

# THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

Spring 2011

*Journal of the Reblooming Iris Society*

Volume 77



Cameo Minx TB (*B. Blyth 2010/11*)



Mayfair Melody TB (*B. Blyth 2010/11*)



Sunday Concert TB (*B. Blyth 2010/11*)



Fashionista TB (*B. Blyth 2009/10*)





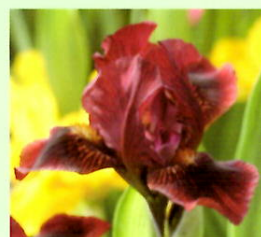
**Anne Lowe SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2011)



**Autumn Garnet TB**  
(D. Spoon 2011)



**Cara SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2011)



**Eric Simpson SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2011)



**Pom SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2011)



**Flo BB** (D. Spoon 2011)

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*Hundreds of Bearded Rebloomers Listed in Catalog!*

## 2011 Rebloom Introductions

**Anne Lowe** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-582REZ. **SDB**, 11" (28 cm), 2-3 buds, EM and **RE** (October in zone 6b). S., style arms, and F. yellow orange. Pinkish centers in standards. Falls have reddish maroon spot with darker veins and yellow orange midline. Prominent solid red-orange beards. Ruffled. Semi-flared falls. Erect standards. Very lightly laced. Laced style arm crests. Slight spicy fragrance. Fertile both ways. Hot Chic X Lumalite. \$20

**Autumn Garnet** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-99A. **TB**, 34" (86 cm), 7-9 buds, EM and **RE** (November in zone 6b). S. and style arms medium rosy pink. F. deep garnet with 1/8" medium rosy pink border. Rosy pink haft marks beside beards, white tipped red orange (RHS 41A). Ruffled. Semi-flared falls. Erect standards. Lightly laced. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Wise Wish X Cherry Glen. \$45

**Cara** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2004-14. **SDB**, 10" (25 cm), 2-3 buds, EM and **RE** (October in zone 6b). S., style arms, and F. intense pinkish orange. Lighter sun spray around solid red-orange (RHS 41A) beards. Ruffled. Wide, flared falls. Erect standards. Fertile both ways. Marksman X (Autumn Orange x sibling Autumn Tangerine). \$20

**Eric Simpson** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-575RER. **SDB**, 12" (30 cm), 2-3 buds, EM and **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. and style arms medium garnet red with style arms darker violet at midribs with white edges. F. Medium garnet red, spot with very dark garnet branching veins. Beards medium garnet red. Ruffled. Flared. Closed standards. Slight spicy fragrance. Fertile. SDB Hot Chic X MDB Royal Maroon. \$20

**Flo** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2004-197RE. **BB**, 20" (51 cm), 7-9 buds, EM and **RE** (September in zone 6b). S. light tan-yellow (RHS 162D) as are style arms with lavender midribs. F. lavender, darker in center, lighter around beards, darker veins. Haft and shoulders amber. Darker lavender hairline edge. Beards white tipped yellow-orange (23A), deeper orange in throat. Ruffled. Semi-flared falls. Domed standards. Diamond dusted. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. TB Cobra's Eye X BB Love Goes On. \$30

**Pom** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2004-RDRE. **SDB**, 9" (23 cm), 1-2 buds, EM and **RE** (October in zone 6b). Erect standards cranberry red. Style arms lighter cranberry red with darker midribs. F. cranberry red. Darker cranberry red and cream haft marks. Beards white tipped tangerine. Tailored petals. Flared. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Red Rabbit X Autumn Tangerine. \$20

**Ray Jones** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-416RE. **SDB**, 13" (33 cm), 2-3 buds, can produce two stalks from one rhizome. EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. and style arms intense yellow (RHS 17A). F. Falls more intense yellow giving bitone pattern. Beards yellow orange. Slightly ruffled. Flared. Slightly laced. Pronounced spicy fragrance. Olive Spot x Candy Corn sibling. \$20



**Ray Jones SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2011)

## 2010 Rebloom Introductions

**Blue Hues** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-392RBL/RE. **SDB**, 14" (36 cm), 2-3 buds, EM and **RE** (Nov. in zone 6b). S., erect light lavender-blue with violet blue at bases and midribs. Style arms lavender blue with light blue-green midline and pink edges. F. light lavender-blue with violet blue spot with light lavender-blue midline, turquoise around end of beards, green in hafts by middle of beards, grading to brown at base of beards. Beards tipped white with middle white tipped golden yellow darkening to yellow orange in throat. Ruffled and flared. Spicy fragrance. Fertile both ways. Blueberries sibling X Karen Jones. \$15

**Pink Puppy** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 93-10RE. **BB**, 23" (58 cm), 7-9 buds, EM and **RE** (November in zone 6b). Baby ribbon pink with darker fine veins, golden yellow on edges of petals and peach hafts. Tangerine beards. Closed standards and arched falls. Ruffled. Candelabra stalks. No fragrance. TB Roney's Encore X MTB Ozark Evening. \$20

**Winterberry** (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-99B. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), 7 buds, M and **RE** (November in zone 6b). Erect standards and wide, flaring falls rosy red with blend of currant red. Style arms lighter rosy-red with golden yellow on edges. Beards orange red darker in throat. Ruffled and laced. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Wise Wish X Cherry Glen. *Available in 2012.*

*Winter Hardy, Northern Virginia, Allegheny Mountain Range (zone 6b) hybridized bearded irises.*



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## Front Cover Photos:



**Cameo Minx TB RE**  
(B. Blyth 2010/11)



**Mayfair Melody TB RE**  
(B. Blyth 2010/11)



**Sunday Concert TB RE**  
(B. Blyth 2010/11)



**Fashionista TB RE**  
(B. Blyth 2010/11)

## Photo Credits:

Cameo Minx, C. Buchheim  
Mayfair Melody C. Buchheim  
Sunday Concert, C. Buchheim  
Fashionista, C. Buchheim

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**Please Note:** Returned copies of the Recorder will be remailed at an additional charge.

**Please make sure your address is up to date. Renew membership by date posted on address label.**

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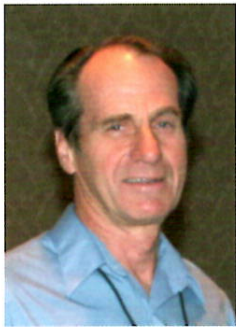
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## President's Message *By Ken Roberts*

**Ken Roberts**

As this message is being written it is early April where here in south central Pennsylvania, the fields are wet from near continuous rain, but starting to turn green now that we are getting some sun. There is no spring growing activity in the iris beds here, but in the greenhouse we have had bloom on many of Joan's seedlings for much of the winter. We recognize that the growing seasons around North America vary widely and I expect that there are already bloom stalks in the warmer climates at this time.

The purpose of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* is to provide cultural information on rebloomers and to share growing information around the continent and the world. This is a reminder that the Reblooming Iris Society is and should be **the** reference for rebloomers.

*The Checklist of Reblooming Iris* is updated every few years and we need your input in order to share data about the appropriate cultivars and their growth characteristics. In order that we have the most up to date data it is important that you complete the Symposium. The Symposium results are to be sent to your Regional Director so they can be tabulated and condensed to avoid duplication. We need this information to help keep the format uniform

and provide data to keep the *Checklist* information up to date. It is very important to include the USDA Zone so that others in the same Zone have useful growing information. Who in Zone 5 wants to plant those that only rebloom above Zone 6? The more reblooming reports that we have, the more useful information will be available to growers, hybridizers, and the general growing public whether or not they are a member of AIS or RIS.

At last year's meeting we adjusted the AIS Regions covered by our Area Directors and the Director's contact information is posted on the web site. There will be some new officers voted on at the Convention and hopefully the results will be entered on the Officers page shortly after the Convention.

At our General Membership Meeting at the 2011 Convention in Vancouver we will have a technical and very informative presentation by Chuck Chapman, the Technical Advisor to the Reblooming Iris Society. This is my last message as RIS president and I am sorry that Joan and I will not be able to attend the Convention and learn some of Chuck's technical tips. Will you be in Vancouver? It promises to be a fantastic convention.

*—Ken Roberts*

**Ken Roberts**

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**Photo Credits page 3:**

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Carole Buchheim

## Editor's Note *By Carole Buchheim*

It has been a very unusual rebloom season for us this past fall and winter. Normally our best southern California

rebloom is in the month of January but several heavy frosts in November and December took their toll. In spite of it all we still had about 75 stalwart souls flying their colors.

My plate has been very full with the added responsibilities of caring for a national convention guest garden. We planted nearly a thousand cultivars and of these about a hundred were designated as rebloomers. Thank you to all of you hybridizers for sending rebloom stock. Careful notes will be taken over this fall and winter and the rebloom results will be posted in the *Recorder*. And for you rebloom enthusiasts attending the 2012 AIS National Convention, "RE" is designated on each of the rebloomer tags and will be noted in the convention handbook. I think this will be a convention first and I hope the significance of it catches on.



Cloud Reflection TB  
(F. Edwards 2009)

**Photo Credits page 4:**  
C. Buchheim, P. Buchheim  
Cloud Reflection, C. Buchheim  
Never Been Kissed,  
C. Buchheim  
Blyth on tractor, C. Buchheim



Never Been Kissed TB  
(B. Blyth 2007/08)

*Barry Blyth's display garden is a living iris catalog filled with so many beauties it truly is iris heaven.*

One of the first guest irises to show itself this spring was 'Cloud Reflection' TB RE (Francelle Edwards 2009). It put on an incredible show for several weeks. Its large ruffled white flowers had a kiss of lavender on the standards and its white beards blend to orange in the throat. I'm looking forward to seeing this stately-branched beauty again during rebloom season.



*For a commercial garden owner the work never ends. Here's Barry Blyth taking his tractor for a spin.*

On the *Recorder* cover we have four fabulous new warm-climate rebloomers from Barry Blyth's Tempo Two Iris Garden in Australia. Peak spring bloom for Barry is the last week of October. Paul and I had the privilege of visiting the Tempo Two garden for several days before attending the Victorian Iris Society's National Convention in Melbourne, Australia this last fall. What a fabulous experience! Tempo Two is an iris lover's paradise.

We took hundreds and hundreds of photos to document this experience and we will be preparing a Tempo Two Iris Garden CD that highlights the irises featured in the Blyth 2010-11 catalog as well as other aspects of the garden. This Tempo Two CD will provide a marvelous program for your iris club and all proceeds will be a donation for the color printing of the

*Recorder* magazine. Look for an ad in the RIS electronic "4th of July Rebloom News" for purchase information.

Last 4th of July, Rita Gormley emailed over 200 20-page electronic newsletters to our RIS members. We could have doubled that number if we had more of our member's email addresses. Please take a few moments and email your name and email address to Rose Kinnard, our Membership Chairperson at [RKinnard@minesmo.org](mailto:RKinnard@minesmo.org) and your name will be posted on the electronic mailing list. Let's take advantage of this opportunity for receiving reblooming iris information.

For you irisarians interested in trying your hand at hybridizing, there is a wealth of advice and information in this issue. By applying the principals stated herein, you could save yourself years of hybridizing frustration.

Lastly, enjoy the beauty of all the color pictures in this magazine. It actually costs about \$1,400 to \$1,500 EXTRA to print the *Recorder* magazine in full color and that's above and beyond what it would cost to print the internal pages in black and white.





**Dave Silverberg**

## Northwestern Report By Director Dave Silverberg

"The rebloom season here in my garden can best be described in just two words. . .RAIN and ROT!"

It would seem that spring bloom will fare not much better with the amount of rain we have received thus far this season. It ranks well up there with all the other record holders. The only things that seems to be benefitting from all this wet are the WEEDS!

Here's my personal plea to all of you RIS members in the Northwest: we need your input if we are to continue to make the Recorder one of the top Sectional Bulletins in the AIS. Please send me your news any time of the year!

Following is a list of fall reblooming irises from Billings and Laurel, Montana. Anything that reblooms here in USDA Zone 5 will rebloom just about anywhere else in the United States.

