, but not all, marigolds.
2. Tilling in at the end of the year is not necessary to get the control.
3. Marigolds require at least 100 days to kill nematodes, so most of the benefits are realized in subsequent seasons.
4. BUT many people are still skeptical about the efficacy of marigolds.
5. (added by me) Nematodes are a problem on irises only in the SW USA where soils low in organic content favor their development. In most of the midwest and NE, or where soils contain much organic matter, nematodes are unlikely to be of concern. Organic matter in soil helps to support fungi and other nematode predators, which keep nematode numbers low.
6. There is a lot of information on nematodes in the archives.

Bill Shear
Dept. of Biology, Hampden-Sydney College
Hampden-Sydney VA



Not every post is so informational, but with subscribers from Russia, South Africa, New Zealand, England, Sweden, Australia, Canada, US, and others, I can assure you that there are answers out there to any of your questions.

The post above brings up another aspect of the list—the archives. All the messages that are sent to the list are filed in an archive that can be searched using a standard type of keyword engine or read sequentially message by message. The archives are open to anyone, so if you have an interest in a particular subject point your browser at:

<http://www.mallorn.com/lists/iris-l/>

Click on "Search the iris-talk archives" and have fun.

If you are interested in joining iris-talk (or just trying it out for a little bit) you can subscribe by going to:

<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/iris-talk>

There are several ways you can receive the iris-talk mail, either message by message or in digest mode, which compiles all the messages from a single day into one longer message called the digest. If you would like to review the list policies (such as "no flames") go to my home page at :

<http://members.home.net/jijones>

and click on the iris-talk link.

Also, if you are interested in iris pictures, there is also a list specifically for exchanging pictures of our favorite flower. You can subscribe to iris-photos at:

<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/iris-photos>

The iris-photos archives are at:

<http://www.mallorn.com/lists/iris-l/>

Another facility came along with the advances made by the web. This one is called Internet Relay Chat. It is like being on a party line phone (or a telephone conference call) with a number of people, only instead of talking on a phone your conversation is typed on your computer. Every message typed by anyone on the "chat" is displayed on your computer screen. The chat I sponsor is called the Iris-L chat, and happens every Friday night starting at 6:00 PM Pacific time. To partici-

A "New" Kind of Rebloom?

I have read of several kinds of rebloom: Throwing stalks up a month after spring bloom, summer rebloom, and fall rebloom. My favorite TB, Monty Byers's 1991 intro Mesmerizer, has extended the bloom season for me in a very different fashion.

I became aware of its ability in 1993, when our (Michelle's and my) garden were going to be on our club's (San Fernando Valley Iris Society) trek for the first time. We have a small yard, even by southern California standards, and even though most of it is planted in iris, we needed a high percentage of bloom to come even close to the other trek gardens.

I had bought Mesmerizer based on the catalog description "the most beautiful flounces I've ever seen." The first year it lived up to that, and I was counting on it to help make up for the relatively small number of iris in the garden. Six weeks before the trek I was in a real panic when each of the mature rhizomes sent up a stalk. I thought there would be nothing left for the garden visitors.

These stalks turned out to be unbranched and had only four blooms each, but the show was impressive, briefly. My faith in the cultivar was restored when the "real" stalks started appearing a few weeks later, with good branching and bud count. It was looking so good on the trek day that Mesmerizer won the "best clump" award hands down among the seven gardens visited.

Mesmerizer had "prebloomed" by sending up secondary stalks a month and a half before the main ones. In intervening years rebloom and prebloom have both taken place frequently. This year we have a small bed with about 30 first-year clumps; bloom started on January 10, and the stalks now up will continue the show well into March. Many of the stalks have normal branching, but some are unbranched. Will mid-April be the usual flurry of flounces? Time will tell.

Gerry Snyder AIS Region 15
Warm, winterless Los Angeles
President of San Fernando Valley Iris Society

REBLOOM... IT'S NOT JUST FOR TB'S ANY MORE!

From time to time, there are questions on the *iris list* about other types of irises that may rebloom....



