

# *Newscast*

## **Region 4 of The American Iris Society**

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Vol. 43, No. 1

MARCH 2001

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**Editor:** Dr. E. Roy Epperson, 1115 Delk Drive, High Point, NC 27262  
(336) 883-9677

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY  
Membership Secretary **Anner M. Whitehead, P.O. Box 14750, Richmond, VA  
23221-4750.**

Communications regarding **American Iris Society** membership, dues and change of address should be addressed to **Anner M. Whitehead.**

Region 4 is comprised of the states of **Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia,** and the **District of Columbia.**

NEWSCAST is free to AIS members in Region 4. Subscription rate for those not in Region 4 is \$5.00 per year. Checks made to Region 4, American Iris Society should be sent to the Region 4 Treasurer.

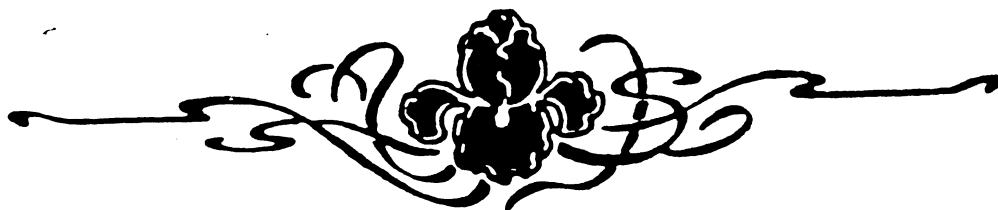
Permission is granted to reprint any material appearing in NEWSCAST provided that proper credit is given.

The Purposes of The American Iris Society, and Region 4, shall be to develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation and culture of the genus *Iris*; to stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus *Iris*, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. These shall include but are not limited to:

- a) encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus *Iris*, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
- b) collection, compilation, and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of *Irises*; and,
- c) education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional, and national meetings open to the public.

# *Contents*

NEWSCAST Information .....	1
RVP Message .....	3
JaNiece Mull	
What's Your AIS Membership Number? .....	4
Region 4 Spring Meeting 2001 .....	5
Region 4 Fall Meeting 2001 .....	5
American Iris Society - 2001 Iris Odyssey .....	6
Culture of Irises - A Common-Sense Approach for the Home Gardener ....	10
Rena Crumpler	
Treasurer's Report .....	14
Region 4, AIS, Slide Program .....	15
Some Affiliate Activities .....	17
Komments from Kirklee and The Editor .....	18
Region 4 Board .....	Inside front cover
Region 4 Affiliates .....	Inside back cover





## RVP's MESSAGE

Spring is almost here and we are eagerly looking forward to the first iris blooms of the year. It has been a long winter of cold and then warm to almost hot days, so our iris aren't certain when they are to start blooming.

In making our plans for the coming year, I hope that you will remember that the 2001 National AIS Convention is within driving distance for us. It is going to be held just outside Baltimore, MD, and we are going to have some of Region 4's gardens on tour. These will be Draycott Gardens of Carol Warner, Sans Souci Gardens of Dr. Bruce Hornstein, and of course, Friendship Gardens of Joan and Ken Roberts. The dates are May 22 - 26. We will also be having our Regional Meeting at the same time. The Region 4 Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22 and the General Meeting will be held that evening.



Mary Brown, our Membership Chair, has been busy again this year sending out notices with cards to be returned to her to remind our members that they need to renew their AIS membership. She reports that she has had very good response to her letters. I hope that all members are working to get new members and have kept the members that they have in their Society. It isn't too late to send in your renewal if you haven't sent it in as of this date.

The new AIS Membership Chairman, Anner M. Whitehead, is from Region 4. Anner's address is P.O. Box 14750, Richmond, VA 23221-4750. Telephone (804) 358-8202 and her e-mail is AISMemSec@aol.com. She has done a wonderful job of getting all the information set up in her computer. We are thrilled to have her as our new Membership Chairman. Congratulations, Anner. You are doing a great job!

