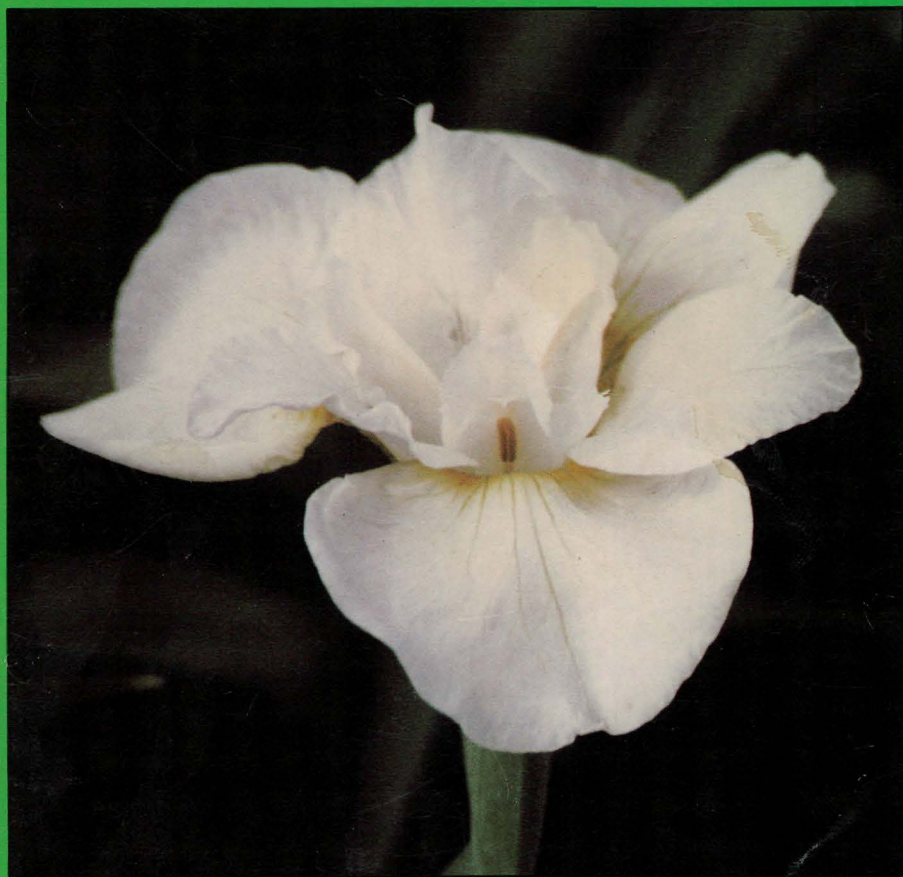


The Siberian Iris



Fall 1990

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2

FALL 1990

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Front Cover: KING OF KINGS (Varner '83)
Morgan-Wood Medal winner for 1990

Photo: D.S. Varner



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I was very proud to hold up our first TSI color cover at the board meeting at Omaha in May. I wish you could have heard the OOHs and AHs! I think ours is the first section to go to color. The index shows that the scope of articles was wide - there must be something for every member - be it a longtime experience in hybridizing; the 40 chromosome Siberians; how to photograph your flowers or help in arranging them to beautify your home and for your iris show. WOW! can Judy top this issue?

Again this year I kept a daily tally of which Siberians were blooming from June 2nd 'til July 8th, and I am in the process of analyzing the data.

Of the 118 varieties counted each day the following number were in bloom:

June 2nd	19	June 11th	84	(71%)
June 3rd	25	June 12th	80	
June 4th	32	June 13th	78	
June 5th	43	June 14th	78	
June 6th	44	June 15th	76	
June 7th	58	June 16th	69	
June 8th	72	June 17th	66	
June 9th	86	June 18th	48	
June 10th	88	June 19th	39	
	(72.8%)			
	(74.5%)			

This makes peak bloom in our area the second weekend of June. Each year varies somewhat but amazingly enough last year the bloom dates for many varieties was almost to the day the same as this year. I was away from June 16th-22nd in 1989 and I completely missed a couple of midseason varieties. I believe that when these data are tabulated I can advise people with small gardens which varieties to choose to maximize the length of their bloom season. We had a cooler season than some years which does extend bloom. Several varieties had repeat bloom, several flowered for 17-19 days compared with a few varieties that only bloomed 4-7

days. There is a need for more record keeping and comparing bloom period on well-established plants under a variety of conditions and climates; we could all benefit from it.

The AIS ballots are counted and we have a Morgan-Wood Medal winner, KING OF KINGS. Our congratulations to Steve Varner for his second medal in a row.

My, how summer has flown! We are late getting the transplanting of Siberians done. Preparing and planting a bed for the 1993 Siberian convention has kept us busy. Guests have been arriving from here and abroad. How very exciting!

As the Siberian leaves turn golden-brown, may your fall gardening chores be easy and winter provide a good blanket of snow for your irises.

Anna Mae Miller

PUBLICATIONS

All back issues are \$1.50 each if available. We no longer have copies of some of the early issues. Judging Standards should be ordered from the AIS. Checks for all publications, payable to the Society for Siberian Irises should accompany orders. Send to the Publication Office, c/o Mrs. Ruth Wilder, 802, Camellia Rd., Anderson SC 29621.