I noticed that the Reblooming Iris Society ballot has the following three Louisianas on it: **BLUE DUKE, FOR DAD, and RED ECHO**. How reliable are these plants when it comes to rebloom? Mark A. Cook
billec@atlantic.net Dunnellon, Florida USDA Zone 8b Sunset Zone 28

Dear Marc: I had rebloom on **SUNNY EPISODE** this year, one stalk in Nov. and three others that were too late to open. I changed the location of the LA to the lowest and wettest part of the garden, and they are thriving as never before. I attribute the rebloom to this factor, for I have had **SUNNY EPISODE** for many years.
Lloyd Zurbrigg in Durham NC



I received **RED DAZZLER** (P. Hale 69) from Frank Jones in 1989. It was a dependable rebloomer for Frank and was a late, but dependable rebloomer for me. Unfortunately, just after resetting the clump in 94 (kept three rhizomes -- composted the rest) it was devoured by voles. I have finally given up on LAs, they seem to be a favorite vole food (along with expensive hostas!). I plant hostas in 3/8 inch wire mesh cages -- the LAs spread too much to be able to use that method with them.
Mike, mlowe@worldiris.com -- <http://www.worldiris.com> South Central Virginia, USA; USDA Zone 7A



We grow mainly LA's and have a few which have regularly rebloomed for us over a number of years. **FOR DAD** and **MAD ABOUT YOU** are regular re-bloomers for us. They are from the reversal of the same cross which I did in 1990. I am currently awaiting the arrival into bloom of several children from these two and am hopeful that the double dip of re-blooming will do the trick for me. I don't know of too many other reblooming LA's - do you have any in your listings? Cheers for now.

Heather Pryor irishaven@pip.com.au
Australia



On Tue, 19 May 1998, Dennis Kramb wrote:
I'm looking for recommendations on LAs, ABs, species, etc...especially ones that rebloom.

Few LA's rebloom. In over 30 years of growing them, only **RED ECHO** and **CLAUD DAVIS** actually did, although several others tried but were struck down by frost or a freeze.

Of the AB's, only my own **ARIL REVERIE** has ever rebloomed for me. I think Lloyd Zurbrigg has some seedlings that do. Contact Sharon McAllister on the list for additional information on reblooming arilbreds hybrids. I would say doubtful in Cincinnati. Check with Dave Niswonger, whose climate would be more similar to yours than mine is.

I have bloomed only one Calsibe, **IN STITCHES**, but have several others hoping and hoping they will eventually bloom.
Walter Moores - Enid Lake, MS 7/8



Irises & Cyberspace - continued from 24

pate you need some chat software, either mIRC for PCs or Irle for Macs. They are both available via download from the web. If you are interested you can get additional details from my website (listed above).
Just click on the link for "Friday Night Chat info."

Whatever types of iris, or whatever aspect of irises you are interested in, come in out of the electronic cold and join a great community of iris friends.

John and his wife Joanne grow over 500 irises comprising 25 species in Fremont, California (San Francisco Bay area). John is President of the Westbay Iris Club, and Director of Region 14 of the AIS. He is a member of AIS, RIS, SJI, ASI and TBIS. He is a Director of Marketing in the computer industry. Copyright 1999, all rights reserved.

REBLOOMING MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED (MDB's) IRISES IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

by Ada Godfrey, Region I

Because we're a commercial enterprise and we actively encourage irises to put out new growth, we make sure the soil is always enriched with superphosphate, alphas meal, and compost from rotted vegetation, at the same time ensuring the soil is loose and friable.

We know bearded irises need good drainage, and miniatures are no exception. On the other hand, extra care has to be given the first year of transplant to ensure roots aren't heaved out of the ground. The most crucial time is during late winter when there's no snow cover and the soil freezes and thaws, exposing roots to the drying elements. For that reason, we keep a handy supply of sandy gravel to pour around any of the newly transplanted irises, particularly the MDB's. So you see, we look after them very well.

All this notwithstanding, the only rebloom we've ever seen on the miniatures has been **VELVET TOY** reblooming in early fall. DITTO, for instance, which is known to rebloom here in zone 5 has never attempted to send up another stalk here and we've never really considered MDB's as capable of putting on a second performance. That is, until last year.

Last July - August, like the rest of the country, we had record-setting quantities of rain. We saw our street so full of water, it came up to the hub caps of the cars slowly driving along. The path alongside the swamp and the Louisiana and Japanese Iris beds were submerged and we couldn't tell one from the other. Flash floods they called them 'cuz they didn't last too long, I suppose. But it was a few weeks before the tractor could be used again without sinking into the ground.

