

THE  
REBLOOMING  
IRIS RECORDER



CONSTANT COMPANION

SPRING 2003  
VOLUME 61

# *Sutton's Iris Gardens*

*Celebrating our twentieth year*

16592 Road 208 Porterville, CA 93257

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www.suttoniris.com email: info@suttoniris.com

## *Reblooming Introductions for 2003*

### **River of Grace (G. Sutton 03) TB 36" M-L & RE**

A truly elegant iris! Wonderful form and river blue color make this graceful iris an excellent addition to the reblooming field. A consistent rebloomer for us from late August until first frost. Sdlg# H-78 ((I Do X Bethany Claire)X Sib)X Yaquina Blue. \$45.00

### **Berry Ripple (G. Sutton 03) TB 35" EML-RE**

Nice widely ruffled form with adequate branching. The standards are white ground heavily speckled and veined blueberry violet. The lavender white beards are tipped gold. Here in Porterville the rebloom begins in Sept and goes till Dec. every year. Sdlg# H-51 REBBV Bountiful Harvest X G 63 (Garden Grace X Bountiful Harvest). \$40.00

### **Lord Of Rings (G. Sutton 03) TB 36" M-L-RE**

A beautiful flower but somewhat hard to describe. A nice rim appears when the flower is taken indoors, in the shade and on overcast days. In the sun the rim is less apparent and the colors lean much more towards the mocha side. The standards and styles are blended burgundy gold and brown while the falls are blended old gold with brown veining. It has a brown marginal ring widening from 1/8" at the hafts to 3/4" at the distal end, the beards are gold tipped bronze. Nicely ruffled wide form. Colors are brighter in the spring bloom. Quite a breakthrough in our reblooming program. Sdlg #K-24 Pure As Gold X (Orange Popsicle X Bonus Mama). \$40.00

### **Madeline (G. Sutton 03) SDB 12" EM-RE**

This cutie has yellowish chartreuse standards resting on white falls. The falls are edged yellow green with a few darker yellow freckles spattered about. Pale yellow beards give this diminutive character a light flavor. Oh, and don't forget the yellow hat. Auroralita X Voyage. \$15.00

### **Pokemon (G. Sutton 03) MDB 5" EML-RE**

What a cutie! It may grow out of class in colder areas but it hasn't here. The standards are white blended, washed and veined chrome yellow and bronze gold. Striking falls are washed pale lavender white with veins of chrome yellow bleeding to bronzy burgundy. Bright and bushy wide lavender blue beards sit in strong contrast to the rest of the flower. Wide and ruffled. Fall rebloom gives a second thrill. Sdlg #L-268 Auroralita X Dunlin. \$15.00

### **Sugar Maple (G. Sutton 03) SDB 12" VE-EM and RE**

Sugar Maple has been the hardest flower to photograph. The color is very hard to accurately catch. The standards are apricot with a midline of violet. The falls are autumn orange veined tangerine. Burnt orange with a pale blue base. A strong growing flower with light ruffling and 3 buds. Pronounced sweet fragrance. Bring on the pancakes! Sdlg# K-32B Autumn Maple X Romanita. \$15.00

### **Grace Kelly (G. Sutton 03) BB 26" M-L- RE**

A lovely ruffled and laced phlox pink border. The falls have a thin rhodamine pink veining 3/4 of their length. The beards are empire rose. Well branched and budded. A very reliable rebloomer in Porterville. Often blooming from Aug to Nov. Sdlg# J-19 (Pinkness X Orange Popsicle) X Autumn Apricot. \$25.00

**Full Color Catalog listing these and many hundreds of other  
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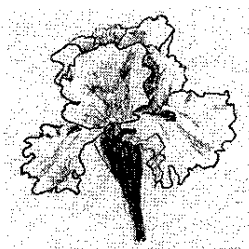
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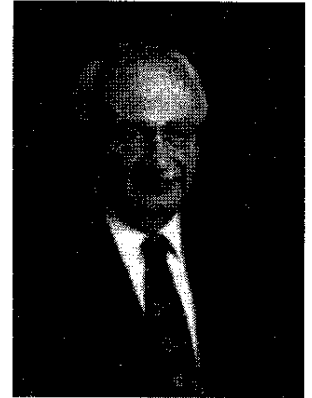
## President's Message

by Florence Mahan

Since we skipped the reblooming iris symposium last year, we will play a bit of "catch-up" in 2003. There is a ballot in this issue and we will publish the results of this ballot in the fall issue of the *Recorder*. Please vote for your favorites. Tim Stanek, who has been handling the program for several years, will manage this late 2002 symposium.

The ballot for the 2003 symposium will be in the fall issue of the *Recorder*. Ken Roberts has agreed to be our Chairman for the Symposium beginning with 2003. I am sure all of you join me in thanking Tim Stanek for his good work for the society and in thanking Ken Roberts for stepping forward and "volunteering" to manage future symposiums!

Ken Roberts is also working on an update to the *Cumulative Check List of Reblooming Irises*. You may send the reports of the irises that rebloomed in your garden directly to Ken at his home address (341 Schwartz Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325) or to his email address: [Builderken@cvn.net](mailto:Builderken@cvn.net).



Rosalie Figge and I just finished writing an obituary for Claire Barr for the *AIS Bulletin*. We shared the same experience in writing this announcement and unashamedly admitted to each other that we broke into tears several times while we were working on the article.

Claire Barr was Region 4 RVP when my wife Suky and I joined AIS and went on our first spring regional garden tour. The tour included visits to both the Barr garden and Rosalie Figge's garden. The kindness and generosity of Claire and Bill Barr and Rosalie were the most salient factors that prompted Suky and me becoming active in AIS activities. Claire was always, from that first meeting, our mentor and friend. She encouraged me to start showing irises, become an AIS judge, join iris robins, and take on the regional editor's job. When I had doubts about accepting nomination to be an AIS director, she talked me into doing it. Never, in all the years I knew her, did I ever hear her utter a negative word about any person.

The AIS is establishing the Claire B. Barr Library Endowment Fund to honor Claire's many contributions to AIS and to provide an endowment for support and expansion of the AIS library. I encourage you to consider donating to this fund.

The Reblooming Iris Society owes a significant debt to Claire Barr. When she was RVP she began the tradition in Region 4 of holding iris shows at regional fall meetings. A regional fall iris show was held at Harrisonburg, Virginia in 1983. The winner of Best Specimen was 'Brother Carl,' exhibited by its hybridizer, Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg. We have been holding regional fall iris shows in Region 4 ever since that time.

Claire and Bill Barr were the first to donate the irises for the gardens at River Farm, the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society (AHS). She encouraged me to obtain and donate dependable reblooming iris cultivars to River Farm, which I did. I remember Claire's delight when, the following October, I showed up at the River Farm open house with a glorious stalk of 'Victoria Falls.' We signed up many new AIS members at that event. The stalk of 'Victoria Falls' on the AIS table and stalks of 'Corn Harvest' and 'English Cottage' in the River Farm gardens produced our recruitment success that day.

A tribute you could give to the memory of our first woman AIS president would be to provide leadership and influence to get your local iris society and region to start holding fall iris shows. There is probably nothing any

of us can do that will have greater impact on the popularity of reblooming irises than chairing and participating in fall iris shows. If the shows are held in a public area, you will be astonished at how many new members you gain for your local iris club, for AIS, and for the RIS.

How do you get your local club and region to hold fall iris shows? First, make a list of the people who exhibit irises in your spring show. Second, if they are not growing reblooming irises, give the most active exhibitors ten to twenty rhizomes of the best reblooming irises you grow. Tell them that the only thing you want in return is for them to help you put on a fall iris show if the rebloomers perform well for them. People who like to show irises will soon become enthusiastic about the possibility of a fall show when the autumn bloom stalks start flourishing in their gardens.

**Office of the President  
Reblooming Iris Society  
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February 18, 2003

Dr. Yuri Sergeyvich Smirnov  
Head of Botanical Garden  
V. L. Komarov Botanical Institute RAS  
197376 Prof. Popov ul., 2  
St. Petersburg, RUSSIA

Dear Dr. Smirnov:

On behalf of the membership of the Reblooming Iris Society, I wish to extend official congratulations to Dr. G. I. Rodionenko upon the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 28, 2003. Dr. Rodionenko's extraordinary contributions to our knowledge of the genus *Iris*, his untiring efforts to preserve species irises in their native habitat, and his adherence to the highest standards of professionalism over many decades are recognized throughout the world.

Those of us who have had the opportunity to learn from his lectures and to benefit from his analytical but friendly critiques of our monographs and articles on irises owe Dr. Rodionenko a special debt of gratitude. We are delighted to celebrate his landmark birthday in spirit if not in our physical presence. We wish him "Happy Birthday" and extend our sincere appreciation to the V. L. Komarov Botanical Institute for supporting his invaluable studies of the genus *Iris* and its many species.

Our society will be much in your debt if you would be so kind as to note our letter of congratulations and to convey our warmest best wishes to Dr. Rodionenko on the momentous and joyful occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Sincerely,

*Clarence Mahan*

Clarence E. Mahan  
President, Reblooming Iris Society

### Famecheck Cup 2002

The British Iris Society (BIS) presents the Famecheck Cup, an award donated by Freda Cook, to the best remontant iris seen at the annual general meeting of the Society or in the Trials Field. The award for 2002 went to Dave Niswonger's intermediate bearded iris 'Prince of Burgundy' (1992). In announcing the award, the BIS described 'Prince of Burgundy' as a "floriferous plicata with a white beard 56 cm (22") in height; the color matches the name." Members of the Reblooming Iris Society commend Freda Cook for donating the Famecheck Cup to the BIS, and congratulate Dave Niswonger on his cultivar's winning ways.

### HYBRIDIZING REBLOOMERS

By George Sutton

*Bulletin of the American Iris Society, dateline January 1947, by Geddes Douglas:*

"Many a so-called fall-blooming iris has been condemned by many a disappointed gardener as being worthless and unreliable. This year however, word comes that the re-blooming sorts are having a field day. The center of this activity seems to have shifted to Elkhart, Indiana, where Mr. E. Greig Lapham has developed a new line of fall-blooming iris. The original break was an iris which he named PRIORITY." RAMESES shows up in the background of his early rebloomers.

There may be other articles but the next one I found was the *National Reblooming Iris Survey*, A.I.S. Bulletin October 1961, by Raymond Smith and Edwin Rundlett, as follows: "Increasing interest in both the growing and hybridizing of reblooming iris prompted the writers to conduct a national survey among persons active in the reblooming irises." Their list was divided into three groups. Group one included the northern tier states from eastern Washington D.C. to Massachusetts with an annual minimum temperature range between 0 degrees and -15 degrees. Group two, labeled "warm weather group", was basically the Pacific Coast and northwestern Texas. Group three was the "hot weather group", southeastern Texas and South Carolina. A rather long list of irises from each group is named. The article states that "...Few iris grew well in all regions". This is an article of interest, one that hybridizers of remontants should read. The interest in reblooming iris is strong and still growing. Large commercial flower companies have a high interest in the commercial value of reblooming iris.

But I digress: I was asked to write about the hybridizing of remontant iris and possible parents. Our hybridizing program evolved over the years to a multi-pronged approach. We started our remontant breeding by using older but well budded and branched varieties crossed to each other. For example, HARVEST OF MEMORIES X I DO produced three hundred wonderfully branched yellows, but the flowers were not of modern form and were nothing new. The best of these seedlings was then crossed with BOOMERANG, a so-called banana belt rebloomer. The resulting irises had nice flowers but poor branching. We still use this approach, but we don't expect any immediate results. We are not believers in a long line of inbreeding, one of our particular hang-ups. The F-3 or third year generation in the preceding case was crossed to a Space Ager, MOONRAKER, and the results, as you would anticipate, were mixed. One of the reselects was a yellow, wide-formed Space Ager that reblooms but doesn't have consistent appendages.



Approach #2: crossing consistent older formed rebloomers with modern formed rebloomers. One example was HARVEST OF MEMORIES X RENOWN. This produced, as you might expect, a nice yellow, well-branched iris but with form not as good as we would like. We did line breed this, crossing the best seedling to RENOWN, and the results were not pleasant! As a result, we seldom use this second approach any more.

