

# *The Iris Fan*

Volume 13, Number 1  
Spring/Summer 2001

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY-----

YOUTH NEWSLETTER /  
682 Huntley Heights Drive  
Ballwin, MO 63021  
United States of America

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
VALLEY PARK MO  
PERMIT NO. 139

JAMES RASMUSSEN  
PAST PRESIDENT AIS  
2112 W 17TH ST  
WICHITA KS 67203





# THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

THE IRIS FAN

Volume 13, Number 1  
Spring-Summer 2001

JEAN E. MORRIS, Chairman  
Youth Committee  
682 Huntley Heights Drive  
Ballwin, Missouri 63021

## YOUTH NEWS FROM THE REGIONS -

Jessie Callaway, a new youth member from Reg. 21 (Iowa) likes SUPREME SULTAN, WITCHES WAND, DYNAMITE and STEPPING OUT and has signed up for the AIS Pen Pals program. Welcome Jessie.

Christie Branch of Reg. 15 (California) likes all kinds of irises. She helps groom off spent blooms in her grandfather's garden and has tried out flower arranging with irises. She has helped at an iris show and has attended a judges training session. Since Pete DeSantis is her grandfather, we expect she'll be learning how to hybridize next.

Jan Hueller, a Youth Advisor from Reg. 15, sent samples of bookmarks she made from photos of her iris garden. They measure 2" X 6" and can be covered with clear contact paper or run through a laminating machine. A hole is then punched at one end and a 12" length of satin ribbon is added using a "lark's head" knot. Youth members could make a batch of these from old AIS calendars cut into strips (write or e-mail Jean Morris for the calendars). Why not print the name of your iris club along with info on how to join and place it on the back of the bookmarks before laminating or covering with the contact paper? Then pass them out at club sales/auctions or at iris shows to encourage new people to join. They would also make nice place gifts at regional banquets or could be sold to fund your local youth program. Thanks, Jan, for sharing your idea with us.

Kendall Johnson, Samuel Fishburn, Clinton Smea and Cora Ogden of Reg. 18 (Kansas) grow a variety of vegetables, irises and other flowers at their school and at home. They belong to a CIP at St. Paul's Lutheran School and wrote to say hello. Iris varieties they grow include SUN FIRE, BRIGHT & BREEZY and MARY FRANCES.

From Cheryl Deaton, Reg. 15 RYC, we want to share the following. "Region 15 now has a youth award that will be given annually. Thanks to a generous donation from Herb and Sara Holk of Cal-Dixie Iris Gardens, the regis-

tration costs for the youth members attending Reg. 15's Spring Trek this year were almost completely covered. The rest of the expense was donated by the Trek hosts, San Diego and Imperial County Iris Society. The Holks also donated some lovely stationery to be sold at the Trek with the proceeds going directly to help the youth programs of our region. Enthusiasm is growing within the region for our youth programs."

Later on we received more Reg. 15 youth news. Kara Kartchner won Youth Best in Show at the Tucson Area Iris Society's show this spring. Also, Joyce Yates won Best Youth Design at the Hi Desert Iris Society's show in April. Christie Branch won Youth Best of Show at the Southern California Iris Society's show this spring. Congratulations to all of these Reg. 15 youths. A complete report of youth show winners will be published in the Fall/Winter issue of TIF.

Plenty of youth activity is going on in Reg. 3. Theresa Jewel, Youth Advisor for the Diamond State Iris Society, sent the following. "This is a writeup of what happened with the DSIS youth division last year and the possibilities for this year. Briana Hargett is a 14-year-old youth member of the DSIS. During the 1999/2000 school year Briana and her friend Nicole Jackson grew Siberian irises in hydroponics units for a school FFA project. They used CAESAR'S BROTHER and planted small pieces in three different hydroponics units that were fed by a water and nutrient solution. The units were placed in a school greenhouse and tended to every day. Notes were taken on their progress and photographs were taken once a week. By March, the hydroponics irises were two feet tall and blooming, while the same irises in the garden were just peeking out of the ground. At the end of the school year, the hydroponics irises were so tall they had to wack'em in half just to get them home. They are now planted in a neighbor's garden and growing like mad.

"On May 13, the girls took their iris project to the state FFA competition and won 1st





Nicole Grzeskowiak gives advice on painting with shaving cream & glue to Rita Butler, L, and Jeanne Plank, R, while Paul Gossett looks on.



Youth winners at the May 19th Pittsburgh Iris Show of Reg. 3 are, L to R, Holly & Melissa Tatrai, T.J. Segada and Michelle Kocher.



L to R, Joe Niswonger, Reg. 18, Nicole Grzeskowiak, Reg. 18, and Emily Ives, Reg. 16, show off their shaving cream & glue iris paintings at the Youth Reception of the AIS Convention.

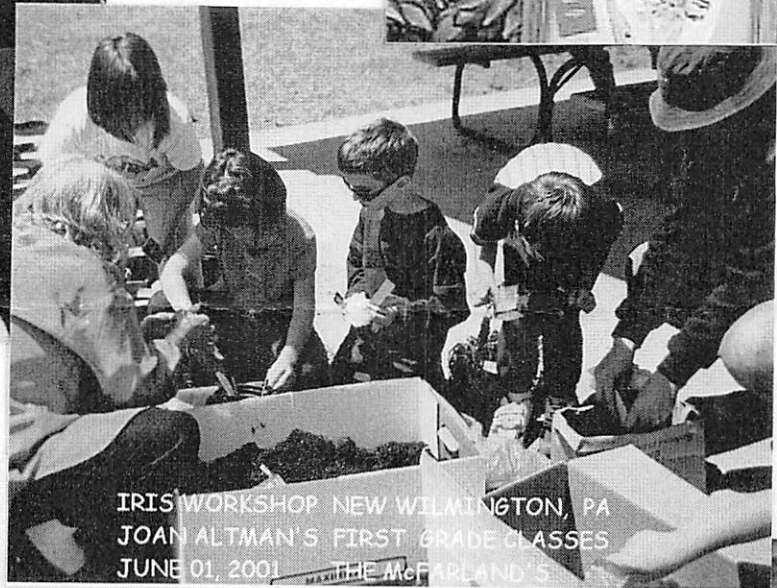


Stephanie Rust, Reg. 18, with BLUE ARTS which won Best Youth and Queen of Show at the Greater St. Louis Early Show. BLUE ARTS is an arilbred.