Taking a stroll one day through what we call the walled garden, where the miniature dwarf bearded irises are located, first I saw BROWN HEART blooming, then a little further along, MIDAS MITE. GRAPELET followed a couple of days later. DITTO was not far behind, along with PLIC SAND, and surprise, surprise, the Willott's WEE NOBLE put on another display.

Nothing had been changed in their location, addition to soil, or treatment. The only difference was the amount of water which had fallen from the heavens and soaked them.

So the secret to MDB rebloom, here in Foxborough, is plenty of water!

REBLOOM REPORT 1998

Richard C. Richards
La Mesa and Corona, California

This report is for rebloom during calendar year 1998. Two small private gardens within a hundred miles of each other and both situated in USDA Zones 10, or maybe high 9, are included in this report. Temperatures below freezing are unusual here, though they do occur some winters, such as 1998-99. Temperatures do not remain below freezing for more than a few hours at most. Citrus cultivation was common in this area until fairly recently, but the orchards are being bulldozed for housing tracts in many cases.

In this climate I have had iris bloom every day of the year between the two gardens. This suggests the use of the term "Off Season Bloom" to indicate bloom other than during the normal spring season. I will continue to use the term "rebloom" for the sake of simplicity.

The following is a list of irises that have bloomed at times other than the defined spring blooming period of early March through June 15. If a clone did not bloom during the spring blooming period, but bloomed immediately before or after the spring blooming period, it is not listed as reblooming, but is classified as an early or late bloomer. So an early bloomer one year may be listed as an early spring bloomer one year and as a late winter rebloomer the next. This is somewhat confusing, but I see no other way to handle classification problems with new irises in this land of perpetual bloom with the normal bloom season spread over more than two months. The list is alphabetical.

January: Amethyst Winter, Artistic Gold, Aspen, Best Bet (last bloom before committing suicide), Billionaire, Blatant, Bridal Fashion, Buckwheat, Cascade Pass, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Duke of Earl, Egg Nog, Eternal Bliss, Fire on Ice, Floor Show, Gilded, Green and Gifted, Heavenly Bliss, Lemon Reflection, Lichen, Misty Twilight, October, Olive Reflection, Pure as Gold, Radiant Angel, Recurring Dream, Renown, Saxon, Sea World, Sister Miriam Sings, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, Summer Olympics, Violet Miracle, Whoop 'Em Up, Wings of Dreams, Winterland.

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February: Amethyst Winter, Artistic Gold, Aspen, Best Bet, Billionaire, Bridal Fashion, Cease-Fire, Duke of Earl, Floor Show, Gilded, Heavenly Bliss, Lichen, Low Ho Silver, Mariposa Skies, October, Quite Quaint, Radiant Angel, Recurring Dream, Sea World, Splash O' Wine, Summer Olympics, Victoria Falls, Whoop 'Em Up.

June 15-30: Artistic Gold, Blatant, Double Praise, Duke of Earl, Gilded, Gold Reprise, Holy Night, Lemon Duet, Lemon Reflection, Lichen, Low Ho Silver, My Friend Jonathan, My Valentine, Renown, St. Petersburg, Total Recall.

July: Artistic Gold, Blatant, Double Praise, Egg Nog, Feed Back, Feminine Wiles, Lady Friend, Li-

chen, Light Beam, Mariposa Skies, My Valentine, Pearls of Autumn, Priscilla of Corinth, Reiterate, Renown, Silver Dividends, St. Petersburg.

August: Artistic Gold, Buckwheat, Feed Back, Feminine Wiles, Lemon Reflection, Lichen, Low Ho Silver, Mariposa Autumn, Misty Twilight, Priscilla of Corinth, Purgatory, Total Recall.

September: Artistic Gold, Autumn Circus, Autumn Clouds, Blatant, Buckwheat, Curtain Up, Eternal Bliss, Light Beam, Misty Twilight, Porcelain Frills, Priscilla of Corinth, Second Act, Second Wind, Solstice, Total Recall, Zurich.

October: Autumn Circus, Billionaire, Blatant, Buckwheat, Cantina, Cayenne Capers, Curtain Up, Egg Nog, Eternal Bliss, Heavenly Bliss, Holy Night, Mariposa Autumn, Pearls of Autumn, Priscilla of Cor-

inth, Second Act, Second Look, Tea Leaves, Zurich.