Approach #3: using modern formed rebloomers with other modern formed rebloomers with questionable branching or bud count. For instance, POINT IN TIME X seedling G-83 (GARDEN GRACE x BOUNTIFUL HARVEST) produced a number of good seedlings, many of which are being used as parents. DOUBLE SHOT was one selected for introduction, and it had modern form and reblooms in USDA Zones 4 through 10.

Approach #4, which we have found produces the best results and is my personal favorite: crossing reliable modern cold weather rebloomers, old or new, with modern top of the line oncers. One of the crosses we used that exemplifies this approach was ((I DO x BETHANY CLAIRE) x (I DO x BETHANY CLAIRE)) X YAQUINA BLUE, which produced a number of good modern formed rebloomers. RIVER OF GRACE '03 is a prime example of results of this kind of breeding, combining the best of both worlds.

Of course there is a fifth approach: using the best remontant seedlings with other lines of remontant seedlings.

The following is a list and some comments about parents that have produced good seedlings for us, in the order of good reblooming results:

TBs: ZURICH to anything	SAXON: expect pastels
I DO to modern form	CLARENCE: expect wild things
ROCK STAR to tall anything	COLOR WATCH to taller things
ORANGE POPSICLE to older reliable rebloomers	SUKY to color
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST to modern plics	STAR MASTER to most any remontant
DOUBLE SHOT to fancy plics	BETHANY CLAIRE to modern formed oncers

A non-rebloomer INDIGO PRINCESS crossed with oncers is producing some nice remontant seedlings, which was a surprise

GOLDEN IMMORTAL with anything, but expect a lot of yellows

MESMERIZER: use well-formed parents and expect some to bloom out

Other irises that have given us good results are WALTZ ACROSS TEXAS, MOTHER EATH, MARI-POSA SKIES, OLYMPIC RINGS, FREQUENT FLYER, INNOCENT STAR, ST. PETERSBURG, APOLLO ONE, STINGRAY, SKY HOOKS and MOMENTOUS OCCASION.

It is interesting to note that of all the one thousand fifty-one irises introduced in 2002, only sixty are remontants. We are sure rebloomers are the wave of the future. If you read the R & Is you will see the success others are having. The parents in this article are only the tip of the iceberg.

Just writing this article has heightened my enthusiasm for reblooming hybridizing! Good luck, and have fun!

## An Introduction to Rebloom

Terry Aitken, February, '03

Always had a green thumb and a curiosity about plants. At age 10, I would plant seeds in little pots and put them on a window sill. At -40 degrees, they froze like a brick to the window sill. (Central Canada!) Later, I planted Bletilla orchids outdoors and then wondered why they did not come up.(?) I do not discourage easily!

After migrating to the "deep south" and graduating from the University of Minnesota ('68) and with both of our boys in school, I built a house in Minneapolis and began landscaping and—and—started growing irises. 3 years later, we moved to Washington state and met a group of very interesting irisarians - Bennett Jones, George Shoop and Gus Schreiner. It took a whole year to start hybridizing! That's because I spent the first year trying to pollinate the beard - HA! In 1976, my new friends straightened me out and we got serious. The next year we planted our first TB seedling crop on the newly acquired Salmon Creek 4 acre property. It has grown steadily ever since. We "borrowed" an acre next door, then rented 4 more acres down the street. We are looking at an acre of seedlings this spring which includes every type that I can set seeds on. I think there is even a token arilbred from Sheik out there! (there are some nice orchid seedlings in the greenhouse as well)

Pollinating begins with the first dry day of bloom season - usually around April fools day. It continues unabated (on dry days) until the early frosts of late October. I figure that plants with pods can be dug up and potted to ripen in the greenhouse. We've done it and they do germinate - sometimes! There is hardly a day that goes by that I can't pollinate something! This year, we will see our first crop of Spurias. There should be a respectable crop of Siberians, Japanese, Tectorums, Laevigatas, Daylilies (oops !-did I say that?), not to mention vast fields of Bearded irises of all types. And, yes, there is a reselect Louisiana out there! I am shifting the main thrust of my pollinating to reblooming iris of ALL types since I have a much longer season to work on them. Reblooming IB's have been our most productive category. It is relatively easy to take the very best of the spring blooming SDB's and cross them with the very best of the TB rebloomers. We are flirting with rebloom on all types of irises.

Beginning hybridizers, including this one, are told to expect to raise a thousand seedlings before you get a good one. Part of this rationale is to give you time to become familiar with parents and grandparents of the plants you are trying to breed. Characteristics of all those plants are likely to influence the next generation of children. It is helpful to be aware of faults as well as assets and work hard to compensate for the faults. The beginner gains statistical experience in "what works" or what doesn't. There is a huge element of luck in this lottery game! Half the challenge is to realize that you have something - that you were NOT expecting. Oh!, the joy of surprises!

This year, we are introducing an orange IB (strong rebloom) MANY MAHALO'S which could be a very useful tool as it is very fertile with tall and smalls. It starts reblooming at the beginning of August and goes and goes—!!!. Crossed with TB rebloomers, we should get rebloom BB's, right?

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

This past summer, we were transplanting seedlings with the pods still on them. A couple of green pods broke off. We planted the white immature seeds right away (early August) and they started germinating in early September. They are in the greenhouse and doing fine. I am wondering if there isn't a trick here that could accelerate the whole growing cycle??!

Several years back, we made some (TB-RE x TB-RE) crosses just to get a gene pool going. None of the seedlings rebloomed. However, knowing that the "RE-genes were in there", we used these plants in crosses with some of our better spring blooming plants. Last fall, a half dozen of those second generation plants DID rebloom.! One of them was red so you know where the pollen from CODE RED is going!

We are growing a large crop of seedlings from FOREVER BLUE, an SDB of Chuck Chapman's that blooms at the beginning of August and continues. Many of these seedlings are coming in yellow? (Usually, I consider blues and yellows as not compatible colors?) Something MUST be in the parentage to

produce yellows. Some crosses with F. B. are producing blue bearded white MDB's. Once you get into the median classes, anything can show up! Another cross of TB-RE FROST ECHO x SDB RAINDANCE should produce IB's, right? Wrong! Got an nice blue SDB rebloomer. (Frost Echo includes Immortality, I Do and Mystique in it's parentage. It is a plant that behaves much better in northern climates than in southern climates)

Another characteristic we have observed -AND LIKE-is spring blooming plants that send up SEQUENTIAL STEMS. I first observed this at the last Texas convention. I found a clump of CHAMPAGNE ENCORE blooming with a single stem. Closer observation revealed that an earlier spent stem had been groomed off and there was also a NEW stem on its way up. This would give us over a month of bloom out of one clump. Since then, our last Siberian introduction, REDDY OR NOT, behaves in this manner. A future Japanese Iris introduction is doing the same. Now, if I can get TB's to do this!!

"LUCK" is out there in large doses! A little INSTINCT doesn't hurt either. Our first IB cross was the last bloom on HOCUS POCUS (SDB) x first TB pollen from MYSTIQUE. (Mystique is early blooming and pod sterile and the pollen went on the SDB). I got 3 seeds. 2 germinated, one bloomed and it became HELLCAT. You should make every cross as if it were going to be a Dyke's winner. It probably wont happen, but Murphy's law says that is the way you have to think.

Bloom season is sneaking up like a freight train! Have fun and tell us all about it!

Terry

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## **Fall Pleasures**

by Cheryl Schaefer

Sometimes it seems that the very smallest things can make a big difference. A flower blooming long after it should can give enough pleasure to be worth remarking upon many times. It is especially gratifying if you're the person whose bouquet lasted more than a month, particularly in November, and it can happen thanks to rebloomers.

Just in time for the Region 2 Fall meeting in Camillus, NY last October 19th, we experienced our first killing frost, six weeks earlier than in 2001. We had an extraordinary number of our rebloomers about to bloom, so we proceeded to cut all of them for an arrangement and bouquet, many more than we actually needed. It was really nice to create a stir when we arrived with the irises, but the best was yet to come. After the meeting, and in honor of guest speakers Anne and Mike Lowe, who gave a terrific presentation on the characteristics of irises and their history by color, regional VP Donna James and her husband, Ron, had all of us over for dinner at their home. The arrangement of irises went, too, where, according to Donna, it proceeded to open day after day right through Thanksgiving!

You'll want to know, of course, which iris were in flower. They were BARN DANCE, QUEEN DOROTHY, ROSALIE FIGGE, SUMMER HOLIDAYS, ETERNAL WALTZ, CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE and IMMORTALITY. We also had rebloom earlier on BLESSED AGAIN, BELLA ROSE, FEEDBACK, PINK ATTRACTION, FLOWER SHOWER, TAWNY and TOTAL RECALL. Many of the rebloomers are in a bed shared with chrysanthemums, for a Fall display based partly on the unpredictability of the rebloom. I have to admit though, that those that rebloom late can get lost in the sea of mums, so most varieties are duplicated in other beds, where you can't miss them. It's with the promise of long blooming bouquets, however, that rebloomers keep on pleasing well beyond their life in the garden. I have no problem sacrificing some of the spring bloom on these plants for the wonderful return in the Fall.

## **MONTY BYERS, KAZA-ZAWOWIE IRIS HYBRIDIZER**

by Dr. Don Spoon

Monty Byers' Moonshine Gardens catalog was a delight to read in spite of its very small print. In his 1991 catalog Monty confessed that it was too small to read without eye strain, yet he wanted it to be filled with information, and inexpensive to print and mail. (He provided a large print version for \$8.) I would read each of his catalogs from cover to cover like a kid with a new comic book. Monty had an uncanny ability to describe an iris cultivar and its traits. His writing style showed his enormous enthusiasm as well as his sense of reality. He loved the TBs but also the medians, "the little guys" and said if you added rebloom to them they were KAZA-ZAWOWIE! It was clear he knew every cultivar in his collection and knew its potential.

For several years I made orders to Monty and got top quality plants and very generous extras. In the 1991 catalog he includes excerpts from six of his many customer-friends exclaiming, like "Wow!" After reading his catalog I would call Monty, and we would have interesting and informative conversations. He listened intently to my questions and answered my questions about hybridizing and growing seedlings with kindness. Monty's exuberance was infectious, and I found myself even more committed to producing better rebloomers (He exclaimed, "REBLOOMERS ARE THE FUTURE!!!") and space agers (He explained that "People do go nuts over these appendages - when they're on a pretty flower!")

I never got to meet Monty in person, but his picture with the Greek fisherman's hat in his iris field looking so pleasantly at the cameraman is the image I hold in my mind. The last time I talked with Monty he said he was not well and was having to slow down. If he had lived into his 80s, I wonder what he could have accomplished going at his feverish pace of growing around 7,000 to 12,000 seedlings a year.

Monty had the best of mentors such as Ben Hager and Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg (Monty called Lloyd "Mr. Rebloomer - my dear friend."). In fact, Monty credits Ben Hager and his partner at Melrose Gardens, Sid Bubose for encouraging him to turn his iris hobby into a business. They saw in this young hybridizer, true greatness. Monty was like the Alexander the Great of iris hybridizing, whose marvelous collection of introductions are like a conquered kingdom, his own MAGIC KINGDOM, and Monty was its young prince. Fortunately for Irisdom, after Monty's untimely death from respiratory complications, Jack and Phyllis Dickey saved and moved to their Misty Hill Farms many of his seedlings, and then introduced some of them for Monty.

Monty's goals were to produce rebloomers of modern form that would rebloom reliably in warm and cold zones and space agers with great beard appendages and modern form. First he assembled all the best rebloomers and space agers from across the country, not just those grown on the west coast. He crossed the best cold climate rebloomers to as many of the best spring bloomers as time permitted. In doing this he discovered that some spring only bloomers when crossed to rebloomers were rebloom carriers and would produce rebloomers, yet with better form. In his catalog he denoted these rebloom carriers. (Of course, I tried to assemble every one of these for my own breeding program.) Rebloom carriers was a topic that Monty discussed with me on the phone.

Monty then discovered that some of these seedlings from these first crosses were excellent breeders and when crossed with other rebloomers and rebloom carriers produced gang buster seedlings. Great introductions began to pour out of Moonshine Gardens. Osborne's 1980 space ager and AM winner SKY HOOKS was one of his favorite parents for its production of quality space agers and rebloomers with "form, substance, branching, vigor, floriferousness, wonderful fragrance, as well as horns, spoons and flounces and just about every color imaginable to its progeny." He called it the backbone of his breeding program and many of his best introductions had it for a grandparent.