### **Delane Langton - Billings, MT**

Cruise To Autumn (*L. Lauer 2001*) . . . . . TB  
 Forever Blue (*C. Chapman 1997*) . . . . . SDB  
 Inner Space (*R. Tasco 2009*) . . . . . SDB  
 Pagan Dance (*B. Blyth 1989/90*) . . . . . TB  
 Sky King Returns (*L. Lauer 2003*) . . . . . TB  
 Starry Starry Sky (*N. Price 2009*) . . . . . IB  
 Tennessee Gentleman (*S. Innerst 1991*) . . . TB

### **Beverly Henman - Billings, MT**

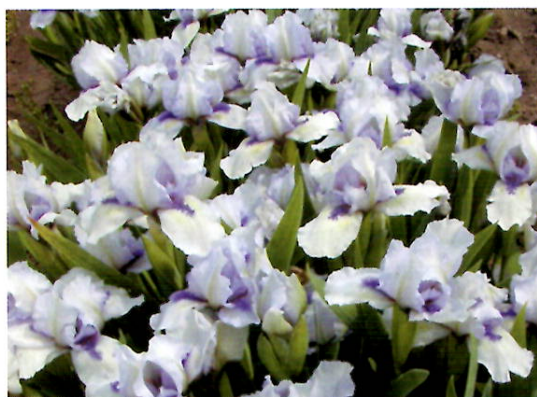
Pinkness (*M. Byers 1989*) . . . . . TB

### **Teus Sterkenburg - Laurel, MT**

Champagne Elegance (*O.D. Niswonger 1987*) . . TB  
 Immortality (*L. Zurbrigg 1982*) . . . . . TB

### **Shirley Ruff - Billings, MT**

Champagne Elegance (*O.D. Niswonger 1987*) . . TB  
 Eternal Bliss (*M. Byers 1998*) . . . . . TB



**Forever Blue SDB** (*C. Chapman 1997*)



**Inner Space SDB** (*R. Tasco 2009*)



**Bolder Boulder TB**  
(*T. Magee 2000*)



**Sky King Returns TB** (*L. Lauer 2003*)

Midnight Caller (*M. Byers 1990*) . . . . . TB  
 Mirror Mirror (*J. Gibson 1979*) . . . . . TB  
 Pink Attraction (*E. Hall 1988*) . . . . . TB  
 Rosalie Figge (*J. McKnew 1993*) . . . . . TB  
 September Frost (*G. Sutton 1998*) . . . . . TB  
 Total Recall (*B. Hager 1992*) . . . . . TB

### **Martha Rhoades - Billings, MT**

Midsummer Night's Dream (*L. Baumunk 1999*) . . IB

### **Muriel Zahm - Laurel, MT**

Bolder Boulder (*T. Magee 2000*) . . . . . TB  
 Clarence (*L. Zurbrigg 1991*) . . . . . TB  
 Forever Blue (*C. Chapman 1997*) . . . . . SDB  
 Jennifer Rebecca (*L. Zurbrigg 1995*) . . . . . TB

### **Tina Muller - Billings, MT**

Champagne Encore (*J.T. Aitken 1997*) . . . . . IB

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Dave Silverberg, *C. Buchheim*  
 Forever Blue, *C. Chapman*  
 Inner Space, *R. Tasco*  
 Bolder Boulder, *K. Stanton*  
 Sky King Returns, *C. Buchheim*  
 Midnight Caller, *C. Buchheim*  
 Champagne Encore,  
*C. Buchheim*



**Midnight Caller TB**  
(*M. Byers 1990*)



**Champagne Encore IB**  
(*J.T. Aitken 1997*)



**Riley Probst**

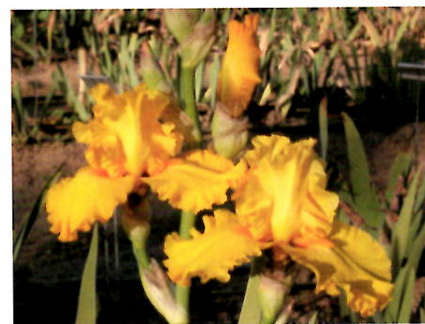
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**Riley Probst****Photo Credits page 6:**

Riley Probst, C. Buchheim  
Pure As Gold, C. Buchheim  
Amethyst Winter, L. Lauer  
Plum Pretty Whiskers, C. B.  
Augustine, C. Buchheim  
Autumn Tryst, C. Buchheim  
Braggin Rights, C. Buchheim

# Southwestern Report By Director Riley Probst

Rebloom information for the following six gardens in California and Arizona is noted below as well as the months of rebloom. Please note that for the Probst/Trio Fleur De Lis Garden, rebloom information is only given from December through March. The summer and fall rebloom data was printed in the 2010 Fall/Winter *Recorder*.

**Pure As Gold TB** (W. Maryott 1993)**Clemence Newcomb - Phoenix, AZ**

Amethyst Winter TB (R. Richards 1998) . . . Dec, Jan, Feb  
Mariposa Wizard IB (R. Tasco 2004) . . . . .

**Gary Miller - Phoenix, AZ**

Hi IB (M. Byers 1990) . . . . . Feb

**Renee Fraser - Simi Valley, CA**

Feed Back TB (B. Hager 1983) . . . . . Dec  
Frequent Flyer TB (R. Gibson 1994) . . . . . Dec, Jan  
Maid Of Orange BB (J.T. Aitken 1989) . . . . . Dec  
Mariposa Autumn TB (R. Tasco 1999) . . . . . Dec  
Plum Pretty Whiskers TB (D. Spoon 2003) . . . . . Jan  
Recurring Dream TB (B. Hager 1993) . . . . . Feb

**Phyllis Wilburn - Rescue, CA**

Smell The Roses SDB (M. Byers 1988) . . . . .

**Mary Ann Horton - Loomis, CA**

All Revved Up TB (B. Wilkerson 2006) . . . Sep, Oct, Nov  
Amain TB (L. Zurbrigg 1983) . . . . . Nov  
Amethyst Winter TB (R. Richards 1988) . . . . . Dec  
Another Bridge TB (B. Wilkerson 2005) . . . . . Sep, Nov  
Anxious TB (B. Hager 1992) . . . . . Oct, Nov  
Augustine TB (O. Schick 2005) . . . . . Aug  
Autumn Tryst TB (J. Weiler 1993) . . . . . Oct, Nov  
Bountiful Harvest TB (B. Hager 1991) . . . . . Aug  
Corn Harvest TB (C. Wyatt 1977) . . . . . Sep, Oct, Nov  
Daughter Of Stars TB (D. Spoon 2001) . . . . . Nov  
Doe Z Doe IB (B. Kasperek 2005) . . . . . Oct, Nov  
Echo Location TB (B. Wilkerson 2007) . . . . . Oct, Nov  
Fall Rerun TB (B. Hager 2001) . . . . . Aug  
Feed Back TB (B. Hager 1983) . . . . . Sep, Nov, Dec  
Frances Iva TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991) . . . . . Oct, Nov, Dec  
Forever Ginny TB (O. Schick 2005) . . . . . Dec  
Hemstitched TB (B. Hager 1990) . . . . . Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec

His Royal Highness TB (M. Byers 1989) . . . . . Nov  
Hakuna Matata AB (A.&D. Cadd 1999) . . . . . Sep  
Istanbul TB (M. Byers 1990) . . . . . Nov  
Midsummer Night's Dream IB (L. Baumunk 1999) . . . Nov, Dec  
Mariposa Autumn TB (R. Tasco 1999) . . . . . Nov  
Matrix TB (E. Hall 1991) . . . . . Aug  
My Friend Jonathan TB (B. Miller 1994) . . . . . Oct, Nov  
October TB (M. Byers 1989) . . . . . Dec  
October Splendor BB (G. Sides 1997) . . . . . Nov  
Peggy Sue TB (L. Lauer 2006) . . . . . Oct, Nov  
Radiant Bliss TB (B. Wilkerson 2005) . . . Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec  
Rose Teall TB (H. Holk 1995) . . . . . Oct  
Summer Holidays TB (L. Zurbrigg 1979) . . . Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov  
Sign Of Leo TB (L. Zurbrigg 1977) . . . . . Nov  
Tara's Choice TB (B. Wilkerson 2004) . . . . . Oct, Nov  
Two Different Worlds TB (W. Moores 2002) . . . Sep, Dec  
Vanishing Act TB (B. Wilkerson 2004) . . . . . Aug  
Violet Reprise TB (W. Moores 1993) . . . . . Nov  
Voltaire's Cloak TB (B. Nicodemus 2005) . . . . . Dec  
Witch Of Endor TB (B. Miller 1978) . . . . . Nov

**Riley Probst & Shirley Trio - Modesto, CA**

Aaron's Dream TB (G. Sutton 1994) . . . . . Feb, Mar  
All American TB (M. Byers 1992) . . . . . Feb, Mar  
Anxious TB (B. Hager 1992) . . . . . Mar  
Ascii Art TB (W. Moores 1997) . . . . . Dec  
Aunt Mary TB (T. Stanek 2000) . . . . . Mar  
Autumn Thunder TB (G. Sutton 2000) . . . . . Feb, Mar  
Braggin Rights TB (T. Burseen 2005) . . . . . Mar  
Buckwheat TB (M. Byers 1989) . . . . . Feb, Mar  
Crimson King IB (Barr 1893) . . . . . Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar  
Doohicky IB (G. Sutton 2009) . . . . . Dec, Feb, Mar  
Double Overtime IB (R. Tasco 2005) . . . . . Feb, Mar  
Flirting Again SDB (J.T. Aitken 2002) . . . . . Dec

**Amethyst Winter TB**  
(R. Richards 1998)**Plum Pretty Whiskers TB**  
(D. Spoon 2003)**Augustine TB**  
(O. Schick 2005)**Autumn Tryst TB**  
(J. Weiler 1993)**Braggin Rights TB**  
(T. Burseen 2005)





**Doe Z Doe** IB  
(B. Kasperek 2005)



**October Splendor** BB  
(G. Sides 1997)



**Double Overtime** IB  
(R. Tasco 2005)



**Midsummer Night's Dream**  
IB (L. Baumunk 1999)



**Aunt Mary** TB  
(T. Stanek 2000)

Harbor Skies TB (G. Sutton 2009) ..... Mar  
Investor SDB (T. Johnson 2004) ..... Feb  
Juicy Fruit TB (M. Byers 1989) ..... Mar  
Low Ho Silver IB (M. Byers 1989) ..... Dec, Mar  
Lunar Whitewash TB (S. Innerst 2003) ..... Feb, Mar  
Mariposa Autumn TB (R. Tasco 1999) ..... Dec, Jan  
Marty Richards TB (R. Richards 2005) ..... Jan  
October Splendor BB (G. Sides 1997) ..... Dec, Jan, Mar  
Olympic Return TB (G. Sutton 2002) ..... Dec  
Pure As Gold TB (W. Maryott 1993) ..... Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar

Say Okay TB (T. Burseen 1991) ..... Mar  
Speeding Again TB (L. Lauer 1998) ..... Jan, Feb  
St. Petersburg TB (M. Byers 1989) ..... Mar  
Suky TB (C. Mahan 1988) ..... Feb, Mar  
Summer Rain TB (M. Sutton 2005) ..... Feb  
Theme Master TB (B. Wilkerson 2004) ..... Feb, Mar  
Total Recall TB (B. Hager 1992) ..... Mar  
Violet Returns TB (E. Hall 1988) ..... Dec, Feb  
Walker Ross AB (C. Chapman 1998) ..... Dec, Feb, Mar  
Winterland TB (M. Byers 1990) ..... Dec, Feb, Mar



**Tim Stanek**

blooms much larger than they truly are. Fresh scents fill the air along with the chirping of returning flocks of birds that dot the yard searching for food.

The irises have wintered well from their having been reset in early July. The protection of adequate snow cover we received has insulated them from heaving. Having been reset earlier brings a lot of weeds that established themselves before winter. A sharp knife and a hoe make sure work of this nuisance. Burning with a weed burner is my preferred cleanup tool for early to mid March. The new growth is bright and green without any sign of disease. The burning takes care of most bugs and what is left I diligently keep an eye out for, especially the watery mucus of iris borers as they tunnel in and out of the leaves. I cut the leaves off with a knife below the injury and carry the leaves out of the garden to dispose of in the trash.

The rows have already been cultivated twice getting as close as possible to the plants. Some varieties show up a little yellowish green because of the cold soil. Others are



**Patty Ann** BB (T. Stanek 2005)

## Midwestern Report *By Director Tim Stanek*

**Regions 6, 8, 9, 18, 21**  
**Parts of Canada**  
**Overseas**

**Tim Stanek**  
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**USDA Zone 5**

**Photo Credits page 7:**  
Doe Z Doe, C. Buchheim  
October Splendor, C. Buchheim  
Double Overtime, C. Buchheim  
Midsummer Night's Dream,  
J.T. Aitken  
Aunt Mary, C. Buchheim  
Tim Stanek, Provided  
Patty Ann, C. Buchheim

not affected and are a rich deep blue green. What I really look for are the varieties that even though they bloomed or tried to bloom last fall show no signs of rot or decay. These are especially hardy here and will have good spring bloom.

As a whole, but with exceptions, rebloomers usually do not put on as dramatic a flush of bloom in the spring as the once bloomers do. Due to the arrested development of the flower stalks from winter they usually stagger bloom in the spring, but still show well.

The iris catalogs and online notices have been coming in and I am always on the lookout for improved varieties. Most of the improvements are in flower color and form. Trials and time will test their real garden worth as most will be from a climate and soils much unlike your own.

The old saying that "an apple doesn't fall far from the tree" holds some degree of truth. In most new introductions the parents of the plant are included in the description. If one or more of the parents grow and perform well for you, this would tend to indicate that possibly the new variety will too. If you belong to a local iris or garden club, consider requesting reblooming varieties that no one in your club grows as an inexpensive way to test varieties that may have some worth. Please send some notes on your spring, summer, and/or fall season to me at [timjstanek@gmail.com](mailto:timjstanek@gmail.com).



**Susan Grigg**  
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USDA Zone 7



*Susan Grigg*



**Unbelievable Love TB**  
(*W. Grise 1998*)



**Cantina TB**  
(*M. Byers 1990*)



**Jennifer Rebecca TB**  
(*L. Zurbrigg 1985*)

*Photo Credits page 8:*  
Susan Grigg, *Provided*  
Unbelievable Love, *P. Postel*  
Cantina, *C. Buchheim*  
Jennifer Rebecca, *C. Buchheim*

## Eastern Report *By Acting Director, Susan Grigg*

As your acting Eastern Director, I'm glad to share information on rebloom in my garden which is Zone 7. As usual, I found blooms on Lloyd Zurbrigg's 'Immortality' TB (1982) in early September, along with his 'I Bless' IB (1985), and 'I Do' TB (1974). In October there were many stalks in bloom on E. Hall's 'Matrix' TB (1991) and M. Byers' 'Zurich' TB (1990). When our first killing frost came in November there were stalks in bud on J. McKnew's 'Rosalie Figge' TB (1993) and on 'Daughter of Stars' TB (2001), Don Spoon's Wister Medal winner.