November: Amethyst Winter, Billionaire, Blatant, Buckwheat, Cantina, Cayenne Capers, Curtain Up, Double Agent, Duke of Earl, Egg Nog, Heavenly Bliss, Holy Night, Lichen, Low Ho Silver, Misty Twilight, My Friend Jonathan, Priscilla of Corinth, Pure As Gold, Second Act, Second Look, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, Tea Leaves, Winterland.

December: Amethyst Winter, Artistic Gold, Autumn Clouds, Buckwheat, Cayenne Capers, Cease-Fire, Curtain Up, Duke of Earl, Feed Back, Hand Painted, Heavenly Bliss, Lichen, Low Ho Silver, Mariposa Skies, Misty Twilight, My Friend Jonathan, Priscilla of

continued on page 28

HERMIT MEDLAR'S WALK

BILL & ADA GODFREY - 3 Pierce St (Rte 140), Foxborough, MA 02035
1999 STANDARD DWARF BEARDED INTRODUCTIONS

CHELSEA FAIR: (GODFREY, W&A '99) SDLG DNDT5 11"

Cream standards over deep burgundy falls, artistically rimmed with the same cream of the standards, all highlighted by cream beards, deepest orange in the throat. This past year, an extra stalk late in the season was icing on the cake! \$15

GLEBE BROOK (BURTON, J '99)

SDLG 88H3 11-13"

The colours of powder blue veined green with deep blue halo around the bright blue beards are reminiscent of the blue skies and green Vermont meadows reflected in the crystal clear waters of the Glebe Brook for which it is named. \$15

LEMON CURD (GODFREY, W&A '99) SDLG TBDA 12"

Friilly butter-cream standards, rounded friilly deep lemon curd falls rimmed butter-cream, with deep orange beards tipped white - our stepping stone to a red-bearded yellow amoena.

\$15

PLYMOUTH HOE (GODFREY, W&A '99)

SDLG HAP3 13"

Softly rounded closed white standards have a navy base deep in the throat over softly fluted white falls with thumbprint of thick navy whiskers surrounding the cream beards, creating a nautical flavour, which suggested the name (Drake played bowls there before sailing out to defeat the Spanish Armada).

\$15

WIMPLE (GODFREY, W&A '99)

SDLG JPVL 12"

A friilly lavender fancy (the pattern is a wash of lavender over pink taupe) from luminata breeding which we call Wimple as the style crests form the shape of that medieval headress.

\$15

CATALOGUE, listing Samplers, \$1 UPON REQUEST

1998 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

18 Violet Returns	Hall, E.	'88	5	3	7	3				
18 Winterland	Byers, M.	'89		3	1	5	1	2	6	
17 Autumn Bugler	Jones, F.	'86	3		7	5	1	1		
17 Happy New Year	Byers, M.	'90		3		9	1	4		
17 Lichen	Byers, M.	'89	5	6	3	1	1		1	
17 Northward Ho	Zurbrigg, L.	'91	1	2	7	6	1			
17 Speed limit	Lauer	'92		1	1	1	2	10	2	
16 Blazing Sunrise	Black	'85		1	2	6	2	4	1	
16 Holy Night	Mohr, K.	'83		4	1	4		5	2	
16 Juicy Fruit	Byers, M.	'89	2		3	6	1	1	3	
16 Orange Harvest	Jones, B.	'88	1	2	3	2	3	4	1	
16 Sunny Disposition	Zurbrigg, L.	'91	1		7	5	2		1	
15 Eternal Bliss	Byers, M.	'88	2		3	4	3	1	2	
15 Grape Adventure	Jones, F.	'86	2		7	5		1		
15 Stellar Lights	Aitken	'86			1	3	3	7	1	
14 Blue Moonlight	Byers, M.	'89	1	2	1	5	2		3	
14 Double Scoop	Ghio	'81			1	3	2	3	5	
14 Duke of Earl	Byers, M.	'87		1	3	2	3	5		
14 Illini Repeater	Varner, S.	'72	2	1	5	3		1	2	
14 Misty Twilight	Byers, M.	'88	3	1	1	5	2	1	1	
14 Orchid Cloud	Applegate	'74	3		4	4	2	1		
14 Peach Jam	Ensminger	'89	2	1	5	4		2		
14 Renown	Zurbrigg, L.	'92	2	1	2	7		1	1	
14 St. Petersburg	Byers, M.	'90	1	5	1	3	2	2		
13 Hemstitched	Hager, B.	'88		1	2	4	3	3		
13 His Royal Highness	Byers, M.	'88		2	3	2	1	1	4	
13 Pinkness	Byers, M.	'89			2	2	1	6	2	
13 Second Look	Muhlestein	'70				6	2		5	
13 Witch of Endor	Miller	'78			3	10				
12 Halloween Halo	Weiler	'91	1		1	2	2	4	2	
12 Lady Essex	Zurbrigg, L.	'91	2		7	3				
12 Many Happy Returns	Hager, B.	'87	1		2	4	2	3		
12 Stingray	Byers, M.	'89		3	1	4	1	1	2	
12 Suky	Mahan	'88			2	1	2	2	5	
11 Autumn Encore	Mohr, K.	'77			2	5	3	1		
11 Barn Dance	Byers, M.	'91				6	1	4		
11 Belvi Cloud	Jensen	'88	5	1	3	1		1		
11 Dorcas Lives Again	Miller	'84	1	3	2	4			1	
11 Golden Encore	Jones	'73	2	1	2	5		1		
11 Now and Later	Zurbrigg, L.	'72	1	1	4	5				
11 Platinum	Byers, M.	'94			1	1		5	4	
11 Silver Dividends	Zurbrigg, L.	'91			4	4		2	1	
11 Sunny Shoulders	Hager, B.	'90			2	4	1	3	1	
11 Violet Classic	Zurbrigg, L.	'77			4	4		2	1	