SOUR EXPERIENCES WITH A SWEET SOIL

BY HOWARD BROOKINS

Here in Wisconsin we are blessed (?) with nice rich red clay soil sitting on a base of limestone, with the soil in places only a few feet deep. These are excellent conditions for raising bearded irises as our soil pH runs from 7.0 to 7.7. However the Siberians don't exactly appreciate the alkalinity and as a result we add lots of sulfur - ammonium sulfate and ferrous sulfate to the soil. Although this is the recommended way to lower pH it is only a temporary measure as these products are leached out when it rains. The problem is compounded when we use our well water for irrigation. It is 48 grains hardness and after watering bare ground with an overhead sprinkler a nice white film of lime is left on the soil surface.

As mentioned, the sulfur products put our pH in a respectable range for Siberians and we have great success with them after getting them started. The main problem has been in setting out new varieties grown in areas with a natural pH in the 4.0 to 5.5 range. I ordered plants in the past from commercial gardens in Oregon with very poor results and always blamed the fact that they only shipped in the fall of the year and we have harsh winters. Two attempts from one Oregon garden provided me with a 40% survival rate which I consider very poor. In the fall of 1989 I ordered 28 varieties from another Oregon commercial garden, set them out early (September 8th) and watched them all die, despite transplanting with peat moss and watering in with Miracid solution. In the same bed and on the same day I set out an order from a fellow Midwest grower. All these plants immediately greened up and started growing. The Midwest irises all survived the winter and are developing good clumps while the batch from Oregon is only recognizable by the plant markers, not one green spear!

These results and discussions with other Siberian growers in Wisconsin who had experienced nearly 100% loss with Siberians ordered from a

large midwestern commercial grower whose pH is also very low made me start to wonder what we were doing wrong. A visit to the two Oregon growers in July 1989 showed me they had excellent growing conditions and excellent stock so the problem could not lie with the product they shipped. I then wondered if we put the plants in a state of shock when we watered them liberally with our lime water. After all, it's well known that we must keep them moist to get them growing. I discounted the fact that we have an early winter as on October 10th 1989 I set out 53 Siberians received in trade from Canada. These plants were not individually wrapped, did not have a moist medium around their roots and due to Customs inspections were in the mail for 10 days. The box they were shipped in was lined with a large plastic bag but individual plants were bare root to allow for easy inspection. NOT ONE PLANT WAS LOST. I used the same box and the same method to send 35 plants to Ottawa in return, and a visit to the garden showed 100% survival.

With these facts in mind I was searching for a method to overcome this transplant shock when at the Japanese iris convention in Maine, Adolph Voght mentioned that when he had a sick JI he potted it up and put it in a tub of water. Voila: why not try starting the Siberian irises from areas with low pH soils in individual pots.

I ordered from the Midwest grower with the low pH and when the plants arrived I mixed good garden clay with Canadian peat moss at a 50% ratio. Using this mixture I potted the Siberians into gallon pots and soaked them in a tub of rain water. No plants died! After three weeks they had new growth from from 4 - 12" long. We've had rain on 12 of the last 15 days so their treatment has continued. In another month I plan to set them out in a new bed using liberal amounts of peat moss in the transplanting. Then I'll water with rain water and watch the results after a good Wisconsin winter.

Although I am new to Siberian irises, I do raise over 300 named varieties, so I have had some experience in setting out new plants (they all didn't come from low pH areas). In the past I've only ordered from growers who ship in the spring as I thought it was our cold winters that raised havoc on new transplants. The experience with the plants from Canada changed my mind as the winter of 1989-90 was one of the most severe here on perennials. We went from 60 degrees in late November to -30 degrees in early December. This sudden change

caused me to lose all my lupines and all but one shasta daisy - plants that are normally very cold hardy.

In conclusion, I would be interested in hearing from others experiencing problems in transplanting Siberians from certain areas. Perhaps others could put this or a similar system to work to take the pain out of losing that \$35.00 introduction! Please write to me at N75 W14257 North Pointe Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD FOR 1990**_____



The Board of Directors of the Society for Siberian Irises voted unanimously to honor Gunther Stark with this year's Distinguished Service Award.

Gunther lives in Iowa with Geneva his wife of 44 years. He started out with a large vegetable garden. He tells us "I always liked flowers and turned to irises around 1950. My collection grew more and more until most of my backyard contained flowers and very few vegetables".

Gunther was completely surprised by his nomination but he should not have been. He has quietly and efficiently served the society as treasurer since 1973 - that's 17 years! He has also been honorary membership chairman; not only taking care of membership dues but writing to each new member and sending them the last issue of TSI published before they joined (a nice touch which helps people feel immediately involved in their new society). When Dorothy Hamilton needed a list of new members recently Gunther sent her 70 names and addresses which he wrote out in long hand!

All these things he does unassumingly and without any thought of personal aggrandizement so it is not surprising that he did not expect this award.

Gunther intends to continue as treasurer as long as he is able. We are grateful for his past service and that he will continue his careful custody of our society's finances.

