

THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

Fall 2000 - Vol 56



WILD JASMINE

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY
A SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

OFFICERS

PHONE

*President: Charlie Brown, 3114 S. FM 131, Denison, TX 75020-0724 (903) 463-4084
E-mail broiris8@airmail.net

Vice President: Dennis Connell, P.O. Box 20548, Keizer OR 97307 (503) 304-1648
E-mail dennis.connell@orst.edu

Secretary: Claire Y. Honkanen, P.O. Box 235, Isle of Palms, SC 29451 (843) 886-4691
E-mail clare235@aol.com FAX (843) 886-9512

Treasurer: Florence Wheat, 2201 East 3380 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84109 (801) 485-8631
E-mail flowheat@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Midwestern	Larry Harder, Box 547, Ponca, NE 68870-0547 (exp 2001)	(402) 755-2615
Northwestern	Barbara Aitken, 608 NW 119 th St, Vancouver, WA 98685-3802 (exp 2000)	(360) 573-4472
Southwestern	George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257-9011 (exp 2000)	1-888-558-5107
Southern	Everette Lineberger, 2460 Compton Bridge Rd, Inman SC 29349-8489 (exp 2002)	(864) 472-3339
Eastern	Joan Roberts, 341 Schwartz Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8622 (exp 2003)	(717) 338-1657
Northeastern	Larry Douchette, 482 Middelsex Ave, Wilmington MA 01887 (exp 2003)	(508) 658-4586

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS/CHAIRMEN

Publicity Director : Dr. John Weiler, 1146 West Rialto, Fresno CA 93705-0917 (559) 229-6434

Membership: Charlie Brown, 3114 S. FM 131, Denison TX 75020-0724 (903) 463-4084

Editor: Seann Perry, 800 Purcell Dr. Plano, TX 75025 dellp@gwmail.plano.gov (972) 517-7219

OTHER CHAIRMEN

Slides; Olive Rice-Waters, 1914 Napa Ave, Berkeley CA 94707 (510) 526-2853

Questions/answers: (Dr) Lloyd Zurbrigg, Box 52444, Durham NC 27717 (919) 489-6960

Internet: Mike Lowe, 12219 Ziles Rd, Blackstone, VA 23824 (804) 265-8198

Symposium: Tim Stanek, 233929 Ellington Ave, Glenwood IA 51534 (712) 527-5338

Robins: Dudley Carson, P.O.Box 556, Willamina OR 97396

Historian: Larry L. Harder, Box 547, Ponca NE 68870-0547 (402) 755-2615

Nominating Committee: James Ennenga, 6913 Chartwell Rd, Knoxville, TN 37931-2542
jrennenga@ntown.com

Past President: Rosalie Yerkes Figge, 4 Maryland Ave Towson MD, 21286-1100 (410) 337-9118
e-mail ryfigge@aol.com FAX: (410) 494-0711

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

September is past and it is almost November. Here I am trying to get this publication into order so it can go to the printer. I will have a new Editor for the next issue and with your help, maybe we can get it out on time. PLEASE, remember, it is your publication and we can't put one together without your input. I have tried to get articles over the internet and by phone. Still we don't get enough response to fill the need. Please think about your hobby and how you do your gardening. How did you build your Iris beds? How do you cultivate irises and what do you use to boost growth and bloom? Do you pollen daub? Send an article (even a half page) about your crosses and what is happening in your garden.

In this issue you will find a new Revision to the RIS BYLAWS. Please read and check them for comments and approval. The changes are required to comply with IRS rulings and will allow use to maintain our Tax exempt status. The New Bylaws will be presented for a vote at the AIS Spring Convention.

Another insert is included in this Recorder. It is a form for reporting your rebloom to your area Director. I have included the name, address, e-mail address, and Regions for which each director is responsible. The Directors will be listed on the back of the form. Please fill in your rebloom for 2000 and mail or e-mail to your director.

This is my second year working for you in this position. It seems to get more difficult the longer I am here. The board members are scattered over the U.S. and sometimes it is hard to communicate. It would be nice if the organization was like a company with all the board, directors, and assistants in one place. Volunteer organizations just are not able to do that. If you have any complaints, please let us know. This year we are looking for a new editor and I finally found one, Sean Perry, in Plano is going to work with us and try to do the Recorder. It was too late for this issue but he will be working on the next one for Spring 2001.

The end of the year is approaching rapidly. Check your mailing label for 00/01. If it is on your label, you need to renew your membership in January 2001. Reminders will be mailed so keep an eye out for them. Our membership has dropped to the 600's and that is the lowest in several years. I know that AIS has also fallen so we must try to retain our members. Remember the Reblooming Iris is the Iris of the Future.