Victoria Adkins of Reg. 7 with her Best English Box.

Markki Graham of Reg. 3 won Best of Youth at the Pittsburgh Iris Show with REAL JAZZY.

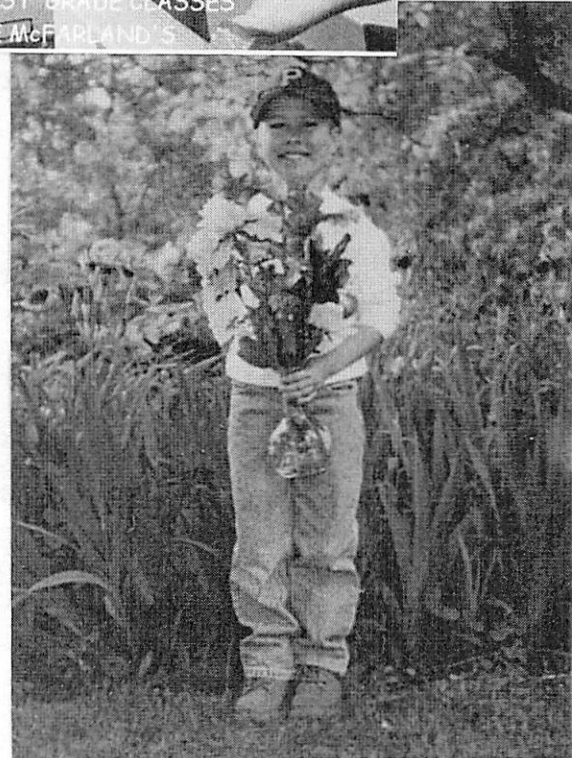


IRIS WORKSHOP NEW WILMINGTON, PA  
JOAN ALTMAN'S FIRST GRADE CLASSES  
JUNE 01, 2001 THE McFARLAND S



L to R, Heather, Cory & Erin Ritenour of Reg. 3 pose with their pet rabbit, Soldier, and kitten, Twink.

Chad Graham of Reg. 3 holds a bouquet of irises in his grandmother's garden.





2 (continued from p. 2)

place in the Botany division. Briana and Nicole advanced to the National competition, which took place in October 2000 in Louisville, Kentucky, where they also won 1st place for their project. Briana and her friend loved doing this project and were amazed at the rate the irises grew in the nutrient rich water. Briana is looking forward to this year's FFA project and working with iris in and out of the classroom."

From Laurie Winzer, YA for the reorganized Augusta Iris Society (Reg. 18), "We have implemented a point earning system to motivate member participation and to draw new members. This was thought of by one of our new youth members. Each member can earn points by attending, participation and helping at various club activities. At the end of the season, we will hold an iris auction and the members will be able to bid using the points they've earned throughout the year. The youth members would like to have someone come in for training in flower arrangement, grooming iris for show, parliamentary procedure and have an AIS slide show. One youth also brought up the idea of the club planting and maintaining a garden somewhere so that we could teach the kids how to grow and take care of their irises. Thanks for your support."

Geraldine McFarland, YA for the Pittsburg Iris Society, reported on several activities her youths are involved in. One event due to take place in July is the planting of an historic iris garden at the Woodville Plantation. The irises must be cultivars dated between 1715 and 1850 and must be approved by a restoration committee before planting. This will be a real learning experience for all involved I am sure. Reporting on another event, Gerry writes, "Enclosed are some pictures of the first grade Iris Workshop at Wilmington Elementary. The workshop was part of their science class. There were 42 participants, and as you can see, the workshop was held outdoors. Our fun afternoon consisted of silly songs (teacher with guitar), the iris workshop and plenty of ice cream and cookies afterwards." The workshop included an iris coloring contest and the students planted rhizomes in pots and took them home to reset in their gardens. In addition, Gerry reported that the third annual Soergel's Farm workshop on irises will take place this August. Good luck with all these fun events!

Janet Hawel, RYC of Reg. 7 has begun publishing a youth newsletter called, "Youth Views" (not to be confused with "Youth Views" in the AIS Bulletin). The first issue was full of interesting news and included the following. "Reg. 7 wants to send a BIG WELCOME

to its current Classroom Iris Project, otherwise known as CIP, at Powell Middle School in Stanton, KY. I know that things are going to start looking great around the school now that they have become part of the Bluegrass Iris Society.

"Annette Milch will be coming into the classroom in March to start the Garden Club off with information, slides and handouts. Pretty soon they will be outside in the dirt planting rhizomes and learning hybridizing.

"If you are one of the students at Powell, be on the lookout for hybridizer Hugh Thurman and his wife, Mary. They have traveled almost everywhere that iris grow, have thousands of iris slides and a wealth of information to share. Hugh might be talked into giving a class on creating your own plants.

"Good luck to Powell County Middle School and Ms. Jones, the classroom teacher. We are all excited that you are the newest members. Keep us posted and send us pictures."

Also from the Bluegrass Iris Society was a note about the iris activities of 11-year-old Victoria Adkins. "Victoria won Best Specimen in the Bluegrass Iris Society Youth Division with THORNBIRD. Her English Box was great and placed 1st, winning over 4 others. These entries, both adult and youth, are all judged together. Victoria has been entering shows since age 7. She was featured in The Foot-hills Courier on May 23rd." Congratulations!

Eight youths attended the Reg. 18 Tour held in the St. Louis area this May. From Kansas, Charity, Faith and Hope Winzer attended along with their cousin Joshua Winzer and friend James Christensen. From Missouri, Stephanie and Christopher Rust enjoyed all of the gardens and events as did Joe DeVous. A pizza/swim party was held on Friday evening and past youth member, Kevin Gormley stopped by. Everyone enjoyed the garden refreshments on Saturday and the evening banquet. Joe DeVous was the most enthusiastic bidder at the iris auction.

Lyle Newman of Reg. 18 (Missouri) entered two iris shows winning several blue ribbons in horticulture. He also received Best Educational Display and Best Youth Design at one show and wrote the following letter to a helpful club member. "Thank you for letting me be in the iris show. Thanks for letting me use your STUFF and thank you for the prize money. I bought a photo album for those pictures you gave me. I'm making a frame for my ribbons."