Monty and his coworker and partner Bill Gibbs lived in Clearlake Oaks, California, but the iris farm was an hour drive away in Potter Valley at Monty's folk's place. His parents, Clayton and Mildred Byers, were

very supportive of this expanding iris farm that even utilized the barn, and at its peak had over 18,000 seedlings in bloom. Monty said he could not have built this iris farm without his father helping him with the farm machinery for the big tasks. Bill's parents, Weldon and Caroline Gibbs, also learned to love rebloomers and had a large iris garden in Antioch, CA and traveled regularly to the Potter Valley Moonshine Gardens to join in the work. In thanking them in the 1988 catalog he said "They have been with us all the way."

Monty said if he could have only ten iris cultivars he would pick the best two parents and space for eight of their seedlings, for his first love was hybridizing irises. But, he grew a large collection of cultivars by other hybridizers and featured them in his catalog with appropriate praise and distributed them widely to his customers as sales and extras.

In 1991 my Georgetown University Francis Heyden Observatory Garden was on the AIS National tour. There was some concern that my garden might be bloomed out as it was in a warmer microclimate in metropolitan Washington, D. C. It was down to 15% bloom by the third day, but one clump of a late season bloomer was spectacular beyond description. It was the breathtaking CONJURATION that may have won more best specimens in show than any other cultivar. Over in the Weber, Maryland master planting and Nichols, Virginia garden, Monty's earlier blooming THORNBIRD also had its national debut as gorgeous clumps in full bloom. Monty had sent both cultivars to the Florence, Italy international competition and in 1994 CONJURATION took first place, and THORNBIRD 7th place. Later they went on to win Dykes Medals in tandem. Strangely enough, Monty had to be persuaded by Ben Hager not to compost THORNBIRD, but introduce it.

Monty loved CONJURATION and in his accurate and honest fashion describes it in his 1989 catalog, "SA CONJURATION\* 36" ML- . D1-1: (SKY HOOKS x CONDOTTIERE) X ALPINE CASTLE \* White S., the edges are faintly suffused pale violet-blue; white F. with much more heavily suffused, deeper, bright amethyst violet borders; white b. tipped tangerine and fuzzy white horns.\* What a mesmerizer! An improved ALPINE CASTLE with horns! Even better more ruffled flowers of very similar exotic coloring. All it needs is larger flowers - the next step! Thin but strong incredible show stalks always here with quadruple top sockets and it's a rampant grower!! Very fertile both ways and this year I'm going to breed "down" with it too. What magical IBs it should surely give! \$35." Monty's description of CONJURATION shows how clearly he understood that each cultivar is just a work in progress. Monty's hybridizing work gave us a phenomenal burst of progress.

#### Membership Information

Single Annual	\$7.00
Single Triennial	\$18.00
Family Annual	\$8.00
Family Triennial	\$21.00
Single Life	\$120.00
Dual Life	\$150.00

#### Advertising Rates

Full Page	\$50.00
Half Page	\$30.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00
Eighth	\$10.00
Inside Cover	\$75.00
<i>limit 1 full page/issue</i>	

You can check to see when your membership expires by looking at your mailing label.

The first number on the right is the year, then the month.

The label shown here would be January 2003.

\*\*\* Remember the first two numbers designate the year\*\*\*

James Doe  
4566 Somewhere Dr  
Anywhere

03/01  
(↑YEAR)

## A HISTORY OF THE RIS

Before organization of the Reblooming Iris Society, there was a group of people dedicated to research, breeding, and improvement of reblooming irises. It was headed by Edwin Rundlett of Staten Island, New York who served as editor-in-chief of a publication, **The Reblooming Reporter**, issued twice a year beginning with issue No. 1 in January, 1962. Although no officers were indicated, Edwin Rundlett as editor-in-chief had additional editorial staff including G. Percy Brown\*, David J. Flesh\*, William G. McGarvey\*, Elizabeth Reneau, and Raymond G. Smith\*. This arrangement remained through No. 11, February, 1967.

Beginning with issue No. 12, August, 1967, the publication remains in the same format, but it is now produced by The Reblooming Iris Society with a list of elected officers.

The first president of the society was Lloyd Zurbrigg. The editor is still listed as Edwin Rundlett and these officers remained the same through issue No. 18, September, 1970.

For issues No. 19, 20, Spring and Fall of 1971, the president was Robert P. Hubley and Edwin Rundlett remained the editor. Then the name of the publication changed to **The Reblooming Iris Recorder**. Its issue No. 1 is dated April, 1972. Wynnaline Stinson is listed as the president and Lloyd Zurbrigg as the editor of the **Recorder**. Those offices remained the same through issue No. 7, May, 1974.

*The above was contributed by John Weiler, a past president of RIS*

### PRESIDENTS

Lloyd Zurbrigg 1967 - 1970  
Robert P. Hubley\* 1971  
Wynnaline Stinson 1972 - 73  
Charles Applegate\* 1974  
Richard E. Gibson\* 1975 - 1977  
Lloyd Zurbrigg 1977 - 1981  
James L. Ennenga 1981 - 1984  
Virginia Matthews 1984 - 1987  
(now Virginia Keyser)

John Weiler 1987 - 1991  
Howard Brookins\* 1991 - 1993  
John Weiler 1993 - 1996

Rosalie Yerkes Figge 1996 - 1999

Charlie Brown 2000 - 2003

Clarence E. Mahan 2003 -

### EDITORS

Edwin Rundlett\* 1962 - 1971

Rosalie Yerkes Figge 1978 - 1983

No Editor 1984 - 1986 & 1987  
Clarence E. Mahan & Marian Schmuhl  
Guest Editors 1986  
combined with **The Medianite**  
Mike Lowe 1987 - 1993

Mike & Nina Moller 1993 - 1996  
Mike & Shelley Moller 1996 (one issue)  
Kathy Guest - 1996 - 1997 & 1999  
Ginny Spoon - 1997 - 1998  
Lana & Steve Barotta 2000 (one issue)  
Seanne Perry 2000 - 2002  
Robin Shadlow 2002 -

\*those known to be deceased



## *Recollections of Lloyd Zurbrigg*

1967 was the founding year of the **Reblooming Iris Society**. The location was Denver, Colorado. The organization had been aborted the previous convention, and a number of us were determined to try again.

My first task was to obtain permission from the dean to be absent. One of the truths of modern life became very evident. I was told I might go, but only if I flew to save time. That statement would have generated only laughs until the past three years. The laughs would be at my fear of flying, of course.

Why was I afraid of flying? At age twelve, I was taken aloft by a barnstormer at our fall fair. It was absolutely marvelous! Two days later the same pilot crashed his plane at another fall fair, and he and his passenger were killed. I heard much too much about that for some time afterward, from my mother and grandmother.

The need to establish the **Reblooming Iris Society** won out, of course. There I was flying over the midwest, when the pilot announced that Denver had had a bitter storm that had dumped six inches of hail! All plans ruined? Actually, no! The good folk in charge revamped the schedule, and the Denver gardens were relegated to the final day of visitation. I thought Boulder a most beautiful place, and Fort Collins exciting because of the agricultural college. The **Reblooming Iris Society** was formed without trouble or incident. The way was clear to propagandize the remontant iris, and work for the improvement of reblooming irises, no matter to which division of the genus they might belong.

One recollection from that Convention was of a straight man, showing slides, in spite of the ribald comments generously interspersed by an inebriate fellow member. All my sympathy was directed toward the man with the projector and slides — but it was funny!

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### **Reblooming Iris Society's Awards and Certificates:**

At the Board Meeting in June, 1997 the Board established a Distinguished Service Award for RIS members at the apt and timely suggestion of John Weiler. It was pointed out that this was to be a service award, not a hybridizer's award.

The award committee is now composed of past recipients and the currently serving president of RIS.

The first recipient was Raymond G. Smith who promoted rebloomers at a time when they faced a lack of credibility and a great deal of scorn.

The following recipients received the Distinguished Service Award:

1998 - John Weiler and Lloyd Zurbrigg

1999 - Ben Hager, Earl Hall, and Frank Jones

2000 - Rosalie Figge

In 1998, John Weiler's far-reaching proposal was accepted to issue an International Certificate of Recognition to award rebloomer supporters in a foreign country.

1998 - Giovanni Edoardo Nogaro of Italy received the first International Certificate of Recognition

1999 - Nico de Geus of the Netherlands

## Singin' Songs and Makin' Good Dirt

by Bill Burleson

When Maya Angelou said, "A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song", she inadvertently touched the common thread that ties diverse individuals, iris gardeners, together. We share. We share plants and we share information. We are not required to understand why.

We rarely hear gardeners saying I have really great garden soil. I never have. More often we here a lament or, at best, of some effort that is being made to improve what they do have. Too, explanation of that effort is often filled with sentences that end with the speaker's voice rising in inflection. Implying, "This may not help but I'm gonna' do sumpin'. Do you think it will work?" This article is intended to share a widely known but not widely used method for removing this rising inflection from voices.

We must start by defining the end we ultimately wish to accomplish. One assumes we all want to create good garden soil. To accomplish this we must understand what is in the soil we are starting with and what end composition is desirable. We find precious little information concerning ideal soils for irises. This results primarily from the "ideal" depending on rainfall and it's frequency. "Ideal" varies from area to area. But we might start with the following profile for a good garden soil with some increase in the sand content as the end objective in beds located in areas receiving more rain than less blessed parts of the iris world. We want to wind up with a composition of roughly equal components of sand, silt, clay and organic matter. This is a widely accepted profile for the composition of a good garden soil.

Most assume their existing soil is low in organic matter, sand, or clay. Our question is really how much of what do we need to add? Whether this is done all at once or a little at a time affects only when our end desire is accomplished and the growth and bloom production during that period of time.

The easiest way to determine how much of each component is needed is by taking a representative soil sample, placing it in a gallon glass jar or other clear glass container. Fill the jar 1/4 to 1/2 full of soil sample and the remainder with water and shake well. The objective is to have a very low viscosity, homogeneous slurry. Place the container in an undisturbed location until the contents settle and the water becomes more or less clear. This takes from hours to days depending on the specific gravity (weight for practical purposes) of the particles in the soil. The sand layer actually settles out in minutes. The sediment in the bottom will ultimately settle into stratified layers. Some soil content will be floating on the top but may ultimately settle. Remove the water without disturbing the layers with a small diameter siphon hose or turkey baster.

After water removal, the top layer is partially composted organic matter and the residual humus left over after composting. Very careful examination of this top layer will allow you to see how much of the organic matter is actually available for the plants use- residual humus. The residual humus will be in a very thin layer of dark colored, extremely fine particles just below the larger partially composted organic matter. Here it is usually too thin for practical measurement.

Sand (small gravel) will be at the bottom, then silt (clay and sand mixed), then clay, then humus, and finally, organic matter on the top. If your soil has high gravel (big sand) content the results can be skewed since the voids in the bottom gravel layer will be partially filled with material from the next layer up.

At this point, you may further dry the sediment in the oven below 150 degrees F, or measure the sediments "as is" in the container. Do not cook the organic matter if you choose to dry in this manner. Determine the percentage of the total sediment each stratified layer represents using a tape measure or other measuring device. The more precise the measurement, the more accurate the results will be. You can determine sand, clay, silt, composted organic matter, and non-composted organic matter, percentages by examining the content of each of the stratified layers, measuring their depth and dividing that measurement by the total depth of the sediments combined. If you dry the mixture in the oven you have a permanent record of where you started. A piece of paper with the same information is easier to store but harder to find. If you so choose the dried layers may be crushed, remixed and used for a highly recommended soil nutrient analysis.

It is important where we start, that we know where we are going and what we must do to get there- makin' the trip, sharin', singin' and pushin' a wheelbarrow.

## Hybridizing Goals

Betty Wilkerson

Although I enjoy many types of irises, I prefer tall bearded irises and they are the only ones I seriously try to breed. In the beginning, my hybridizing goal was very simple. Turn all of my favorite irises into rebloomers. Eventually, I came to realize this was a very naive approach. It did not take into account genetic difficulties, human frailties, or Murphy's Law.