Wishing you a happy holidays and great spring bloom.

Charlie Brown

ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	\$50.00	Quarter Page	\$15.00
Half Page	\$30.00	Eighth Page	\$10.00
Inside Cover	\$75.00	Full Page Color	\$300.00

*** Limit One (1) full page per issue

DUES NOTICE
DOES YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
EXPIRE
1 JANUARY 2001 ?

SINGLE ANNUAL	—————\$7.00
SINGLE TRIENNIAL	—————\$18.00
FAMILY ANNUAL	—————\$8.00
FAMILY TRIENNIAL	—————\$21.00
SINGLE LIFE	—————\$120.00
DUAL LIFE	—————\$150.00

Check Your mailing label. If it says **01/01**,
your membership expires.

PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY

ARTICLE I. Name And Affiliation

- Section 1 Name: This non-profit organization shall be known as the Reblooming Iris Society (RIS).
- Section 2 Affiliation: The RIS is a section of the American Iris Society (AIS).

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

- Section 1 The purposes of the RIS shall be to develop the science of horticulture and activities related to the study, propagation, and culture of reblooming irises; to stimulate and foster interest in botanical and horticultural pursuits; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of reblooming irises, by any means consistent with these Bylaws. These shall include, but are not limited to:
- (a) To support scientific research, including the culture and improvement of reblooming irises, and to encourage garden visiting by the general public,
 - (b) To collect and disseminate information on the history, classification, hybridization, climatic range, and culture of reblooming irises;
 - (c) To promote fall shows and exhibitions for the purpose of educating the general public and fellow irisarians,
 - (d) To educate the public through public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public; and
 - (e) To encourage membership in, and cooperation with, the AIS and its regional and local societies.
- Section 2 Organization and Operation. The RIS shall be organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Section 3 Prohibited Activities.
- (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, the RIS shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - (b) No substantial part of the activities of the RIS shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the RIS shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign, including publication or distribution of statements on behalf of any candidate for public office..

ARTICLE III. Membership and Dues

- Section 1. All voting members shall be members of AIS.
- (a) There shall be the following classes of members: Single, Dual, Annual, Triennial, or Life.
 - (b) Only members in good standing of RIS shall have voting privileges.

- (a) Dual membership shall be limited to any two members residing at the same address with each having voting privileges; however, only one copy of the *RIR* shall be sent.
 - (b) Life membership shall be non-transferable, carry full membership privileges, and shall be limited to members of the AIS.
 - (c) A non-member of AIS may join at the regular rate but will have no voting privileges.
- Section 2. Dues for all classes of members shall be established by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. Honorary Life Membership may be granted by the Board to a member in recognition of distinguished service in RIS. An Honorary Life Member shall have full membership privileges, but shall no longer be required to pay RIS dues.
- Section 4. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the periodical publications of RIS by paying an amount equal to the annual or triennial membership dues. If such individuals or organizations do not fulfill all requirements for membership, they shall be designated "subscribers" and shall not have voting or other membership privileges.
- Section 5. Inurement of income: No part of the net earnings of the RIS shall be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization is authorized to pay reasonable compensation for goods and/or services rendered in furtherance of the objectives of the RIS.
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ARTICLE IV. RIS Officers and Board

- Section 1. The Board shall consist of elected and appointed officers.
- Section 2. The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Area Directors. The President shall appoint a Membership Director, Publicity Director, and the *RIR* Editor.
- Section 3. There shall be four Directors to represent two geographic areas, which will be comprised of the AIS Regions as follows:

NORTHEASTERN AREA: Regions 1, 2, & 16
SOUTHERN AREA: Regions 5, 10, 17, 22, 23, & 24
MIDWESTERN AREA: Regions 6, 8, 9, 18, 21, & overseas
NORTHWESTERN AREA: Regions 11, 12, 13, & 20
SOUTHWESTERN AREA: Regions 14, 15, & 22

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

Section 5.

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

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

Section 7. Finance.

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

Section 8. Duties of Officers.