Alia Margaret Stone of Reg. 4 (Virginia) likes dwarf and median irises and gardens with her grandmother, Margaret Stone, who lives nearby in West Virginia. Alia wanted to make a small garden of her own this year. ♣

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION - PITTSBURGH IRIS SHOW

By: Geraldine McFarland

At last year's show there was only one youth entry. This year there were nine youths and twelve different stalks were entered. I interviewed Holly and Melissa Tatrai and their nephew, T.J. Segada, three novices in our group.

Holly Tatrai is 13 years old and in Junior High School. She has been helping her mother plant vegetables and flowers since she was a little girl. Her mother encouraged her to plant the iris she received from the workshop at Soergel's last summer and to enter the iris in competition. Her hobbies are singing in the chorus, reading fashion magazines and playing basketball. Her iris, BEVERLY SILLS received an Honorable Mention. She enjoyed the iris show so much that she plans to acquire more iris for the competition next year.

Melissa Tatrai is 15 and the Percussion Section Leader in the school band. She plays the flute and alto sax. She strives to maintain her status on the honor roll by reading and seriously participates in the Drama Club. She loves perennials, especially the Red Torch plant. She received two iris at the Soergel's workshop last summer and entered them in the show. SEA OF JOY took third and MARY FRANCES received an Honorable Mention. Melissa, like her sister plans to expand her iris garden in the fall.

T.J. Segada is 5 years old and has been playing in the dirt since he was a baby. He loves flowers. He also loves to help his grandmother weed. Besides iris he grows day-lilies and dianthus. His iris, SWIRLING SEAS, rated second in the youth category. He was very happy with his ribbon.

Erin, Cory and Heather Ritenour also entered the show this year, but since they live in the mountains the iris bloom late. A serious problem this year was that the show was a week early because of the AIS Convention. Only a few of their iris were in bloom in time for the show. To resolve this problem for the future, they plan to move some of their iris to their aunt's garden near Pittsburgh. Erin's show entry, CAESAR'S BROTHER placed second. Cory's iris TENNESSEE GENTLEMAN placed second and Heather's iris, STEPPING OUT received an Honorable Mention.

Other youths who entered were Chad Graham who took second with REAL JAZZY and third with BUMBLEBEE DEELITE; Markki Graham who took first plus Best Youth Specimen with REAL JAZZY; and Michelle Kocher who took first with TITAN'S GLORY.

Chad and Markki Graham have sent photos and articles and Holly Tatrai sent an article for THE IRIS FAN. ❀

## MY FIRST IRIS COMPETITION

By: Holly Tatrai

On May 19, 2001, my sister, Melissa and I entered our first iris competition at the Galleria Shopping Mall in Pittsburgh. I didn't know what to expect and was a little nervous about entering the competition.

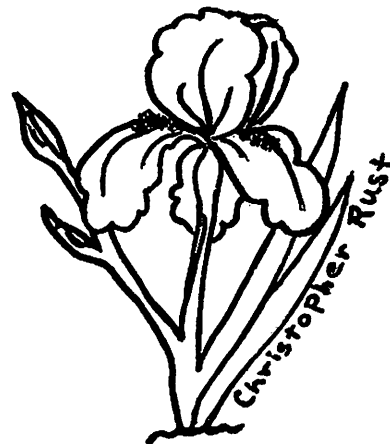
All week long before the iris show I watched to see if any of my iris would be blooming in time for the competition. I grow four iris in my garden. I hoped that at least one of them would be good enough for the show because we had lots of rain that week. The day before the show we had a large storm. Fortunately, none of my iris were affected by the storm.

On Saturday morning the day of the show, my Mom helped me cut the iris stalks for the competition. Getting the iris to the show is really hard because the stalks are thin and the blooms are heavy. You cannot put two iris in one vase because they might bump into one another and destroy the blooms. I put each iris in two-liter pop bottles. I put the bottles into boxes separated with crumpled newspaper. I put the boxes in the back seat of our van between my sister and me so we could hold them down.

Despite the many bumps and swerves we finally made it to the show and began to prepare the iris stalks. This is called "grooming the iris." The stalks were put into milk bottles using styrofoam peanuts to keep them straight. We filled out the tags putting the name of the iris on them and carried the iris to the judging tables.

My sisters Michelle, Melissa and I were excited. The judges started judging at 11:00 AM. Our Mom took us out to lunch and when we returned the judging was over. Much to my surprise, my iris, BEVERLY SILLS won an Honorable Mention. My sister Melissa, received two ribbons: an Honorable Mention for MARY FRANCES and a red ribbon for SEA OF JOY.

This was my first iris show and I really enjoyed it because it gave me the opportunity to see so many beautiful iris. I plan to grow more iris in the future and compete again next year. ❀



## IRIS

By: Chad William Graham

My name is Chad William Graham and I am nine years old. Besides growing iris and other flowers, I like all kinds of sports including baseball, basketball, street hockey, and watching NASCAR. Some of my other interests are swimming, fishing and piano lessons.

Some of my favorite flowers are roses, tulips and iris. I grew four iris: CAESAR'S BROTHER, a purple Siberian; BUMBLEBEE DEELITE and REAL JAZZY, both yellow and maroon miniature tall bearded; and COUNTRY MANOR, a tall bearded white.

I started to enjoy the beauty of flowers when I first visited Butterfly World in West Palm Beach, Florida and Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. I especially like flowers with yellow pollen because it makes bees happy and makes plants produce seeds. I plan to grow more iris in the future and enter them in the Iris Show.

This year was the first time I wrote a story for the Young Writers & Illustrators Contest sponsored by Reading Rainbow. The title of my story is "The Asteroid That Hit Planet X." I also entered, for the first time a National Chess Tournament and tied for 6th place in local competition. This was a big accomplishment for me since I just recently was introduced to the game of chess in August 2000. When I grow up I would like to be a scientist.

The picture is of me and my iris in my grandmother's garden. (See p. 4) ♣

## IRIS

By: Markki Nicole Graham

My name is Markki Nicole Graham and I am six years old.

I grew three iris: CAESAR'S BROTHER, a purple Siberian; MARY FRANCES, a tall bearded purple and REAL JAZZY, a miniature tall yellow and dark maroon. This year I won first place and "Best of Youth" at the Pittsburgh Iris Show. My iris was placed on the Queen's Table.