A broad view of my adjusted hybridizing goal reads something like this: Produce as many reblooming irises as possible! In the same process, try to include as many currently acceptable attributes as genetics allow. This has been the hard part. It is very difficult to meet all these needs when breeding rebloomers in this area.

The yellow ground plicata line is one that holds much of my interest. Several reblooming seedlings resulted from the cross of 'Hot Streak' and 'Earl of Essex'. I have made the cross both ways and both have produced rebloomers. Taller seedlings result from using 'Hot Streak' as the pod parent. I have other seedlings from this line that will be combined with these seedlings in my search for a bright yellow ground overlain with rich deep reddish color, perfect in every way.

Another line I'm working on is a bicolor iris with standards and fall bands in the same color. Right now this is expressing itself mainly in shades of purple with pale standards and a matching band on darker falls. Purple was not one of my favored colors, which has made this a little more difficult. This line has shown strength and expresses good rebloom. Barring serious garden accidents, the strongest, 'Theme Master', will be introduced this year.

'Theme Master' is both pod and pollen fertile. It has been crossed to Ghio's 'Chinese New Year'. Joe has written that 'Chinese New Year' reblooms in his garden. My goal with this cross is to create a good reblooming variegata. Hope to see some of these seedlings bloom this fall.

I am also working to improve a line of reblooming red seedlings. I have a seedling that I think is good enough to introduce. At one point, I abandoned this line, but my interest was renewed when the strongest and best of these seedlings started reblooming.

In closing, a newly discovered goal is to let other people help decide the merit of my seedlings. One of the most important things I try to remember is that an iris isn't bad just because I don't like it. My 'hideous atrocity' may be someone's 'delightful discovery!' Of course, the reverse is also true. My primary goal is to be thankful for the experience and the joys of each spring.

Region 21 is calling for guest irises for the 2005 spring meeting. Our club would love to have as many reblooming irises as possible. This offers a good opportunity to test seedlings in a zone 4 and 5 climate. If interested, please contact:

Greater Omaha Iris Society  
c/o Robin Shadlow  
16124 Shirley St  
Omaha, NE 68130  
402-330-1287  
rshadlow@wildmail.com

## Why I Do Not Like Reblooming Irises

*Hortus Veritas*

I doubt this article will ever get printed in the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*. Editors of iris publications seldom publish the learned and interesting articles I write because my views are not politically correct. My views are correct, just not *politically* correct. My purpose in writing this article is to convince you that you should NOT grow irises that rebloom.

Why do I dislike reblooming irises? There are a number of reasons. First, irises that rebloom in summer and autumn violate the laws of Nature. Reblooming irises are unnatural. If Nature had wanted irises to bloom in seasons other than spring, Nature would have given them to us. It is not Nature who has created reblooming iris cultivars; rather it has been tinkering, self-serving, prideful so-called hybridizers. If Cicero were alive today, I know what he would say about this: "O tempora! O mores!"

A second reason I do not like reblooming irises is they destroy the garden color scheme. We need law and order in our gardens. What is one to do when a plant just bursts into bloom any time it wants to do it? It messes up the garden color pattern when a red iris blooms at the same time as purple asters. It can be worse. An orange iris can bloom at the same time as pink Japanese anemones. A pink iris can bloom when bronze chrysanthemums are in their glory. A white iris can interrupt the unity provided by the green foliage of perennials that behave properly by blooming only in the spring. Yuck!

The more people grow reblooming irises, the more they start holding fall iris shows. People should be planning for Halloween and doing early Christmas shopping; instead they end up cutting and grooming irises and doing tasks at the fall iris show. It is true that the work involved in holding a fall show is considerably less than then that needed at a spring show, but it is still work! It does not seem desirable to me to be promoting anything that creates more work.

Perhaps the most annoying aspect of having irises come into bloom in autumn is the comments it generates from friends and neighbors. "You have an iris blooming in your garden!" "I did not know there were irises that bloomed this time of the year!" "How did you get those irises to bloom in September?" If you grow reblooming irises, you are going to have to endure hearing these comments. Is this not reason enough to avoid reblooming irises? I think so.

What can be done to stop the spread of reblooming irises? Perhaps those who agree with me will start a campaign to petition the American Iris Society Board of Directors. Do not give AIS awards to any iris that tends to produce flowers in the summer and fall. Another thing you can do is to protest fall iris shows by picketing and harassing people who try to get into the show.

I feel so strongly about this issue that my personal plan is to grow as many reblooming irises as I can and to take all the ribbons and prizes at the fall shows. This will lead to other exhibitors becoming discouraged and more inclined to accept my ideas.

Oh, there is another reason I do not like reblooming irises. And this one makes me very angry. Reblooming irises are, as a rule, very vigorous. They tend to be resistant to rot. They increase quickly, and produce too many new rhizomes. What a burden!

## Region 5 Fall Iris Show

The Oconee Valley Iris Club, in conjunction with hosting the Region 5 fall meeting, held an iris show on November 9, 2002, at the Hopewell Methodist Church in Milledgeville, Georgia. Joe Watson of Milledgeville was the Show Chairman. The Best Specimen in the Show was a stalk of CLARENCE exhibited by Everette Lineberger. The two Runners Up were PINK SACHET shown by Joe and Janet Watson and VIOLET MUSIC, entered by Everette Lineberger. Other irises winning prizes in the show were Lucille Chicvara's entries ROSALIE FIGGE, QUEEN DOROTHY and PERFUME COUNTER and Earnest Yearwood's entries TAWNY, an intermediate bearded iris, and DEB SUNSHINE.

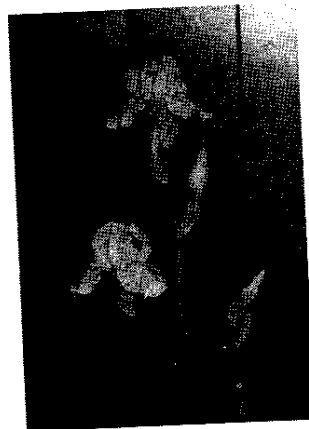
Approximately 50 entries were exhibited by local and visiting members. The local newspaper reported on the show and printed a nice article complete with pictures encouraging the readers to try some of the cultivars which were proven rebloomers in the area.



(front row) Brittany White; Lucille Chickvera of Anderson, S.C.; Sue Kilgore of Griffin;  
(back row) Rev. Everette Lineberger from Spartansburg, S.C.; Earnest Yearwood of Milledgeville.



Ken Duke of Atlanta, Shirley Pacquet of Prosperity, S.C., and Brenda Briley of Milledgeville served as judges.



This picture of a lovely stalk of BILLIONAIRE was taken the day after the show. Even forcing blooms with warm water and sugar does not always work. Joe Watson was still justifiably proud of it and displayed it at Northside Baptist the following day. He had purchased the rhizome at this year's club auction.

## MIDWEST REBLOOM REPORT

Tim Stanek - Midwestern Regional Director

The summer of 2002 was another dry year here in southwest Iowa. Rebloom was sparse with the old reliable's Autumn Tryst, Violet Returns, Golden Encore, and Baby Blessed, blooming before our early October frost. Three newer varieties also made it into bloom for the second year in a row well before the first frost. They are OVER AND OVER (Innerst 2001) a lovely pastel plicata with white ground trimmed lavender on the falls; DOUBLE SHOT (Sutton 2000) a bolder white ground plicata trimmed in blue violet; and DAYS OF SUMMER (Stanek 2002) a barium yellow self that rebloomed August until stopped by a hard freeze in October.

Other reports of Irises that rebloomed in the Midwest are listed below:

### Nebraska (Zone 5)

AMAIN  
ANXIOUS  
AUTUMN BUGLER  
AUTUMN CIRCUS  
AUTUMN TRYST  
BEST BET  
BLATANT  
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST  
BREAKERS  
BROTHER CARL  
BROWN DUET  
CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE  
CLARENCE  
CONSTANT COMPANION  
CORN HARVEST  
CROSS STITCH  
DOUBLE SCOOP  
DOUBLE SHOT  
DUKE OF EARL  
EARL OF ESSEX  
FEEDBACK  
FLOORSHOW  
GIBSON GIRL  
GRAPE ADVENTURE  
HARVEST OF MEMORIES  
HEART OF ICE  
HEMSTITCHED  
HIGH HO SILVER  
I DO  
IMMORTALITY  
JENNIFER REBECCA  
LATE LILAC  
MOTHER EARTH  
NORTHWARD HO  
PEARLS OF AUTUMN  
PINK ATTRACTION  
PINKNESS  
RAVENWOOD  
REMEMBER SPRING  
ROSALIE FIGGE

ROTUNDA  
ROYAL SUMMER  
SIGN OF LEO  
SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS  
SUGAR BLUES  
SUMMER OLYMPICS  
TOTAL RECALL  
VICTORIA FALLS  
VIOLET MIRACLE  
WINESAP  
ZURICH

### OHIO (ZONE 5)

BELVI QUEEN  
CORN HARVEST  
CHRISTIANE ELIZABETH  
AUTUMN TRYST  
ROSALIE FIGGE

### INDIANA (ZONE 5)

AMAIN  
AUTUMN TRYST  
BANANA CREAM  
IMMORTALITY  
SUGAR BLUES

### KANSAS (ZONE 5)

BABY BLESSED  
DOUBLE SHOT  
FLOWER CHILD  
LOW HO SILVER  
PERFUME COUNTER  
ROSALIE FIGGE





## Rebloom Report 2002

By Richard C. Richards

This report covers the calendar year 2002. My garden is in Region 15, USDA Zone 9, southern California, near Riverside. Coastal influences meet desert influences in this area. Cooler nights (70s) and hot days (90s) are the summer norm. In the winter frost is a rare visitor. Irises can rebloom freely all year around. I have iris bloom 365 days a year.

One problem is to determine what rebloom is. I have simply decided that the normal spring bloom period is March 15 through June 15. Bloom outside of that period is rebloom, with the requirement that the iris has to bloom in the spring period also or I do not count its off-season bloom as rebloom.

Garden practices involve resetting half the garden each year and rebuilding soil with gypsum, peat, and alfalfa pellets. Overhead watering is applied when rain does not fall, and rain only falls occasionally in the winter. Fertilizing is by means of Miraclegro, applied about once a month spring, summer, and fall, and once every six weeks in winter.

I keep track of rebloom by simply going out into the garden once every week to ten days, and noting what is in bloom. An iris open one day during a given month is given credit for reblooming that month, even if it is the last day of the month.

Here is the bloom listed by month. Irises are TBs unless noted.

January: Amethyst Winter, Billionaire, Blatant, Cayenne Capers, Celestial Sunshine, Competition, Coronation of David, Doublemint, Golden Garland, Golden Immortal, Key Lime, Lemon Reflection, Lichen, Mariposa Skies, My Valentine, Pearls of Autumn, Pure As Gold, Sarah's Laughter, Sea World, Shoot The Moon, Sunny Disposition, Viva Mexico

February: Amethyst Winter, Autumn Circus, Billionaire, Bridal Fashion, Cayenne Capers, Doublemint, Eggnog, Golden Garland, Golden Immortal, Lichen, Low Ho Silver (IB), My Valentine, Pearls of Autumn, Sarah's Laughter, Sea World, Sunny Disposition, Tea Leaves, Viva Mexico, Wedding in Cana

March 1 to 15: Amethyst Winter, Autumn Circus, Cayenne Capers, Eggnog, Golden Garland, Golden Immortal, Lichen, Low Ho Silver (IB), Sarah's Laughter, Viva Mexico

June 15 to 30: Coronation of David, Three Seasons

July: Again and Again, Autumn Circus, Coronation of David, Irish Spring, Low Ho Silver (IB), My Friend Jonathan, Orchid Resprite (PCI), Over and Over, Red River, Three Seasons

August: Again and Again, Autumn Circus, Bernice's Legacy, Blatant, Irish Spring, Low Ho Silver (IB), Misty Twilight, Precious Harvest, Solstice, Sublime

September: Artistic Gold, Blatant, Deborah Dances, Golden Immortal, Low Ho Silver (IB), Misty Twilight, Over and Over, Precious Harvest, Sea Fluff, Sierra Mist, Solstice

October: Artistic Gold, Autumn Circus, Bernice's Legacy, Billionaire, Competition, Curtain Up, Deborah Dances, Golden Immortal, I Repeat, Low Ho Silver (IB), Misty Twilight, Over and Over, Return of Innocence, Sierra Mist, Solstice, Teas Leaves, Then Again

November: Artistic Gold, Bernice's Legacy, Billionaire, Blatant, Buckwheat, Cease-Fire, Competition, Coronation of David, Curtain Up, I Repeat, Misty Twilight, Precious Harvest, Return of Innocence, Sierra Mist, Solstice, Splash O' Wine, Tea Leaves, Three Seasons, Unchained Melody

December: Artistic Gold, Bernice's Legacy, Blatant, Buckwheat, Cease-Fire, Competition, Curtain Up, Misty Twilight, Return of Innocence, Sea Fluff, Sierra Mist, Shoot the Moon, Skookumchuck, Splash O' Wine, Three Seasons, Unchained Melody, Wedding in Cana

Several irises performed in a noteworthy manner this past year. For almost constant bloom, the IB Low Ho Silver was obvious. Solstice also put out a number of months of bloom. Golden Immortal, Misty Twilight, and Shoot the Moon put on spectacular fall shows, with great stalks and many of them. Several others did almost as well, and bloomed for long periods.