1998 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

Votes	CULTIVAR NAME	HYBRIDIZER	Year	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
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TALL BEARDED IRISES

71	Immortality	Zurbrigg, L.	'82	9	7	23	19	3	7	3
57	Clarence	Zurbrigg, L.	'91	4	6	15	11	6	13	2
55	Feedback	Hager, B.	'83	4	7	7	18	4	10	5
52	Queen Dorothy	Hall, E.	'84	8	6	16	12		5	5
49	Pink Attraction	Hall, E.	'88	6	7	13	14	5	3	1
47	Harvest of Memories	Zurbrigg, L.	'85	2	5	11	21	3	1	4
46	Corn Harvest	Wyatt	'77	6	6	7	18	3	4	2
44	Autumn Circus	Hager, B.	'90	1	2	8	10	7	11	5
42	Buckwheat	Byers, M.	'90	2	2	6	15	3	7	7
41	Bonus Mama	Hager, B.	'90	3	1	2	14	13	6	2
41	Bountiful Harvest	Hager, B.	'91	4	5	3	10	4	12	3
41	Rosalie Figge	McKnew	'93	2	2	12	5	6	12	2
40	Champagne Elegence	Niswonger	'87	5	4	8	9	4	6	4
37	Earl Of Essex	Zurbrigg, L.	'80	2	2	9	14	3	6	1
34	Billionaire	Byers, M.	'87		7	5	9	2	6	5
32	Zurich	Byers, M.	'89	1	2	6	12	1	6	4
29	Summer Olympics	Smith, R.	'80	3	5	6	8	2	3	2
28	I Do	Zurbrigg, L.	'74	3	1	10	12		2	
28	Autumn Tryst	Weiler	'93	2	5	7	6	3	5	
26	Belvi Queen	Jensen	'76	3	1	8	12	1	1	
25	Matrix	Hall, E.	'91	4	1	7	7	3	3	
24	Total Recall	Hager, B.	'92	1	2	4	4	4	3	7
24	English Cottage	Zurbrigg, L.	'76	2	6	4	11		1	
23	Sugar Blues	Zurbrigg, L.	'85	3	2	4	7	2	5	
22	Perfume Counter	Zurbrigg, L.	'72	2	1	7	10	1	1	
21	Brother Carl	Zurbrigg, L.	'83	1	2	7	7		3	1
20	Best Bet	Schreiners	'88	2	5	1	2	4	3	3
20	Mother Earth	Hager, B.	'88	2		1	2	4	9	2
20	Winesap	Byers, M.	'89		5	1	5	1	5	3
19	Anxious	Hager, B.	'92	1	1	2	6	3	5	1
19	Cantina	Byers, M.	'90	2		4	2	4	3	4
19	Coral Charmer	Wright	'83	3	1	4	7	3	1	
19	Rock Star	Byers, M.	'91			3	4	3	6	3
19	Violet Music	Mahan	'91	3		5	8	1	2	
18	High Ho Silver	Byers, M.	'89	2	1	2	5	1	2	5
18	Istanbul	Byers, M.	'89	1	1	2	7	1	6	
18	Pure as gold	Maryott	'89			1	3	5	6	3
18	Tea Leaves	Byers, M.	'87		2		10	1	3	2
18	Tennison Ridge	Begley	'89	2	3	1		2	7	3
18	Victoria Falls	Schreiners	'77	3			6	1	3	5