PRAIRIE IN BLOOM

OMAHA 1990

EMERALD VALLEY GARDEN OF GENE AND DOROTHY KALKWARF

By Judy Hollingworth

Big excitement! Off the bus and heading straight for two large beautiful beds of Siberians, prominently displayed in the front garden. Lush foliage, tall, healthy, beautifully grown plants. Unfortunately the prairie was not in bloom for Siberian lovers. Of the 60 Siberian guests in this lovely garden only three were in bloom; ILLINI DAME (Varner '88), HELIOTROPE BOUQUET (Hollingworth '86), and WINDWOOD SPRING (Hollingworth '85).

Gene said that when he was asked to take Siberians he had never grown any but was told there was nothing to it (not quite true as we all know, but what a wonderful job he and Dorothy did!).

He also told me how much they had enjoyed introducing Siberians to many people unfamiliar with them, and that they intend to continue growing

them after the convention. We gained a couple of converts and the opportunity for many non-convention visitors to see Siberians - who says national conventions aren't good for us? It was a great pleasure to see our Siberians grown so well. If only the convention dates had been selected to coincide with the middle instead of the beginning of TB bloom what a treat Siberian lovers would have had. A mid-season date would also be insurance against a TB bud convention! Will the lesson be learned?

Unfortunately this story has a sad ending. We were so sorry to hear from Gene that Dorothy died unexpectedly this August.

LITTLE BY LITTLE GARDEN OF DEAN AND PAT DRICKEY

By Anna Mae Miller _____



Siberian bed in the Drickey garden.

Photo: A.M.Miller

This garden was in a natural ravine canopied with large trees and underplanted with hostas. The yard had been re-landscaped to create more sunny areas to accomodate the 310 guest irises including 22 Siberians. Stone walls and gravelled paths were added to make new beds convenient for viewing and loads and loads of sand and peat were used to improve the soil that was growing beautiful irises.



CHARMING DARLENE (MILLER '84)

PHOTO: A.M. Miller

CHARMING DARLENE (A M Miller '84), FRIENDLY WELCOME (Varner '78) HELIOTROPE BOUQUET (Hollingworth '86), LAVENDER BOUNTY (McEwen '81) and PURPLE TEAL (Briscoe '80).

Besides the guest Siberians, they had two different plantings of their own which promised much for the future when the midseason varieties they contained came into bloom. In a bed along a sidewalk leading to the front door, Steve Varner's FRIENDLY WELCOME ('78), ILLINI PURPLE PEPPER ('89) and DANCE BALLERINA DANCE ('83) were in bloom. The guest Siberians were on the lower level of the lawn in a lovely landscaped bed and they were well grown with the early varieties in bloom;

Now Available for Purchase in Quantity:
Native American Iris

a flyer devoted to North American species. Full color,
 single 8 1/2 x 14 inch sheet, nine color plates on yellow background.

For ten flyers, send your check for \$3.50
 made to the American Iris Society, to
 C. J. Lack, 718 W. 67th Street, Tulsa, OK 74132.

1990 AIS AWARDS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

KING OF KINGS	(S. Varner)	73 votes
runnersup		
SHIRLEY POPE	(C. McEwen)	67
FROSTY RIM	(G. Bush)	56

AWARD OF MERIT

LADY VANESSA	(R. Hollingworth)	115
HELIOTROPE BOUQUET	(R. Hollingworth)	79
TEMPER TANTRUM	(W. McGarvey)	73
runnersup		
HARPSWELL HAPPINESS	(C. McEwen)	49
PINK SPARKLE	(B. Hager)	49
INDY	(R. Hollingworth)	48

HONORABLE MENTION

ILLINI DAME	(S. Varner)	43
PAS-DE-DEUX	(R. Hollingworth)	33
SULTAN'S RUBY	(R. Hollingworth)	32
CHARMING DARLENE	(A. M. Miller)	21
RASPBERRY PUNCH	(J. Ennenga)	21
CATHY CHILDERSON	(D. Johnson)	20
AQUA WHISPERS	(A.M. Miller)	18
MAD MAGENTA	(B. Warburton)	18
ROY BOHRER	(H. Briscoe)	18
HELICOPTER	(Shidara/Hager)	17
REPRISE	(B. Warburton)	17
SERENADE IN BLUE	(K. Waite)	17
SILVER ROSE	(B. Warburton)	17
SWIRLING LAVENDER	(A. M. Miller)	16
ANNICK	(C. McEwen)	15
BERNARD MCLAUGHLIN	(C. McEwen)	15
LUCKY LILAC	(C. McEwen)	15
REGENCY BELLE	(C. McEwen)	15

THE BACKGROUND OF KING OF KINGS

(VARNER 1983)

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1990

BY D. STEVE VARNER

KING OF KINGS is a white diploid with charm and personality. It is 30" tall, with two branches and a minimum of four buds. It blooms medium late to late and often very late. It has good time lag and makes an excellent clump. This wide, jaunty pure white with faint green veins has been called by many the best white Siberian available. KING OF KINGS is gorgeous as a cut flower and is Avis' favorite to take to the hospital and nursing home. Cut just as the bloom is about ready to open and brought inside, it lasts longer than if left to open in the garden.

Introduced in 1983, it received the most votes for HM in 1985 and for AM in 1988. It is out of my white 1979 introduction ODE TO LOVE (DREAMING YELLOW x AU SABLE RIVER) x ILLINI ENCORE ((TEALWOOD x SNOWCREST) x 63-1: (TEALWOOD x self)) and is producing some unusual seedlings.