Region 4 now has a working Web site, so you need to e-mail or send by mail your dates for scheduled shows as well as your scheduled programs to Spring Brooks, our Webmistress. She also needs a list of your new or present officers. Her e-mail is catdance@mindspring.com. Her mailing address is 2617 Sarah Avenue, Durham, NC 27707-1939. Help Spring continue to keep the Web information current.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the Region 4 meeting in May. Have a great bloom season and enjoy every one of your iris as they bloom.



## WHAT'S YOUR AIS MEMBERSHIP NUMBER?

By Anner Whitehead, AIS Membership Secretary

Were you aware that you have a special number which identifies your AIS membership uniquely? You do indeed! When you joined AIS the Membership Secretary assigned you your Membership Number, and you will have it always. If, perish the thought, you drop your membership in AIS and rejoin later, the same number will be reassigned to you. When AIS learns that someone is deceased, his or her number is retired, unless he or she is one of two persons on a Dual Membership, in which case the survivor will retain the same number, because, you see, the number identifies the membership, not the member, so that two members with a joint membership share one number.

Referring to your membership number when communicating with the AIS Membership Office, AIS Committee Chairmen, or your RVP, will greatly expedite your inquiry since all your records in the membership computer databases which support AIS programs are keyed to your number.

How can you learn your AIS Membership Number? Simple! Look at the first line of the mailing label on your next *Bulletin*. There you will see your expiration date and your own unique number. Make a note of it in your personal files and send it to your local Membership Chairman so you know they will have it in their files as well. RVPs and Affiliate Membership Chairmen or Treasurers should always include relevant membership numbers when communicating with the AIS Membership Office.

So please learn your special number and include it on your AIS correspondence. Having it readily at hand saves time and bother for everyone, which helps AIS run more efficiently.

Contact: Anner Whitehead, AISMEMSEC@aol.com or (804) 358-6202

### IN MEMORIAM

Chet W. Tompkins, OR

Julius A. Wadekamper, OR



## **REGION 4 SPRING MEETING 2001**

There will not be a free-standing meeting of Region 4 this spring. We will meet concurrently with the AIS National Convention scheduled for Hunt Valley, MD May 21-26, 2001.

## **REGION 4 FALL MEETING 2001**

**October 12 - 13, 2001**

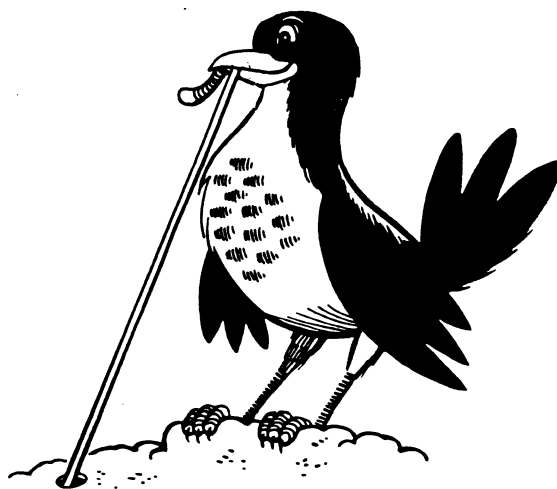
The Fall 2001 meeting of Region 4 will be hosted by the Fredericksburg Area Iris Society, Lois Rose, Convention Chairman. [e-mail [LOWY222@aol.com](mailto:LOWY222@aol.com), telephone (540) 582-5799].

The headquarters will be the Ramada Inn South (formerly Holiday Inn where our Spring 1995 meeting was headquartered.)

Since we will not have a regional auction this spring, this makes it very important that we plan for a spectacular auction for our Fall meeting in Fredericksburg, VA.

Auction co-chairs Roslyn and John Mitchell urge us: "When you are dividing perennials and especially irises, please remember to save some well-labeled plants for our fall auction."

Also plan to bring stalks for the accredited show that is being planned. Entries to be received from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2001.





# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION

## 2001 IRIS ODYSSEY

Hosted by Susquehanna Iris Society, York, Pennsylvania

May 21 - 26, 2001

### Tentative Meeting Schedule

#### Monday, May 21, 2001

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
1:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	AIS Board of Directors	Maryland 3/4
(Break 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. for Dinner)		

#### Tuesday, May 22, 2001

8:00 a.m. - Noon	AIS Board of Directors	Maryland 3/4
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
10:00 a.m. - Noon	Spuria Iris Society Board	Salon A
10:00 a.m. - Noon	Median Iris Society Board	Salon E/F
Noon - 2:00 p.m.	Society for Japanese Irises Society Board	Salon A
Noon - 2:00 p.m.	Reblooming Iris Society Board	Salon E/F
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	RVP Board of Counselors	Maryland 3
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	AIS Section Representatives	Maryland 4
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Signa Board	Salon A
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	HIPS Board	Salon E/F
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Regional Judges' Training Chairmen	Maryland 3
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	AIS Affiliated Societies	Maryland 4
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Aril Society International Board	Salon A
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Society for Siberian Irises Board	Salon E/F
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Dwarf Iris Society Board	Salon A
7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	AIS Board of Directors	Maryland 3/4
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	AIS Foundation	Salon E/F

#### Wednesday, May 23, 2001

7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Iris Show Entries	Hunt Valley Foyer
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	SIGNA	Hunt
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Aril Society International	Valley
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Spuria Iris Society	Maryland 3/4
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	HIPS	Hunt

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Society for Louisiana Irises	Valley
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Dwarf Iris Society	Maryland 3/4
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Reblooming Iris Society	Hunt
12:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Iris Show Open	Hunt Valley Foyer
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Society for Japanese Irises	Valley
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Tall Bearded (AIS)	Maryland 3/4
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Median Iris Society	Hunt
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Society for Siberian Irises	Valley
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Society for Pacific Coast Natives	Maryland 3/4
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Youth Reception	Club
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Robin Reception	Derby
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	No Host Reception - Cash Bar	Hunt Valley Foyer
7:00 p.m.	Welcome Banquet	Hunt Valley Ballroom
After Banquet	Silent Auction Open	Salon C/D

#### **Thursday, May 24, 2001**

7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Garden Tours (Buses load at 7:15 a.m.)	
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	AIS Silent Auction (Bids Close)	Salon C/D
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Judges Training: Jim Morris - MTBs	Valley
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Judges Training: Sterling Innerst - TBs	Valley

#### **Friday, May 25, 2001**

7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Garden Tours (Busses load at 7:15 a.m.)	
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Geek Dinner	Frankie & Vinnies
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Judges Training: E. Roy Epperson - Ethics	Hunt
9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Past, Present & Future Convention Chairmen	Salon A
9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Irises and Computers	Hunt
9:00 p.m.	AIS Silent Auction (all money for winning bids must be turned in at Boutique)	Garden Room

#### **Saturday, May 26, 2001**

7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Garden Tours (Busses load at 7:15 a.m.)	
5:00 p.m.	Deadline for Ballots	Coat Check Area
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Registration	Coat Check Area
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	No Host Reception	Hunt Valley Foyer
7:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet	Hunt Valley Ballroom



# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION

## 2001 IRIS ODYSSEY

Hosted by Susquehanna Iris Society, York, Pennsylvania

May 21 - 26, 2001

**Headquarters:** Marriott Hunt Valley Inn  
245 Shawan Road  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031  
Telephone: (410) 785-7000

**Room Rates:**  
\$ 99 Single/Double + tax  
\$ 124 Triple + tax  
\$ 146 Quad (4 people/2 beds) + tax

Please reserve your room directly with the hotel. Cut off date for blocked rooms is April 15, 2001. Mention the American Iris Society Convention.

### Convention Registration Fees

Postmarked by March 15, 2001 .....	\$ 198.00
Postmarked from March 16 through April 15, 2001 .....	\$ 225.00
Postmarked after April 16, 2001 .....	\$ 250.00

Youth Registration (up to age 19) .....	\$ 150.00
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Visa and MasterCard will be accepted for registration fees.

Partial registration rates will be available for advance registrations only. No registrations will be accepted for the Welcoming Dinner or Awards Banquet **only** after April 15.

If it is necessary to cancel reservations, please notify the Registrar. Every effort will be made to provide 100% refund, but late cancellations may receive less than full reimbursement. **No refunds after May 1.**

**Section Meetings** and the **Welcoming Dinner** will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2001.

**Garden Tours** will be Thursday, May 24, Friday, May 25, and Saturday, May 26. There will be ten gardens on tour in Pennsylvania and Maryland including the beautiful gardens of Dykes Medal winner Sterling Innerst and the commercial gardens of Joan and Ken Roberts (Friendship Gardens) and Carol Warner (Draycott).