Following are reports from North Carolina, New Jersey, Virginia, and Tennessee, all of which are in USDA climate zones 6 and 7:

### **Bonita Masteller - Raleigh, NC - Zone 7**

Again And Again TB (*S. Innerst 1999*) . . . Oct  
Anxious TB (*B. Hager 1992*) . . . Sep, Oct  
Corn Dance TB (*D. Spoon 2008*) . . . Sep

### **Pete Postel - Manalapan, NJ - Zone 6B**

Bolder Boulder TB (*T. Magee 2000*) . . . Jul  
Cantina TB (*M. Byers 1990*) . . . Jul  
Delta Lady TB (*L. Lauer 2009*) . . . Oct, Nov  
Lest We Forget TB (*G. Sutton 2008*) . . . Oct, Nov  
Low Ho Silver IB (*M. Byers 1989*) . . . Sep  
Orange Harvest TB (*B. Jones 1988*) . . . Oct, Nov  
Unbelievable Love TB (*W. Grise 1998*) Sep, Oct, Nov

### **Lois Rose - Partlow, VA - Zone 7**

Again And Again (*S. Innerst 1999*) . . . TB  
Anxious (*B. Hager 1992*) . . . TB  
Born Again (*B. Miller 1978*) . . . TB  
Christiane Elizabeth (*C. Mahan 2001*) . . . TB  
Dark Crystal (*M. Byers 1988*) . . . SDB  
Earl Of Essex (*L. Zurbrigg 1980*) . . . TB  
Golden Encore (*F. Jones 1973*) . . . TB  
Hot Glow (*R. Tasco 2006*) . . . IB  
I Bless (*L. Zurbrigg 1985*) . . . IB  
I Do (*L. Zurbrigg 1974*) . . . TB  
Iceland (*M. Byers 1991*) . . . TB  
Istanbul (*M. Byers 1990*) . . . TB  
Jennifer Rebecca (*L. Zurbrigg 1985*) . . . TB  
Lady Emma (*F. Jones 1986*) . . . MTB  
Latest Style (*L. Zurbrigg 1979*) . . . TB  
Little Blackfoot (*M. Reinhardt 1967*) . . . SDB  
Low Ho Silver (*M. Byers 1989*) . . . IB

Lunar Whitewash (*S. Innerst 2003*) . . . TB  
Maryland Ho (*B. Hornstein 2003*) . . . TB  
Over And Over (*S. Innerst 2001*) . . . TB  
Queen Dorothy (*E. Hall 1984*) . . . TB  
Rainbow Sherbet (*J. Weiler 1988*) . . . SDB  
Refined (*J. Weiler 1987*) . . . SDB  
Renown (*L. Zurbrigg 1992*) . . . TB  
Rosalie Figge (*J. McKnew 1993*) . . . TB  
Rosalie Loving (*D. Spoon 2003*) . . . SDB  
Sailboat Bay (*L. Zurbrigg 2001*) . . . SDB  
September Buttercup (*G.P. Brown 1962*) . . . BB  
Sky Willow (*D. Spoon 2005*) . . . SDB  
Tawny (*T. Pray 1974*) . . . IB  
Youth Dew (*L. Zurbrigg 1980*) . . . TB

### **Don Rude - Blacksburg, VA - Zone 6**

Mango Parfait (*D. Spoon 2009*) . . . TB

### **Marilyn Lucero - Locust Grove, VA - Zone 7**

UFO (*D. Spoon 2007*) . . . TB

### **John & June Rosini - Powhatan, VA - Zone 7**

Double Your Fun (*J.T. Aitken 2000*) . . . IB

### **Marilyn Naylor - Purcellville, VA - Zone 6**

Constant Companion (*C. Marsh 1995*) . . . IB  
Double Your Fun (*J.T. Aitken 2000*) . . . IB  
Fall Festival (*R.G. Smith 1966*) . . . BB

### **Doug Chyz - Stafford, VA - Zone 7**

Blueberry Tart (*C. Chapman 2002*) . . . SDB  
Pilgrims' Choice (*A.&D. Willott 1990*) . . . SDB  
Pretty Girl (*A.&D. Willott 1990*) . . . TB  
Queen Dorothy (*E. Hall 1984*) . . . TB  
Sky Willow (*D. Spoon 2005*) . . . SDB  
Witch Of Endor (*B. Miller 1978*) . . . TB

### **Rosalie Loving - King George, VA - Zone 7**

Senorita Frog (*D. Spoon 2002*) . . . SDB

### **Marilyn Rogers - Hixson, TN - Zone 7**

Anxious (*B. Hager 1992*) . . . TB  
Hemstitched (*B. Hager 1990*) . . . TB  
My Friend Jonathan (*B. Miller 1994*) . . . TB  
Pink Attraction (*E. Hall 1988*) . . . TB  
Rosalie Figge (*J. McKnew 1993*) . . . TB  
Scented Nutmeg (*W. Maryott 1983*) . . . TB  
Total Recall (*B. Hager 1992*) . . . TB  
Violet Miracle (*L. Zurbrigg 1971*) . . . TB

### **Jim & Ilona Wooten -**

### **Signal Mountain, TN - Zone 7**

Daughter Of Stars (*D. Spoon 2001*) . . . TB  
Matrix (*E. Hall/Zurbrigg 1991*) . . . TB  
Priscilla Of Corinth (*B. Miller 1994*) . . . TB  
Over And Over (*S. Innerst 2001*) . . . TB





Jim Landers

## Southern Report By Acting Director, Jim Landers

Regions 5, 10, 17, 22, 23, 24

**Jim Landers**

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Temple, TX 76701-3016  
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**USDA Zone 8**

**Photo Credits page 9:**

Jim Landers, *Provided*  
Renewal, C. Buchheim  
Anxious, C. Buchheim  
Barn Dance, C. Buchheim  
Mariposa Autumn,  
C. Buchheim  
Autumn Wine, C. Buchheim  
Pink Attraction, C. Buchheim

In the Southern Report area there have been "slim pickins" of the rebloom possibilities. The irises listed below have been reported as reblooming in at least two different gardens in different areas. This list does not include any Louisiana irises. There are a few LAs out there that do have reblooming capabilities, so I want to include them as soon as I get any reports of them reblooming. Any Louisiana iris growers who have rebloom, please let me know which ones are performing that way.

Again And Again (S. Innerst 1999) . . . . . TB  
Anxious (B. Hager 1992) . . . . . TB  
Autumn Thunder (G. Sutton 2000) . . . . . TB  
Autumn Tryst (J. Weiler 1993) . . . . . TB  
Autumn Wine (V. Christopherson 2003) . . . . . BB  
Barn Dance (M. Byers 1991) . . . . . TB  
Bernice's Legacy (B. Miller 2000) . . . . . TB  
Clarence (L. Zurbrigg 1991) . . . . . TB  
Corn Harvest (C. Wyatt 1977) . . . . . TB  
Cornhusker (T. Stanek 2005) . . . . . TB

Coronation Of David (B. Miller 2001) . . . . . TB  
Daughter Of Stars (D. Spoon 2001) . . . . . TB  
Feed Back (B. Hager 1983) . . . . . TB  
Harvest Of Memories (L. Zurbrigg 1985) . . . . . TB  
Hemstitched (B. Hager 1990) . . . . . TB  
Low Ho Silver (M. Byers 1989) . . . . . IB  
Mariposa Autumn (R. Tasco 1999) . . . . . TB  
Peggy Sue (L. Lauer 2006) . . . . . TB  
Priscilla Of Corinth (B. Miller 1994) . . . . . TB  
Renewal (G. Sutton 2004) . . . . . TB  
Speeding Again (L. Lauer 1998) . . . . . TB  
Star Gate (B. Wilkerson 2005) . . . . . TB  
Zurich (M. Byers 1990) . . . . . TB

Following is a report of the Mesilla Valley Iris Society in Las Cruces, New Mexico sent by Scarlett Ayers, President. Two of the varieties listed rebloomed over a four-month period, 'Rosalie Figge' TB (J. McKnew 1993) and a seedling by Eloise Young that she calls 'Purple Purr'. Both Scarlett and Eloise are new hybridizers focused on producing reblooming irises. 'Purple Purr' may very well be Eloise's first introduction. Scarlett is looking forward to seeing her first crosses rebloom this fall.



**Renewal TB**  
(G. Sutton 2004)



**Anxious TB**  
(B. Hager 1992)



**Barn Dance TB**  
(M. Byers 1991)



**Mariposa Autumn TB**  
(R. Tasco 1999)



**Autumn Wine BB**  
(V. Christopherson 2003)



**Pink Attraction TB**  
(E. Hall 1988)

## Mesilla Valley Iris Society 2010 Rebloom Report

Au	Se	Oc	No	Variety	Hybridizer	Class
				All That Magic (R. Tasco 2004) . . . . .	SDB	
				Barn Dance (M. Byers 1991) . . . . .	TB	
				Double Your Fun (J.T. Aitken 2000) . . . . .	IB	
				Good As Gold (L.&K. Jedlicka 2007) . . . . .	TB	
				Haunting (J.G. Crump 2006) . . . . .	TB	
				Mariposa Autumn (R. Tasco 1999) . . . . .	TB	
				Marty Richards (R. Richards 2005) . . . . .	TB	
				Mountain Sunrise (M. Sutton 2007) . . . . .	TB	
				Next In Line (G. Sutton 2001) . . . . .	TB	
				Northward Ho (L. Zurbrigg 1991) . . . . .	IB	
				Orange Harvest (B. Jones 1988) . . . . .	TB	
				Over And Over (S. Innerst 2001) . . . . .	TB	

Au	Se	Oc	No	Variety	Hybridizer	Class
				Pagan Dance (B. Blyth 1989/90) . . . . .	TB	
				Pink Attraction (E. Hall 1988) . . . . .	TB	
				Pure As Gold (W. Maryott 1993) . . . . .	TB	
				Purple Purr (E. Young, seedling) . . . . .	TB	
				Purple Reprise (W. Moores 2006) . . . . .	TB	
				Rosalie Figge (J. McKnew 1993) . . . . .	TB	
				Spring Again (J.G. Crump 2009) . . . . .	TB	
				Stealth Fighter (J.G. Crump 2008) . . . . .	TB	
				Sugar Blues (L. Zurbrigg 1985) . . . . .	TB	
				Sugar Maple (G. Sutton 2003) . . . . .	SDB	
				Violet Music (C. Mahan 1991) . . . . .	TB	



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"Hybridizing for Cold Climate  
Hardiness and Rebloom"



Chuck Chapman

## Rebloom in Guelph, Ontario, Canada

By Chuck Chapman

Although I'm in a cooler agricultural region, I get good rebloom here. I'm in a cooler area

'Wizard Of Hope' SDB (2001), 'Summer Recall' SDB (2003) and 'Forever Violet' MDB (2002). 'Royal Overtime' SDB ('00) also bloomed during this time period although it is not one of this group and only reblooms here occasionally.

This group of rebloomers performed as usual but everything else was very early and out of the normal rebloom sequence. A lot of the small-



Juiced Up SDB  
(C. Chapman 2003)

of southern Ontario and my bloom is consistently about 4-10 days later than everyone else in this area. I'm in Agricultural Zone 5B, Canadian Rating, or about Zone 4 in USA rating.

Last year rebloom started June 18<sup>th</sup> with one of my "Whenever" rebloomers, 'Autumn Jester' SDB (C. Chapman 2000). This was about a week after it finished spring bloom and while the TB irises were still finishing off their spring bloom. 'Autumn Jester' continued to



Ruby Eruption SDB (C. Chapman 1997)



Royal Overtime SDB (C. Chapman 2000)



Little Showoff SDB  
(E. Hall 1989)



Autumn Bugler TB (F. Jones 1986)

day or two during that time but not very many. It was in full clump bloom until mid-to-late September when it was reduced to a stalk or so per clump. This has been rather typical of it for the past few years. It seems to like frequent divisions and moving.

Other "Whenever" Chapman rebloomers followed shortly and bloomed periodically until hard frost. These included 'Forever Blue' SDB (1997), 'Blueberry Tart' SDB (2002),

bloom until it was frozen out in late October after surviving several light frosts. It may have missed a

and a lot of plants got a longer growing season then they usually get.

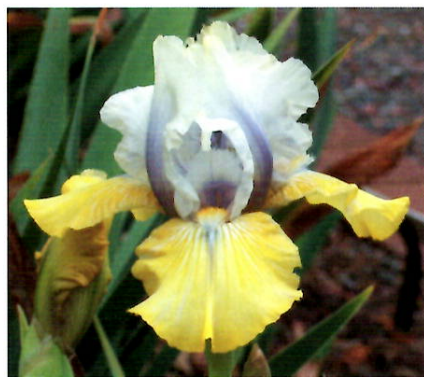


Precious Little Pink IB  
(M. Byers 1995)

'Little Showoff' SDB (E. Hall 1989) and 'Precious Little Pink' IB (M. Byers 1995) started reblooming near the end of July. These were shortly followed by SDB seedlings and these continued to open until the bloom season shut down. I had a total of 36 SDB seedlings that rebloomed and a number of them had rebloomed several times. In addition, a TB and a BB seedling also rebloomed.

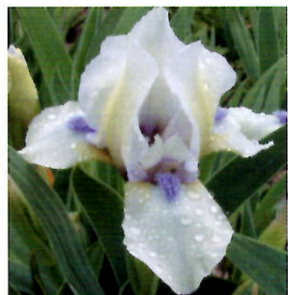


In early August we had **'Autumn Embers'** SDB (C. Chapman 1996), **'Cry Baby'** SDB (J. Ritchie 1984) and **'Be Little'** MDB (J.T. Aitken 2001). **'Ruby Eruption'** SDB (C. Chapman 1997) rebloomed in mid September. In October, shortly before a hard frost, we had rebloom on **'Little Showoff'** SDB (E. Hall 1989), **'Gray Poupon'** SDB (M. Byers 1989), **'Autumn Surge'** SDB (J.T. Aitken 2005), and **'Juiced Up'** SDB (C. Chapman 2003).



**Double Your Fun** IB (J.T. Aitken 2000)

**'Low Ho Silver'** IB (M. Byers 1989), **'Double Your Fun'** IB (J.T. Aitken 2000) and **'Blessed Again'** IB (F. Jones 1976) rebloomed during the end of August and early September.