A pattern has emerged. One Eastern iris, Again and Again, found conditions so good that it has all but bloomed out in its exuberance. Eastern irises occasionally do that because conditions do not require some fall dormancy and they just keep blooming. Other irises from colder climates, such as Unchained Melody, bloom much later here than they do in their home gardens back east. Competition and Sea Fluff are other examples of this characteristic.

The trait brings up interesting problems for hybridizers in this climate. If irises from colder climates will stretch their bloom season here, or maybe not even start blooming until late November or December, will irises hybridized here that bloom in December learn to bloom earlier in colder climates? I believe Feedback is an example of a western rebloomer that learned to handle an eastern climate.

Of course, the obvious way to determine what a western iris will do in a colder climate is to send western seedlings to eastern gardens for trial, but the number of iris enthusiasts willing to guest western reblooming seedlings is not large. That is a shame. It seems the only way to test a seedling is to introduce it and then wait for reports from around the country.

Many California-bred irises cannot handle the more severe climates. We have a number of instances of this generalization. The opportunity to test these irises as seedlings is, however, meager, which does not help the reblooming iris community. Perhaps more willingness to guest western reblooming seedlings, and less grouching about the tenderness of western irises in general, would be helpful.

### **Rebloom report for the Northwest Region year 2002**

Florence Wheat - Northwestern Director

#### **Utah (Zone 6)**

GNUZ SPREAD  
BABY BLESSED  
DOUBLE YOUR FUN  
LADY EMMA  
CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE  
GRAPE ECHO  
PINK ATTRACTION  
PURE AS GOLD  
RASPBERRY FROST  
SPEED LIMIT

#### **Idaho (Zone 5-6)**

MIDSUMMER'S NIGHTS DREAM  
CANTINA  
IMMORTALITY  
JULY YELLOW  
LORNA'S JUNEBUG  
MOTHER EARTH  
OASIS RED  
PEACH JAM  
POORMAN  
PURE AS GOLD

ROSALIE FIGGE  
SILVER DIVIDENDS  
TOTAL RECALL  
WILD JASMINE

## HYBRIDIZING FOR REBLOOMING IRISES

by Joan Roberts

My findings are somewhat different from others hybridizing for rebloomers. For a number of years I have been hybridizing for rebloomers, but I have also been very selective. As a result, I do not have a large number of introductions but a great deal of experience has been gained. Many hybridizers make crosses that they believe will give them a beautiful iris. I have concentrated on making crosses that will produce a reblooming iris. Unfortunately, reblooming does not always translate to beautiful. It has been a long slow process and is just now revealing the fruits of my labors. To date I have not been able to achieve the level of perfection that I would like, but some strides in form, color and remontancy have been made. And in some cases a lot of remontancy is evident.

Thus far there is no hard and fast rule for producing a reblooming iris. However, over the years there are certain patterns that keep repeating themselves (pardon the pun), leading me to the conclusion that remontancy is cumulative.

I once tried placing a numerical value on rebloomers. It was my theory that you had to have a certain amount of remontancy added together to get a reblooming iris. For example, a value of 10 was assigned to PINK ATTRACTION because it had the ability to bloom all over the country, and had rebloomed more than once in a season for us. RENOWN might receive an 8 because it too had the ability to remont all over the country, but in our garden had rebloomed only once each year. When making the cross PINK ATTRACTION X PINK STARLET there was no rebloom in the resulting seedlings. They would receive a value of 5 because the remontancy was halved. The problem arose in the subjectivity of placing the values so I finally gave up. However, thinking in those terms has helped me choose parents.

Many crosses were made with Rebloomer X Oncer and visa versa in an effort to put the reblooming gene into that drop dead gorgeous oncer. Many "valuable" seedlings were saved for future crosses and thus are a contribution to our gene pool.

I have many seedlings that did not themselves rebloom but when crossed with another Rebloomer X Oncer, the amount of reblooming genes has been doubled in the resulting seedlings. At that point we have had a great deal of remontancy when crossing that child to even a mild rebloomer.

For example:

Seedling #766-7 (Rebloomer x Oncer) - did not rebloom

Seedling #729-5 (Oncer x Rebloomer) - did not rebloom

Seedling # 1413-5: (766-7 X 729-5) - did not rebloom but doubled the amount of remontancy in the resulting seedlings.

Seedling # 1811-7: (1413-5: (766-7 x 729-5) X a rebloomer for very mild climates))) - REBLOOMED.

A lot of remontancy resulted from crossing Rebloomer X Rebloomer. It is almost guaranteed there will be some reblooming seedlings.

It has been our experience the we are less likely to have remontancy show up in the Rebloomer X Oncer cross but there have been some. A lot seems to depend upon how strong the Reblooming tendency is in the reblooming parent, i.e. an 8 or 10.

Some hybridizers have more success using the Rebloomer as the pod parent but it has worked both ways, probably leaning more to the Pod parent as the Rebloomer.

We believe strongly that there are oncers that are receptive to reblooming genes doing their thing and others that definitely resist them.

When we do get a reblooming seedling from a Rebloomer X Oncer cross or a Oncer X Rebloomer cross, that the "Oncer" is really a rebloomer in disguise. For example when Monty Byers first used SKY HOOKS it was thought that he was getting reblooming seedlings using this "oncer" - however later it was reported that SKY HOOKS had rebloomed in very mild climates, which was probably just enough to tip the scale in favor of rebloom.

The moral of this story is that there are many ways to achieve the same end and that there is no right or wrong answer to hybridizing for rebloomers. Some of it, especially in the quality of the resulting seedlings, is just a matter of LUCK.

### **Reblooming Parents**

*Betty Wilkerson*

During the first ten years of my breeding program, I grew and heavily crossed FEEDBACK, IMMORTALITY, SUMMER OLYMPICS, LEMON REFLECTION, VIOLET RETURNS, VIOLET MIRACLE, VIOLET CLASSIC, PINK ATTRACTION and EARL OF ESSEX with a wide variety of irises that were known to rebloom somewhere. Other irises that appear in the lineage of my earlier seedlings are TITAN'S GLORY, VICTORIA FALLS, VANITY, ORBITER, LACED COTTON, PRESENCE, GLISTENING ICICLE, PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE, and the list goes on. Most of these irises rebloom—somewhere!

I didn't make crosses between 1995 and 2000. My strongest seedlings were saved from the earlier years and, in 2000 and 2001, I combined my reblooming seedlings, adding in a few new faces like CLARENCE, CAJUN SPICE, SILK BROCADE, and INNOCENT STAR. When combining seedlings, I try to use those that rebloom, but occasionally cannot resist using one with spring only bloom.

Good examples of the latter type of cross are seedlings, expected to bloom this spring, from cross 1502. The parentage on this is ((Silverado x Immortality) X (Bridge in Time x (Feedback x Titan's Glory))). The pod parent is a lovely white and the pollen parent is a gorgeous blue. Neither rebloom, but with the parentage I could not resist making the cross.

The summer of 2002 saw over 100 new irises added to my overly crowded collection through purchases, bonuses, swaps, and gifts. Many still reside in a variety of pots. This new collection is evenly split between coastal rebloomers and "not yet" rebloomers! Among the first group are irises like Ghio's BUBBLES GALORE, Keppel's TEAMWORK, Byers's MIL BYERS, and Blyth's MIGHTY COOL. All have rebloomed somewhere and carry the trait. Among the latter are irises specifically chosen for wider shoulders, strength, and beauty. Anything that has good and pleasing bloom from this new collection will be added to my lines. Because I have not used these irises yet, I can only speculate on their potential as parents.

My motto for several years was "If it reblooms anywhere, buy it!" Now, however, I have limited space, and my focus has narrowed to improving my own seedlings. I have produced my own northern rebloomers and use these in breeding. As a result, I have neglected purchasing newer northern rebloomers from other hybridizers. If I were starting my hybridizing anew I would follow the same procedure that I did in the earlier years.

In closing, I will share some of my thoughts and observations. My earlier hybridizing theory was based on serious research and I still find it to be valid. Cross anything that reblooms with northern rebloomers and you will produce some reblooming seedlings. I recommend using the northern rebloomers as pollen parents when possible. I'll leave the percentages to those with interest in those things. I see this as the quickest and best way to add variety to the newer generations of rebloomers. I present BRIDGE IN TIME (Glistening Icicle x Immortality) and RETURNING CHAMELEON (Pink Sleigh x Immortality) as evidence that this works well

## Names

Clarence Mahan

If there's water in Europe for me  
It's the cool, dark pond at balmy twilight  
Where a child squats full of sadness, launching  
A frail boat like a butterfly in May.<sup>1</sup>  
From "Le Bateau Ivre," Arthur Rimbaud

Pierre-Christian Anfosso introduced an unusual iris in 1982. Several growers, mostly on the West Coast, commented favorably on it at that time. The iris has a nicely formed flower, but its color—pinkish gray with a blue spot beneath a gray beard—is what gives this iris distinction. I have long thought one reason that this iris did not gain greater popularity in the U.S. is its name: 'Bateau Ivre.' The name, which means "drunken boat," is without significance for anyone not familiar with French literature, which—let's face it—means most Americans. Paradoxically, the name has great appeal among the French and those who speak French. It is the title of a poem by Arthur Rimbaud. The poem is one of the masterpieces of French literature.

The history of the iris 'Bateau Ivre' illustrates that names of irises are important. A beautiful or well-chosen name will not gain awards for a faulty iris, but an unfamiliar or unappealing name can work against a superior iris's winning popularity. Although I would not wish that 'Bateau Ivre' had some other name, I suspect my fondness for names with literary allusions has overwhelmed my logic. There is comfort in knowing that the name 'Bateau Ivre' is particularly apt for an iris originating in France.

What is a good name for an iris? A good name has panache. It delivers a punch. It gets attention. Iris enthusiasts make labels for their irises in the garden, and many of them have an aversion to long names. So, short names are generally preferable to names with many letters. It is also true that the appeal of names is different for different individuals. The trick is to select names that appeal to most people. A really good name creates a favorable impression even before anyone sees the iris.

'Vanity' is a wonderful name because it is short and implies an iris that is so beautiful that it can be vain. 'Beverly Sills' seems to me to be a superb name because it allows the iris to bask in the popularity of the charming, talented diva whose effervescent personality gained her the nickname "Bubbles." The popularity of the singer was further exploited when a sibling of the iris 'Beverly Sills' was given the name 'Pink Bubbles.' The late Ben Hager, who had a flair for coming up with apt and elegant names, bred and named these outstanding irises. Two Dykes Memorial Medal winners and a Knowlton Medal winner! Not bad!

Two of Ben Hager's reblooming irises with appealing names are 'Feed Back' and 'Total Recall.' These names reflect a high degree of originality, and at the same time almost scream: "Rebloom!"

Terry Aitken is another hybridizer who has a talent for choosing interesting names. Last year I complimented him on the name of his 2000 introduction 'Highland Games.' If you have seen this beautiful iris in bloom, you will not likely forget its name. The unique colors of the flower, rose lavender standards and soft orange falls blending to a rose lavender rim, give the impression of a Scottish plaid. 'Highland Games,' indeed!