The **Awards Banquet** will be held on Saturday, May 26.

Complete the registration form and mail to Jay Holcomb.

**REGISTRATION FORM - AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION  
2001 IRIS ODYSSEY - YORK, PA - MAY 21 - 26, 2001**

(1) NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(2) NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO : SUSQUEHANNA IRIS SOCIETY**

OR: VISA/MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature as name appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL REGISTRATION (3 days of Garden Tours, Welcoming Banquet, Awards Banquet)**

Please indicate number of registrants below:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 198.00 full registration if postmarked by March 15, 2001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 225.00 full registration if postmarked after March 15 but before April 15

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250.00 full registration if postmarked after April 15, 2001

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75.00 per registrant for **one day registration fee**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 150.00 per registrant for **two day registration fee**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 150.00 **Full Youth registration**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35.00 per guest for Welcoming Banquet **ONLY**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35.00 per guest for Awards Banquet **ONLY**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2001.**

Mail this completed Registration Form to:

Jay Holcomb  
AIS Convention Registrar  
824 Brookside Drive  
Boalsburg, PA 16827

Telephone: (814) 466-6114  
E-mail: ejh3@psu.edu



## **CULTURE OF IRISES A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH FOR THE AVERAGE HOME GARDENER**

Rena Crumpler

[Editor's Note: Rena Frantz Crumpler served Region 4 and AIS for many years as RVP, Editor of *NEWSCAST*, and a Director of AIS. She thoroughly understood the how of growing irises and presented a beautiful garden for visitors. She wrote a series of articles for *NEWSCAST* in 1978-79 when she was Editor and I was RVP. I intend to reprint each of these with some editing.]

### **PART III : SOIL NUTRITION**

(With liberal quotations from our California specialist, Roy Oliphant, with his permission.)

In my early days of growing irises, I was appalled to hear a number of supposedly knowledgeable irisarians make the flat statement: "You don't need to fertilize irises." Particularly, nitrogen was a "no-no" Now....there are few garden plants that will survive on minimal rations...some have so adapted themselves as to be tolerant of extreme and rugged conditions...but, a plant with the height, bulk, bloom potential and growth habits of a tall bearded iris? It made no sense. Being stubborn, leery of gimmicks, fads and cults and never able to accept blindly any theory contrary to the general order of things, I concluded that I would grow irises according to good general horticultural practices and compare the results with those of other irisarians. Admittedly, after talking with some, I felt as if I should sneak out in the dead of night to apply the nitrogen, but, it didn't deter me. When the foliage seemed off-color, I even went so far as to spray it with a high nitrogen fertilizer, being none too careful of getting it on the rhizomes.

In those years, I determined to my own satisfaction that "...you don't need to fertilize irises..." is just another garden myth, albeit such a deeply ingrained one that to this day, it is a notion common to entirely too many people. I found, to the contrary, that irises as a family are heavy feeders.

As interest in irises grew, I visited more and more gardens observing plants and making comparisons relative to vigor, height, size and quantity and quality of bloom, branching and number of buds, percentages of first-year blooms and loss of plants. I noted in the gardens where the plants were fed sparingly or not at all, the irises were inferior on all counts and many were lost the first year. While all growers did not subscribe to the "poor soil" concept, the idea seemed to be so widespread that seldom did I see an irisarian who fed liberally and with regularity. Even if they added manure, compost or commercial fertilizer to the soil, it was put so deep or so far away from the roots that the plant was dwarfed before the roots would reach it. Roy Oliphant sums it up this way:

"Granted that one can over-fertilize, granted that plants which put out little or no growth each year can thrive on reduced amounts of nutrients...but, to say that a plant, like an iris, which puts on so much new growth each year can bet by without adequate "feeding" is pure bunkum. The where-with-all for that growth much come from somewhere."

#### THE BIG THREE - Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash

These have been called "The Big Three" and are the principal elements of plant nutrition.