**Cry Baby** SDB  
(J. Ritchie 1984)

**'Pure As Gold'** TB (W. Maryott 1993) opened on August 9<sup>th</sup> and was the first of the TBs to open. I'm not positive that it bloomed in spring, so it may be an off-season bloom rather than

rebloom. It was followed shortly by **'Violet Music'** TB (C. Mahan 1991), with several periods of rebloom, and **'Autumn Rain'** TB (M. Sutton 2008). **'Dorcas Lives Again'** TB (B. Miller 1984), **'Touch Of Spring'** TB (C. Applegate 1972), **'Immortality'** TB (L. Zurbrigg 1982), **'Lilac Stitchery'** TB (K. Jensen 1989), **'English Cottage'** TB (L. Zurbrigg 1976), **'Northward Ho'** TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991) and **'Autumn Bugler'** TB (F. Jones 1986). **'Twiggy'** BB (D. Spoon 2004) and **'Pink Attraction'** TB (E. Hall 1988) were the last of the falls to open.



**Be Little** MDB (J.T. Aitken)

usually rebloom here. All in all, this has been a great rebloom season.



**English Cottage** TB  
(L. Zurbrigg 1976)



**Touch Of Spring** TB  
(C. Applegate 1972)

There were about 30 Tall Bearded irises that got frozen out in various stages of flower stalk including a number that

*Photo Credits page 11:*  
English Cottage, C. Chapman  
Touch Of Spring, C. Chapman  
Double Your Fun, J.T. Aitken  
Be Little, C. Chapman  
Cry Baby, C. Chapman

## Donations for the RIS Recorder in Full Color

*I would like to express my appreciation to those who have made donations toward the full color printing of the 2011 Spring RIS Recorder. Printing in full color is financed entirely through donations and color ads. Thank you to the following donors:*

**Alex & Kate Stanton ♦ Paul & Carole Buchheim ♦ Bill Molnar**  
**Inland Region Iris Society ♦ Riley Probst & Shirley Trio**

*For information on the Memorial Fund, contact Shirley Trio at: [shirleytrio@clearwire.net](mailto:shirleytrio@clearwire.net).*

*—Carole Buchheim, RIS Editor*

## Request for Guest Speakers

If any of our members who grow and/or hybridize reblooming irises would be willing to serve as guest speakers at AIS Region meetings, club meetings, etc., please contact Publicity Director, Shirley Trio:

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Barry Blyth

# Garden Judging and Breeding Principles *By Barry Blyth*

*In the Spring of 2008 Barry Blyth gave a Judges Training session for Region 15 (southern California and Arizona) hosted by the Hi-Desert Iris and Daylily Society. His presentation was entitled, "Judges Training on Garden Judging and Breeding Principles". Many thanks to Barry for sharing this information with our RIS readers.*

**Photo Credits page 12:**  
Barry Blyth, C. Buchheim  
Tempo Two, C. Buchheim  
New introduction beds, C. Buchheim  
Tempo Two Sign, C. Buchheim

This training session was given from a different perspective in as much as many excellent Garden Judges have never actually been hybrid-



2010-11 Blyth introductions in the Tempo Two display garden.

izers. Often credit is not given to the hybridizer, particularly when he or she is new in the exciting world of iris hybridizing and if the judges are harsh in their judgement on seedlings judged, the new hybridizer may become disheartened and lose interest.

So, this is to give judges who have never hybridized an idea of what is involved in being a keen hybridizer who wants to make a hobby into something worthwhile and with a continuing theme.

If the judges understand where the hybridizer is going and what it takes to get to his/her goal, they can give encouragement to the newcomer and learn themselves the directions of where the hybridizer is going or could go with patience and thought. You as a judge may have some gentle ideas to throw in. If not, at least give the newcomer lots of encouragement and don't leave them wishing they were growing something else. There are fewer and fewer iris hybridizers in the world today because of so many other distractions and activities and we cannot afford to lose any through a sharp rebuke or putdown. I have seen this hap-



"Tempo Two Iris & Daylilies" Sign.



Tempo Two headquarters, office and sales room. In the foreground are partitioned-off areas with tables and chairs for picnics and tea.

pen and we have lost potential geniuses to the iris world.

With this in mind, these notes are set out from the hybridizer's point of view. Such things as aims, either short term or long term goals, choosing parents, new color patterns, possible color patterns, dominant and recessive traits, reblooming iris and many other things need to be considered before going into the hybridizing process for the long haul.

These notes are also derived from my perspective of hybridizing iris for over 60 years and with a serious hybridizing program behind me of just on 50 years as well as being an iris judge. It is colored by my particular experiences but this is a view of my own circumstances.

## AIMS IN HYBRIDIZING IRIS

### Short Term

This is usually for people who are just doing it for fun, often hit or miss with the idea of just improving the parents' color or form, maybe better branching or disease resistance. Plicatas often give the quickest fun results at this stage as they usually germinate easier and if different colored plicatas are used, a wide array of patterns result in the first generation. Plicatas have started many hybridizers on great projects.

**Two to Five Years** is usually thought of as short term and gives a couple of generations of results. This is also where you get hooked and if you do, you have to then consider lots of other aspects of the proposed project.





**Temple Of Time TB**  
(B. Blyth 2001)



**Louisa's Song TB**  
(B. Blyth 2004/05)

X

=



**Decadence TB**  
(B. Blyth 2004/05)



**Wicked Woman TB**  
(B. Blyth 2006/07)



**Looking Beautiful TB**  
(B. Blyth 2005/06)

### Long Term

Here we are hooked or we already knew that we were going to spend a lot of time doing this, so what next?

**10 to 20 Years** would be a medium to long time span and it will give a chance to realize the fantasies that come flooding in when you look at someone else's seedlings or open a new iris catalog. You are away in cloud cuckoo land—this is where ideas begin and all sorts of ideas come to mind. What if I wanted to do this or that. . . ? How could I do it and so on and so on. . .

Usually by this time if you are addicted you know pretty well what iris are available and if you are a judge you must know what is around, so new patterns are the first thing that comes to mind. Here it pays to learn what is a dominant pattern and what is recessive and this is often a bit hazy because some patterns act differently with some parents than others.

Learn which colors and patterns are considered dominant and which are recessive. This is not easy and can mean a lot of research, studying pedigrees, asking others what they found and making test crosses. (Remember this is long term.) Be prepared for test crosses to be disasters but this is how you learn. Get clear in your mind what the tangerine factor is and learn how to spot it in crosses where it may appear and so it can be the beginning of what you are looking for.

Go back to the big breaks in iris breeding. Look up how varieties like **'Snow Flurry'** TB (R. & C. Rees 1939), **'Melodrama'** TB (P. Cook 1956), **'Wholecloth'** TB (P. Cook 1958) and **'Sunset Snows'** TB (J. Stevens 1965) among others influenced today's iris and maybe work out why certain traits show up from particular lines.

As you do these things, set some long-term goals, no matter how fanciful? Chances are that if they are really fanciful you will never achieve the goal but the results along the way

will be far better than you ever imagined. If the desired result turned up in the first cross, then great, but to me it would be a bit disappointing in the overall picture.

How many seedlings may be required to achieve the goal? This is a difficult question and it is governed by many things like time, space and energy, etc. More about these later. . . My goal in about 1960 was to raise a quality pink amoena and it is still a goal after 50 years and maybe 250,000 seedlings from pink amoena crosses. I am still going at it each spring.

### CHOOSING PARENTS

This is completely up to you, of course, but there are a few guidelines unless you are introducing a species into your breeding program or some long-lost pattern only seen 50 years ago.

Use the best varieties you can acquire. There is no point in using older varieties as the crosses may have been done before.

Use varieties from various sources rather than concentrate on just one or two breeder's lines.

Make reciprocal crosses if possible. Very often the pod parent will mainly give the form and growth and the pollen parent will give the color but this is only a guide as it is so often not the case.

Make wild crosses. Don't be afraid to go where others may have feared to tread. This is your road and you want it to be exceptional. You will soon have your own line and no one else can repeat or compare to it.

Many hybridizers don't like using first-year seedlings for parents. That is OK but as you get older you realize that if you wait another year it all adds on to the time it takes to get down the road.

Personally, I use first-year seedlings or at least the pollen and nearly always try the seedling as a pod parent as well. It may weaken the pod-parent plant a bit but remember it is

*Above is an example of sibling variation from parents 'Temple of Time' X 'Louisa's Song'. 'Louisa's Song' occasionally reblooms and this factor has also been noted (though rarely) in the 'Decadence' generation of six introduced siblings. (Personal communication, B. Blyth)*

### Photo Credits page 13:

Temple Of Time,  
C. Buchheim  
Louisa's Song, C. Buchheim  
Decadence, C. Buchheim  
Wicked Woman, C. Buchheim  
Looking Beautiful,  
C. Buchheim



**Photo Credits page 14:**  
Planting iris seeds, *B. Blyth*  
Iris seed beds, *C. Buchheim*  
Iris seedlings, *B. Blyth*

**Photo Credits page 15:**  
Field of seedlings, *C. Buchheim*  
Moving seedlings, *B. Blyth*  
*Café Bleu*, *C. Buchheim*  
*Fancy Flirting*, *C. Buchheim*  
*House Guest*, *C. Buchheim*  
*Mighty Cool*, *C. Buchheim*  
*Imprimis*, *C. Buchheim*

a breeding program, not a program to get lots of the same plant. Progress is the first consideration. Also, I rarely go back and use a "good parent". If it is a good parent then I consider that it is a good parent for various reasons and I want to use those "reasons" which are seedling advances in the line I am working so I use the new seedlings and advances mostly come more quickly that way.

## PRACTICALITIES

How much room do you need? Some of the best iris over the years have come from small back yards and also over the years some clever hybridizers have continued to produce amazing results from an area the size of a home vegetable garden, though this is hardly the rule. Realistically, you need space and if you check the seedling beds of well-known hybridizers



*Iris seedlings.*

today and over the years, most have several acres and much more at their disposal. If you set 100 pods you could have 5,000 seed and if half germinated that is 2,500 seedlings. Think about all those planted out on a 9" grid at minimum and it adds up to a lot of space. Many hybridizers plant a lot more than this and do it each year. I like to have a minimum of 5,000 seedlings and some years plant out 15,000. That is possibly a few too many for one person to assess but nature some years gives an abundance of germination and a true hybridizer cannot throw out unflowered seedlings very often. Some breeders grow many more seedlings than this, so a lot of space may be needed.

Room for reselects: So you have 2,500 seedlings and you have gone mad and marked 100 to look at again. These will take space to line out to evaluate properly and if you have three or four rhizomes of each, it soon adds up to a fair amount of space. Then the next year you have whittled down the 100 to say 20 and there are 10 or 15 rhizomes of each. You also have 100 new reselected seedlings to line out and so it goes until you have maybe thrown all the first years selections out and maybe one or



*Iris seeds are planted in styrene boxes. Germination takes place in about eight weeks.*

two will get a name. You never know your luck. The point is, it takes a lot of space and time. It has to be thought about right at the beginning. Don't forget that you are planting out another 2,500 little seedlings each year. Space, space, and more space (aching back). . . . Slaves?

How many crosses should you make? A lot depends upon the weather conditions and here trial and error will be your guide. In some places crosses can be made in



*Newly planted seedling bed with more irises ready to plant.*

light rain, some places crosses will work when it is hot if the plants have plenty of moisture in the ground. I am happy if I get a 50% set. Again, trial and error is the guide.

Harvesting seed: Because of my situation, I don't have time to walk around every day in summer and look at each and every seed pod to see if it is ready to pick. So as soon as the pod is fully formed and just changing color from bright green and tinging to yellow-green I cut the stem at the ground and gather all the stems together in one area in the garden and either poke the stems into the ground or stake them so they do not fall over. Then I can check quickly each day in one place and I do not lose pods.

Drying seed: I split the pods as soon as I see them beginning to split and spread the honey-brown seed out in small margarine containers until they are dry and shrivelled. Don't put them undried into a closed container or bag or they will become moldy. Dry them out. They could take two to three weeks to dry.

Keeping records: It is very important for you to keep track of your seedlings and their pedigrees. Eventually, when you have that "world beater" everyone will want to know the pedigree. Pedigrees can be half the fun and not





*Field of first-year seedlings..*

a chore. To some people they are all the fun. Just do it. Keep the record system simple or it becomes complicated when your breeding pedigrees become complex.

**Planting seed:** They are best planted in autumn after the long dry spell and heat are gone. There are lots of variations here and it is what ever suits. One important point and it is critical for iris—once the seed is planted, **DO NOT** let it dry out even for one day. If it does, an inhibitor takes over and seed will not germinate. It is an inbuilt safety measure in bearded iris and if understood, will save disappointment. When I prepare the seed boxes, I use large styrene vegetable boxes. I place some fertilizer and manure in the bottom on 1" of soil, then about 6" of soil, then the seed and about 1/2" to 3/4" of soil over the top. Wire mesh over the top to keeps out the critters and don't forget the cross label taken from your records. Keep the seedling boxes outside where they will get some winter frost. If frosts are severe then some winter protection may be necessary. It is not something I have experienced.

**Germination:** Usually germination takes at least eight weeks. If you have strong plicata lines, germination takes from six weeks. It usually continues over winter and stops for me about mid TB bloom time. I am pleased with 50% germination. Sometimes even better and this can be embarrassing if you do not have the room to handle an 80% germinating crop. Oh, which to choose and which to give away? Gnashing of teeth and sorrowful moans, sleepless nights—I have heard it all.