1998 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

11 Violet Miracle	Zurbrigg, L.	'79			3	4	1	3	
10 Cayenne Capers	Gibson, J. M.	'59			1	3	2	2	2
10 Christopher Columbus	Hager, B.	'92	2			1		6	1
10 Colorwatch	Innerest	'87			6	3		1	
10 Eggnog	Byers, M.	'90			1		2	1	6
10 Mariposia Skies	Tasco	'96			1	1	2	4	2
10 Recurring Dream	Hager, B.	'83	1		1	3	1	4	
10 Recurring Ruffles	Hager, B.	'90			3	2		2	3
10 Remember Spring	Hager, B.	'85	1		2	4		1	2
10 Saxon	Byers, M.	'90	5		1	3		1	
10 Summer Holidays	Zurbrigg, L.	'79			2	3		1	4
9 Blatant	Byers, M.	'90				4	1	1	3
9 Dante's Inferno	Moores	'79	1		1	1		4	2
9 Floorshow	Byers, M.	'89				1		3	5
9 Jean Guymer	Zurbrigg, L.	'76	2	1	3	3			
9 My Friend Johnathan	Miller	'96		1	3	1	1	2	1
9 Reincarnation	Byers, M.	'89			2	3	1	2	1
9 Second Wind	Byers, M.	'89	1	3	2	1			2
9 September Replay	Jones, F.	'92	4		3	2			
9 Sonata In Blue	Smith, R.	'94	1		5	1	1		1

BORDER BEARDED

Votes	NAME OF CULTIVAR	HYBIDIZER	YEA	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
14	Color Brite	Ensminger	'86	1	3	1	5		4	
13	Lenora Pearl	Nichols	'90	1	1	1	6	1	3	
10	Whoop 'Em Up	Brady	'74				5	1	4	
7	Baby Bengal	Sutton	'90				1		6	
6	Peach Parasol	Spoon, D.	'97		4	2				
6	Pink Reprise	Moores	'91			3	2	1		
6	Sonjas Selah	Ensminger	'89	1		2			3	
5	Faux Paus	Keppel	'90				1		4	

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

Votes	NAME OF CULTIVAR	HYBIDIZER	YEA	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
39	Lady Emma	Jones, F.	'86	1	5	9	16	2	5	1
3	Merit	Fisher	'96			1		2		

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

13	Ditto	Hager, B.	'82	1	1	5	3	2	1	
7	Grapelet	Aitken, T.	'89	1	1	1	2	2		
5	Velvet Toy	Dunbar/Sindt	'74	1	1	2		1		

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

1998 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

Votes	NAME OF CULTIVAR	HYBRIDIZER	YEA	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
55	Low Ho Silver	Byers, M.	'89	9	6	11	16	4	5	4
23	I Bless	Zurbrigg, L.	'85	2	1	8	12			
21	Honey Glazed	Niswonger, O.I	'83			5	8		4	4
17	Blessed Again	Jones, F.	'76	2	1	5	8			
17	Eleanor Roosevelt	Sass, H.P.	'33	1		3	9	1	2	1
13	Hi	Byers, M.	'90		1	1	7		3	1
11	Season Ticket	Gatty, J.	'95			1		2	7	1
10	Blessed Assurance	Zurbrigg, L.	'95			6	3	1		
10	Tawny	Pray	'74			3	3	4		
9	Constant Companion	Marsh, C.	'95	2	2	1	1	2	1	