**Nitrogen** is the factor which is essential for all growth and reproductive processes. Irises do not need as much nitrogen as many plants but it must be available to them in reasonable amounts. For irises, my own preference is a fertilizer with 5% nitrogen rather than 10% (which is in common use), the reason being that when the higher percentage is used, it tends to make the flowers a little too large and the branching high with fewer buds.

**Phosphorus** is an element difficult to maintain in the soil. It reacts rapidly with other chemicals and is prone to being "locked up" in the soil in a form that plants cannot use. In comparison with the gross quantity applied, such a small quantity of phosphorus is readily available that heavier applications of this element are necessary. For irises, it is vital for the soil to be high in available phosphorus and my preference is a fertilizer which contains about 20%.

**Potash** is important in the formation of starch, sugars and protein. To some degree, it retards the rapid, soft growth which may encourage rot in irises. Some is also stored in the rhizomes which tends to make them firmer and less subject to disease. It helps protect the plants through drought. It aids them in reaching their full growth potential and, when lacking, the plants may be smaller in all of their parts.

In soils where sodium is high, it is essential to maintain high available potash [Editor: Potash is a source of the element potassium.] Sodium and potassium are somewhat similar in chemical make-up and if potash is low, the plant absorbs sodium in its place. Sodium is of no value to the plant and is sometimes harmful. For most irises, I prefer a fertilizer with 20% potash.

#### THE MINOR ELEMENTS: Magnesium, Calcium, Zinc, Boron, Sulfur, Iron, Copper, Manganese, Molybdenum and Chlorine.

The word "Minor," in this sense, does not mean unimportant. It means that these elements are needed in less quantity than the major elements. They are often called "trace elements." Those listed above are generally designated by soil scientists although there may be others in minute quantities or some yet to be discovered. There is much more to be learned about them but we do know that each has its own particular function



in plant health. Some kinds of plants require more of one or another, but, if soil is fertile and in good structural and textural balance it will usually contain enough of each for average needs.

From Roy Oliphant: "Now, in the light of all these generalities, can we answer some specific questions on fertilizing?"

**WHEN SHOULD WE FERTILIZE?** It should be obvious that the answer is: Fertilize when the plant is growing and in need of its building blocks. One should start early in the growth cycle because there is a spurt of growth right at the start and plants, once stunted through lack of nutrients, may never recover. As a plant grows and increases in size and bulk, it is adding more cells and its need for food increases.

Flowering, seed forming and formation of next year's embryo flowerstalks are all times of special effort on the part of the plant...of special need for the where-with-all to carry on these processes. As a plant goes into dormancy, its development shows down. Metabolic activity never completely ceases; if it did the plant would be dead, but these activities are at low ebb during dormancy and here we can easily over-fertilize the plant, delaying dormancy...or wasting fertilizer.

**HOW OFTEN SHOULD ONE FERTILIZE?** Is it best to give one or two massive applications or should more lighter applications be applied? Agricultural experts still argue, pro and con, over this for specific crops, but my own vote goes for the more numerous, lighter applications, including feedings at the strategic times mentioned above. This protects against over-feeding at any one time, protects against loss before the plant can make use of the fertilizer and gives a more steady supply.

**HOW MUCH FERTILIZER SHOULD YOU USE?** All I can say is: "That depends." If everything is going well, one may be able to maintain fertility with light applications or for a time get away with no added fertilizer. If the ground has been heavily depleted it may take larger amounts to maintain a status quo. I would suggest reading the instructions on the fertilizer sack, first trying the recommended amount and observing results. After this, one can try larger or smaller applications until the amount that serves one's purpose is reached.

**WHAT KIND OF FERTILIZER SHOULD ONE USE?** A point to remember is that well-aged manure has little nitrogen (unless it has been fortified), though it does add organic material to the soil. Prepared fertilizers are often compounded to serve the needs of farmers in your area and come in all sorts of proportions. The numbers separated by dashes on the sack: e.g. 5-10-10 or 10-20-20 indicate the percentages of the big three, expressed as total nitrogen, available phosphoric acid and soluble potash. The nutrients are listed in alphabetical order: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash. Note that the 5-10-10 fertilizer is only half as strong as the 10-20-20 and would take twice as much to equal the effect of the 10-20-20. I have used as illustration two fertilizers low in nitrogen and high

in phosphorus and potassium because these two are popular with iris growers. [Editor: Note that Rena's preferences stated above would be 5-20-20.]