**Planting out seedlings—Timing:** This is important if space is at a premium. The idea is to have all or as near to all seedlings flower the next spring, so you have to get the seedlings out

at iris bloom time to get them growing, or they will not have a long enough season of growth and you will have to hold them over for another year to see the results. Bang goes another half acre. So get them out. Take your holidays then because you will be looking at iris, including your own seedlings, making crosses, taking pictures, going to others gardens and so on and so on but it is critical to not delay in getting those seedlings out early. Once they are out keep them growing with care and attention. No weeds; keep them watered over summer. Use a pre-emergence weed control if it is appropriate for you. If you have a very light sandy soil I suggest you don't use it until the seedlings are

well established as it is dispersed in the soil by water and can kill your little seedlings. It seems to be OK to use it in heavier soils with no ill effect at planting. A little trial and error is a good idea here.

**Saving unflowered seedlings:** Sometimes

for various reasons seedlings will not flower the first year. This can be because of missing out on nutrients or genetic traits or any number of other reasons. It is a value judgement as to keep them if you have space considerations. For myself, I look at the cross and if some flowered in the cross, did I mark any for further evaluation? If I did I am likely to save any unflowered siblings. If many in the cross flowered and they were inferior, generally I throw the unflowered out. If I have extra energy at breakfast I may think "what the heck, just replant them". However, space and the time factor will emerge and sort it out for you.

**Remaking crosses.** So you had five or six seedlings and one or two are exceptional; should you remake the cross to get a better take on the cross? For me, NO. I move on and use the "exceptional" seedlings instead. I have seen many crosses repeated by myself and others over the years and rarely is it worth the effort.

**How do you know what to reselect?** **THIS CAN BE TOUGH.** It is a learning process and I must admit that some people never quite get it but if a little thought goes into it, there are ways around it. If you are uncertain, get some other opinions of people you respect in the iris world, preferably iris judges. Also, consider ex-

*Reliable Blyth rebloomers in USDA Zone 9:*



**Café Bleu TB**  
(B. Blyth 2001/02)



**Fancy Flirting TB**  
(B. Blyth 2002/03)



**House Guest TB**  
(B. Blyth 2004/05)



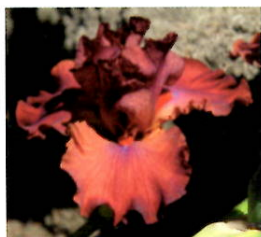
**Mighty Cool TB**  
(B. Blyth 2001/02)



**Imprimis TB**  
(B. Blyth 1992/93)



Reliable Blyth rebloomers  
in USDA Zone 9:



**Popstar TB**  
(B. Blyth 2005/06)



**Wearing Rubies TB**  
(B. Blyth 2001/02)

Photo Credits page 16:  
Popstar, C. Buchheim  
Wearing Rubies, C. Buchheim

hibiting a few seedlings at iris shows in seedling classes and see how they perform and what others think. Of course, sometimes when you have definite plans for your final goal, it is the genetics that make you keep some seedlings.

What to look for in seedlings: Firstly, new color patterns regardless of anything else, even if it is just to be used in the next generation. Then, in no special order, improved form, better branching and bud count (but this is not really considered in first year seedlings), disease resistance and general vigor.

How long before you introduce an iris after first flowering? Here is another important point in any hybridizer's career. Your first introductions can make or break your reputation as a hybridizer. If the first ones are not up with the best available in the world, **DO NOT INTRODUCE THEM!** Keep going until you have those irises that are worthy of you and will knock your socks off.

It usually takes at least three flowerings of a seedling before it is registered and can take several more if it is a slow increaser. As to how many rhizomes, this depends upon sales of the

variety and if you are going to distribute to gardens around the country with an eye to future AIS awards.

Choosing names: The right name for an iris can be half the battle towards having it accepted and known throughout the iris world. Avoid if possible naming for friends. If you have to use a person's name, preferably use a pretty Christian name and avoid the surname. Avoid using men's names. Surnames and men's names often kill popularity. This is coming from running an iris nursery for over 50 years. Also, if you use a friend's name for an iris and after several years you decide that you no longer have room to grow it, what do you tell your friend? This is a reality in the iris world with over 1,200 new varieties each year—the life of a “new” variety is not so long.

So, to Garden Judges and prospective Garden Judges, give a thought to what goes into a serious hybridizing program and encourage it. Hybridizers with long-term plans are thin on the ground. Have a tender heart but be honest.

—Barry Blyth, *Tempo Two*, Australia



**Captain Kirk SDB (Chapman '11)**



**Spock SDB (Chapman '11)**



**Crash And Burn SDB (Chapman '11)**



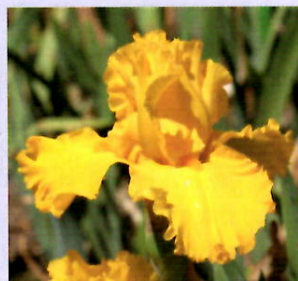
**Urban Myth SDB (Chapman '11)**

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# Selecting Parents for Rebloom

By Chuck Chapman

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"Hybridizing for Cold Climate  
Hardiness and Rebloom"

**Chuck Chapman** is a complex interplay of genes and their interpretation of the environmental conditions. Flowering is controlled by environmental conditions and developmental regulation. The complexity of this regulation is created by an intricate network of signaling pathways, photoreception, circadian clock regulation, growth regulator synthesis and response, chromatin structure, and response to low temperatures.

The normal sequence of growth and bloom for iris is something like this: spring bloom is the culmination of the cycle and it starts all over again with new increases. The rhizome of a bearded iris is a modified stem and the increases are actually modified branches. After spring bloom, the increases continue to grow until they reaches maturity. As it turns out, each iris cultivar has its own maturity level. (Chapman 2009, 2010). When this maturity level is reached, the plant will rest until it has bud set. This is the changing of the growth point (apical meristem) from producing leaves to producing a flowering stem. Once this happens, the increases start to grow but the main fan rests as it needs a further biological trigger before assuming growth and producing a flowering stalk. This further trigger is the cold period during winter, referred to as vernalization. Following a sufficient cold period, the iris fan waits for the daylength signal to start flowerstalk growth. As irises are long-day plants, this basically means that the length of the day is longer then the trigger for that type of iris and that specific cultivar.

The temperature trigger for bud set would seem to be about six days with minimum tem-

peratures between 59°-72°F (15°-21°C). Following this bud set, the triggers for growing this incipient bud into a flower stalk is different. A plant can sit at a mature state (as deter-



Immortality TB (L. Zurbrigg 1982)

mined by leaf count on a cultivar by cultivar basis) and not grow, but does not have bud set until appropriate temperature conditions. Once a mature plant has bud set, it is primed for bloom and awaits further signals. For spring-on-

ly bloomers this would appear to be vernalization followed by a long day trigger (that is, day length above a certain number of hours).

There are many ways these can go astray and produce out-of-season bloom, which we call "Rebloom".

## Types of Rebloomers

Through looking at rebloom genetic pathways (MADS-box genes) and through observations in my own garden coupled with shared information with many other growers and hybridizers, I have tentatively come up with four different genetic types of iris rebloomers. In my colder climate (Zone 5 Canadian, Zone 4 USA rating) there is a distinctive classification based on their performance. However, this is not as clear in all climates. Thus, I will be using a classification based on the biological triggers of rebloom.

**Direct Rebloomers** (DR) are irises that go directly from flower bud set to flowering with no intervening signals, no resting period or further triggers. These are the Summer Rebloomers in colder climates. They bloom in spring and are the earliest of the rebloomers to

## Examples of: DIRECT REs

Immortality .....	TB
Low Ho Silver.....	IB
Masterwork .....	TB
Pure as Gold.....	TB
Queen Dorothy.....	TB



Queen Dorothy TB  
(E. Hall 1984)



Low Ho Silver IB  
(M. Byers 1989)

**Photo Credits page 17:**  
C. Chapman, C. Buchheim  
Immortality, C. Buchheim  
Queen Dorothy, C. Chapman  
Low Ho Silver, C. Buchheim

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## FALL CYCLIC REs

Autumn Embers ..... SDB  
Blessed Again..... IB  
Cantina ..... TB  
Little Showoff ..... SDB  
Northward Ho ..... TB  
Rosalie Figge ..... TB  
Touch of Spring..... TB

### Photo Credits page 18:

Masterwork, C. Buchheim  
Pure As Gold, C. Buchheim  
Cantina, C. Buchheim  
Rosalie Figge, C. Buchheim  
Northward Ho, C. Chapman



Masterwork TB SA (L. Zurbrigg 2001)

bloom in summer in cooler climates. Typical examples of these are 'Immortality' TB (L. Zurbrigg 1982), 'Queen Dorothy' TB (E. Hall 1984) and 'Low Ho Silver' IB (M. Byers 1989), 'Masterwork' TB (L. Zurbrigg 2001) and 'Pure As Gold' TB (W. Maryott 1993). Direct Rebloomers seem to have a recessive gene combined with at least one dominant gene.

### Fall Cyclic Rebloomers (FC)

are irises that have bloomed in the spring and rebloom early in the fall. There is a short delay after bud set and before the flower bud initiates growing into a flower stalk. There is



Rosilee Figge TB  
(J. McKnew 1993)



Cantina TB (M. Byers 1990)

no need for vernalization. Examples of this are type are 'Rosalie Figge' TB (J. McKnew 1993),

'Cantina' TB (M. Byers 1990), 'Little Showoff' SDB (E. Hall 1989), 'Northward Ho' TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991), 'Blessed Again' IB (F. Jones 1976), 'Autumn Embers' SDB (C. Chapman 1996), and 'Touch Of Spring' TB (C. Applegate 1972).

Fall Cyclic Rebloomers seem to have a dominant trait. Note, I'm not saying a dominant gene for it is actual-

ly a combination of traits and the end result is treated as a dominant gene.

The genetics of Fall Cyclic Rebloom is a bit complicated. The genes for this have come via *I. aphylla*. This species has a dormancy that involves dropping of leaves and plant dormancy stimulated by short daylight periods. This is a type of dormancy referred to scientifically as endo-dormancy or as deep dormancy. The plant remains in this type of dormancy until there is a specific signal to remove it from dormancy. This signal would appear to be vernalization followed by a long-day signal. With this system in place, *I. aphylla* doesn't seem to use vernalization as a signal to control flowering. When a

plant is in dormancy, it isn't growing so flowering is already blocked.

When an *I. aphylla* is crossed to a plant that needs vernalization before flowering, you can end up with plants that don't need vernalization for flowering. Normally the hard dormancy of *I. aphylla* prevents this fall blooming

because of hard dormancy. Seedlings from this cross can have need for vernalization for flowering removed, and also not have hard dormancy. This results in Fall Cyclic Rebloom because neither inhibitor of fall bloom is working.

While I had originally thought that Fall Cyclic Rebloomers were responding to a daylight trigger, I'm reconsidering this in light of new data. For the longest time, the Fall Cyclic Rebloom here in Southern Ontario, Canada went in reverse of spring bloom. That is, first TB, then IB, then SDB and then MDB. This is what one would expect if it was a daylight trigger. But other areas reported the reverse. First, MDB, then SDB, then IB and then TB.

Last year the FC rebloom here was the reverse of normal and not consistent with a daylight trigger. What was different last year for me was a much longer than normal growing season. Everything bloomed two to three weeks ahead of normal and thus resulted in a much longer growing season. Bloom trigger



Pure As Gold TB (W. Maryott 1993)



Northward Ho TB  
(L. Zurbrigg 1991)



would appear to be more complex than just day length. Perhaps there is a secondary trigger or a combination trigger.

**Extended Season Rebloomers (ES)** are irises that will rebloom in a Mediterranean climate with mild winters or extended periods without frost, resulting in a prolonged growing season. (I classify these as plants which will rebloom only in very extended growth seasons such as USDA Zones 8 and 9.) Examples of this type are '**Honky Tonk Blues**' TB (Schreiner 1988), '**Lullaby of Spring**' TB (Schreiner 1987) and '**Walker Ross**' AB (W. Ross, by C. Chapman 1998). Extended Season Rebloomers seem to have a dominant trait.

For Extended Season Rebloomers this trigger is a certain amount of time in the bud set stage. It seems to be about five to six months. Basically the plant is using a back-up system developed by plants originating in a Mediterranean climate. Sometimes it isn't cold enough in a Mediterranean winter for a proper vernalization, so if they have a long time at maturity, the plant assumes it must have already had a winter. In a Mediterran-



**Honky Tonk Blues TB**  
(Schreiner 1988)

(southern California and southern Australia) where they have longer growing seasons, these signals no longer work the same way. The scientific term for this process is facilitative vernalization.

Extended Season Rebloomers are basically normal plants with no new genes or gene combinations involved in their rebloom. They have a normal trigger that operates differently than how it does in the Mediterranean climate where it evolved. When grown in a climate with a

longer growing season than where it evolved, it gets triggered into bloom in the fall when its biological clock, (set to Mediterranean time) tell it that it should be in a spring season following a mild winter.

This difference in biological clock triggers for bloom and dormancy in different areas has been extensively studied. It is referred to as "lateral clines". Species growing at different latitudes will each develop their own timing of bloom, dormancy and out of dormancy to match their own season. When they are moved to a different latitude, the environmental signals don't match internal programming, with some odd results. This is what seems to be occurring here.

**Whenever Rebloomers (WR)** are a limited class of irises that may bloom as soon as any fan is of a mature size and appear to be daylight neutral

(not dependent on a set period of light or dark hours in order to enable rebloom). It would appear that they are not reset into a non-vernalized state when main fan in a clump blooms.

So far, this type of rebloomer appears to be mostly restricted to SDBs. Examples include '**Forever Blue**' SDB (C. Chapman 1997), '**Blueberry Tart**' SDB (C. Chapman 2002), '**Autumn Jester**' SDB (C. Chapman 2000), '**Wizard Of Hope**' SDB (C. Chapman 2001), and the MDB, '**Forever Violet**' (C. Chapman 2002).