Besides planting flowers and vegetables, I like to draw, make crafts, play computer games, go fishing and do gymnastics. I also like animals and plan to be a veterinarian when I grow up. I have a dog named "Kea," which is a little multicolored Shitzu, a bull snake named, "Jake," and a beta fish named, "Alfalfa."

This year was the first time I wrote a story for Young Writers & Illustrators Contest sponsored by Reading Rainbow. The title of my story is "Lady Bug Lucy's Picnic In The Park."

I received a certificate for my story and plan to enter the competition next year too.

Laura Gibson, a young artist, painted me a picture of BEVERLY SILLS while she was at the AIS National Convention in Baltimore. She added a bee, a butterfly and a ladybug in the painting. It is very pretty and I have it hanging in my room.

The picture is of me, my ribbons and Laura Gibson's painting of BEVERLY SILLS. I plan to enter my iris next year in the Iris Show.

(See p. 4 for photo)(Laura Gibson is a former AIS youth) ♣

## FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS

By: Heather, Cory and Erin Ritenour

The small town where we live is called Champion. It is located in the Laurel Mountains of western Pennsylvania. Our major claim to fame is the ski resorts that attract people from all over the world; two in particular are Seven Springs and Nemacolin Woods. Because we live in the mountains our iris blooming season is two weeks behind, so our selection of iris for the Pittsburgh Iris Show is limited. We are in the process of finding new solutions to solve this problem.

In order to get blooming iris to the show, we decided to have an experimental garden in a Pittsburgh location. Last year we asked our aunt who lives in Pittsburgh if we could plant some of our iris in her garden. She agreed, so we planted a few iris in her garden.

Normally the Pittsburgh Iris Show is the last Saturday before Memorial Day, but this year the show was early because of the National Convention in Baltimore. The few iris we were able to show this year came from our experimental garden because our iris in Champion bloomed late. The iris in our upper garden grew beautifully, but the ones planted in the lower garden which we received from the Texas Convention did not bloom at all.

Another solution we are thinking about is to plant iris that bloom early. We would like to add some historic iris. The reason we want to plant historic iris is because we are going to help plant historic iris at the Woodville Plantation. By planting historic iris in two different locations we can compare growth patterns. That should be interesting.

This year I will be a high school senior majoring in math and science as I hope to be a forensic pathologist. Cory is busy with his computer and Erin is looking forward to Summer Bible School. She received high honors this year in school.

The picture is of us and our two pets; Soldier and Twink. (See p. 4) ♣

By: Theresa Jewell

The Diamond State Iris Society held its iris show on May 20, 2001 at the Townsend Fire Hall. There was a total of 276 iris stalks and 15 exhibitors at the show.

The youths participating in the show were Briana Hargett, Clair Jewell and Grace Leathrum. They brought in 40 stalks which were tall bearded, siberians, versicolor and pseudacorus. Briana won the Best of Youth with POINT OF VIEW which also won best of the bearded section. Clair won the best of the beardless section with a versicolor, MINT FRESH. She also won the Youth Horticultural Sweepstakes (silver medal) with Briana winning the bronze.

While the judging was being held, Esther Martin gave the youth members an artistic design class. The girls each made their own arrangement with Esther's guidance. We hope to have more involvement with artistic designs in the future shows from our youths.

We also held a coloring contest with cash prizes for the awards. The general public voted for the pictures and Grace Leathrum won first place with Clair taking second.

Over all we had a fantastic show even though we thought we would be past peak. ♣

#### REGION 4 MESMERIZER

By: Dennis Pearson

A kind man separated me from my parents when I was a year old. He planted me nearby so I would always feel the love of my family. The man prepared a soft bed in full sun for me to lie. He watered, weeded and praised me; he was an excellent caretaker.

During my second year, he inspected my bed and asked me to grow straight stems and strive for perfection. These instructions were confusing. However, because of my respect for the gardener, I decided to try to put forth by best effort. Spring was approaching and new growth was evident. Strong swords turned a lush green and a perfectly straight stalk was being supported by a strong foundation. The gardener seemed pleased with my swelling buds and proportional form. About a week later, I burst into bloom; I was glorious, radiant. In my whole life, I had never felt more beautiful.

Saturday morning, this kind man knelt beside me and looked closely, actually examining my blossoms. He thanked me for growing so well, stated that I was beautiful and that he was proud of my performance. He removed his knife, severed my stem near the base and immediately

placed me in water. This confused me. Where was he taking me? What was happening? I was placed in the car, driven to his church and taken inside. He placed me on a table where several bouquets were displayed. They were gorgeous: Asiatic lilies, baby's breath and lush ferns. The man gently removed me and trimmed my height, then ever so gently, arranged me in the center of the most gorgeous of the bouquets. I was surrounded by beauty, humbled to be in such presence.

A little later, a tall slender young woman dressed in an embroidered white shimmering gown, lifted us from the table. She was breathtaking. The flowers could not match her radiance. She carried us to the vestibule of the church and took the arm of the gardener. I realized then that this man was her father. I felt her hands tremble as we heard the violin and the piano. The doors opened and we slowly walked down an aisle where several other young people joined us. A man dressed in black with a warm smile and a soft voice spoke to the father, who then stated, "Our family gives this gift." He then kissed his daughter, took the arm of the young man beside him and joined their arms. I saw dew form in the gardener's eyes. He smiled and then took a seat in the nearby pew.

The man in black spoke of love between souls and about commitment. I was honored to have witnessed such a union. No...I was MESMERIZED.