- (a) The President shall:
 - (i) Preside at all meetings of RIS, the Board; and
 - (ii) Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.
- (b) The Vice-President shall:
 - (i) In the absence of the President, exercise the functions of the President; and
 - (ii) Assume the office of the President in case of a vacancy.
- (c) The Secretary shall:
 - (i) Keep all minutes and records of RIS and the Board;
 - (ii) Have ballots prepared for use, when needed, for the annual election; and
 - (iii) Record, in writing, any additional nominations made from the floor.
- (a) The Treasurer shall:

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

ARTICLE V. Committees

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

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

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

ARTICLE VI. Meetings

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

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

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

MISCELLANIOUS REBLOOM REPORTS

Monty Byers did some good work. Now in bloom in my garden: EGGNOG, REINCARNATION, ROCK STAR, and STINGRAY (Multiple). Also 2 out of 4 rhizomes of BEST BET I planted last week are trying to bloom. A FILIBUSTER X GNU seedling (looks to be a brownish plicata) will soon open. I pray that I can somehow get a REINCARNATION X BEST BET cross, I have saved the pollen from the first 3 REINCARNATION flowers.

John Reeds in sunny southern California (San Juan Capistrano) 26 Sep 00

24 Oct 00 Walter Moores, USDA Zone 7/8 Enid Lake, MS

Rebloom this year has really been sparse in this area and those that have rebloomed have got to be classified as "sure fire" rebloomers given the adverse conditions. The heat wave was unprecedented with two (2) days hitting 111 degrees. Most area here and nearby are reporting twelve to twenty inches behind in rainfall for 2000. Add last year's drought to that figure, and some areas are 40 to 50 inches short of normal. Our average rainfall is between 55 and 60 inches. I cannot remember the last "average" year, maybe 1996 or 1997.

TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS was the first to attempt rebloom in September. The stalks were runted and the flowers were deformed.

After a cool spell, normal flowers began to appear, but most stalks are shorter than normal.

The list includes: HEMSTITCHED

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

EARL OF ESSEX

WINESAP

ORANGE HARVEST and FEEDBACK

There are buds coming on others and if the eighty degree weather we have been having continues, there may be more rebloom to report later.

Patricia Brooks, USDA Zone 8, 27 Sep 00

My mind is blown. Three irises received and planted in July here in the moderate climate of a NW island have already (re) bloomed. IMMORTALITY, SIGH OF LEO, and now PINKNESS, SDB PINK FAWN are budding up. I hope I still have bloom on SIGN OF LEO when PINKNESS blooms so I may cross them, launching my search for a pink iris with a blue beard. SIGN OF LEO had great pollen, so I tried to cross with IMMORTALITY, but I think the latter was too far gone and I don't expect it to take. If I can get that great pollen to take on PINKNESS, I'll be off and running. The Happy Islander

Minutes of the RIS Board Meeting
16 April 2000

Our new president, Charlie Brown, called our board meeting to order on April 16, 2000 in Dallas, Texas

Board members present were introduced: Charlie Brown, Florence Wheat, Past president, Rosalie Figge, Joan Roberts, and Claire Honkanen.

Charlie gave his report bringing us up to date on business since our last meeting. No Web page has been established. There was no report from the Vice- President.

Florence Wheat gave a complete treasurer's report for audit. Total Balance 4-1-00 \$13,672.37. Complete report on file.

Reading of the minutes at Oklahoma by secretary, Claire Honkanen, were dispensed with since they had been previously reported in the Fall Recorder.

Florence Wheat addressed the fact that we have been in a losing position with our assets due primarily to the cost of the Recorder. She called our attention to the fact that the last Recorder cost averaged \$2.33 per copy. She feels we should be able to cover this expense with the dues increase. It is also essential we have correct addresses of all members. The fall issue mailing consisted of 614 copies, 99 of which were returned. This is very expensive and needs to be corrected.

Florence has served the Rebloomer Iris Society with exceptional expertise. However she has served more than two full terms and it is necessary to elect a new treasurer. Florence has very competently served with Dr. John Weiler, Rosalie Figge, and Charles Brown.

Charlie announced that a nominating committee would be appointed to seek a new treasurer, and two new directors for Northwestern and Southwestern. Mrs. Olive Rice-Waters has also asked for possible replacement as slide director.

Tim Stanek reported he had only about 50 responses on rebloom from members.

Joan Roberts announced she is not getting the rebloom reports she would like.

Charlie commended our new Recorder editors, Lana and Steve Barotta. It was truly an outstanding issue and excellent job. He also suggested we contact him about being web page master.

Under new business Charlie discussed a computer program update. After a thoughtful and informative discussion a motion was made to purchase an upgrade, which will be very helpful in compiling the checklist as well as other business of the society. Motion was made by Joan Roberts and seconded by Florence Wheat. Motion passed.

Also under new business Florence Wheat proposed we establish a fee in the amount of \$500.00 to offset the expenses of our President to attend the National AIS yearly convention. This would become effective in 2001. Motion was made by Florence Wheat and seconded by Rosalie Figge. It passed with a unanimous vote.