Another Aitken iris whose name is particularly appropriate is the standard dwarf 'Pele.' Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire, is associated with volcanoes, and the vibrantly colored iris 'Pele,' orange with a bright purple spot and coral beards, explodes into bloom—a little volcano in the garden. The name 'Pele' also has a special relevance for sports fans because of the famed Brazilian 'god of football' whose name it shares.

<sup>1</sup> Si je desire une eau d'Europe, c'est la flache  
Noire et froide où vers le crepuscule embaumé  
Un enfant accroupi plein de tristesses, lâche  
Un bateau frêle comme un papillon de mai.

Terry Aiken's fluorescent peach-pink 'Chariots of Fire,' introduced in 2000, has a name rich in allusion. *Chariots of Fire* is the title of the 1981 Academy Award-winning movie. It is almost impossible to recall the film *Chariots of Fire* without also recalling the ebullient theme music by Vangelis. The title of the movie is derived from a line in the hymn *Jerusalem*, another song featured in the film. The lyrics of *Jerusalem* are a poem by William Blake.<sup>2</sup> The hymn was originally an anthem of the women's movement in England. It has become an English national hymn.

As if these were not enough allusions for one name, the term 'chariot of fire' in Blake's poem refers to the biblical story of Elijah who was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind on a chariot of fire.<sup>3</sup>

When actor-writer Colin Welland used "Chariots of Fire" as the title for the movie, he was alluding to the heroes of his story who were two very fast English runners. Eric Liddel and Harold Abrahams were so fast, in fact, that they both won Gold Medals in the 1924 Olympic games.

The reason 'Chariots of Fire' is a good name is that it appeals to many different people at several different levels. Movie lovers and sports enthusiasts are likely to react favorably to the name. Fans of the theme music from the movie will like the name. People who are fond of the hymn *Jerusalem* or who admire the poetry of Blake will recognize the allusions and find the name appealing. This includes almost the entire English nation! Those who like biblical names, and there are many who do, will respond favorably to the allusion to Elijah. The *coup de main* is this: the name connotes speed and heat and thus suggests an iris that is bright, colorful, and vibrant.

The iris hybridizing team of Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer has been successfully tapping the titles of Gaelic dance tunes to come up with some delightful Siberian iris names. Some of my favorites are 'Roaring Jelly,' 'Lady Walpole,' 'Dandy's Hornpipe,' and 'Devil's Dream.' Although fully deserving of the Morgan-Wood Medal it won, the iris 'Roaring Jelly' was almost certainly aided in its rise to stardom by its attention-getting name.

There is one name that the Sacks-Schafer team gave to a white and yellow Siberian iris that I like more than

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<sup>2</sup> And did those feet in ancient time,  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the Holy Lamb of God  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among these dark satanic mills?  
Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land

<sup>3</sup> And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. *II Kings* (2:11), King James Version.



any other. It makes me want to launch into a jig every time I hear it or see it written. It is 'Mairi's Wedding.'<sup>4</sup> I do not know if this name appeals to the general public, but I do know that anyone with a Gaelic heart has to love it. My Gaelic heart tells me that this name has served a worthy purpose if it causes even a few people to be introduced to that lilting tune that in Gaelic is *Màiri Bhàn*:

Step we gaily on we go  
Heel for heel and toe for toe  
Arm in arm and row on row  
All for Mairi's wedding.

The world of music provides a rich source of good iris names. Lynda Miller has taken advantage of the popularity of rock and roll music by using the names of rock groups for some of her irises. 'Bangles,' the exquisite miniature tall bearded (MTB) iris that has won so many awards, has a name made famous by the female rock group known for its Beatlesque harmonies. Exploiting the popularity of her own iris 'Bangles' and the world of show tunes, Lynda cleverly used the name 'Baubles and Beads' for a subsequent introduction, a gold and black MTB iris that won an Award of Merit in 2002. The name is derived from the song "Baubles, Bangles and Beads" from the musical *Kismet*. Another of Lynda's MTBs whose name is derived from a rock group is the lovely plicata 'Ace.'

My friend Lloyd Zurbrigg once told me that he grew the historic iris 'Maestro Puccini' long after other light blue irises with improved form had come on the market because of his love of Puccini's music. Lloyd, an emeritus professor of music, has nonetheless often chosen names for his irises that have no musical allusion. His choice of the name 'Immortality' for an elegant white reblooming iris was an inspiration. The name has only positive connotations, and is fairly short and memorable.

There is a story about 'Immortality' that is not so positive. Lloyd was appalled one day to find that the name of his iris was misspelled on a sign in Frank Jones's garden. Lloyd's great iris masterpiece had become 'Immoral-ity.' Frank, with profuse apologies, changed the name sign.

Lloyd has often chosen names for his irises as tributes to loved ones or to honor people he respects. Each of his three daughters has a beautiful reblooming iris named in her honor: rosy pink 'Jennifer Rebecca'; orange-apricot 'Amanda Erin'; and lovely wisteria blue 'Bethany Claire.' A sibling of 'Immortality' is the white rebloomer 'Brother Carl.' Lloyd's mother is honored with an exquisite bluish white iris with violet beards. It is unfortunate that 'Margaret Viola White' never gained the popularity that it merited.

An iris named for someone we love or respect will usually not get special attention because of its name unless the namesake is someone famous or widely known and loved in the world of irises, such as 'Rosalie Figge.' I realized this when I named irises for my mother, sister, wife and daughter, and I am certain Dr. Zurbrigg realizes it as well. Sometimes a good iris name is simply what pleases the hybridizer.

I once saw on the sports page of *The Washington Post* that a horse named "Keystone Progress" had won a major race at Meadowlands racetrack. This gained my attention because I had just bought a new tall bearded iris named 'Keystone Progress' from Evelyn Kegerise. (It is a very nice ruffled blue iris.) I checked the *Registrations and Introductions* booklets and noted that several of Evelyn's irises had the names of racehorses. Later, when I saw Evelyn, I mentioned this, and she confirmed that she used the racing news as a major source for names. You can find iris names in unusual places.

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<sup>4</sup> The name "Mairi" in English is "Mary" or "Marie," and you will often find the name of the song written as "Marie's Wedding." If you would like to hear the music and read all the lyrics, there is a page on the Internet where you can do this: <http://www.barrvillage.co.uk/mairi.htm>.

If you are looking for a name for your wonderful new seedling, there are a number of approaches you can take. If you want to use the name to emphasize the fact that the iris reblooms, go to the thesaurus. Look under "return," "repeat," "echo," "reiterate," and other words that denote or connote a second coming, a double reward, a second happening. Ask an English teacher or someone who is especially knowledgeable of classic literature for suggestions. Children are a wonderful source of inventive names. Challenge a group of children to come up with a name. You might be amazed at the results.

Shakespeare is always an excellent source for good names. Another source is a collection of great poems. This can be illustrated by the excerpt of the poem *Bateau Ivre* at the beginning of this article. Would not "Butterfly in May" be a lovely name for a Siberian or miniature tall bearded iris?

A well-written movie script can provide interesting names. When I was watching the musical *Moulin Rouge*, for about the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> time, I started taking notes of possible names for irises and came up with five good ones. A few days ago I wrote down several possible names while viewing a movie that I have seen many times: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It does not matter what type of movie you use to search for names. If the movie script is written well, there will be poetry; where there is poetry there are potential names of irises to be discovered.

A name can gain attention for a new iris. Sometimes a name that seems less than appealing can actually be an asset because of its shock value, and I would suggest this is the case of the spectacularly beautiful iris with the outrageous name 'Baboon Bottom.' Then again, who could have imagined that a reblooming iris named 'Clarence' would make it to the American Iris Society's list of 100 most popular tall bearded irises? There's a shocker for you!

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## Marj on Medians

By Marjorie A. Jansen

Reprinted from the Region 21 Bulletin Spring 2003

At this point (January,) the iris are snugly tucked under a blanket of snow cover, something that has been noticeably absent in recent Nebraska winters. So for a change, weather conditions are presently normal. But as we all know, with our capricious weather patterns and notorious January thaws, next week could bring entirely different weather conditions. While normal weather conditions are fine for iris, they can be trying for a gardener who must either endure the cold or opt for indoor activities. Being on the wimpy side, I prefer huddling next to the thermostat and taking a mental journey back to the warmer days of the past bloom season. My most recent memories concern the fall blooming iris of a few short months ago.

Usually, I'm allotted one rebloomer per season, not counting CONSTANT COMPANION, which I've come to take for granted when it comes to rebloom. If anything else reblooms, it's an unexpected bonus. This year there were TWO rebloomers!

First was an IB, FAST FORWARD (Aitken 02). What a surprise this was. Planted in July and, to my delight, it was sending up a bloom stalk by September 1. Delight soon became concern when I noticed that there were no increases. Was this going to be a one time performance followed by bloom out? My fears were soon eased when several increases appeared. FAST FORWARD, being advertised as a strong rebloomer was purchased to keep CONSTANT COMPANION company. A child of Allan Ensminger's reblooming SDB, WHAT AGAIN, it shares the parental coloring of lavender-blue standards and yellow-tan falls in slightly lighter tones. Grasshoppers found the bloom stalk tasty so it was brought inside. I've noticed fall blooming iris suffer more insect damage than spring bloomers. This is probably due to a greater insect

population later in the season or perhaps some species have not yet appeared when spring bloom occurs.

Assuming I'd had my rebloom fix for 2002, it was a pleasant surprise on October 2 to discover MDB, ROYAL MAROON (Spoon '01), sporting a bloom. Although it had developed into a husky clump, ROYAL MAROON had failed to bloom in the spring, so technically this couldn't be considered rebloom. ROYAL MAROON is a wine-purple self with peachy style arms peeking from the heart of the blossom. Minor characteristics and details that might go unnoticed when hundreds of iris are blooming in the busy spring season seem more apparent and appreciated when there are only a few iris to enjoy. October 17 the second bloom on ROYAL Maroon's stalk opened, followed by a third one on October 23. As if this were not enough, a rhizome dug from this clump in August for a friend bloomed on October 15.

Due to the weather, the stalk of ROYAL MAROON did have to open its final blooms inside. If you recall, October was unseasonably cold with periods of snow. At least, the weather finally put an end to those awful grasshoppers.

While I certainly can't fault ROYAL MAROON's fall blooming performance, I do wonder why it was registered as a MDB. It neither looks nor acts like one. It is SDB size, both parents are SDB's, and it has three buds, a rarity in MDBs.

Ironically, CONSTANT COMPANION had nary a stalk of rebloom this past year, probably due to benign neglect. It is still growing in its original spot in an ever-expanding clump. I'm always reluctant to dig into it for fear of disrupting rebloom. But this year CONSTANT COMPANION and FAST FORWARD have been planted together in a new spot and I'm expecting great rebloom from the both of them.

By the time you read this, snow and winter will probably be a thing of the past. Instead of relying on memories of past bloom, we'll be looking forward to bloom season 2003 and storing up memories to sustain us in the coming winter.

### **Assistance Needed**

Harold Clemens has asked for our help in locating irises of all types which have Barbara or Dawn in their name as his daughters are named Barbara and Dawn. AIS has listed about 24 introduced Barbara's and about 140 introduced Dawn's. He is especially looking for BARBARA '39, BARBARA DAWN (Neubert '73) and CRYSTAL DAWN (Rudolph 75).

If you have any of these irises or know where they might be found, please contact Harold.

Harold Clemens  
500 Maple Ave  
Wilmington De 19809  
ph 302 764 4223  
e-mail h.clem@verizon.net

## Sharing Rebloom

Robin Shadlow

One of the highlights for me at last year's national convention was the wonderful garden next to the railroad tracks, which was maintained by the West Tennessee Iris Society. This garden wasn't on the tour the first day, but our bus drove by it and of course, such a lovely display caught my eye.

Realizing that it was on the same road as the Botanical Gardens, I decided that there was still enough daylight to venture out and try and find my way back there. (As if spending 10 hours that day admiring the beautiful guest gardens wasn't enough.)