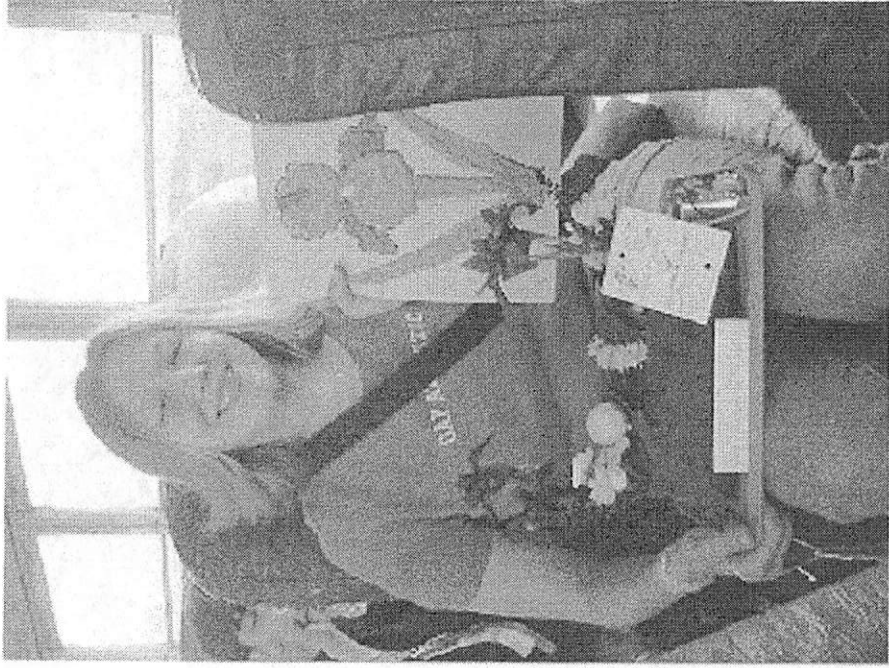
(Ed. note - Dennis Pearson is Reg. 4 Youth Chairman and we assume the bride was his daughter, Meredith, former AIS youth member. Congratulations to all!) ♣

#### ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS -

The Ackerman Youth Essay Contest is sponsored by the AIS Foundation. There are two winners this year because the Foundation voted to award two \$100 cash prizes starting this year, one for youths age 12 and under and one for youths 13 through 18. Mary Claire Elliott of Reg. 7 was our winner in the younger group and Joshua Winzer won in the older category. The topic was "My Vision for Irises of the Future." The winning essays will be featured in the October AIS Bulletin and the remaining essays will be printed in TIF on a space available basis.

The new essay topic will be announced in the January, 2002 Bulletin so be on the lookout for it and plan to enter. Other youths who entered in 2001 were Brittany White, Sarah Anne Elliott, Beth Rocha, Sylvia Chapman, Alexa Cahalan, James Christensen, Amy Huhn, Matt Knipshild, Lyle Newman & Chris & Stephie Rust. ♣





Marquette student Jessica Weaver aboard the school bus with her "Table Games" design and iris art project.



Marquette students Randy Hogan with First Place PEPPERED PURPLE and Katie Farr with Second Place GOING MY WAY.

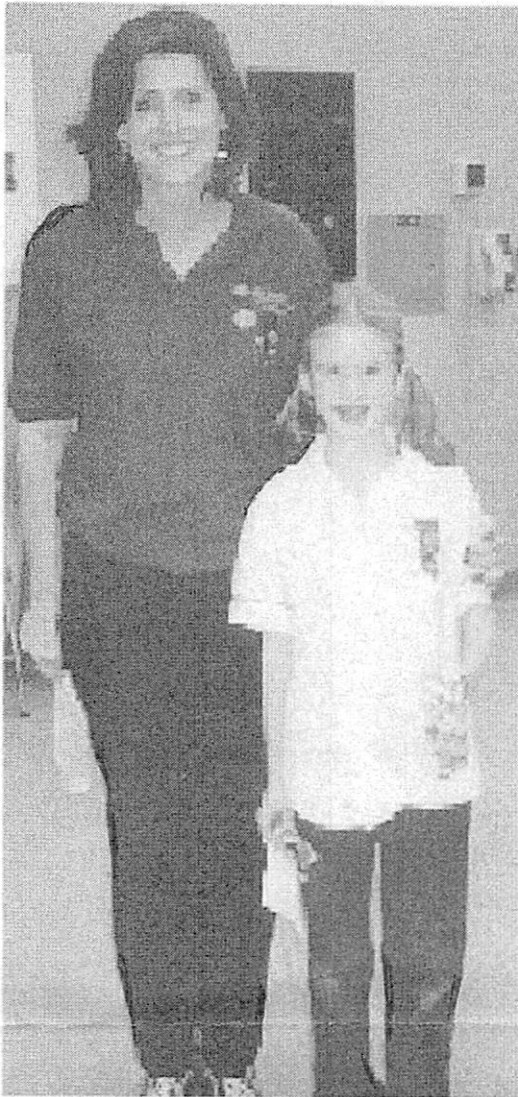


Southview student Matt Knipshild took top honors in the Educational Division of the Southview Iris Show with his poster.



Combined Region 18 CIPs of Southview School and Marquette High School in Southview Iris Garden.





Kara Kartchner and her Dad, Kevin, took top honors at the Tucson Area Iris Show, Region 15.

Teacher of CIP group at Powell County Middle School

Lee Anne Jones



Girl Scout Leader Kathi Wolford and troop member Taylor Reina, 2nd. place Coloring Contest winner.



CIP students of Powell County Middle School, Region 7.



## • CONVENTION PROFILES -

Joe Niswonger of Reg. 18 lives near Cape Girardeau, MO right next door to his grandfather's seedling patch. (His grandfather is hybridizer Dave Niswonger.) Joe celebrated his 19th birthday during the Convention so is no longer in the youth ranks. His girlfriend sent him roses for the occasion. (What, no irises?) Joe will be a sophomore at Southeast Missouri State University this fall with a major in business. We describe Joe as polite, helpful, easy going and a good sport. Best wishes for a great future, Joe.

Emily Ives of Reg. 16 is 11 and lives in Ottawa, Canada. Ottawa is the capital of Canada and is a charming city with contrasts of old and new. Emily showed her artistic ability at the Youth Reception where she was quite good at painting. She enjoyed seeing the iris gardens and took some notes about her favorites. She was cheerful and didn't complain about the rain. She is not afraid to ask questions and learns quickly. We believe she would make a good iris Judge someday. We would describe her as intelligent, poised, fun loving and one who has an eye for beauty.

Nicole Grzeskowiak of Reg. 18 is 17 years old and was 1st Runner-Up for the Clarke Cosgrove Award this year. Nicole lives near Hermann, MO, a town steeped in German festivals and traditions. Nicole belongs to the FFA and was chosen to participate in an elite farming group, the MO Agri-business Association. Her iris garden is the focus of her participation. She will be a Junior at Hermann High School and keeps an eye on various business trends, always investigating future career options. We gave Nicole 2 hours of Judges Training in the Convention gardens and she became quite good at point scoring. We would describe Nicole as hard working, organized, confident and practical.