Charlie (while Rosalie was out of the room) displayed the Distinguished Service Award to be presented at the general meeting to Rosalie Figge.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 17 April when we will meet again for the general meeting.

Submitted by: Clair Honkanen. Secretary

Minutes of General Meeting

17 April 2000

Our president, Charlie Brown, called the annual meeting of the Reblooming Iris Society to order on April 17, 2000. He welcomed the approximately 75 members and guests attending.

He then introduced the members of the board: Florence Wheat, Claire Honkanen, Rosalie Figge, Joan Roberts, Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, Barbara Aitken, Olive Rice-Waters, and George Sutton.

Since the minutes had been printed in the fall Recorder, a motion was made to dispense with reading of the minutes.

A report from our treasurer, Florence Wheat, listed a total treasury balance of \$13,672.37 as of April 1, 2000. A complete treasury report is on file for audit.

Charlie announced that there are copies of the checklist available now at \$10.00. They will be available after the meeting. Also any new -members may sign up and members may pay their dues after the meeting.

Under new business Charlie reported that it will be necessary to appoint a nominating committee to find a new treasurer, and two directors for Southwestern and Northwestern areas.

He called attention to the fact that our very competent treasurer, Florence Wheat, had served under Dr. John Weiler, Rosalie Figge, and Charlie Brown. The audience responded with a vote of appreciation for her efforts helping the Reblooming Iris Society.

He also commended our new Recorder editors, Lana and Steve Barotta. They are doing an outstanding job! He also suggested he would be contacted about being web page master.

It has become necessary to have a computer program update, and the board voted to do this to enable help in compiling the checklist, as well as other business of the society.

Charlie was indeed happy to make the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Rosalie Figge. It is a beautiful, special award to a most deserving past president.

We were fortunate to have one of our own, George Sutton, present our program. George has been such a promoter of rebloomers, even internationally now he's putting the word out, that they are the iris of the future. We all enjoyed hearing about the progress being made by him, and others, in work being done with rebloomers. He always has slides to show of the latest, as well as our many favorites already available. The culture, care, and sources were also featured in his presentation.

The meeting was then adjourned with an invitation to meet again in May 2001.

Submitted by Secretary Clair Honkanen

NEVER TOO OLD

Ninety-three years ago, Lilla Edwards Spoon was born.- that is an accomplishment in longevity we all hope to enjoy. However, she is not resting on her laurels, or irises, as the case may be. Everyday she dons her blue hat along with her iris print jacket and goes out to walk in her iris garden. Lilla currently grows 224 cultivars. They are all labeled, but Lilla says that is for the benefit of her garden visitors. She knows each one by name, color and characteristics.

In 1938, her husband gave her an iris as a gift and the love affair began. She passed along her fascination with irises to her son, Donald. Most of us know Don , who, along with his wife Ginny, operate Winterberry Gardens. Don is also an accomplished hybridizer. From his list of many introductions, Lilla prefers LILLA ALBERTA (Spoon 98) which he named for her.

She was an active member of the Charlotte Iris Society beginning in 1948, the year the club was founded. Presently she is an honorary member but she continues to enter the shows and wins many ribbons for her efforts. She returns her ribbons to the club but often wins them back again the following year. This year, she was awarded 13 blue ribbons. The number last year was 14. She tells me that each year she enjoys growing irises more than ever. Why does she grow irises? She says "It's pure pleasure."

Most of this information about Lilla came from a newspaper article "Sunday Spotlight" in the Sunday Courier, Forest City, N.C. In addition to the newspaper article, I received a very nice note from Lilla.

Rosalie and Charlie,

I am doing some experimenting with growing TB Rebloomers [all Monty Byers introductions] in pots. I am not sure how they would do in the ground, and don't have enough fans to gamble any. I am a bit concerned with increase, so I have increased fertilization.

I am in a Zone 8b Climate, so we do get winter freezes, some of which are quite severe by Florida standards.. I have the pots located under a tall Southern Longleaf Pine, so they get a mix of sun and shade during the hottest part of the year, and basically full sun during the winter. Unless a plant is blooming or with bud, I do nothing to protect it during a freeze, and the pots have been exposed to temperatures as low as 18 F—maybe a little colder out away from the house.

So far, I have had WINTERLAND and now WINESAP to flower here. WINTERLAND has flowered several times. A generous friend has supplied me with a few more Byers Rebloomers that I am also trying. At this time, I still cannot say for certain that these Irises can be grown here in Florida, but these results are interesting.

Feel free to use this information in the Reblooming Iris Recorder.

Mark A. Cook BigAlligator@aol . com Dunnellon, Florida.