When crossed with LIMEHEART (Brummitt '68) the resulting seedlings were about half whites and half a color new to me that I designated "grape rose". The best of these is one having very round, flaring, overlapping falls with blue veins. Standards and styles are wide, short and clustered. It is now registered as ILLINI ROSE, but the entire stock is two clumps which are one year old.

Several outstanding white seedlings out of KING OF KINGS have been numbered and are being appraised. I like to see my selected seedlings bloom four or five years before introducing any of them.

**1990 AWARD OF
MERIT WINNERS** _____



**LADY VANESSA
(Hollingworth '85)**

**Photo:
Bob Hollingworth**



**HELIOTROPE BOUQUET
(Hollingworth '84)**

**Photo:
Bob Hollingworth**



TEMPER TANTRUM (McGarvey '86)

Photo: John Coble

SSI FACTS AND FIGURES

Do you know which six states have the highest number of members in SSI?

For answer, see page 32

NOTES FROM THE ROBINS

COMPILED BY DOROTHY HAMILTON

I have spent much of the year keeping the two Robins which I direct in flight. I think that more emphasis should be placed on the Robin's value to Siberian Iris Society members.

Back in 1962 an elderly irisarian asked me to deliver a "Blueberry Muffin" to Mrs. Foster Spofford of Beverly Farms. Mrs. Spofford opened the tin foil package and I was amazed to see that it was not a delectable muffin but an iris rhizome, an SDB just introduced by Bea Warburton which went on to become famous. Dorothy Spofford on learning that I was an AIS member interested in Siberians insisted that I join HER robin. After she retired I was asked to find the robin which was temporarily lost. Chased out of a bureau drawer this venerable robin has been in continuous flight for 18 1/2 years.

I find that many robin members wish to see what Siberians look like before investing in new ones. I wish it were possible to have color pictures in TSI, for without a doubt color photos do sell irises.

The following letter was received in response to my enquiry as to how robin member Kathy Woolsey of South Carolina had survived hurricane Hugo.

We live on the Citadel campus in a small rented house and yard, so most of my irises I grow in pots. I joined AIS and the Summerville Iris Society 4 years ago when I moved to Charleston. I had only three iris plants at that time, now I have 125, all but 10 growing in pots from four inches to three gallon size.

I grow very few dry land irises (TB etc.) because of the high water table on the Charleston peninsula. During heavy rains at high tide my back yard floods, fortunately it is fresh water. I was very lucky during Hugo. I left town at 5am so I missed the panic and rush that had started by 8am. The storm hit just after midnight.

When I returned two weeks later the power and phone were restored. All four of my big trees

were still standing and our house only had slight damage. The back yard had no more than a foot of water (salt?) which lasted only a few hours and my irises were washed up to the fence which separates the front and back yards. Most of them were still in pots due to the fact that they were pot bound because I clean and repot in November.

I always double label my plants with a plastic or metal tag in the pot and the name written on the sides or bottom of it. The tags fade during the long Charleston summer, so I relabel when I repot.

In December, Mother Nature dealt another heavy blow to Charleston. It was our worst winter in over 50 years. We had eight inches of snow and the low temperature was 20 degrees F. Our banana trees and Fatsias suffered. The winter was also very long - almost two weeks!

As far as I can tell, my irises had little or no damage from the hurricane. Only one clump of Siberians bloomed in early April, but my other Siberian seedlings were too small. I think the heavy rains that followed the hurricane washed away the sea salt, therefore minimizing the damage. As for other iris growers in the area, most of the damage was done by falling trees and heavy equipment used to clean up.

Wind speed in a storm is lower close to the ground, so short plants fared well. Many of the trees that survived the storm suffered leaf loss and leaf dehydration because of their height.

As for pot culture of irises, I think I have done well.

I use only Premier Pro-Mix BX potting soil. I add styrofoam packing "peanuts" whenever I get them in the mail. A handful of styrofoam in the bottom of the pot provides oxygen. Also I use Water Grabber - a water retention additive.

For insect pest prevention, I use Oxamyl systemic granules. I fertilize every week with Peters 20-20-20. I also fertilize once a month with Lebenon's Country Club 18-4-10. It is a slow-release synthetic organic nitrogen fertilizer used on golf course putting greens. Both the Oxamyl and Country Club are great for greenhouse bedding plants. I also use an iron tonic two or three times a year.

It may seem that I use a lot of fertilizer but Pro-Mix which is a great growing medium has little fertility. The red clay soil found in most of the southeast has high fertility and is rich in minerals, unfortunately it is a poor growing medium. The fine clay particles pack and stick

together. There is no space between the pores for water drainage and air circulation. Plant roots have a tough time penetrating it.

Adding peat moss organic matter, perlite, and vermiculite improve the texture of clay soils but add little fertility. I only mention this because I have heard some iris growers say they add peat moss or just plant in peatmoss and find their irises do poorly. Peatmoss, perlite and vermiculite are not fertilizers, rather they are soil conditioners. Organic matter such as manure and compost add only a little fertility.