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

Votes	NAME OF CULTIVAR	HYBRIDIZER	YEA	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
60	Baby Blessed	Zurbrigg	'79	4	9	17	20	5	4	1
39	Jewel Baby	Hall	'84	3	5	9	20	1	3	
31	Plum Wine	Weiler	'86	1		5	9	1	10	5
30	Smell The Roses	Byers	'88	3	6	10	7	1	3	
29	Dark Crystal	Byers	'88		4	5	7	3	7	3
27	Little Showoff	Hall	'89	4		9	7	1	5	1
24	What Again	Ensminger	'91	4	5	2	3	3	6	1
21	Flower Shower	Weiler	'90		3	2	6	2	7	1
18	Third Charm	Weiler	'90		1	6	8	1	1	1
16	Autumn Maple	Weiler	'92			8	1		6	1
15	Darkling	Byers	'89			5	8		2	
14	Hot	Byers	'91	1	4	4	2	3		
13	Blitz	Weiler	'88	1	1	1	3		5	2
12	Thrice Blessed	Weiler	'82	1	2	2	4	1	2	
11	Baby Prince	Zurbrigg	'95			5	6			
11	Comeback Trail	Nichols	'91			1	8		2	
10	Little Blue-Eyes	Weiler	'93		4		1	1	4	
9	Golden Violet	Weiler	'93	1		1	3	1	3	
9	Rainbow Sherbert	Weiler	'88			2	1		5	1
8	Golden Child	Byers	'89			4		2	2	
8	Third World	Weiler	'82	1	1		3	1		2

SIBERIAN

Votes	NAME OF CULTIVAR	HYBRIDIZER	YEA	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
14	Reprise	Warburton	'87	2	1	3	5	2	1	
7	Pink Haze	McGarvey	'80				4		3	
5	Chartuse Bounty	McEwen	'83			3		2		
3	Lucky Lilac	McEwen	'88		1	1			1	

JAPANESE

1998 REBLOOMING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS

Votes	NAME OF CULTIVAR	HYBRIDIZER	YEAF	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
3	Prairie Mantle	Hazzard	'76			1	2			
2	Royal Crown	Marx	'61						2	

LOUISIANA

Votes	NAME OF CULTIVAR	HYBRIDIZER	YEAF	z4	z5	z6	z7	z8	z9	z10
3	Red Echo	Rowan	'84		1	1			1	
2	Blue Duke	Arny	'63				1		1	
2	For Dad	Pryor	'97						2	

SPECIES/CALIFORNIAE

3	Chief Sequoia	Weiler	'91						3	
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Continued from page 27

Corinth, Pure as Gold, Second Act, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, Tea Leaves, Winterland.

Each year I pick one or more irises that are outstanding performers in my gardens. This is done on the basis of longevity of bloom (how many months did it bloom?), and also quality of bloom. On the basis of these criteria I will list my own introduction Amethyst Winter as the best reblooming iris I grew this year, granted that other irises were named in other years and so are not again named this year.

Amethyst Winter has been in bloom for four months outside of the normal bloom season, mostly in the winter as its name implies. It was selected for introduction because it is a quality winter rebloomer, and anyone in a mild climate who likes rebloom will find it a fine addition to the garden. It has average height stalks (36"), a wonderful amethyst violet color, good ruffled form, and good branching. If it were the introduction of anyone else, I would pick it as one of the best in my garden.

To not pick it because it is my own creation would be discriminatory, and I refuse to discriminate against myself.

Additionally, since its pod parent is Feed Back, selected in part because it is a reliable rebloomer over much of the country, I suspect that Amethyst Winter might adapt to much more demanding climates than mine, and I would be interested in knowing the results should anyone undertake that trial. But it was introduced as a winter bloomer, though it has put up summer stalks and an occasional early autumn stalk in the introducer's commercial garden in Riverside, CA, which provide additional evidence that it might adapt to conditions elsewhere and bloom when the weather allows.



PRESENTING FOR 1999

MARIPOSA AUTUMN (Tasco '99) TB, 33", M and **RE**. Sdlg. # 92-25-06-RE Nicely formed and ruffled plicata done up in white and rosy-violet. Standards are rosy-violet with white showing through in the centers. Falls are white stitched along the edges in rosy-violet. It reliably reblooms in our Central California Zone 8 location in September and October. Jesse's Song X Earl of Essex.....**\$ 35.00**