CARNEY'S CORNER

I really am not qualified to write an article on rebloomers since they have only been growing from one to four years.

In the years of about 1994 through 1997 irises were purchased, planted with bone meal or fertilizer and left to grow. Much has been learned since then. The second and third year IMMORTALITY did some reblooming. I began keeping some records in 1998. My notes state that on November 28, 1998 the following were in bloom: WAVES OF GRAIN, ZURICH, HEMSTITCHED, BILLIONAIRE, VIOLET MUSIC, HEART OF ICE, QUEEN DOROTHY, and ISTANBUL. During the first week of December, I cut a budstalk from JURASIC PARK and it bloomed for Christmas. About 20 other varieties had buds during December, but were not mature enough to bloom.

In 1999, THEN AGAIN was again in bloom June 15th. ZURICH bloomed continuously through July, August and September. In October GENTEEL, WINESAP, SUGAR BLUES, ZURICH, AND WAVES OF GRAIN were in bloom. In November, WAVES OF GRAIN was still in bloom and I cut the stalks because of frost. They bloomed perfectly. Also blooming then was WINESAP, BILLIONAIRE, HENNA STITCHES and WINTERLAND. On December 2, I cut three vases full of budstalks. There were at least 50 buds outside. Just could not get them all. Some were too immature to bloom well. Left out to bloom then were WINESAP, BILLIONAIRE, ALL AMERICAN, WINTERLAND, ZURICH and GENTEEL.

Most of these were in one row which has been replanted this year. I do not expect much from them the first two years. We have not done anything special at this point to enhance the reblooming situation. I do know that I will never replant exactly four weeks after spring bloom. The plants take too long to start their growing. There was so much reblooming on WINESAP, ZURICH, GENTEEL and WINTERLAND, I was afraid they would bloom out the whole clump, but in the spring this year there were several new rhizomes and some blooming.

If any of this information is of use to you, feel free to share it.

Respectfully, Carol Ann, Carney's Corner

PS: 17Oct00

FROST ECHO has put up another budstalk as well as BUCKWHEAT and CONGRATULATIONS. CONGRATULATIONS was replanted in September in rocks, composted cow stuff and alfalfa. It seems to have grown quickly and last week's heavy frost did not seem to damage it. USDA Zone 6, Northern Middle Tennessee

29 Oct 00 It is still terribly dry. No rain here for the month of October. The driest in 35 years. In spite of that, WAVES OF GRAIN now has 2 very nice blooms. A pretty sight in the dust and the leaves. Also blooming are ZURICH and LOW HO SILVER(IB). Now there are bud stalks on BILLIONAIRE and FOOTLOOSE. Temps in the mid 70's by day and low 50's at night. These plants have only been watered once in the last month.

Mesmerizer

By Patrick Orr

5/21/00

While looking over the 1999 Reblooming Iris Symposium results published in the Spring 2000 issue of The Reblooming Iris Recorder, I couldn't help but notice that Mesmerizer was nowhere on the list. This came as quite a shock to me, especially since it is currently gracing my garden with rebloom.

This is the first iris to have ever rebloomed for me, and is currently the only iris blooming in my iris bed. Peak bloom is well over for my area the late bloomers finished more than a week ago. Mesmerizer first bloomed in March, and now halfway through May an increase off the same mother rhizome has put up a spectacular bloom stalk.

This is the first year I have grown Mesmerizer, having won the bid on it in the Region 15 iris auction last year. I had to out-bid Betty Howard for it, who happens to be the Sonoran Desert Iris Society's space-age Queen. Since planting it on October 15, 1999, it has sent up 4 increases. One of the increases tried and failed to rebloom right around the time the heat hit in our area, literally overnight. Then another increase sent up the stalk later on, which is the one I am enjoying now.

Mesmerizer is reported in the 1998 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Iris as reblooming in CA, NC, SC, USDA ZONES 7 & 8, but not in AZ zone 9 which is where I live. One of its parents is SKYHOOKS, another reported rebloomer in the checklist, and absent as well from the symposium results. One of its grandparents (on SKY HOOKS side) is WEDDING VOW, yet another rebloomer reported on the checklist and absent from the symposium results.

I was trying to figure out why Mesmerizer was absent from the list and not a favorite of the reblooming symposium voters. Two answers come to mind. Primarily, perhaps it just does not rebloom well in other parts of the country. If that is the case then it makes sense that it would not be voted in. The second answer is contrary to the AIS symposium results of 100 favorite Irises. MESMERIZER and its parent SKY HOOKS have both moved up the poll to 30th place, having 210 votes each.