Most fertilizers are compounded with high nitrogen and some have no potassium at all because sufficient potassium for ordinary plant growth is already available in many soils. If you do not have access to the fertilizer formulation that you wish, or if you suspect that your plants need more phosphorus or potassium than the fertilizer contains, you can purchase super-phosphate and one of the potassium compounds separately, using them as additives, always checking to see if their addition improves growth enough to justify their use."

## AVAILABILITY OF NUTRIENTS IN SOIL

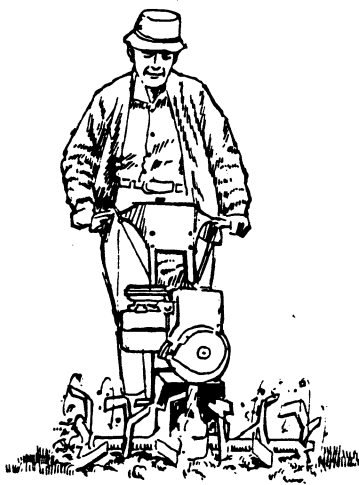
I will not go into the complicated process of what happens in the soil to render nutrients available to plants, however, the gardener should be aware that:

1. Plant nutrients cannot be absorbed by plants in forms that the gardener provides. The [chemical compounds containing the] elements must be converted into simpler forms. Microorganisms are responsible for this function.

2. Microorganisms (soil fungi, bacteria and others) are the minute plant and animal life in the soil which, in the course of their existence break down the complex nutritive elements into forms which plants can absorb.

3. Plants can absorb nutrients only if they are in solution. Therefore, water becomes a vital component in the process of plant nutrition and must be able to drain freely from the soil

[The next article in this series is "Humus - Mulches" and will be printed in the August *NEWSCAST*.]





## TREASURER'S REPORT

November 1, 2000 through February 1, 2001

**Balance on November 1, 2000 (Checking only) ..... \$ 10,436.01**

### Receipts

Donation: Fredericksburg Area Iris Society	\$ 550.00
Three (3) CDs Maturity	\$ 4,036.44
Interest on Account	\$ 30.87
	=====
	\$ 4,617.31

### Expenditures

Epperson - December NEWSCAST	
Printing and Mailing	\$ 716.39
	=====
	\$ 716.39

**Net balance on February 1, 2001 ..... \$ 14,336.93**

### Certificate of Deposit Assets

No. 1: Toward "2003 National Convention"	\$ 3,164.34
Maturity date: June 2, 2001	
	=====
	\$ 3,164.34

**Complete Current Net Assets on February 1, 2001 ..... \$ 17,501.27**

Submitted by J. Owings Rebert, Treasurer



## REGION 4, AIS, SLIDE PROGRAM

Bill Mull

The Region 4 Slide Program is well under way. There are many sets of slides available for your program chairperson to use to supplement his/her program. For example, the *Popular Iris of the 1970s and 80s* open a whole new world of little known irises that are beautiful. I have some 2000 and 2001 new introduction slide sets available. Please e-mail (region4slides@aol.com) me for the set that you are interested in using and the date you would like to request it for.

One of the sets that I would like to put together is one on Gardens in Region 4. This could be private gardens or public gardens; there is interest in both. Of special interest is the uniqueness of the garden, special features like ponds or streams, or even how the beds are prepared or featured. Also of interest are complementary plants that are used in the garden. So, as you make your plans to visit other gardens in the spring, please take some Ektachrome 64 slide film and take a few extra photos that can be used in the slide program. Send the slides to me with a short write up.