Joe, Emily and Nicole had a good time at the AIS Convention and everyone enjoyed meeting them. ♣

## CLARKE COSGROVE WINNERS -

The 2001 Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement was won by Monica Combrink of Glencoe, OK, Reg. 22. The First Runner-Up went to Nicole Grzeskowiak of Reg. 18 and the Second Runner-Up was won by Marc Loberg of Redwood Valley, CA, Reg. 14. Congratulations to all!



## CIP NEWS -

We asked for photos of the CIP students at Powell County Middle School, Reg. 7 and they sent some. (See p. 10) The students have planted their irises and are all set for bloom next spring.

Rex & Shirley Clark's 4-H CIP has been a big success. Group members have entered the Leo T. Clark iris shows and recently made "clay pot people."

Girl Scout Troop 679 signed up as a CIP in Reg. 15. The girls entered the Coloring Contest and Tayler Reina won 2nd place in the 7 to 9 age category. (see photo, p. 10) Troop members were planning to earn a patch doing CIP activities but they have not completed all of the requirements as yet.

Reg. 18 has 3 CIP groups. The one at St. Paul's Lutheran School is sponsored by the Hutchinson Iris Club and the students have a small garden.

The other two groups are located in the St. Louis area, one at Marquette High School and the other at Southview School. On May 9th, Southview hosted an iris show at the school during the school day. Marquette students wrote the show schedule and chose a sports theme. These students boarded a school bus and visited Southview for the day, bringing horticulture and design entries along. Southview students entered stalks, made designs and put together 8 outstanding posters. There were 38 entries in youth horticulture and 31 youth designs.

Nick Yowell took Best of Youth with SPRING FLING and also won the Youth Silver Medal. Matt Knipshild was awarded Best Educational Exhibit for his poster, "How to Hybridize Irises" (see photo, p. 9) and also won the Youth Bronze Medal. Other activities included a tour of the Southview Garden led by Matt Brooks and a hybridizing lesson by Matt Knipshild. (see photo, p. 9) Marquette students helped Southview students with an iris art project.

Jessica Weaver of Marquette entered a very creative design depicting a ping pong table. (see photo, p. 9) Lauren Harvath won Best Youth Design with "Gymnastics." Everyone had fun - students, teachers, judges and club members. Plans are underway for a show next year.

Many beautiful Coloring Contest entries were received from CIP students at Larkin Bailey Elementary School, Reg. 22. Elizabeth Dobson, Donovan Sonnier and Brittany Gwartney were judged best artists of the group. Keeping the iris bed weeded has been a problem at both Southview and Larkin Bailey. Help from parents and club members may be needed. ♣



# THE IRIS CLINIC

## REBLOOMING IRIS

By: Christa Royer

For many years Rebloomers have been looked down upon. Their form was considered poor, their branching wasn't thought to be "up to par" and they were treated as novelty flowers. Fortunately, this is changing as more and more growers are exposed to Rebloomers. In recent years Earl Hall's *LITTLE SHOWOFF*, Hooker Nichols' *LENORA PEARL*, Monty Byers' *LOW HO SILVER* and, of course, Lloyd Zurbrigg's *CLARENCE* have won AIS awards.

One complaint that unfortunately remains is that of zone sensitivity. Many will not rebloom in every zone. Some growers such as Amberway, Friendship Gardens, Suttons and Winter berry always list the zones in which they rebloom after the name of the iris. Zone is important. Many will perform in zones 5 through 9. Others only in zones 7 through 9, and a few will rebloom in zones 3 and 4. Fortunately, growers on the East Coast are working to develop iris that will be reliable in many zones.

Rebloomers require more care than "oncercs." They should be fertilized in early spring and again after flowering. A mixture of 1/6 part 5-10-5 fertilizer, 1/6 part lime, 2/6 parts cottonseed meal and 2/6 parts alfalfa meal works well. If rain is sparse, water is also very important; 1/2 to 1 inch per week must be provided from July until the temperatures drop to 28 degrees at which point the iris go dormant. A soaker hose will give a uniform amount of water without wetting the leaves. A location that is sunny in fall as well as spring is necessary.

A membership in the Reblooming Iris Society is \$7 per year. The Society publishes the "Reblooming Iris Recorder" twice a year. It's a good way to get current information. They also publish the Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Iris for \$13 (includes shipping). The checklist contains 2000 names and the zones for each. Both membership and checklist can be obtained from Charlie Brown, 3144 S. FM 131, Denison, TX 75020.

(The preceeding article was reprinted from the Greater St. Louis Iris Society's Feb. 2001 Newsletter, p. 2.)

This related item came to our attention. Youth member Seann Perry of Reg. 17 (Texas) has recently taken on the job of Editor for the "Reblooming Iris Recorder." Congratulations, Seann and good luck in your new position. ♣

## THANK YOU FROM MONICA -

Thank you so much for the Clarke Cosgrove Award. It is hard for me to believe that ten years ago my AIS career began. I was nine years old and I planted my first iris bed because the names of the iris were cute. I did not care what they looked like. My grandparents, Joe & Ann Barrows were just joining the North Central Iris Society in Region 22. My Mom thought learning about and growing iris would be a good activity for my grandparents and me to share.

I am now attending Oklahoma State University majoring in Apparel Merchandising and I just finished my first year. I am extremely excited about summer.

Receiving the Clarke Cosgrove Award is such an honor for me. I'm so grateful that the members of my club and region believed enough in me to nominate me for several years. Finally that dream has come true. I truly appreciate it.

Right now it is difficult for me to have an iris garden. OSU won't let me put a flower bed in front of my residence hall. But I know that AIS will always be in my heart, and as soon as possible, I'll have a place for my iris again.