In either case, I am glad to read that hybridizers both in the East and the West of the country have been using MESMERIZER in their hybridizing programs. In the Spring 2000 issue of The Reblooming Iris Recorder, Lloy Zurbrigg wrote about using MESMERIZER the bulk of the time as a parent in one of his hybridizing efforts. George Sutton has three new introductions this year that have MESMERIZER either as a pod or pollen parent. Incidentally, two other Sutton introductions have SKY HOOKS in its parentage, which is one of MESMERIZER's parents.

Many of you may not know that MESMERIZER can rebloom. If you are one of those people fortunate enough to have a separate iris bed just for rebloomers, you might want to plant an increase of it into the bed this fall. Since this is one of America's favorite irises, you can't go wrong and it may bless you with rebloom.

BEARDLESS REBLOOMING IRISES

by John Weiler

While we are making outstanding progress on quality, quantity and dependability of reblooming bearded irises for gardens around the world, we hear much less for the success of obtaining rebloom on many beardless iris groups. Still, we get an occasional report for rebloom on named varieties of Louisiana (LA) and Spuria (SPU) irises and even more frequent records for clones of Siberian (SIB) and Japanese (JA) irises. There is also a clone of *Iris setosa* registered as Arctic Rebloomer and some Californicae (PCI) hybrids which have been reported to rebloom. Records of rebloom for each of these can be found in The Checklist of Reblooming Irises.

However, I feel many in these beardless groups are under-reported. In my own garden in USDA zone 9 I have sometimes seen an out-of-season bloom but failed to record it. This year the notebook went with me each time I worked in the garden. I was surprised to discover how many unreported irises rebloomed in the beardless groups. In all cases rebloom was limited to established clumps two to four years old. No rebloom was found on first year plants.

Among the JA irises Cascade Crest (Aitken 88) a white flower gently edged soft-lavender blue produced a single stalk of repeat bloom one month after spring bloom finished. Electric Glow (Aitken 92), a deep blue, produced one repeat stalk at three weeks following spring bloom and another at four weeks. In 1999 Ink on Ice (Aitken 94), a single white with smallish standards splashed purple produced one stalk in late summer following a good spring display during the second half of May. None of these are recorded as rebloomers.

The remaining beardless irises reblooming all belong to the Californicae (PCI) hybrids. For each clone, rebloom came a few weeks after spring bloom was complete. At three weeks following spring bloom the first to offer repeat bloom was the violet on white *plicata*, Wishing (Ghio 93). It produced only a single stalk of rebloom on a large clump but it had shown this repeat bloom in one earlier year. At four weeks after spring bloom, both Point Santa Cruz (Ghio 95), a pretty terra cotta self and Gordola (Ghio 96), a broad, deep yellow bloomed again. Point Santa Cruz had one stalk but Gordola produced four stalks on a single clump. At five weeks after spring bloom two other cultivars began blooming. Baby Blanket (Ghio 98) a rich brownish red overlaid with pearly mauve at the signal gave one stalk. Chief Sequoia (Weiler 91) a lavender blue self, has consistently produced rebloom on some plants each year since its introduction. A dozen plants are kept and usually about one in four plants reblooms annually. This year four of the twelve rebloomed with one starting at five weeks following spring bloom, two at six weeks and the other at seven weeks. All but one produced two stalks of rebloom each and the fourth produced three stalks. Furthermore the rebloom stalks on Chief Sequoia all showed better branching, (two branches plus terminal) and a higher bud count (7-8 per stem) than is usual on the regular spring bloom, a trait which effectively extends the time the plant reblooms.

The only one of the PCIs reported to rebloom earlier is Chief Sequoia with several records from California and one from Portland OR, all in USDA zones 8 and 9. Since the *plicata*, Whishing, has had some rebloom in two different growing seasons, I recommended to others to try it. Of the rest reblooming this year, some may never rebloom again but others may well prove to have a tendency to remont. They will be watched carefully for the next two seasons. In the meantime, if you can grow iris of either or both of these two groups in your area, they are certainly worth a try for rebloom.

(Continued from page 17)

What we need are more reports from those of you growing beardless irises whenever one blooms more than once in a growing season indicating cultivar name and USDA zone. Once the records are posted it will encourage still others to report. As records accumulate, we are then able to predict which can be recommended to others and in which climatic zones the variety has rebloomed. This, in turn, will stimulate hybridizers to use some of the identified remontants in further breeding work to enhance rebloom reliability and quality for future iris cultivars.