The club had planted the guest irises in the center, and after I fell head over heels for Ghio's AMIABLE, I found many rebloomers planted in the perimeter beds. ALL AMERICAN, PEARLS OF AUTUMN and CANTINA were putting on lovely displays. (After seeing AMIABLE, I decided that I was going to get back in time to bid on it in the silent auction. Of course finding the garden was easier than finding my way back to the hotel through the construction site. I managed to get back just in time to hear them close down the bidding, darn.)

As it was getting dark, a car pulled up and a young man asked me if I knew anything about irises. He told me that he had often admired this garden and that he had even seen irises bloom here in the fall. The club keeps a nice iris-themed mailbox with information inside near the parking area. I suggested that he take some information and look into the club and its sale. We talked for a bit and he was amazed to learn that I had driven all the way from Omaha to see irises. I suppose I might have warned him about the risks of iris virus, but I think it was too late. He was already showing many of the symptoms. This experience really convinced me of the value of public gardens in promoting irises.

In Omaha, our club has established a garden at Mahoney State Park. It's just west of Omaha less than one mile off of I-80. If you are driving through Nebraska in May, we hope that you take a few minutes and stop by to visit. The club has put together a Dykes bed and a Sass Memorial Garden. There are over a hundred of the Sass brothers' introductions planted there.

Last summer the president proposed that we add a reblooming bed to the garden. Just the opportunity I was looking for! The club donated many rhizomes from its sale and I dug as many as I could scrounge up of the newer reblooming cultivars I had.

Even though we didn't get the bed set until August, a valiant stalk of Baby Blessed opened on Halloween. This was in spite of many nights of frost before it bloomed. We hope that come next September and October we will have many more reblooming.

We will weed, fertilize and divide as needed, but the park rangers do water for us when it gets too dry in the summer. The proceeds from selling the divisions will be a plus for the club since rebloomers have sold well at our sales. When fall comes, we hope that the garden will expose many new people to rebloomers. Maybe I'll even overhear someone wonder out loud, "What do you think is wrong with those irises?"

### Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

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IRISES & ORCHIDS



## 2003 INTRODUCTIONS BY FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

**BLUE ON BLUE** (J. Roberts '03) 37" M. Seedling #1699-6: (1315-6: In Reverse x 791-4: (Twice Delightful x Joan's Pleasure) X 791-10 sib to I Repeat)). A huge clump of this blooming during the National Convention caught the eye of many garden visitors. A new blue iris of outstanding floriferousness, making it a great garden iris. Medium blue standards and pale blue lightly ruffled, wide falls with pale yellow beards. Excellent branching sporting eight buds. Although this has not rebloomed for us, it may in warmer climates. \$35.00

**GETTYSBURG ADDRESS** (J. Roberts '03) 36" ML. Seedling #743-1. Last year this had the best branching in the garden which insured its introduction. This cross between ENCHANTING and HONKY TONK BLUES seems to have everything we could ask for except rebloom. The form is excellent. Light greyed yellow stands, medium electric blue falls with an edge and reverse of the standard color. For an added touch the hafts are red violet. \$35.00

**GLADIATRIX** (Zurbrigg '03) 37" EM. & RE. Seedling 34" EM. # OO 26-1-2. Dark red-wine markings on a yellow background suggested the name for this brilliant iris. It has excellent form, good stalks and reblooms in Region 4 and Pennsylvania. Its pollen parent, ROCK STAR, is the best-growing Gigolo seedling I have grown, and the pod parent is my NORTHWARD HO, a very reliable plant and excellent rebloomer. This iris also has good fertility. \$35.00

*Lloyd Zurbrigg*

**I'M REDDY** (J. Roberts '03) 36" M. Seedling # 1668-3: (Ostentatious X OO 43 Vivid: (OO 26-3-4 Horns: (Northward Ho x Rock Star) X OO 26-5-2). The name was suggested by my loving and gracious mentor Rosalie Figge. I'M REDDY is a good approach to a red iris. Actually the background is golden yellow which is almost completely covered by brilliant wine red plicata markings, lighter on the standards. Yellow beards are surrounded by bright yellow rays on the falls. Form is excellent and the bud count averages 7. Coveted by garden visitors last year. \$40.00

**SILVER TRUMPETS** (Zurbrigg '03) 37" L. Seedling #PP 56 W.P. 36" ML. : (NN 32-2-3, Baby's Nook sib, X Mesmerizer). Here is a stately iris with huge, well-formed trumpets of silver-white. This statuesque beauty seems to be sculpted from marble. The beards, red-orange, whiter at the end, are largely hidden by the huge flounces, which have a unique feature. Below the flounce is a "spur" that is equipped with a tiny trough, and into this trough the trumpet-shaped flounce rests! Everything about this iris is A-1. When first I saw it, I dubbed it "White Perfection". Fortunately it is midseason in its blooming, very flaring. Good fertility. \$35.00

**SWINGING LADY** (J. Roberts '03) 37" M. Seedling # 1521-29. Swingtown X Lady Claire. The name was suggested by our friend Gail Griffie. Tall beautiful red-violet with a violet blaze on the falls around the violet beards. Excellent branch with 7 buds. Lots of ruffles and some lace. \$35.00

## FRIENDSHIP GARDENS

341 Schwartz Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 717-334-2400

# 2003 Reblooming Symposium

USDA ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Vote only for varieties that have rebloomed for you at least once in the last 3 years or that you have seen reblooming in your area. Place an X in front of each of your selections. Vote for no more than 40 Tall Bearded varieties, including write-ins. Vote for no more than 20 Medians including write-ins. Vote for not more than 10 Beardless varieties including write-ins. Historic write-ins are limited to 25 votes. The second member of family membership should use an O to designate votes, third and so on should use a number (1,2,3etc.) All voters should sign the ballot. Please list your USDA Hardiness Zone. If you are not familiar with your zone, list county and state you live in.

RETURN BY JUNE 1, 2003

## TALL BEARDED

AARON'S DREAM  
AGAIN AND AGAIN  
ALL AMERICAN  
ALL LIT UP  
AMAIN  
AMANDA ERIN  
AMERICA'S TEAM  
AMETHYST WINTER  
ANGELIC WINGS  
ANXIOUS  
ASCII ART  
AUNT MARY  
AUTUMN BUGLER  
AUTUMN CIRCUS  
AUTUMN CLOUDS  
AUTUMN ECHO  
AUTUMN ENCORE  
AUTUMN GRANDEUR  
AUTUMN HARBOR  
AUTUMN MISTS  
AUTUMN SAPPHIRE  
AUTUMN THUNDER  
AUTUMN TRYST  
AZURE REPRISE  
BARN DANCE  
BELVI CLOUD  
BELVI QUEEN  
BERNICE'S LEGACY  
BEST BET  
BILLIONAIRE  
BLATANT  
BLAZING SUNRISE  
BLUE ANEW  
BLUE CANDLE  
BLUE FIN  
BLUE MOONLIGHT  
BLUE REVIEW  
BLUE SUEDE SHOES  
BOLDER BOULDER  
BONET  
BONUS LITE  
BONUS MAMA

BOOMERANG  
BOUNTIFUL HARVEST  
BRASS HORN  
BRIDGE IN TIME  
BROTHER CARL  
BROWN DUET  
BUCKWHEAT  
BYE BYE BLACKBIRD  
CAFE BLEU  
CANTINA  
CARIBBEAN DREAM  
CAROLINE GIBBS  
CAYENNE CAPERS  
CEASE-FIRE  
CEE CEE  
CELESTIAL HAPPINESS  
CELESTIAL SUNSHINE  
CERDAGNE  
CERTAINLY CERTAINLY  
CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE  
CHASTE WHITE  
CHEROKEE TEARS  
CHILI PEPPER  
CHINESE EMPRESS  
CHRISTOPHER  
COLUMBUS  
CIRCUS JEWEL  
CLARENCE  
CLOUD CAP GALILEE  
CLOUDLESS SUNRISE  
COBRA'S EYE  
COLORWATCH  
COME WHAT MAY  
COMPETITION  
CORAL CHALICE  
CORAL CHARMER  
CORN HARVEST  
CREATION TWILIGHT  
CRUISE TO AUTUMN  
CRYSTAL HONEY  
DANCE FOR JOY  
DANTE'S INFERNO  
DARK PASSAGE

DASHING  
DAUGHTER OF STARS  
DAWN OF FALL  
DAYS OF SUMMER  
DEB SUNSHINE  
DECKER  
DESTROY RIDES AGAIN  
DIAMOND BLUSH  
DIFFERENT DESIGN  
DO IT AGAIN  
DORCAS LIVES AGAIN  
DOUBLE CHARM  
DOUBLE DAY  
DOUBLE DRIBBLE  
DOUBLE OH SEVEN  
DOUBLE SCOOP  
DOUBLE SHOT  
DOUBLE VISION  
DUKE OF EARL  
DUNE SEA  
DUO DANDY  
EARL OF ESSEX  
EGGNOG  
ELAINEALOPE  
ENCHANTED ONE  
ENGLISH COTTAGE  
ENGLISH KNIGHT  
ENTERTAINER  
ETERNAL BLISS  
ETERNAL WALTZ  
EVELYN WARLICK  
EXTRA INNINGS  
FAITHFUL AND TRUE  
FALL PRIMROSE  
FALL RERUN  
FALL SPOTLIGHT  
FEED BACK  
FINAL EPISODE  
FIRE ON ICE  
FLOORSHOW  
FOREVER GOLD  
FOREVER IN LOVE  
FOREVER YOURS

FORT BRAGG  
FRAPPE  
FREQUENT FLYER  
FROST ECHO  
FROSTICO  
GARDEN CLUB DELIGHT  
GENTEEL  
GIBSON GIRL  
GILDED  
GLACIER KING  
GOLD BURST  
GOLDEN ECSTASY  
GOLDEN ENCORE  
GOLDEN GALAXY  
GOLDEN IMMORTAL  
GOLDEN ROAD  
GOOD FAIRY  
GRACE THOMAS  
GRAPE ADVENTURE  
GRAPE ECHO  
GRAPE REPRISE  
GREEN AND GIFTED  
HALLOWED THOUGHT  
HALLOWEEN HALO  
HAND PAINTED  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
HARVEST BUTTERFLY  
HARVEST OF MEMORIES  
HEART OF ICE  
HEAVENLY BLISS  
HEAVENLY ENCORE  
HEMSTITCHED  
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS  
HIGH HO SILVER  
HIGH IMPACT  
HIGH POINT  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
HOLY NIGHT  
I DO  
ICELAND  
ILLNI REPEATER  
IMMORTALITY  
INNOCENT STAR



IN RETROSPECT  
 INVITATION  
 I REPEAT  
 IRON EAGLE  
 ISTANBUL  
 JEAN GUYMER  
 JENNIFER REBECCA  
 JESSE'S EDITION  
 JOAN'S PLEASURE  
 JUICY FRUIT  
 JULY SUNSHINE  
 JUNGLE CAT  
 KISS ME TWICE  
 KISS OF KISSES  
 LADY ESSEX  
 LADY JEAN  
 LAKE REPRISE  
 LAS VEGAS  
 LATE LILAC  
 LEDGENDS OF FALL  
 LEMON DUET  
 LEMON MAGIC  
 LEMON REFLECTION  
 LIBRA STAR  
 LICHEN  
 LIGHTNING STRIKE  
 LIGHT REBUFF  
 LILLA  
 LILLA'S GLOVES  
 LILLA'S STRIPES  
 LILTING  
 LORNA'S JUNEBUG  
 LOVELY FRAN  
 LUMINOSITY  
 MAGICAL ENCOUNTER  
 MAGIC MEMORIES  
 MANY HAPPY RETURNS  
 MARIPOSA AUTUMN  
 MARIPOSA SKIES  
 MATRIX  
 MESMERIZER  
 MIDNIGHT CALLER  
 MIDNIGHT MINK  
 MIGHTY COOL  
 MIL BYERS  
 MISS PORTERVILLE  
 MISTY LADY  
 MISTY TWILIGHT  
 MOTHER EARTH  
 MOTHER EVE SMILES  
 MT. SINAI AFLAME  
 MULBERRY ECHO  
 MY FRIEND JOHN-  
 THAN  
 MYSTERY BLUSH  
 NEXT IN LINE  
 NORTHERN FLAME  
 NORTHWARD HO  
 NOW AND LATER  
 OASIS RED  
 OCEAN PACIFIC  
 OCTOBER  
 OCTOBER SKY