These rebloomers usually start reblooming almost as soon as spring bloom is finished. They put up periodic bloom stalks until shut down by killing frost. When happy with growing conditions and with several clumps, they can provide continuous rebloom for five months. In addition, they consistently rebloom in Canadian Agricultural Zone 3, equivalent to USA Zone 2.

A brief look at dormancy in iris: All irises seem to be in a state of quiescence or dormancy over winter based on the length of



**Blessed Again IB** (F. Jones 1976)



**Walker Ross AB** (W. Ross 1998)

can climate this works well, but when moved into a warmer climate

#### Photo Credits page 19:

Blessed Again, C. Chapman  
Autumn Embers, C. Chapman  
Lullaby Of Spring,  
C. Buchheim  
Walker Ross, R. Tasco  
Honky Tonk Blues,  
K. Stanton

#### EXTENDED SEASON REs

Honky Tonk Blues ... TB  
Lullaby Of Spring .... TB  
Walker Ross ..... AB



**Autumn Embers SDB**  
(C. Chapman 1996)



**Lullaby Of Spring TB**  
(Schreiner 1987)

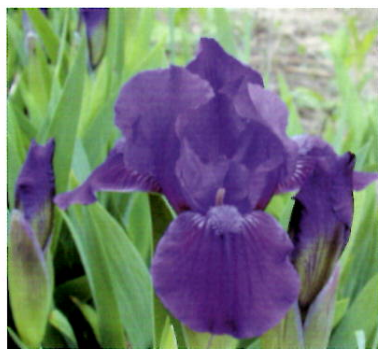


## WHENEVER RES

Autumn Jester .....SDB  
Blueberry Tart .....SDB  
Forever Blue.....SDB  
Forever Violet ..... MDB  
Wizard Of Hope .....SDB

### Photo Credits page 20:

Wizard Of Hope, C. Chapman  
Forever Violet, C. Chapman  
Blueberry Tart, C. Chapman  
Autumn Jester, C. Chapman



Autumn Jester SDB  
(C. Chapman 2000)

daylight, low temperature or both. This is an ecological dormancy. As soon as temperatures rise, or day length increases, (or both), the plant starts to grow. *I. aphylla* (and perhaps some other species as well) have a form of endodormancy. Once in this state they will stay in this state until certain conditions are met. Just increased light or increased warmth will not break them out of dormancy. While *I. aphylla* also has deciduous leaves along with endodormancy, this is not a necessary condition of endodormancy.

So a plant can have green leaves and be in an endodormant state. Any cultivar having endodormancy will shut down any possible rebloom as soon as it enters dormancy.

Plants have clocks and calendars that they use to time growth, dormancy, and bloom time. Plants can

enter dormancy in drought or excessive heat. I have received reports of some plants losing leaves in these conditions and entering an apparent deep dormancy. When a plant is in dormancy it won't grow. So extra watering in dry and hot times can extend growing time. Watering can also reduce heat via cooling of the water and by the cooling from evaporation of water. The more growth there is, the more mature fans will be available for later rebloom. And when growing, it can respond to available bloom triggers.

**Primed Rhizomes:** All rebloomers can carry a primed rhizome over winter. That is, it has initiated flower-stalk growth but was unable to finish blooming due to cold temperatures or not enough light for growth (eco-dormancy). Flower stalks that are just a swelling at the base of the fan can carry over winter without damage. This is more likely in warmer climates. Initiated flower stalks can survive warm winters and resume growth when temperatures and daylight permit restarting of growth. It is even

possible that the increases on these primed rhizomes will have grown large enough to not be reset by flowering on the mother rhizome. This can provide extra early bloom in spring and some extended, late season bloom.

Another condition that can occur in late fall is the start of a bloom stalk that is killed by frost.

Once this main fan is gone, there is no longer any inhibition of growth from the main fan to the increases and there is no reset of vernalization from flowering of the mother rhizome. If this is the case, then the increases on this rhizome can be vernalization primed. Thus, when bud set occurs, it can proceed directly from bud set to flowering, much the same as Direct bloomers can.



Wizard Of Hope SDB  
(C. Chapman 2001)



Forever Violet SDB  
(C. Chapman 2002)

Normally a plant will reset the vernalization condition in the increases by blooming or perhaps, by bud set. However, off-season set coupled with wintering over seems to prevent (or interfere with) this reset. There

is some indication that in some moderately large or larger than normal increases, when the main fan blooms, the increases are less likely to have their vernalization condition reset. Thus, they can bloom whenever they are mature and have bud set. When a plant has bud set late in the growing season, and carries this over to spring, the increase will be larger than normal. I suspect that when this happens, it produces some of the early rebloom the next season.

## Selecting for Breeding

Now, what does all this mean in terms of selecting plants for rebloom breeding? It means a lot, but as you may have figured out, it isn't simple. We all want rebloomers that start rebloom early and continue for a long time.

I have heard a lot of talk about rebloom carriers and seen a lot of people use Extended Season X Cold Climate rebloomers to build on the rebloom genes. There doesn't seem to be any carryover of rebloom genes from one type of rebloomer to another, at least not directly affecting primary rebloom genes. A rebloom carrier can only be for a recessive gene as we



appear to have in Whenever Rebloomers and Direct Rebloomers. It would need to have the appropriate genes, that is, be a Whenever Rebloom carrier or a Direct Rebloom carrier.

All of these factors, that is, the type of reloomer a plant is, and the genetic components of rebloom, are primary factors. There are a number of secondary factors that are in common among the best rebloomers of all types. These are the factors which enable the plant to have the energy to produce secondary bloom and still

survive as a plant. These involve plant vigour and many of these factors involve multi-factor genetics. They involve speed of growth, root formation, etc. One of these secondary factors which should be watched carefully is the leaf maturity at time of bloom. This varies considerably from cultivar to cultivar. I have recorded as low as nine and as high as 16. What has become obvious is that the lower the leaf count at plant maturity, the faster the plant reaches maturity (all other factors equal) and the sooner and more often it will rebloom.

**Pod parent effect:** The plastids which form chlorophyll are inherited only from the pod parent. Plastids have their own genetic material which can only come from the pod parent. It would seem that extra plant vigour characteristics which are secondary genetic traits promoting rebloom are inherited more from the pod parent. An example of this is the cross of Forever Blue X What Again, a cross that for me produced a lot of rebloomers and most of them seemed to be Whenever Rebloomers. Among these are 'Blueberry Tart' SDB (C. Chapman 2002), 'Autumn Jester' SDB (C. Chapman 2000), 'Summer Recall' SDB (C. Chapman 2003), and 'Wizard of Hope' SDB (C. Chapman 2001). The reverse cross, What Again X Forever Blue was done by Terry Aitken, who reported no rebloomers in this cross exhibiting a strong reciprocal cross difference, favouring the pod parent. Pod parent for plant,

pollen parent for flower is a good maxim to use. Given the choice, the parent with the best plant characteristics should be the pod parent. To improve flower form, use a pollen parent with the best flower characteristics, all other things considered.

I often see a lot of disagreement about differences in reciprocal crosses. Many claim it makes absolutely no difference. While many crosses will not show any appreciable differences, there are a lot that do. This phenomenon was first discovered in 1909 and now,

over a hundred years later, is still accepted as a proven factor in scientific circles. For skeptics, just do an internet search. There have been hundreds and hundreds papers published on this, trying to sort out all the various factors involved. There is no scientific dispute as to whether this exists or not, at least not since 1930's.

**Fall Cyclic:** This type of rebloomer seems to produce FC rebloomers regardless of what it is bred to. That is, some of the seedlings will be capable of Fall rebloom. They may not be able to rebloom in certain climates, but will have the genetic potential. To realize their potential they need enough secondary characteristics. Crossing to another FC will increase the number of FC seedlings and will ensure enough of the secondary characteristic to promote good rebloom. A rebloom carrier will not enhance any rebloom tendencies. Some caution is required here. Crossing FC X FC doesn't always give you good results. For me, an example is the crossing of Lenora Pearl X October Splendor. 'October Splendor' BB (G. Sides 1997) reblooms well for me and 'Lenora Pearl' BB (H. Nichols 1990) will initiate bloom stalks here but can only complete bloom if in a cold greenhouse. None of the many seedlings

**Photo Credits page 21:**  
October Splendor, R. Probst  
Lenora Pearl, R. Shadlow



**October Splendor BB** (G. Sides 1997)



**Lenora Pearl BB**  
(H. Nichols 1990)



*Photo Credits page 22:*  
Forever Blue, J.T. Aitken  
Summer Recall, C. Chapman

from this cross have been able to do anything in regards to rebloom here in southern Ontario, Canada other than produce a very, very late start of a flower stalk. All of the seedlings seem to have gotten their plant vigour from pod parent 'Lenora Pearl' and a high mature leaf count from 'October Splendor' and thus, no rebloom. The reverse cross may have more potential but I'm not going to try it based on very poor results with the original cross.

The best procedure for improving bloom quality would be to select a non-rebloom parent for the best combination of flower, branching and secondary rebloom characteristics. Particularly pay attention to the mature leaf count. The lower the mature leaf count, the sooner



Forever Blue SDB (C. Chapman 1997)

in the season you will get rebloom, and for good measure, use a FC parent as pod parent.

An interesting type of cross is FC X Whenever Rebloomers. This cross seems to produce a lot of FC re bloomers with the time of the fall rebloom being moved up considerably. With this cross it doesn't seem to make much difference which cross is pod parent.

Crossing Fall Cyclic to Direct Re bloomers can produce some Direct Re bloomers, as can crosses of FC X FC. This is because there has been a lot of interbreeding of these types of re bloomers and a lot of Fall Cyclic re bloomers carry Direct Re bloom genes. The advantage is that both parents will carry a good selection of secondary re bloom genes. The disadvantage is that you will have a great deal of problems getting a re bloomer with improved flower and branching. So, as a route to get introducible plants, it is probably not a best choice route.

Crossing Fall Cyclic to Extended Season re bloomers is another route often undertaken. While this can certainly be a good route to enhance flower form, there is nothing in the genetics (from what I can tell) that enhances re bloom. The genetics of FC and ES are too different. The problem that this can introduce is a lack of survival in colder climates. Personally, in my garden in southern Ontario, Canada, I have had limited success with plants having far

southern or southwestern origins, particularly from long established breeding lines. Some do well for me, but for every one that does well there are about 4-10 that don't. So there are risks in introducing cold climate weakness.

If the primary goal is to improve flower form, then select the best flower and branching on the plant that has the best secondary characteristics, including lowest mature leaf count on a plant that has cold hardiness.

**Direct Re bloomers:** While it is clear that this group of re bloomers re bloom in late summer, the timing and reliability depends very much on the climate that they are grown in. Sometimes it is difficult to be clear if a cultivar is a late Direct re bloomer or an early FC re bloomer. The best way to tell if they are Direct Re bloomers is the timing of bloom following the basic bud set trigger temperature. If they bloom within a couple of weeks following six days of temperature in range of 59°-72°F (15°-21°C) then they are Direct Re bloomers. These plants have a recessive gene controlling re bloom but there is more to the story than just this. Otherwise, a cross of two summer re bloomers would produce all seedlings as re bloomers and this is not the case. It very well could involve a strong set of several secondary re bloom genes or a combination with some dominant genes. I can't tell what it is right now.

Early bloom time in spring is rather typical of DR cultivars as they are daylight independent (don't respond to length of day to control blooming). In most climates they will bloom about a week ahead of regular plants of their classification. In a few climates they are a bit later and this seems to happen when early spring is a bit cold.

When I first got rebloom on 'Forever Blue' SDB (C. Chapman 1997), the first of the Whenever Re bloomers, I was very excited and crossed it with all the Direct Re bloomers



Summer Recall SDB  
(C. Chapman 2003)

I had. Then I waited expectantly for all the rebloom seedlings. What I ended up with was a bunch of plants with poor flowers of weak substance and no rebloom. The Whenever and Direct rebloom genes appear to be incompatible and it is also possible that what ever dominant



genes associated with their respective rebloom, repress rebloom in the other form of rebloom. This is a very different result than the crossing of WR X FC which produces a lot of FC rebloomers.

Crossing DR with FC will produce FC rebloomers, and sometimes a DR. This is because a lot of the FC rebloomers can carry DR genes. This is a result of previous breeding. The problem with this type of cross is in getting better formed flowers and ones with better substance.

Crossing DR with ES can improve flower characteristics but requires back crosses to recover DR genes. It doesn't seem as if the ES genes add anything to DR rebloom genetic potential. Certainly some of the secondary rebloom genes will be helpful. The risk is in introducing cold climate tenderness. To avoid this, use only the ES rebloomers that have proven to have cold hardiness.

To get better flowers into DR the best route may very well be to breed to plants with good flower and good secondary rebloom characteristics such as rapid growth and low mature leaf count. Then cross seedlings back to a Direct Rebloomer.

Whenever Rebloomers: One of the primary factors of this group of rebloomers is the very fast growth rate, and the ability to produce multiple generations in a year. But there is more to it than just the fast growth. I have other SDBs with this same phenomenal growth that show no signs of rebloom. What significantly helps with rebloom in WR is their low mature leaf count.

So far the highest number of WRs that I have obtained from WR X WR is about 25%. While there is a recessive component here, there seems to be other factors as well. The result is consistent with an interpretation of it being a recessive plus two dominant genes. One dominant gene gives 50% but to get a combination of two dominant genes you end up with only 25% having one dosage of each.

While 'What Again' SDB (A. Ensminger 1991) seems to have complimentary genes, there are no other crosses found so far, other

than WR X WR, that gives WR rebloomers. This cross works only with the WR as pod parent. Crossing with other cultivars having

'What Again' in percentage may produce more WR rebloomers.