We know the potential to develop rebloomers exists in nearly all beardless groups of irises. In some cases only a single clone of a species is known to remont. In other types such as the SIB and JA groups, breeders have deliberately worked on producing several cultivars with good remontant characteristics and in a broader color range. Why not help in promoting popularity and development in beardless remontants SO that in the future we will be able to enjoy these beauties much of the growing season instead of two or three weeks each year? Help by reporting rebloom in your garden for these beardless irises, indeed, for all irises. Then some day the American Iris Society will become a Reblooming Iris Society.

REPORT FROM CANADA (25Oct2000)

From the foggy autumn dells of Ottawa (zone 4 ish), here is a list of cultivars that will almost certainly get zapped by fros next week (extremely late by our standards).

AUTUMN THUNDER (more a fall bloomer than a rebloomer)

DOUBLE SHOT (ditto)

CONCERTINA (ditto)

CHAMPAGNE ENCORE (genuine rebloom, a first for us for the cultivar)

PRECIOUS LITTLE PINK (personally I hate it. Second round of rebloom though)

NORTHWARD HO (just a standard miracle. Planted late August after doing nothing the previous years)

New bed, fresh soil, and (for us) good spacing.

Regards, Sandy Ives in Ottawa Canada

TEMPERATURE VS SNOW

By RYFigge and Sandy Ives

I've been reading the email and came across several articles that made me realize this is an important observation that most people overlook. Rather than take the time to get an article from these people on the subject, since time is late for the Recorder, I decided to try a composite of what has been said. Be sure to give credit to Sandy Ives (who sings something like "already brain dead", Maureen Mark, and Ian Efford. They live near each other in Ottawa, Canada. I think it is wonderful that they have rebloomers! Now begins the little article:

Three loyal rebloomer enthusiasts from the famous, romantic land of the red-coated Mounted Police have made a significant observation. They are in USDA Zone 4B, but like many of us are at the mercy of changing, changeable weather so the temperature can vacillate on each side of the scale. Ian says that for the last 25 years there have been winters that reached down to Zone 3, and that the last few winters it was nearer Zone 5, especially where protected. (By now you have guessed we are referring to Canada - and more specifically, Ottawa)

The important Observation is that snow cover is more important than temperature. Snow is like a blanket, even though a cold one, and it keeps the moisture in. Moisture is a very important item so the leaves don't dry out. There is even a spray for shrubbery, etc. to protect it from the drying effect of wind. Ian said that last year he lost every chrysanthemum except one, and some had been in Ottawa for 50 years. I know from experience in this area (Zone 7) that below freezing weather (which freezes rain-drenched earth) accompanied with that bitter wind, lowers the temperature to a "killer freeze" and much is lost.

However, as Ian points out, irises (excluding the Japanese which I heavily mulch with Oak leaves) do not mind the cold, especially when blanketed with snow. In addition, he has quite a collection of species that survive, except those from very warm areas. He does not mulch or protect the plants.

There can be a moral in this, which I want to point out with emphasis: This example proves that you CAN have Rebloomers even in very cold zones. Ellen Gallagher in N.H. zone 3a has rebloomers! She has commented in other years that she's still mulching with that "white stuff" when we, in zone 7 are enjoying our SDBs.

As a guide for yourselves, take note in Tim Stanek's report what irises bloom where. At the same time, as a service to your fellow rebloomer-gardeners, send a report to your District Director who reports to Tim- and if possible to me (Rosalie) because I'm trying over the years to keep my CHECKLIST records up-to-date for future publication. PLEASE, include your USDA Zone. That is as important as your State/Province/Country.

REBLOOM SHOW REPORTS

24 October 2000, Ted D. Bear, Zone 7

Region 5 held its annual Rebloom Show in conjunction with the Fall meeting. It was held in Duluth, Georgia (North Atlanta) on October 14th 2000.

Due to lack of rain, we only had 21 entries. Best of Show went to Joe Scott Watson of Milledgeville exhibiting GRACE THOMAS. The Sweepstakes was won by Lucille Chicvara of Anderson, SC.

(Rick, Roger, and Dennis take note) Also winning a blue ribbon was our own Claire Honkenan of Islae of Palm, SC. She entered a beautiful specimen of OMAR THE TENT MAKER. (Roger worries that we can't grow arilbreds in the Southeast).

This year we also had a Design section. There were 4 entries, all deserving Best of Show. If any other areas have fall shows, please report them.

30 October 2000, Region 14, California

Hi iris friends, just a note to say that Region 14 held its Fall Reginal in Campbell, CA on Saurday 28 Oct 00. The rebloomer show was one of the largest I can remember, well groomed iris and show very well done. Some new Seedlings showing great promise of interesting rebloomers in our futures.