OFF BROADWAY  
 OKLAHOMA CRUDE  
 OLYMPIC RINGS  
 ONCE AGAIN  
 ORANGE HARVEST  
 ORCHID CLOUD  
 PAGAN GODDESS  
 PALISSANDRO  
 PAPRIKA FONO'S  
 PEACH BERRY SWIRL  
 PEACH JAM  
 PEARL AMELIA  
 PEARLS OF AUTUMN  
 PEPPER BLEND  
 PERFUME COUNTER  
 PINK ATTRACTION  
 PINKNESS  
 PLATINUM  
 POLISH PRINCESS  
 POORMAN  
 PORCELAIN FRILLS  
 PRECIOUS HARVEST  
 PRICILLA OF CORINTH  
 PRINCESS PITY PAT  
 PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE  
 PURE AS GOLD  
 PURPLE MAGIC  
 QUEEN DOROTHY  
 RAFA  
 RASPBERRY FROST  
 RAVEN'S RETURN  
 RAVENWOOD  
 REBOUND  
 RECONSIDERED  
 RECURRING DREAM  
 RECURRING FANTASY  
 RECURRING RUFFLES  
 REDELTA  
 RED MANTLE  
 RED REVIVAL  
 REINCARNATION  
 REMARKABLE  
 REMEMBER SPRING  
 RENOWN  
 RETURN ADDRESS  
 RETURNING CHAME-  
 LEON  
 RETURNING ROSE  
 RETURN OF INNOCENCE  
 RETURN TO SENDER  
 ROCK STAR  
 ROMATIC EVENING  
 RONEY'S ENCORE  
 ROSALIE FIGGE  
 ROSE TEALL  
 ROTUNDA  
 ROYAL COURTSHIP  
 ROYAL SUMMER  
 SAXON  
 SCANDIA DELIGHT  
 SCORPIO STAR  
 SEA DOUBLE  
 SEA FLUFF

SEA WORLD  
 SEASONS  
 SECOND ACT  
 SECOND FIDDLE  
 SECOND LOOK  
 SECOND WIND  
 SEPTEMBER FROST  
 SEPTEMBER REPLAY  
 SIGN OF LEO  
 SIGN OF VIRGO  
 SILVER DIVIDENDS  
 SILVER SCREEN  
 SISTER MIRIAM SINGS  
 SKOOKUMCHUCK  
 SLAP STICK  
 SNOW IN SUMMER  
 SNOW PARASOL  
 SOAP OPERA  
 SOLSTICE  
 SONATA IN BLUE  
 SPACE PIRATE  
 SPEED LIMIT  
 SPEEDING AGAIN  
 SPICY TWIST  
 SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS  
 ST. PETERSBURG  
 STARSHIP  
 STELLAR LIGHTS  
 STING RAY  
 STONEWASHED  
 SUGAR BLUES  
 SUKY  
 SUMMER FROST  
 SUMMER HOLIDAY  
 SUMMER OLYMPICS  
 SUMMER STAR  
 SUMMER SURF  
 SUNMASTER  
 SUNNY DISPOSITION  
 SUNNY SHOULDERS  
 SUNRISE IN EDEN  
 SWEETHEART RING  
 SYLVAN  
 SYLVIA ANN  
 TANG FIZZ  
 TAURUS  
 TEA LEAVES  
 TEMPERANCE  
 TENDERLY  
 TENNISON RIDGE  
 TEST PATTERN  
 TEXAS NIGHT  
 THEN AGAIN  
 THREE SEASONS  
 THUNDER MOUNTAIN  
 TIME AND AGAIN  
 TOTAL RECALL  
 TOUCH OF SPRING  
 TRECCIA D'ORO  
 TRICK OR TREAT  
 TUDOR RUFFLES  
 TWICE DELIGHTFUL  
 TWICE TOLD  
 TWILIGHT FANCIES

UNBELIEVABLE LOVE  
 UNCHAINED MELODY  
 VANILLA ROUGE  
 VICTORIA FALLS  
 VIOLET CLASSIC  
 VIOLET MIRACLE  
 VIOLET MUSIC  
 VIOLET REPRISE  
 VIOLET RETURNS  
 VIOLET TURNER  
 WALTZ ACROSS TEXAS  
 WAVES OF GRAIN  
 WELCOM DISCOVERY  
 WELCOME HOME  
 WHITE REPRISE  
 WINDS OF CHANGE  
 WINESAP  
 WINTERLAND  
 WINTER QUEEN  
 WITCH OF ENDOR  
 WRIGHT FLYER  
 ZIGGY  
 ZURICH

TB WRITE-INS

**BORDER BEARDED**  
 ALTAR FIRE  
 APRICOT FROSTY  
 AUTUMN ORANGELITE  
 BABY BENGAL  
 BRIGHT AND SUNNY  
 BROADWAY DOLL  
 CAMEO BLUSH  
 CHAMPAGNE JUNIOR  
 COLOR BRIT  
 DOUBLE UP  
 FAUX PAS  
 FLAVOURS  
 HEADLINE BANNER  
 JAZZ STAR  
 LATE MAGIC  
 LEAH TRADED  
 LENORA PEARL  
 LITTLE SUSIE  
 LUCIE ANDRY  
 MARMALADE SKIES  
 MIDSUMMER'S EVE  
 MINI CHAMPAGNE  
 MISS SCARLET  
 MOUSE  
 OCTOBER SPLENDOR  
 PEACH PARSOL  
 PERSIMMON PIE

PET KIN  
PINK CADILLAC  
PINK PARCHMENT  
PINK REPRISE  
PREPPY  
RIELLE  
SHEBA'S FLAME  
SONJA'S SELAH  
SPIT FIRE  
STANZA  
STRAWBERRY APRICOT  
ULTRA ECHO  
WATERS OF MIRABA  
WHOO 'EM UP

BB WRITE-INS

**INTERMEDIATE**

**BEARDED**

ALENTEJO  
ABBAY CHANT  
ANGEL HEART  
BLACK MAGIC  
BLESSED AGAIN  
BLESSED ASSURANCE  
BOUNTIFUL BLUE  
BRIGHT EYES  
CANDY FLOSS  
CANDY ROCK  
CHAMPAGNE ENCORE  
CHERRY SUPREME  
CINNAMON FLASH  
CONCERTINA  
CONCOCTION  
CONSTANT  
COMPANION  
DOUBLE YOUR FUN  
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT  
ERECT  
EVER COOL  
FLAMBÉ  
FOND REMBRANCE  
GLORIOUS DAY  
GOOD DAY SUNSHINE  
HALLOWEEN  
RAINBOW  
HI  
HISSY-FIT  
HONEY GLAZED  
I BLESS  
IT'S A GIGGLE  
JOY BOAT  
LIKE A CHARM  
LOW HO SILVER  
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S  
DREAM  
PALM SPRINGS  
PINK KITTEN  
PRECIOUS LITTLE PINK

PROMISES PROMISES  
RHEA PEERZ  
RIDDLE  
SANGREAL  
SEASON TICKET  
SIXTEEN CANDLES  
SMUG  
SOUTHLAND  
TAWNY  
TIE DYED TYKE  
ULTRA  
VINTAGE PRESS  
VIPER  
WINTER PEARL  
WARM PUPPY

IB WRITE-INS

**MINIATURE TALL**

**BEARDED**

CLAIRE DOODLE  
EMMA DOODLE  
LADY EMMA  
MERIT  
OZARK EVENING  
RAVE REVIEW  
SMASH

MTB WRITE-INS

**MINIATURE DWARF**

**BEARDED**

BEBEITO  
DITTO  
DOOZEY  
GNUZ SPREAD  
GRAPELET  
VELVET TOY  
WISE

MDB WRITE-INS

**STANDARD DWARF**

**BEARDED**

ALENE'S OTHER LOVE  
AURORALITA  
AUTUMN EMBER  
AUTUMN JESTER  
AUTUMN MAPLE  
BABY BELLE  
BABY BLESSED  
BABY BOOM  
BABY CAKES  
BABY PRINCE  
BABY TEARS  
BE HAPPY  
BLISSSED OUT  
BLITZ  
CIMARRON ROSE  
CAUTION SIGN  
CINDERS  
COMEBACK TRAIL  
CORNHUSKER AUTUMN  
CRY BABY  
DARK CRYSTAL  
DARKLING  
DOUBLE BYTE  
EVER READY  
EXTRA CHARM  
FLOWER SHOWER  
FOREVER BLUE  
FRANKINCENSE  
GIGGLER  
GLITTER BIT  
GOLDEN CHILD  
GOLDEN GLOBE  
GOLDEN GLOVES  
GOLDEN VIOLET  
GRANDMA AMANDA  
GRAPE CORDIAL  
GRAY POUPON  
HAVEN  
HOT  
INDIAN BEAUTY  
INDIAN JEWEL  
INKLING  
JEWEL BABY  
JEWEL OF JAKARTA  
IRISH CHANT  
KIWI SLICES  
LIMESICLE  
LITTLE BISHOP  
LITTLE BLUETS  
LITTLE BLUE EYES  
LITTLE SAPPHIRE  
LITTLE SHOWOFF  
LITTLE VIOLET CHARM  
MARITA  
MILANO  
MINI BUSY  
MINI MIGHT  
NEGRA MODELO  
OXFORD TWEEDS  
PINK FAWN  
PLUM WINE  
PRETTY AGAIN

PRETTY GIRL  
PRINCE PELE  
PRINCESS BLUE EYES  
RAINBOW SHERBET  
RECURRENT EVENT  
REFINED  
REHASH  
RE-PLEAT  
SENECA REBOUND  
SERENITY PRAYER  
SILK AND VELVET  
SLICK TRICK  
SMELL THE ROSES  
SPARK PLUG  
STAR PRINCE  
SUNDOLL  
SUN STRIP  
TANTALIZING TIDBIT  
TART  
THIRD CHARM  
THIRD WORLD  
THRICE BLESSED  
TU TU TURQUOISE  
TWICE BLESSED  
TWINKLE TWINKLE  
WEE BONNIE LASSIE  
WHAT AGAIN  
WILLOW MIST  
WIZARD OF HOPE  
WIZARD'S RETURN

SDB WRITE-INS

**JAPANESE**

EXUBERANT CHANTEY  
FAIRYTALE PRINCESS  
PRAIRIE MANTLE  
PURPLE PLUS  
ROYAL CROWN  
SAKURAGAI  
SOUTHERN SON  
TAFFETA AND VELVET  
THOROBRED  
TRIPLE TREAT  
VARIATION IN PINK

JP WRITE-INS

LOUISIANA  
BLUE DUKE  
FOR DAD

NUCOTE  
RED ECHO  
REGAL RICOCHET

LA WRITE-INS

**SPECIES/CALIFORNIAE**

ARCTIC REBLOOMER  
CHIEF SEQUOIA  
COOK'S BROTH  
FRESH CREAM  
GAMBLIN BLUE  
KING CLOVIS  
LINDA WEST

SPEC/CAL WRITE-INS

**SIBERIANS**

CARELESS SALLY  
CHARTREUSE BOUNTY  
CREME CHANTILLY  
DANDY'S HORNPIPE  
EARLY BLUEBIRD  
EVER AGAIN  
GLOW OF HAPPINESS  
HARBOR MIST  
HARPSWELL PRELUDE  
HELICOPTER  
HELIOTROPE BOUQUET  
LUCKY LILAC  
MY LOVE  
OTETOPO HONEY  
PINK HAZE  
PURPLE SAND  
REDDY OR NOT  
REPRISE  
RUBY RUBY  
SLIGHTLY ENVIOUS  
SEA OF DREAMS  
SPRING BROOK  
SUMMER REVELS  
WHITE PRELUDE

SIB WRITE-INS

HISTORICAL WRITE-INS

(Cultivars introduced prior to  
1970 and not listed elsewhere  
on this ballot.)

**AIRL BREDS**  
AHMID BEY  
SHABAZA  
HAKUNA MATATA

AB WRITE-INS

**Return to:**

**Tim Stanek  
23329 Ellington Ave.  
Glenwood, IA 51534-5093**

Reblooming Iris Society  
Robin Shadlow  
16124 Shirley St.  
Omaha, Ne. 68130

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