(signed) Monica Combrink ♣

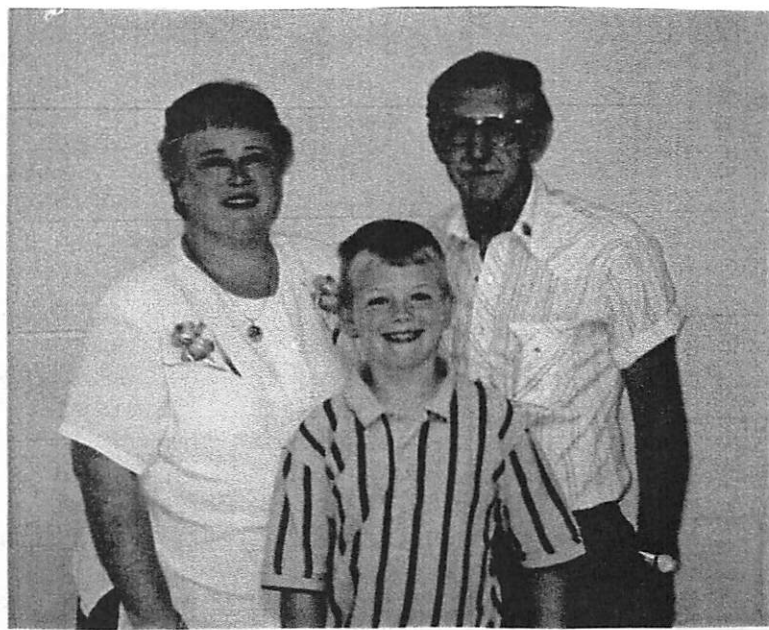
## NSTA PRESENTATION -

Marquette High School biology teacher, Valerie Mertz and AIS Youth Chairman, Jean Morris were invited to present at the Convention of the National Science Teachers of America (NSTA) held in St. Louis this past March. "Iris Gardening: The No-Fail Outdoor Classroom," was the seminar title and the AIS youth program was featured, specifically Classroom Iris Projects (CIPs). The presentation included a slide show, a hands-on rhizome planting, iris tissue experiments and a question & answer session. Information about joining the AIS as a CIP was shared and sample AIS Bulletins were passed out along with the 23 page packet prepared for the event. Contact Jean Morris for a copy. ♣

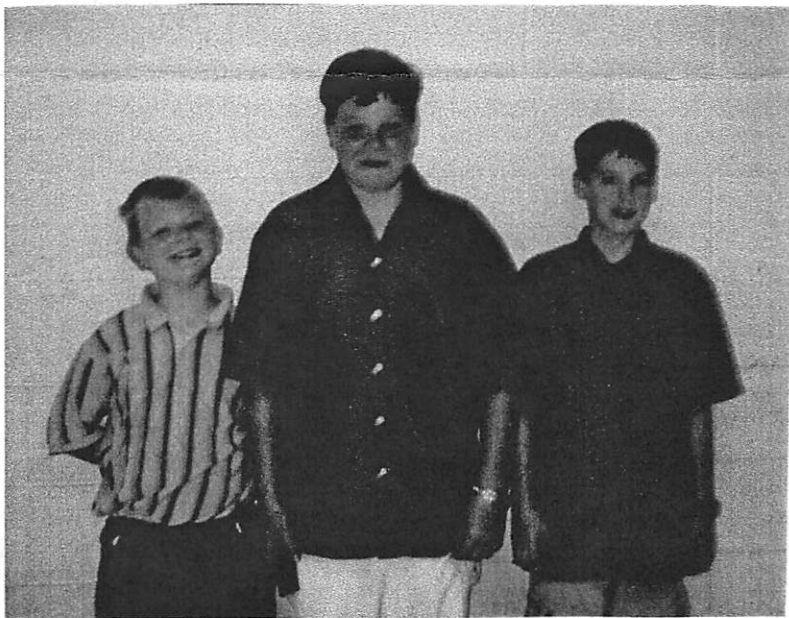




Fred Hatler, winner of the Youth Silver Medal at the 2001 Ken-Ten Iris Show is pictured with his grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. John Hatler.



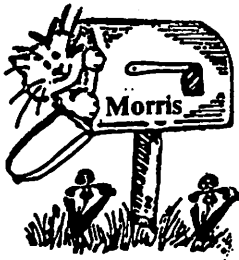
Benjamin Barnett, winner of Best of Show, Youth Division with TENNESSEE GENTLEMAN, is pictured with his grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Gale Maynard.



Ken-Ten youth members, Benjamin Barnett, Fred Hatler and Stuart Reynolds, Reg. 7.



Nancy Maynard, President of the Ken-Ten Iris Association, presenting the Silver Medal, Youth Division, to Fred Hatler.



JEAN'S JOURNAL - As of July 1, 2001 we have a total of 361 AIS youth members. This number is made up of 228 regular youths and 133 Classroom Iris Project (CIP) students. There are many iris activities going on in the local clubs and Regional Youth Chairmen (RYCs) and local Youth Advisors (YAs) have done an outstanding job of reporting all the news to your Editor. Thanks, everyone!

Our 2001 bloom season was very good here in the St. Louis area with cool temperatures lingering quite awhile. The late freeze missed us this year. Whew! The early irises bloomed well. A sudden warmup with 90+ temperatures caused shorter stalks on later blooming irises especially MTBs and Siberians.

Favorite irises seen locally were SELF EVIDENT (MDB), SNICKERS (SDB), MARKSMAN (SDB), LEMON CURD (SDB), MOONGLADE (IB), PASSAGE (IB), EYE WONDER (IB), COMBUSTION (BB), LYRIQUE (BB), PRETTY REWARD (MTB), KIWI CHEESECAKE (TB), RAPTURE IN BLUE (TB), & CHASING RAINBOWS (TB). Shannon Mellier, 17-year-old youth member from Reg. 9 (Illinois) guested 5 of her BB seedlings at the Reg. 18 Tour and we thought 2 were especially nice, 96-1-5 & 94-2-1. They are to be registered as SEED OF LOVE and JUDITH LANE. The former is a pretty peach with 6 buds and a red orange beard while the later is a rosy orchid with peach hafts. Congratulations Shannon.

The AIS Convention was hosted by the folks in York, PA but the hotel was in Hunt Valley, MD near Baltimore. Our favorite Convention irises were CHRISTIANA BAKER (BB), STATELY ART (TB), SALAMANDER CROSSING (SIB), CALCULATED GRACE (TB), MADAM PRESIDENT (MTB), SANTA (TB), BUGLES & HORNS (TB-SA), LADY CLAIRE (TB), VIOLET TURNER (TB), FRIDAY BLUES (BB), LEMON VEIL (SIB), SIMMER (BB) & HIGH BLUE SKY (TB).