Kathy R. Woolsey

If you are not currently a member of a robin this informative letter should encourage you to join. Contact Dorothy at Box 5509 Beverly Farms, MA 01915 or Anna Mae Miller, 6065 N. 16th St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007, they would love to include you.

Ed.

NEW MEMBERS_____

We are delighted to welcome our new members. Some names I recognize as old friends of the society and we welcome them back. At least one, Andrea Johnson of Spartanburg SC is a youth member.

Andrews Jean, 5864 North 16th, Coeur D'Alene ID
83814
Berg Sue, RR. 1, 7 Oaks Schoolhouse, Mineral Point,
WI 53565
Boswell Carl H., 1821 Gross Lane, Concord, CA 94519
Botting, M/M Paul, 12901 Riffle Ford Ct.,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Boyson Eleanor M., RR.1, Box 130, Charlotte, TN
37036
Brambleberry Farm, RR 2, Box 51, Center Ridge, AR
72027
Brandon Earl, PO Box 143, Bald Knob, AR 72027

Brinkman Peter L., 1227 N. Highway 60, Faribault,
 MN 55021
 Brown W.F., PO Box 68, Golden, MO 65658
 Burleigh Marian, RR 4, Box 206, Norfolk, NE 68701
 Burns Carolyn PO Box 668, Bald Knob, AR 72010
 Carson Hazel, 6177 Tooley St., San Diego, CA 92114
 Childress Amarilis S., 6545 Mason's View Lane,
 Roanoke VA 24018
 Clauser Patricia, PO Box 1006, Corrales NM 87048
 Corlew Glen, 2229 Ptarmigan Drive #4, Walnut Creek,
 CA 94595
 Cosleman Eleanor M., 4579 Peet Street, Middleport,
 NY 14105
 Cothron Annette, Rt. 1, Dixon Springs, TN 37057
 Covey Pamela M., N.E. 61, Harpoon Dr., Belfair WA
 98528
 Cunningham Don, 12414 Daryl Ave., Granada Hills, CA
 91344
 Danielson Luella K., 425 E. Luna, Chapparal NM
 88021
 Densmore Joel Y., 18 Massachusetts Ave, Portland,
 ME 04102
 Donne Margaret, 20421 Hellenic Dr., Olympia Fields,
 IL 60461
 Dunlop Jeff, 24 Basin Rd., North Windham, ME 04062
 Durio Ken/Belle, RR 7, Box 43, Opelousas, LA 70570
 Epperson Dr.E. Roy, 1115 Delk Dr., High Point, NC
 27262
 Fulton Chandler/Elaine, 21 Hillcrest rd., Weston,
 MA 02193
 Goble Phyllis M., 619 Forest Dr., Winamac IN 46966
 Goula Richard A., 113 Acacia Dr., Lafayette, LA
 70508
 Guest Kathleen 494 North St., East Aurora, NY 14042
 Hadrava Jerry/Lela, 615 Rosedale Rd. SE., Cedar
 Rapids IA52403
 Harvey Ruth H., 710 Meadowlane Dr., Aberdeen, MS
 39730
 Heth M/M Reginald R., 222 First St., Healdsburg, WA
 95448
 Hudson Vina M., 1519 W. 9th Ave., Heunewick WA
 99336
 Ikeda Paul, 2760 NE 98th St., Seattle WA 98115
 Koningsvaren Coen Jansen, 35 7721 HM Dalfsden,
 Holland
 Jenkins Tori, 43 Frederick St., Walkersville, MD
 21793
 Johnson Andrea M., 290 West Hampton Ave.,
 Spartanburg, SC 29301
 Johnson Elizabeth T., 5524 West State, Glendale, AZ
 85301

Johnson Philip G., 1280 Old Pleasant St.,
 Bridgewater MA 02324
 Johnson Tom, Box 309, Babhaw, Alberta, Canada TOB
 OHO
 Johnson Tommy R., 290 W. Hampton Ave., Spartanburg
 SC 29301
 Knudtson John/Jerilynn, 14553 Westchester Dr.,
 Colorado Springs, CO 80921
 Lakosh Susan F., 34404 Bramble Ln, Solan, OH 44139
 Landgren Yvonne S., RR 3, Box 199, Rochester, MN
 55904
 Lang Timothy G., Rt 113, Dowingtown, PA 19335
 Lee Linda, 7549 32nd Ave., SW. Seattle, WA 98126
 Lind Ted, 1911 N. Cedar, Tacoma, WA 98406
 Maben Clarence, 3638 West Pasedena Ave., Phoenix,
 AZ 85019
 Martin-Clift Greg/Deb 6838 SW Plymouth Dr.,
 Corvallis OR 97333
 McCarthy Stephen PO Box 4205, Port Jervis, NY 12771
 McNames Keith M., 60 Atkinson, Detroit MI 48202
 Messick Virginia, 200 Pine Creek Rd., Walnut Creek,
 CA 94598
 Millar Niela, RR2 Box 304, Urbana, IL 61801
 Millis Robin, 4991 Banks Rd., , Makinin, MN 55763
 Moller Nina, 3455 Vallejo Court, Colorado Springs,
 CO 80918
 Morgan Lawrence, 4956 Wing Commander Dr. SW,
 Roanoke VA 24018
 Morrisette Raymond F., 1840 North Ridge Dr.,
 Wichita, KS 67206
 Newton Dr. Robert A., 73 Concord Rd., Weston, MA
 02193
 Overholser M/M C. Daniel, 2219 E. Spring St., New
 Albany, IN 47150
 Peltier Pamela, Rt 3, Box 285A, Charlottesville, VA
 22901
 Pivarnik M/M Ed, 373 S. 100 W., Valparaiso, IN
 46383
 Plotner William E., PO Box 250, Mollala OR 97038
 Raygo Walter/Kathleen, 3627 Deerskin Rd., Wagle
 River, WI 54521
 Rider Corinne, Box 13, Bashaw, Alberta TOB OHO,
 Canada
 Roane Eleanor W., 2140 Kilbirnie Dr., Germantown,
 TN 38138
 Robinson Virginia, 4637 Cook Creek Rd., Roanoke, VA
 24012
 Roller Wendy K., 251 Bonesteel St., Rochester, NY
 14616
 Rosen Patsy, 1109 Darlene Ln., Arlington TX 76010
 Schifferli M/M Greg, 1211 McKinley Parkway,
 Lackawanna, NY 14218

