

for and received the baking support of its regional membership. 19,200 cookies and cakes were collected by Rich Randall of the CCC, short for the Cookie Coordinating Committee. At the closing banquet Clarence Mahan, Convention Chairman, announced that the balance of the cookies were donated to Washington's hungry, a fitting tribute to a well run convention.

In addition to renewing friendships and devouring snacks, we came to Washington to see irises. Some delegates see only tall-bearded irises. However, this convention allowed us to see MTBs, BBs, spurias, Siberians, old favorites and Japanese (in the Nicholls Garden in Gainesville, VA.) Many DC area iris growers are actively involved in the Historical Iris Preservation Society of AIS. A Siberian, SHAKER'S PRAYER by RVP Carol Warner, won the President's Cup for Best in-region iris. The Cook Cup for Best out-of-region variety was awarded to the spectacular DUSKY CHALLENGER. This is the first time an iris has won this award twice (San Jose, '86).

Interest in flowers was not limited to irises in DC area gardens. Companion plants were everywhere. I remember fondly the beautiful Lupines in the Nicholls Garden as well as the perennial flax, larkspur, poppies, variegated daylily foliage, and healthy, virorous asparagus beds. The peonies i.e. CHOCOLATE SOLDIERS, RED CHARM; and WHITE CAP, *Heuchera* (Coral Bells), and the Scotch broom 'Lucky' were enchanting in the Warner Garden. In addition, she had a Franklin Tree, a beautiful *Calycanthus* (STRAWBERRY BUSH) and a hardy gloxinia, *Incarvillea*, which will not survive in Memphis. I remember an oriental touch in the Mahan garden, particularly the sweep of hostas overlooking the iris beds. I was duly impressed with huge Kentucky Coffee Trees along the driveway of the Weber garden. With the tone of North and South as an undercurrent of this convention, it is appropriate to note that the seeds from this legume were used by the Confederacy during the Civil War as a coffee substitute. Needless to say, the extremely hard seed coat destroyed the grinders and the coffee wasn't that great either. In the Lawson garden, I felt that I could camp out in the garden and not worry about going to the store. The sugar snap peas, kale, lettuce, kohlrabi and potatoes were just a sampling of food stuffs in this garden. The white and purple *Campanula*, yellow plum tree, and hostas further accentuated it.

Other companion plants seen in the tour gardens were *Dictamnus albus* (Gas Plant), *Phlox paniculata* (Garden Phlox, not yet in bloom), *Dianthus*, sedums including Autumn Joy *Delphinium*, *Oenothera* (EVENING PRIMROSE), *Dicentra* (Bleeding Hearts), *Digitalis* (Foxgloves), *Stokesia* (Stoke's Aster, not yet in bloom), *Lychnis chalconica* (Maltese Cross), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (Celadine Poppy), *Papaver orientale* (Oriental Poppy), *Lathyrus latifolia* (Sweet Pea), *Aquilegia* (Columbines, ox-eye daisies, *Astilbe*, and *Bletilla* (Hardy Orchid).

In closing, I want to extend my congratulations to the Convention Committee, Garden Owners, and all the spouses that put up with three to four years of intense after hours volunteering. Reflecting on the Opening Dinner, Clarence, we, the convention delegates, love you and all your hard working crew, too!