We especially enjoyed the many Siberians at the Innerst and Warner gardens. Also, the hundreds of MTBs at the Hornstein and Leader gardens were spectacular. Seeing Joan & Ken Roberts' extensive garden was a treat, especially the "secret garden" and Joan's seedlings. Nice!

There were three youth members at the Convention - Joe Niswonger, Emily Ives and Nicole Grzeskowiak. (see photos, p. 3) Meeting Geraldine McFarland (YA for the Pittsburgh Iris Society) and getting to chat with Linda Golem-

bieski (RYC of Reg. 3) and touring her garden were highlights of the trip.

Thanks to Jason Leader and the Reg. 3 Convention Committee for hosting an outstanding Convention, to the Reg. 4 members of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society for sponsoring the Iris Show held in the hotel, to the garden owners for opening their beautiful gardens and to the hybridizers for guesting their wonderful irises. One lady who was especially helpful to us was Felicitas Goethals. She lives in Baltimore and gives a grand tour of the important city landmarks. More importantly, she rode along and directed us to the airport so we could fetch Nicole Greskowiak. Thank you Felicitas.

The Youth Reception was a fun event. We looked at iris slides once we got the projector "unstuck." We also created iris pictures from a shaving cream - white glue mixture tinted with tempera paint. The hotel pool was closed for repairs so there was no swim party. One tour day brought so much rain we thought we were in the pool, however. With the protection of raincoats and umbrellas, we shot some good slides anyway. Afterward, Bruce Hornstein invited everyone into his home to dry out by the fire. Thanks, Bruce! Meanwhile, our bus was pulled out of the mud by a nice neighbor. What an exciting day!

The Franklin Cook Cup for best iris hybridized by an out-of-region hybridizer went to QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Kerr 00). The President's Cup for best iris by a host region hybridizer went to ANVIL OF DARKNESS (Innerst 98). All people attending the Convention get to vote for these two awards.

Clarke Cosgrove winner, Monica Combrink, was unable to attend the Convention due to her final exams so Paul Gossett accepted the trophy and \$500 check on her behalf. Nicole Grzeskowiak received her 1st Runner-Up certificate and a check for \$50. Marc Loberg, 2nd Runner-Up winner was in a swim meet so his Mom, Kitty, accepted his certificate and check for \$25. Thanks to those who have contributed to the Cosgrove Fund making these cash prizes possible and to the Southern California Iris Society and to Ralph & LaVerne Conrad for their part in the cash awards.

In filling out our Judges Report we discovered we attended seven iris shows this spring. We are lucky to have so many iris clubs in and near St. Louis. Competing at shows is probably the activity most enjoyed by youth members. And we are lucky for the help the youths give our clubs.

In this issue look for lots of news about youth activities, some great photos, youth essays, CIP news, good advice in "The Iris Clinic" and a new Coloring Contest for 2001.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! ♣



By: Nancy Maynard

"The Ken-Ten Iris Association had great participation in the Youth Division of our 2001 Iris Show. We had 8 youth members who entered. Every entry was awarded a ribbon and the judges were impressed! (See photos of winners, p. 13)

"We would also like to thank youth member Stuart Reynolds of Dresden, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ben Reynolds, for working with the show committee on presenting our show. Thanks to all who entered. You are all winners to us - we are very proud of you!" ❀

## MY VISION FOR THE IRIS OF THE FUTURE

By: Lyle Newman, age 14, Reg. 18

I think it would be cool to have more variation in color and iris that bloom in the fall.

One of the colors that I'd like to see is a dark red with light shades of blue. It would be a plicata. And I would like to see a dark green and light green bitone. I would also like to see iris larger and with more ruffles.

When I look at some of the pictures with fields of iris, I wish they could bloom much longer in the spring. I think it's really neat when they bloom again in the fall. I wish there were more that bloomed then.

I can't wait to cross pollinate some of our iris to create new colors. It's always such a great surprise. Right now I can't wait until spring so I can see how my new iris are growing.

## MY VISION OF IRISES OF THE FUTURE

By: Sarah Anne Elliott, age 9, Reg. 7

I am only nine years old and I am already learning about hybridizing. My first attempt was with the irises LEMON MIST and Iris germanica, and I'm really hoping to see a seed pod

form.

My wish would be to have one of my irises turn out to be black and white because I love pandas. It would have black falls with white standards and a white beard edged with black.

I also wish irises could be planted all over the world, in all climates, and even in outer space. ❀

## MY VISION FOR IRISES OF THE FUTURE

By: Sylvia Chapman, age 13, Reg. 16

Recently, in Schreiner's iris catalogue, I've been noticing more fancy plicatas and extreme colours. I think that within the next ten years, iris breeders will be coming out with hybrids from these new types of iris, extending into even stranger looking ones. We'll have less luminatas and even more fancy plicatas with the tall bearded; and with standards and miniatures...more colour!!!

My father (Chuck Chapman) has been studying iris geneology, and has been coming up with some very interesting ideas. He's found that he can specialize irises to look the way he wants them to, through a series of crosses.

In this way, hybridizers will be coming out with irises that look, and even smell, a certain way....which brings up another thing - smell! I'm sure hybridizers will be coming out with irises that smell the way they want them to!

The foliage could be changing too. Lately, there has been more hybridizing with irises that have violet bases and streaked foliage. I'm not sure though if these new irises will ever bloom in colours other than lilac and white.

Over all, I think we can expect big changes in irises to come. Change comes with technology. The more we know, the faster we learn. ❀

## AIS COLORING CONTEST RULES

Color the iris picture on p. 16 of this newsletter using any medium - crayons, watercolor, markers, etc. Do the coloring yourself. Fill out this form, including your date of birth, and mail by September 30, 2001, to Jean E. Morris, 682 Huntley Heights Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021. Your entry will be judged by a carefully selected judging panel on the following criteria: neatness, creativity, color coordination and distinction. Age categories: 6 and under; 7-9; 10-12; 13-15; 16-18.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

Good luck to all. Winners will receive a prize.

I submit this entry in the AIS Youth Coloring Contest as my own work.

(Signed)