Shanahan Daniel/ Catherine, 9650 Snowberry Way,
 Orangevale, CA 95662
 Shear William A., RR 5 Box 1950, Farmville, VA
 23901
 Shidara Ho, 791 Imafuku, Kawagoe-Shi, Saitama-Ken,
 Japan 356
 Shields Mildred, Box 254, Aurora, MN 55705
 Simpson Maurice, 754 Golden gate point, Richmond,
 CA 94801
 Japan Iris Society 3-9 Tanimachi 6-Chome Chuo-Ku,
 Osaka 542, Japan
 Springer Darlyn C., 271 N. Haverhill Rd.,
 Kensington, NH 03833
 Stayer Larry/Jane, 7414 E. 60th St., Tulsa OK 74145
 Steinheimer M.L., 7 McBurney Blvd., Colorado
 Springs, CO 80911
 Stout Gregg, 749 Ratcliff St., Shreveport, LA 71104
 Thomason Bobby, PO Box 60673 Oklahoma City OK 73146
 Trundle William A., Rt 1 Box 291 Peavine Rd.,
 Ringold GA 30736
 The Twentieth Century Gardens, 402-E ABT Center,
 Hot Springs AR 71901
 Van Cleave June, 10439 Vandergriff Rd.,
 Indianapolis, IN 46239
 Vanblom Mariana PO Box 836 Port Townsend, WA 98368
 Vaughn Dr. Kevin C., USDA-SWSL PO Box 225,
 Stoneville, MS 38776
 Vossen Carol, PO Box 7, Igo, CA 96047
 Waldron Janet A., RR 1 Box 180, Vassalboro ME 04989
 Weedon Dr. Ronald R., 703 Mears St., Chadron, NE
 69337
 Wiekhorst M/M Warren A., 4855 Santiago Springs,
 Colorado Springs, CO 80917
 Williams Nancy 1896 Raven Hill Dr., Atlanta, GA
 30319
 Wilson Andree Desiree, 15 Bracebridge Rd., Newton
 Centre MA 02159
 Wright Nathan, 6583 Pacheco Pass Hwy., Gilroy CA
 95020
 Young Bethany, RR 1 Box 2049 Hampden ME 04444
 Zollinger Kathleen/Beecher, RR 46 Box 24,
 Buttzville, NJ 07829
 Zurbrigg Dr. Lloyd, PO Box 52444 Durham NC 27717

SIBIRICAE IN '93

CONVENTION UPDATE

The guest gardens are planted for the first Siberian Convention in 1993 and we have been amazed at the response. Thirty nine hybridizers were contacted and we had a response from twenty six. Final figures are not worked out yet but by my unofficial count these hybridizers have sent 203 different cultivars. Well over half of these are under seedling number or not yet introduced so if you plan to attend you are guaranteed a show of the very latest in Siberian breeding.

We have also heard from lots of people planning to attend - it seems that both hybridizers and growers of Siberians have just been waiting for this event to happen. Now we're pondering how we will accomodate everyone who wants to come.

Members from England, Germany, Japan and Switzerland have sent their irises as have hybridizers from eleven states in the US. The fall weather has been very kind with generous rains and no killing frost yet (October 20th). Since all the guests were in the ground by September 17th there should be plenty of time for them to establish their roots before winter.

Our planting at the Horticulture Garden at Michigan State University will not be a master planting as originally planned but will contain at least 180 different Siberians, plenty to whet the appetite of the many visitors to the garden.

Some of our tour gardens are close to full but when the final tallying is completed over the winter we expect to have space for a limited number of additional irises. If you missed the deadline but are still interested in sending guests please contact Jill and Sue Copeland at 34165 CR. 652, Mattawan, MI 49071 to see if they can be accommodated in the spring of 1991. Preference will be given to hybridizers who have not yet submitted any guests in the interest of presenting as wide a spectrum as possible. Just for fun, here are some awards presented with no democratic process involved and no prize.

EARLY BIRD AWARD - To Jennifer Hewitt of the UK
whose irises arrived on July 31st!

FURTHEST TRAVELLED - The irises of Mr Ho Shidara
and Mr. Hiroshi Shizuma of Japan.