Currently, I have a number of rebloomers from WR X FC that I'm using in sibling crosses and back crosses to expand colour range of the WR types of rebloomers.

Attempts have been

made to get these genetics into TBs. So far, the IBs produced have limited fertility. With the IB seedlings from WR X TB that I have, none of the planned crosses took. I continue to grow a large number of plants of the best seedlings as I do get some bee pods. I have a report of a fertile IB seedling from a WR X TB, so there is still some hope of bringing this type of rebloom into TBs. There is always the possibility that the WR is restricted to SDB and MDB types of iris. In any case, the work still continues.

Extended Season Rebloomers: These are cultivars that rebloom in warm climates with an extended growing season. It is a group of rebloomers that I don't have a lot of personal experience with. With their extended growing season, they initiate bloom after an extended period of time following bud set initiation. Sometimes this bud set carries over into the next growing season, providing both early spring and extended season bloom. This does not happen with these cultivars in climates with shorter growing seasons as they don't get the flower growth initiation in the fall.

The genetics of ES seems to be dominant so the rebloom can be passed on to seedlings regardless of what they are crossed with. Crossing a ES X ES should increase the number of seedlings that are rebloomers and can carry secondary rebloom genes which will help with rebloom.

Crossing a ES with another type of rebloomer could increase the number of seedlings with good secondary rebloom genes. Crossing with a FC will likely produce FC as well as ES. But crossing with WR or DR will not produce any more rebloomers in seedlings, based on genetics, but could do so from increased secondary rebloom traits.



What Again SDB (A. Ensminger 1991)

Photo Credits page 23:  
What Again, M. Greenfield



It is yet to be determined if the ES X ES rebloomers will be able to rebloom in any area other than long growing season areas. There are two problems to overcome. The most obvious one is cold handiness. Careful selection of parents and constant trialing of seedlings in colder climates should be able to overcome this problem. Trialing in colder climates would very likely help in selecting the seedlings best suitable to use in breeding program.



**Blessed Again IB**  
(F. Jones 1976)



**Little Showoff SDB**  
(E. Hall 1989)

*Photo Credits page 24  
for Fall Cyclic REs:*

Blessed Again, C. Chapman  
Little Showoff, C. Chapman

*Photo Credits page 25  
# S-GS13, R. Probst*

The second problem is, can the rebloom be moved earlier into the season? That is, can the long growing season time be shortened? I'm not referring to the bud set and increases on bud set being moved into next season, but the initial bud initiation which gives rise to this. I suspect it can be shortened, but this will require some good observation of initial rebloom times.

**Early bloom time:** A lot of people feel that early bloom time is a good selector for rebloom potential. This needs to be approached with some idea of what is involved. It seems that most of the DR types bloom early in most climates by the nature of their direct bloom. Other than that, there seems to be only a little advantage to having early bloom. A quick search through RIS "Checklist" shows few rebloomers listed as Early. Most are E-M or M.

A lot of caution needs to be taken with the plants classified as Very Early (VE) and particularly with the ones labelled very very early (VVE). The VE and VVE TB plants have been bred and selected in warm climates. They have an advantage in these climates of blooming before temperatures get too hot and burn the flowers. In colder climates these same plants will often put up their flower stalks so early that they get damaged by late frosts, thus losing spring bloom.

If early bloom is a result of a low mature leaf count, than it will be of an advantage for rebloom.

The VE and particularly the VVE bloomers will be of use to those people breeding for warm climate rebloomers. However, these same plants will likely be restricted to being grown in warm climate areas.

**Earlier Bloom Trigger:** I have noticed that once bud set has been initiated in the main fan, that the increases start to grow. The main fan seems to suppress growth of increase until bud

set is initiated. As fall progresses, some TB will have some cultivars with increases with much larger size than others. This suggests that these cultivars have set bud initiation earlier than other cultivars. Perhaps at a lower temperature than others, or perhaps with fewer days at bud set temperatures. This year in fall, while taking garden inventory, I made note of these cultivars. I plan on using this information in selecting cultivars to use in rebloom breeding. It will also be useful in selecting plants to breed for cold climate hardiness. The reasoning on this, is that a lot of plants fade out over time in cold climates as they have problems with bud initiation before winter, and thus, don't have increases to carry the plant into following the bloom season.

**Mixing rebloom types:** I often hear of people hoping that by combining two types of rebloom genetics (ie: DR and FC) in the same plant that they will get a longer bloom time. This won't happen for several reasons.

A fan can only bloom once. In the process of reblooming, once it is turned on, it is a go for bloom. Being turned on a second, third or fourth time won't make any difference.

In terms of earliness of rebloom, the triggers are from earliest-to-latest bloom: WR, DR, FC and then ES. Whichever trigger that the plant has, that is earliest, will be the controlling trigger for rebloom. Any other rebloom genes will be irrelevant.

One of the hopes with this idea is for a long or continuous rebloom. For a long rebloom period you need a lot of fans, at various developmental stages. And for a lot of fans you need rapid growth and a lot of increases.

**To give some examples:** The WR rebloomers can give five months or more of continuous bloom in a good growing season. Each fan in the clump, as it reaches maturity, proceeds to bloom. If environmental conditions are right for the plant to grow, that is, getting moisture and not being too hot, it will continue to put out a lot of increases and continue to grow. Main fan blooms in spring and later fans that were not large enough to bloom in spring will bloom later. Each of these fans puts out increases that grow quickly, and when mature, bloom. I have often counted three generations of bloom on one clump in a year. Mother, daughters, and granddaughters, all blooming in the same year with increases left over for next spring.



Now look at DR types. In spring bloom, there are about 1/2 to 2/3rds of the fans that don't bloom. These fans mature over the growing season and eventually, a number of them reach maturity and stop growing, waiting for bud set temperatures resulting from cooler weather in warm growing areas and warmer weather in cooler growing areas. The longer it takes before bud set temperatures are reached, the greater the number of fans there will be at maturity level. At the same time, the increases from the fans that bloomed in spring will be growing on. Once bud set temperatures are reached, all the mature fans will have bud set, and as they are DR plants, the flower stalks will immediately start growing, and two to three weeks later the flower stalks will be fully grown and rebloom will start. This produces a clump effect in most locals. Any fans that reach maturity after this time can also be triggered into bud set and immediately into flower stalk development and bloom. In colder climates, there is a limited number of days with night time temperatures warm enough to trigger bud set, so usually there will be only one flush of bloom. In warm climates, where temperatures cool off later in summer, there can continue to be bud set. You can get later rebloom as long as you have fans maturing and have bud set temperatures. FC genetics will not increase the number of fans available for rebloom or extend the season.

Future: For my own rebloom program, I have identified a number of cultivars and seedlings to use to cross to my reblooming lines. I have selected a number of plants with very fast growth and multiple increases. Additionally, I have made note of plants that bloom with the lowest mature leaf count.

Last fall I surveyed my plants and on the TB plants made note of which plants had the largest size and largest number of increases. These plants will be the ones that have the earliest bud initiation and will have the best secondary factors to pass on to rebloom crosses.

Another factor to watch for is to note which plants in each group have the earliest rebloom. These should have the greatest amount of secondary factors and be prime candidates to use for rebloom in offspring.

Now lets wait and see if all this planning will have payoff in future seedlings.

#### References:

Chapman, Chuck "*Plant Maturity, Temperature, and Rebloom*", The RIS Recorder, Spring 2009 V73., Bulletin of the American Iris Society, April 2010, V91-2)

For more information on the MADS-box genes and flowering use this web address <http://www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/~mcclean/plsc731/flower/flower7.htm>

## RIS "FUNraiser"

Thank you for sending your name choices for this "FUNraising" introduction by the Reblooming Iris Society. This reblooming white beauty has 12 to 14 buds and each stalk carries three to four branches with triple-socketed terminals. Its standards are upright and closed.. Pale yellow beards terminate in white horns. Semi-flaring clean white falls have just the right amount of ruffling and lovely serrated edges.

The winning name will be announced at the 2011 AIS National Convention in Victoria, Canada. Watch for an ad in the "4th of July Rebloom News" on how to purchase this amazing RIS "FUNraiser". To receive your RIS electronic newsletter, please send your email address to Rose Kinnard, RIS Membership, at [RKinnard@minesmo.org](mailto:RKinnard@minesmo.org).



Seedling # S-GS13 TB (G. Sutton), Parentage involving: Twice Told, Mind Reader, Sweet Musette, Twice Thrilling & others.



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*Don Spoon*

# Proposed RIS Awards for Rebloomers

*By Don Spoon*

Irises introduced as rebloomers rarely receive major awards voted for by AIS garden

ability to rebloom. Our wholesale customers only purchase rebloomers because they say that is all the general public wants to buy. If you drive around Winchester, Virginia or Wash-

**Photo Credits page 26:**

Don Spoon, *Provided*  
 Daughter Of Stars, *P. Buchheim*  
 Clarence, *C. Buchheim*  
 Mind Reader, *C. Buchheim*

judges. Mike Lowe, AIS Registrar, reported to me in February 2011, that only 70 awards above the HM level have been given to irises introduced as rebloomers in the last 60 years. Lloyd Zurbrigg and I were delighted when our tall bearded rebloomers 'Clarence' TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991) and its daughter, 'Daughter of Stars' TB (D. Spoon 2001) both won the AIS Wister Medals. There are many reasons given why this paucity of AIS awards for introduced rebloomers is the present situation. Possibly, the earlier spring blooming habit of many rebloomers makes it unlikely they will be in bloom for the AIS regional and

national conventions. Another reason given is that rebloomers simply can not compete with spring only bloomers with their increased width, ruffles, substance, and bud count, etc. In the last fifteen years, many of the introduced rebloomers have had modern flower form that is equal to the once bloomers with the added bonus of at least doubling of the bloom time.

Personally, I believe that the rules of the *AIS Judge's Handbook*, and the way AIS garden judges have interpreted the handbook, have made the functional advantages of reblooming irises of little consequence. We grow over 1,500 rebloomers that rebloom in some zone. We grow most of these rebloomers in separate beds. If rebloomers are grown with once bloomers, we can not give the rebloomers the summer watering and fertilizer they need for rebloom without risking losing many of the once bloomers to soft rot and other problems. As a group, most of the rebloomers we grow are more vigorous, floriferous, winter hardy, and easier to maintain than once bloomers.

We have found that the general public demands that the irises they purchase have the



**Daughter Of Stars TB**  
*(D. Spoon 2001)*

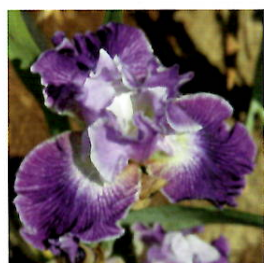
ington, D.C. in early spring, when the rebloomers are blooming earlier than once bloomers, you will be amazed at the number of big clumps of rebloomers with their many flowering stalks you will see. If there is a rebloomer that is comparable to a once bloomer in stalk height, color, and color pattern, the general public chooses to buy the rebloomer that gives two weeks of bloom

in the spring, plus two or more weeks, or even months, of additional bloom in the fall.

We seldom sell the truly beautiful once bloomer, 'Mind Reader' TB (K. Keppel 1994), when our 'Daughter of Stars' TB (D. Spoon 2001) out of 'Clarence' X 'Mind Reader' reblooms reliably in zones 6 to 9 and has a similar color and luminata pattern. 'Daughter of Stars' has a pleasant fragrance from its reblooming parent 'Clarence' and has been reported to us to be the first TB to spring bloom in many gardens because of its winter hardiness and resistance to late frost damage. For us, 'Daughter Of Stars' has almost no borer damage, is not eaten by voles, and is resistant to soft rot. It is a good increaser with 4 to 14 increases per rhizome. Because of all these good traits, 'Daughter of Stars' has been our best growing and best selling iris in our whole collection of over 6,000 iris cultivars. It may have on average less buds per stalk than 'Mind Reader' TB (K. Keppel 1994) on its spring stalks; however, in the fall its stalks can have up to 18 buds with the clump reblooming for a month or more. Years ago, Ben Hager, Monty Byers, Charlie Nearpass, Lloyd Zurbrigg, and many other champions of rebloom predicted that whenever a rebloomer was introduced that was similar to a once bloomer on the market, that the rebloomer would eventually replace the once bloomer in many iris collections. We have



**Clarence TB**  
*(L. Zurbrigg 1991)*



**Mind Reader TB**  
*(K. Keppel 1994)*



hundreds of beautiful, AIS award winning classic once bloomers that were introduced over ten years ago that we seldom sell because there are rebloomers available that are equal to, or even superior to them.

Many top hybridizers of spring only bloomers have made improvements in the vigor and increase of their introductions. Most of all, they have continued their advances in beautiful colors and color patterns, wide form and ruffles, heavy substance, and tall stalks with many buds; yet some have almost totally neglected rebloom with next to none listed in their yearly catalogs and advertisements. Such oversized, wide, ruffled flowers may work on overly tall stalks in the western states, but in the east with our spring and early summer rains, such stalks have difficulty remaining upright in wet soil with our accompanying strong winds. Staking stalks to right this problem is laborious. Some companies or hybridizers may have the same prejudice of earlier commercial growers thinking that rebloomers may be putting up stalks at the time they are shipping out their orders. It is much harder to produce a good rebloomer worthy of introduction than it is to produce a once bloomer that will bloom at the time of the AIS regional and national conventions and get the attention of AIS garden judges in attendance.



**Trimmed Velvet** MDB  
(D. Spoon 2006)

bloomed before the peak bloom scheduled for AIS conventions.