### Slide Sets Available

<i>Popular Iris of the 1970s</i>	More popular iris of the 1970s
<i>Popular Iris of the 1980s</i>	More popular iris of the 1980s
<i>Popular Iris of the 1990s</i>	More popular iris of the 1990s I & II
<i>Popular Iris of 2000</i>	New introductions of 2000
<i>Popular Iris of 2001</i>	New introductions of 2001

*Dykes Medal Recipients*  
*Recent Award Recipients*  
*Symposium 2000* (under construction)

*Other Bearded Irises* (MTB, SDB, BB, IB, and others)

*Reblooming Iris of Region 4, Zone 7*

*Japanese Iris*  
*Louisiana Iris*  
*Siberian Iris*  
*Spuria Iris*

*Iris Trivia* This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings. At the present time, there are four different sets: I, II, III, & IV. It takes about an hour (per set average), using the 40 slides,

asking the questions and getting the audience response. Contact me for instructions and information on *Trivia*.

*Iris Gardens, a Selection* There are two sets: I & II

*York, PA, National AIS Convention*  
*Denver, CO, National AIS Convention*  
*Dallas, TX, National AIS Convention*

**To Order:** Requests for slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably six to eight weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail. Slides can be shipped in a carousel tray if requested. Mailing cost is more.

**I prefer that you order using e-mail ([region4slides@aol.com](mailto:region4slides@aol.com)).**

Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing.

**Cost:** The rental fee is \$ 10.00 payable to Region 4 and mailed to the address below:

Bill Mull	Phone: (757) 858-8085
7112 Fox's Lair Ct	Fax: (757) 855-5529
Norfolk, VA 23518-4435	E-mail: <a href="mailto:region4slides@aol.com">region4slides@aol.com</a>

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## **SOME AFFILIATE ACTIVITIES**

### **CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - Carrie Winter**

February 10 Iris Gardening Seminar : Dr. E. Roy Epperson, speaker  
Basics of Iris Culture

May 5 Annual Spring Iris Show : Location TBD

### **CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY - Ginny Spoon**

April 21 Median Show at Behnke's Garden Center

April 22 Judges' Training on Medians : Don and Ginny Spoon, Instructors  
Winterberry Gardens

July 16 Bearded Sale and Auction: Location TBD

July 21 Bearded Sale at Brookside Gardens

### **EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - Glenn Grigg, Jr.**

February 17 General Meeting - New officers elected  
Chairman: Roslyn Mitchell  
Vice-Chairman: Margaret Pearson  
Secretary: Jan Anderson  
Treasurer: E. Roy Epperson

July 21 Annual Plant Auction at The Griggs, Raleigh, NC

### **FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - Carol Warner**

May 23 Spring Show at AIS National Convention

June 16 Beardless Show (with C&P) at Brookside Gardens



## KOMMENTS FROM KIRKLEE and THE EDITOR

For those of you who are 'hostaholics' as well as 'iris nuts', the American Hosta Society will hold its 2001 convention in North Carolina "2001...A Hosta Odyssey." The headquarters will be the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park (the site of our Fall 1999 meeting hosted by ENCIS). The dates are June 13 - 16, 2001. Tony Avent is convention chairman. Full information is available from Karen & Dave Duch at 919-467-0653 (e-mail [dduch@bellsouth.net](mailto:dduch@bellsouth.net)).

From *Chemical & Engineering News*, August 14, 2000:

E.H.S., a reader from the University of Guelph, in Ontario, was struck by a report of a study of the effects of Pfizer's product, Viagra, on plants. The report appeared in the *Guelph Mercury* of June 7. The gist was that a company named Sun-Blush, based in Toronto, has made a research and development agreement with the University of Newcastle, in Australia, involving the effects of nitric oxide on plants.

Viagra, Pfizer's oral therapy for erectile dysfunction, indirectly increases the effects of nitric oxide on tissue. Early research, the *Mercury* reports, has shown that Viagra, dissolved in water, seems to induce cut flowers to last longer than they usually do. Soozy Smith, who heads Newcastle's research associates, said the discovery could change the marketing of fresh produce.

Instead of harvesting fruits and vegetables when they are semiripe, Smith speculates, and letting them ripen en route to market, they could be harvested when ripe and packaged and fumigated with nitric oxide to prevent overripening. By the time it reaches its export destination or domestic consumers, Smith enthuses, NO-enhanced produce "will look good and taste good."

Says contributor E.H.S., evidently referring to the Viagra angle: "Truly weird."

Maybe there is something new under the sun.

Roy





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*Lois Rose*

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