POTENTIALLY MOST EXCITING - Ho Shidara's twenty
four petal Siberian, I can't wait to see it open!

MOST IMPENETRABLE PACKAGING - To Dale Johnson.
These plants were certainly not at risk of drying
out!

TARDIEST - To Howard Brookins, but only two days
after the deadline! What a great job everyone did
in getting plants to us.

We plan to make regular reports on the progress of
the convention planning. The date has been
tentatively set for the weekend of June 12th 1993.
We are excited and we hope to convey that
excitement to you.

ADVERTISING RATES

A source list will be printed in each spring
issue of TSI at a cost of \$5.00 per listing.

FULL PAGE COLOR 4 1/2 X 7 1/4.....\$100.00
(Color separation to be provided by advertiser)

FULL PAGE B&W 4 1/2 X 7 1/4.....\$50.00

HALF PAGE B&W 4 1/2 X 3 1/2.....\$30.00

1/4TH PAGE B&W 4 1/2 X 1 1/2.....\$20.00

TREASURE HUNT

I am Bill McGarvey's stepdaughter. I have started a Memorial Siberian Bed in which I have Bill's irises; some he moved from New York, some he developed while he was here in Arkansas, and some we went back to New York to dig after he passed away. I have talked with Harry Kuesel and he sent me the last cultivars he had of Bill's. There are still five irises that I have been unable to locate.

Forrest Scion (1970)
Jane Bonsal (1975)
King's Forrest (1965)
Nellie E. (1963)
Robbie Raymond's Red (1983)

I had never grown any irises until Bill introduced me to them. Now they are a special joy to me. This year we have organized a local iris group which we hope to have affiliated with the national society before long.

I would appreciate any help you can give in locating these five irises.

Cordially

Janie Peirce
P.O. Box 520
Russellville, AR 72801

IRISES
FOR 1991

A
GARDENER'S
COLLECTION

1991 IRIS CALENDAR

It's time to order our sixth annual iris calendar. Make check to AIS; for single copies, send \$5.00. Quantity purchases come in packets of ten or multiples of ten; the price for packets of ten is \$30.00. Order from C. J. Lack, AIS Sales Director, 718 West 67th Street, Tulsa, OK 74132.

1990 S.S.I.

BOARD MEETING

By RUTH WILDER, SECRETARY _____

The Board of Directors of the Society for Siberian Irises met on May 20th, 1990 in the JFK room of the Holiday Inn, Omaha, Nebraska with Anna Mae Miller presiding. The minutes of the 1989 board meeting were approved as published in TSI, Fall 1989. Gunther Stark gave the 1990 treasurer's report as published in TSI, Spring 1990. The report was approved.

BOOK SALES - Julius Wadekamper reported that we have 1280 books on hand. Sales for 1989-90 were 348 for an income of \$1,004.34. Total profit has been about \$5000 to date. Possibly we will want to consider a hard cover book in a few years.

JUDGING STANDARDS - no changes at this time. If anyone has suggestions, Julius, who is chairman, would welcome letters on the subject. He also reported that he has given Siberians good publicity through his articles, and illustrated speeches to horticultural groups.

HISTORIAN - Steve Varner could use your materials.

REGISTRATIONS AND AWARDS - report read by Ruth Wilder in the absence of Agnes Waite who has resigned. Ten domestic hybridizers introduced 13 varieties, another 2 were both registered and introduced. Overseas hybridizers registered and introduced 10 varieties plus 5 previously registered were introduced. Howard Brookins was appointed the next registration and awards chairman.

DISPLAY GARDENS - Donald Koza mentioned that the Historical Iris Preservation Society plan to have historical Siberians in their plantings.

The "Invitation to Join" brochure was redesigned and presented by Anna Mae Miller. Only 2000 copies were printed so that it can be regularly updated.

ROBINS - Anna Mae Miller reported that Dorothy Hamilton had written to 78 new members inviting them to join a Robin and 22 had accepted. She is directing two Robins with 11 eleven members in each. Anna Mae now has three flying with 27

members and 2 or 3 waiting to be placed. One long lost Robin (1+ years) flew in with slides intact making her VERY happy.

The board discussed printing the membership list in TSI and decided after much discussion that the space could be better used to serve more members. The few members who needed a list could purchase computer labels from Howard Brookins for \$10.00.

SLIDES - It was suggested that Tom Abrego, slides chairman still needs good slides for sending out for programs to local societies.

CONVENTIONS LIAISON - Dave Silverberg is anxious to answer questions and help solve problems in handling Siberians at conventions.

TSI - In Judy Hollingworth's absence, Anna Mae Miller presented the first color TSI and it was received with much enthusiasm.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - Steve Varner moved, Harry Kuesel seconded that the distinguished service award be presented to Gunther Stark for his long, careful service as treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Harry Kuesel volunteered to make a study of past recipients and be prepared to know who should be considered each year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - will be Hal Stahly (1st VP), Dave Silverberg and Harry Kuesel.

OTHER BUSINESS - Howard Brookins will act as membership chairman.

The possibility of printing a colored Siberian folder similar to the species folder will be investigated.