Major advances have been made in modern form of rebloomers introduced in the last fifteen years. We used to have to test many once bloomers to try and find rebloom carriers that would produce a rebloomer if crossed on a rebloomer in order to produce rebloomers with more modern form. The main sign that



**Love Goes On** BB (D. Spoon 2004)

Also, if hybridizers used rebloomers and rebloom carriers that bloom earlier than once bloomers in their breeding programs, they would produce seedlings that

a once bloomer could be a potential rebloom carrier was its earlier bloom in the spring as with the excellent rebloom carrier parent, **'Mind Reader'** TB (K. Keppel 1994). Now, we have modern formed rebloomers in most

colors and color patterns so we can cross rebloomers on rebloomers and produce improved rebloomers. The newest kinds of rebloomers are those that have a third cycle of bloom in the summer months that we call all season bloomers, as they have lost their functional dominant genes that govern summer dormancy. These all season bloomers, like

our BBs **'Love Goes On'** (D. Spoon 2004) or **'Twiggy'** (D. Spoon 2004) can bloom in spring, summer, and fall for us in zone 6b, with our eight month growth season. They begin growing in late winter when the soil warms up, and bloom two weeks before the spring only bloomers, then they bloom a second time in July or August, and a third time in September, October, and November. In zone 9, such all season bloomers may add one or more cycles of multiple blooming for a total of five, or even six cycles of bloom. How could an AIS garden judge, using the *AIS Judge's Handbook*, find a way to point score such multiple rebloom?

My dream is to walk in our garden in early October with as many gorgeous stalks as were produced in May. The next generation of hybridizers of multiple rebloomers - all season bloomers - may someday produce the same mid summer garden display in their gardens as they had in the spring and fall.

Another big improvement in rebloomers has been in the winter hardiness of rebloomers grown in the harsher climatic zones 4, 5, and 6. Our MDB **'Trimmed Velvet'** (D. Spoon 2006), whose stalks and foliage can withstand several hard frosts in late November and December, has had flowers opening as late as Christmas day in our garden. Last year, our SDB **'Purple Joy'** (D. Spoon 2009) gave us nearly three months of fall rebloom into early December. Our SDB **'Ray Jones'** (D. Spoon 2011) had a flower stalk



**Corn Dance** TB  
(D. Spoon 2008)

*Photo Credits page 27:*  
Love Goes On, G. Spoon  
Corn Dance, R. Probst  
Trimmed Velvet, G. Spoon

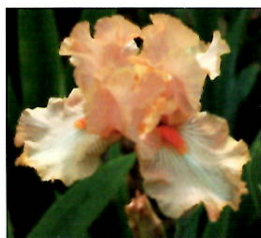


Photo Credits page 28:

Twiggy, G. Spoon

Purple Joy, G. Spoon

Ray Jones, G. Spoon



**Twiggy BB**  
(D. Spoon 2004)



**Purple Joy SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2009)



**Ray Jones SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2011)

survive the winter and open its flowers in early spring. Two winters ago, our TB 'Corn Dance' (D. Spoon 2008), had three fully formed stalks in late November with buds that survived our harsh winter with a couple of deep snows, and then opened its flowers on those stalks in the spring. We are actively pursuing this winter hardy trait. Again, no AIS points scored here.

It is my hope that the Reblooming Iris Society will consider having its own major yearly awards for the best new and recent rebloomers introduced in the last fifteen years. I sincerely hope we will not even think of having these awards named for people. Lloyd Zurbrigg told me he disliked such naming, and not to name such an award for him. The award should be for the iris cultivar and its hybridizer and not named for any other renowned hybridizer, no matter how prolific and important you might think the hybridizer was or is. Named awards create an unnecessary, conflicting popularity contest and burdens future RIS members with the task of remembering the names. Simply put, "the yearly RIS award or the yearly RIS TB, etc. award".

We should have a RIS yearly - a top rebloomer - award for all types and classes. In each type or classification we should award a RIS yearly award with the winners eligible for the top award the very next year with no waiting period and stay on the list for the top award for five years. We should not award this top award until the second year based on the first year of voting for the types and classes yearly RIS awards. We should just call these awards the yearly RIS award for TB, BB, IB, MTB, SDB, and MDB and Siberian repeater, etc., if so desired for the beardless irises. There is no need to have the expense of certificates and medals. To have the awards announced on the RIS website and printed in the *RIS Recorder* would be sufficient notification and recognition. The whole membership of the Reblooming Iris Society should be allowed to vote if they have seen the cultivar reblooming in some garden. We should not limit voting just to AIS garden judges who are members of the Reblooming Iris Society. We could have an interactive web site for members to record their votes that would be set up to do the tallying of the votes. If two cultivars tie in votes for an award, then there could be a runoff revote just for those two cultivars. If they tied again then they would both be the winners.

I believe that RIS should produce a brief, concise booklet with the guidelines for judging rebloomers by our membership. For example, awarding cultivars with overly tall stalks, bud counts over seven, and terminals with three buds are not appropriate goals for reliable, floriferous rebloomers with many sturdy stalks per clump in both spring and fall. This attitude shifts the emphasis from display on the show bench to performance in the garden in spring and fall. Spring only bloomers need more buds to have at least two weeks of bloom in spring, while rebloomers can provide more stalks per clump and at least twice the bloom time.

We should have a two hour garden training course, specifically on rebloom, with each participant having read the RIS reblooming booklet before signing up to take the garden training course. If you take the course and pass the twenty-question examination making 60% or better, then your educated vote will count two votes compared to a member of RIS who has not taken and passed the course whose vote counts only one vote. I believe it would be best to allow voting for only one of the cultivars in each list of the top yearly RIS or classes and types awards so you have to decide on your one favorite.

We should take over the awards system and make it our own for the express purpose of judging and rewarding iris cultivars that are introduced as rebloomers. We should make a requirement that the rebloom has to be reliable in at least two zones, even just zones 8 and 9, and not just sporadically, or once or twice, or with stalks produced too late in the season to open blooms in the garden. Just producing a stalk that can be brought inside to bloom in two zones would not be enough to qualify for any award. We could also encourage reliable rebloom in zones 3, 4, and 5 by giving a special yearly RIS award to the best reliable rebloomer in any class or type in these colder zones.

The Reblooming Iris Society should provide its own award incentives for hybridizers, especially youths, to concentrate on producing better and more beautiful rebloomers. The vanguard section of the American Iris Society is the Reblooming Iris Society because the future of irises is rebloom. The RIS officers, board, and membership should decide which of these proposals are worthy of consideration.





*Jim Hedgecock*

## RE Seedling Test Gardens *By Jim Hedgecock*

Have you ever noticed the number of older reblooming irises that are still being listed in catalogs and on websites? And did you give serious thought as to why this is happening? The simple truth is that these varieties have been around long enough to be tested for most of the climate zones and it has been recorded. OK, so now I have basically said what we all already know.

The real question involves how are we going to get newer and certainly more attractive reblooming irises into commerce. There are a few dedicated hybridizers that truly test their irises for rebloom. I will drop a few names here that come to mind: Betty Wilkerson, Don Spoon, and Tim Stanek. Then there are those like me that make rebloom crosses and hope a few rebloom and really never test them. If a hybridizer does not know if a seedling reblooms, it may take years to get it into commerce as a rebloomer and even longer to find out what zones it will rebloom in.

To help solve this problem, what about opening up a series of test gardens that would evaluate rebloomers in different zones of the US? I can hear the howls already. The person that signs up as a seedling tester will need to understand that a report on the varieties they are growing will be mandatory each year. Non-reporters will lose the test garden status if they fail to report each year. These varieties would be grown to provide optimal conditions for encouraging rebloom by supplying extra water and fertilizer.

Now I will entertain the next question. Who's going to pay for that fertilizer? The test garden grower is. That person would get a start off of the varieties if they have been introduced. Sorry the seedlings won't count as keepers unless it is OK'd by the hybridizer. Remember, you would be getting some very good new rebloomers just for caring for a few plants.

If a plan of this sort is to work, we need at least two or three gardens for each zone. However, even one will help. It should be noted that a limit can be set by the guest test gardener. If you don't want but 10 varieties or seedlings, just say so. Every report will be priceless to the society as we find out what varieties will rebloom in what zone. This is your chance to form a meaningful effort to advance the statistics on rebloom zones for varieties. I want to remind everyone that ethics will have to be a concern in this effort as well. AIS rules would apply to the guests just like they are in a convention guest garden. Hybridizers wanting stock returned would be billed for shipping fees. My suggestion is for the plants to be grown at least two to three years.

I want to state this one more time. Test garden growers would be dropped from the project for not annually reporting.

This is just a starting outline. I know there may be many tweaks needed. If you have a better idea, please present it to the society. Our very existence relies on promoting reblooming irises. Why not promote newer varieties instead of the older ones. I know about the region reports. Why not go just a little bit further? Form the test gardens.

I will put my foot in my mouth here. If some sort of test garden is started, I will head up the effort by handling all paperwork and signing up the test gardens for a period of at least two years.

I hope the society officers and members start this ball rolling. I think the effort will be a huge boost to our society.

Thanks for listening.

Jim Hedgecock  
RIS Vice President

**Jim Hedgecock**  
**Comanche Acres**  
**Iris Gardens**  
12421 S.E. State Rt. 116  
Gower, MO 64454  
[jim@comancheacresiris.com](mailto:jim@comancheacresiris.com)  
(816) 424-6436  
**USDA Zone 5**



**What's Up Doc TB**  
(J. Hedgecock 1989)



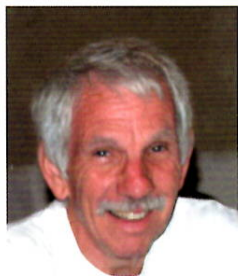
**Galactic Warrior TB**  
(J. Hedgecock 2000)

**Photo Credits page 29:**  
J. Hedgecock, C. Buchheim  
What's Up Doc, J. Hedgecock  
Galactic Warrior, J. Hedgecock



**Riley Probst**  
 2701 Fine Ave.  
 Modesto, CA 95355  
*rprobst02@earthlink.net*  
 (209) 551-6323  
**USDA Zone 9**

*Photo Credits page 30:*  
 Riley Probst, C. Buchheim



**Riley Probst**

## RIS on Facebook *By Riley Probst*

The Reblooming Iris Society has now had a page on Facebook for about nine months. Once you are on the Facebook website, to access the RIS page, you simply type "Reblooming Iris Society" in the search box at the top of the page. Then click on it. If this is your first visit, there were more detailed instructions in the Reblooming Iris Recorder Volume 76 Fall/Winter 2010, page 17. If you have not already done so, be sure to click on the option to "like" this page, which puts an icon on your Facebook page and allows you to return at any time by beginning to type "Reblooming Iris Society" in the search box.

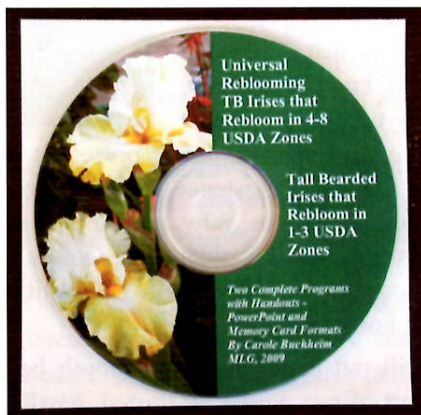
The people who click "like" can also post comments, questions and/or photos. Speaking of photos, there are now 323 photos on our Facebook page. Our Facebook membership is now up to an even 100.

Why Facebook for RIS? It is one more inexpensive way for reblooming iris enthusiasts to communicate with each other and to share photos of our favorite flower.

Please share with us which irises rebloom in your garden and upload a photo to share with others. If you have not done so, we hope you visit soon and check out our page. Please feel free to e-mail me at [rprobst02@earthlink.net](mailto:rprobst02@earthlink.net) if you have any questions.

Riley Probst, Southwestern Director  
 Facebook Administration

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### Request for Digital Images

Digital images of reblooming irises are needed to create PowerPoint programs. Please e-mail jpegs or mail CDs to Alex Stanton, RIS Digital Program Chairperson. High resolution, uncropped jpeg photos of individual flowers, floral stalks, and clumps are welcome.

**Alex Stanton**, 1074 Robertson Drive, Escondido, CA 92505 • **E-mail:** [stanton-ad-kw@juno.com](mailto:stanton-ad-kw@juno.com)



# Record Of Iris Rebloom

AIS Region \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (To find your zone, go to [www.gardenweb.com/zones/zip.cgi](http://www.gardenweb.com/zones/zip.cgi) and type in your five digit zip code.) City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Variety	Class	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
1														
2														
3														
4														
5														
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														
16														
17														
18														

Note: Please send a copy of this report to your area director. Street address and email information are listed on page 1.





**Total Recall TB**  
(B. Hager 1992)



**Renewal TB**  
(G. Sutton 2004)



**Sea Fluff TB**  
(R. Smith 1991)

*Photo Credits page 32:*  
Total Recall, C. Buchheim  
Renewal, C. Buchheim  
Sea Fluff, C. Buchheim

## RIS Membership Information and Application

**Use This Form to JOIN or RENEW Your MEMBERSHIP  
in the Reblooming Iris Society**

*(Photocopy this page, fill it out, and mail the completed form with your dues.)*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip (plus 4):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AIS Member? (Please Check)** \_\_\_\_\_ **YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**

*You can use a Credit Card or PayPal to pay RIS Membership  
at the AIS website: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)*

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

*(Please CIRCLE appropriate selection)*

	<i>Annual</i>	<i>Triennial</i>		<i>Annual</i>	<i>Triennial</i>
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***Your Current Expiration Date Is Shown On The Mailing Label.  
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Order your copy of the CD **Checklist** for \$16.00 (\$21.00 overseas) and make checks payable to the Reblooming Iris Society (RIS) and mail to: Rose Kinnard, Membership Sec., 1649 Madison 504, Fredericktown, MO 63645.

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Again And Again TB (S. Innerst 1999)  
(Photo by C. Buchheim)

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