Rick Tasco was the speaker. He showed slides of very promising introductions. By the way, we had one inch size "hail" yesterday, stripped everything that it touched. All our wonderful rebloom is just a memory now!! Hail brought down our cloth roof on the iris storing barn. It looked like a winter wonderland for hours yesterday. Two wrecks within minutes took down 30 feet of our fence line including irises, roses, etc. Fortunatly no one was injured. Guess you know what Gordon will be doing today once he gets off his real job.
Lorranine at Woodland Iris Gardens.

Display Garden Bloom Report Bowling Green Kentucky

I've been real busy and haven't visited our local display garden at. The Natcher School, over on Cave Mill Road, in about a month. We are way behind on rain, but the little bit we've had was spaced out. To my knowledge, the garden received no supplemental water. Last night, I was told that there were several irises in bloom there. As I was driving up today, I was surprised at the number of stalks. The display garden is divided into four sections with a path running down the middle and across the center. One section has a full row of rebloomers with most of them in bloom. Several of these stalks won't bloom before the freeze. Still, it's an awesome sight! The following irises have stalks:

- 8 stalks—Pink Attraction (Hall)
- 3 stalks—Clarence (goorgeous) (Zurbrigg)
- 5 stalks—Feedback (Hager)
- 7 stalks—Harvest of Memories (Zurbrigg)
- 6 stalks—Violet Returns (several had apparently bloomed early in the season) (Hall)
- 5 stalks—Renown (Zurbrigg)
- 4 stalks—Winterland (Byers)
- 2 stalks—Spirit of Fiji (Zurbrigg)
- 4 stalks—Rebound (brownish red on cream plicata displaying a perfect show stalk today — (Wilkerson 96)
- 9 stalks—Earl of Essex (Zurbrigg) (parent of Rebound)
- 9 stalks—Tea Leaves (Byers)
- 2 stalks—Corn Harvest (Can't remember)
- 3 stalks—Summer Olympics (Smith)
- 10 stalks—Blue Moonlight (Byers)
- 10 stalks—Bridge In Time (white with up to 19 blooms per stalk)(Wilkerson)

Scattered throughout the rest of the garden were the following

- 2 stalks—City Lights (Dunn)
- 5 stalks—Elainalope (Kasperek)
- 2 stalks—Afternoon Delight——. not showing color *yet and I can't be sure* it is as marked. (Ernst)
- 1 stalk—Returning Chameleon — planted this summer/won't have time to bloom before the freeze.. (Wilkerson 95) Child of IMMORTALITY.
- 1 stalk —Immortality. Having trouble getting established. Will not bloom before freeze. (Zurbrigg) Parent of Bridge in Time

With a few exceptions, these *were planted* during the fall of 1999. Several have been thinned out, but not dug, to fill orders from the garden — Gee, hope people are stopping by and writing down names.

Betty / Bowling Green KY USA Zone 6

Reblooming Iris Society

2000 Source List

AMBERWAY GARDENS
(Ken & Susan Kremer)
5803 Amberway
St. Louis, MO 63128

MARYOTT'S GARDENS.
1073 Bird Ave
San Jose, CA 95125

BLOOMING FIELDS FARM
(Jim Puckett)
P.O. Box 8416
Riverside, CA 92515

SUPERSTITION GARDENS
(Rick Tasco)
2536 Old Highway
Cathey's Valley CA 95306-9708
(Catalog \$1.50, Refunded with Order)

BLUE IRIS GARDENS
(Rob & Molly Cromwell)
20791 Woodbury Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95949

SUTTON'S GREEN THUMBER
(George & Margaret Sutton)
16592 Road 208
Porterville, CA 93257
(209) 784-9011

COLLIER'S GARDEN
(Tom Collier)
P.O. Box 32
Lawson, MO 64062-0032
913-764-0586

WALTER A. MOORES
Rt 5 Box 189B
Starkville, MS 39759

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS
(Joan & Ken Roberts)
341 Schwartz Rd.
Gettysburg, PA 17325-8622

WINTERBERRY GARDENS
(Don & Ginny Spoon)
1225 Reynolds Rd
Cross Junction, VA 22625
(540) 888-4447
(Catalog \$2.00)

HILLCREST GARDENS
(Hooker & Bonnie Nichols)
3365 Northaven Blvd
Dallas, TX 75229

I hope that this list will be of some help. Remember that you need to order reblooming irises early due to demand and *they* need to be planted during the summer to try to get fall rebloom.

Charlie Brown
Membership Secretary

Reblooming Iris Society
Charlie Brown
3114 South FM 131
Denison, TX 75020

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