WIZARD'S RETURN (Tasco '99) SDB, 12", E and **RE**. Sdlg. #91-46-13-RE A reddish-violet self with a darker halo around the pale violet beards; wide, round flaring falls. This wizard reblooms vigorously in our Central California Zone 8 location. It is usually in bloom 6-to-7 months of the year here! Sweet fragrance. Color photo on page 21 of February 1999 issue of *Flower & Garden* magazine. Extra Charm X Tender Tears.....**\$ 15.00**

OTHER 1999 NON-RE INTRODUCTIONS (for full descriptions, see our April '99 AIS Bulletin ad or our catalog):

DREAM EXPRESS (Tasco '99) TB, 40", M. Heavily ruffled plum-purple self; large flower.....**\$ 40.00**

CHOCOLATE SWIRL (Tasco '99) SDB, 12", M. Swirling blend of bronze, burgundy & chocolate.....**\$ 12.50**

● **COLOR PHOTOS** of the above 4 introductions are available via e-mail only ●
● If ordering from this ad, add \$ 5.95 shipping. CA residents also add 7.25% tax ●

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Gettysburg, PA 17325

1999 INTRODUCTIONS

CONFEDERATE CAVALIER (Jane McKnew by J. Roberts '99) 36" (91 cm.) M. Sdlg. 89-39. Laced and heavily ruffled confederate grey with gold haft markings and a faint gold trim on the edges of the falls. The beards are gold, tipped grey. EC '91. Moonlit X Visual Arts. \$35.00

JO (Jane McKnew by J. Roberts '99) 36" M. (91 cm.) Sdlg. 89-7. Beautifully ruffled flaming yellow space age iris. The beards are deeper yellow with white horns. Excellent branching with 12-16 well placed buds which ensure a long bloom season. All of this is complimented by a pronounced sweet fragrance. Best Seedling '91. Copper Lace X Hands Up. \$35.00

LOVELY FRAN (Weiler '99) Sdlg. 88-135A-RE. 36" (91 cm.) EM-L & RE. This neglecta plicata has light blue-violet standards with white falls prominently stitched and stippled with dark blue-violet on the edges. Sturdy stalks produce 3-4 branches bearing 8-11 buds for a long bloom season. Dependable and abundant rebloom comes late in summer to autumn's end. Great vigor, rapidly producing clumps. RE in CA, MD, PA (zones 6,7,9). Avalon Bay X Earl of Essex. \$35.00

SET SAIL (Zurbrigg '99) 35" M. A neglecta or blue-violet bitone, suggestive of an amoena, with spots or little flounces on all blossoms. Lovely form with good substance, stalks and branching. The plant is fertile both ways, and is giving excellent offspring. Renown X Mesmerizer. \$35.00

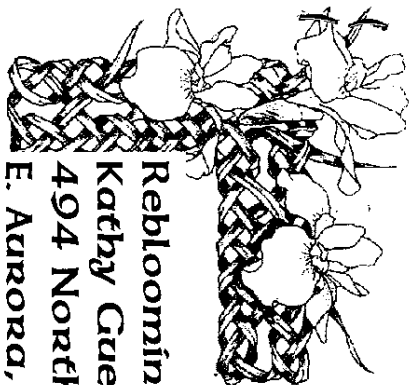
UNCHAINED MELODY (Mahan '99). Sdlg. 88801. TB, 36" (91 cm.) EM & RE (Sept/Oct.). Ruffled white self with flaring falls; white beard tipped yellow. **HARVEST OF MEMORIES X SOAP OPERA**. A very dependable cold climate rebloomer combining the strong remontan characteristics of its grandparent, **CORN HARVEST**, with the fine form of Joe Ghio's **SOAP OPERA**. Until now, the best modern white cold climate rebloomers have been dominant whites out of violet lines. This new white iris offers outstanding breeding potential for attaining improved orange, brown, variegata, red and pink rebloomers. RE: CA,PA,VA (zones 6,7,9). \$35.00

INTRODUCTION SPECIAL!! Order *ALL* 1999 introductions for **\$150.00**

To order from this ad include \$4.50 shipping. No extras are given on this special.

Catalog \$2.00

Although we specialize in Reblooming Irises, we also have once blooming tall bearded, median, dwarf, and historic irises. Gift Certificates are available for all occasions. A **FRIENDSHIP GARDENS GIFT CERTIFICATE** for Mom/Dad on Mother's/Father's Day would be a beautiful way to say thank you.



Reblooming Iris Society
Kathy Guest, Editor
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