After discussing future needs of our society it was decided to raise the membership dues, effective Jan 1st 1991 to;

Single Annual	\$ 5.00
Family Annual	\$ 6.00
Single Triennial	\$ 13.00
Family Triennial	\$ 15.00
Single Life	\$100.00
Family Life	\$120.00

Meeting adjourned.

The membership fee has not been increased in a decade and then it went up only fifty cents!

Ed.

GETTING THE BLUES

BY GEORGE WATERS

A member wrote to me recently that he had photographed Japanese and Siberian irises with reddish flowers and found the images disappointingly bluish.

Images are bluish when the subject is photographed in open shade; that is, when shaded from direct sunlight and lit only by the blue sky. A similar effect is sometimes found under overcast skies. This happens whatever the subject, be it flowers, leaves, people, or buildings. An 81C filter, slightly amber, helps correct this bluish tinge. My correspondent mentioned that the color of red-maroon irises was reproduced better in bright sun, and so it seems probable that photographing the subject under overcast sky or in open shade was the cause of his bluish images.

More commonly we hear complaints about flowers that lose their blue color and appear reddish in photographs. The effect is variable and unpredictable with most iris flowers, although the blue from Iris munzii found in some Pacific Coast hybrids seems always to be accurately reproduced in photographs.

At the root of this excess redness is the tendency of some flowers to reflect the sun's infra-red radiation. Film is sensitive to some wavelengths of infra-red, but renders them as though they were visible red, thereby distorting the color of the image. Those that reflect infra-red send it into the camera and onto the film. If the flowers are blue, they have a reddish cast in photographs and are the source of complaints; if they are red flowers to begin with they appear excessively red in photographs and are often a source of pride for the photographer. 'Heavenly Blue' morning glory is the classic example of clear blue flowers that always disappoint photographers. Many red roses generate pride because the true color is augmented on film by infra-red.

However not all flowers reflect infra-red to the same degree, and some absorb all, or most, of it so that it does not reach the film. Those flowers that absorb most of the infra-red are reasonably true to color in photographs; among blue flowers they include Himalayan blue poppies; some nemesias

and phacelias; many gentians and delphiniums; lechenaultias, and many other blue flowered plants from Australia.

Results from photographing bluish irises seem to vary unpredictably. Many search for the ideal film, but they chase a will-o'-the wisp; the problem is inherent to the silver process and products of all manufacturers are affected. Differences observed by photographers are as likely to be the result of variation in atmospheric conditions or the plant's metabolism at the time, as in the film itself. Others use a pale blue filter on the lens, but this gives the whole plant blueness, including leaves and other parts that are not blue, and results are rarely satisfactory.

I have asked botanists why some flowers absorb, and others reflect, infra-red, but have had no answer so far. I suspect that degrees of absorption and reflection within a flower vary during the season and perhaps throughout the day. This is the only explanation I can offer for anomalous results, such as an almost ideal rendering of the Siberian iris CAMBRIDGE obtained without effort ten years ago in Oregon and never repeated.

Infra-red radiation is readily absorbed by water and so best results with flowers that reflect it (and therefore appear too red in photographs) are obtained on cloudy days. I suspect that even high atmospheric humidity helps. Kodak suggests a pack consisting of an infra-red filter with several essential color balancing filters to correct the redness, but this cuts effective film speed by six stops. I know no one who has used the filter pack, This is, perhaps, because of the loss of speed it entails, or because even its use doesn't bring success without experiment on each subject; the other variables I have mentioned are too unpredictable for results to come easily.

Flash units produce very little infra-red, and their use may give results better than sunlight. If the flower cannot be moved out of the sun for flash-only illumination, a photograph outdoors using fill-in flash technique will limit the amount of sunlight reaching the film.

There is, you see, no simple answer to the problems of rendering flowers on color film. It is as well to remember that manufacturers never claim that their films render color accurately, even if their advertising implies it. Our perception of color is too subjective, the quality of natural light too changeable throughout the day, and the

dyes available for use in photographic film too limited in range, for any manufacturer to make such a claim. The remarkable thing is that they come so close to satisfying us that we expect accuracy in our films.

TEMPER TANTRUMS OVER PHOTOGRAPHING IRISES

BY BOB HOLLINGWORTH

The problems of accurately capturing the blues and reds of irises on film have often been mentioned. As George Waters points out, the eye just doesn't see the infra-red light reflected from the flower in the same way as a film. But films do vary in how well they handle the challenge. For several years I got good results from Agfachrome film, but this is now hard to find locally. So this year I decided to compare a range of readily available slide films. Photos were often taken with or without the use of an 82A filter that eliminates some of the typical reddish distortion of the bluer shades. Each film was tested on at least two separate occasions, but the films could not always be compared under identical conditions. Here's what I found. The films are rated below in order of worst to best. But remember this is just one person's experience and that processing also affects color accuracy.

FUJICHROME 100 - Unacceptable color distortion with heavy overemphasis of red under all conditions, even with the anti-red filter. Anna Mae Miller later showed me some of her Fujichrome slides with exactly the same problem. The only thing you can say positively for this film is that lavender-pink irises take on a perfectly lovely pure pink color that is an inspiration for further hybridizing efforts.

EKTACHROME 100C - Recommended by a local photographic store but disappointing. Strangely, the red shades were often too blue. Not as good as Kodachrome.

KODACHROME 64 - Does a nice job with blue shades

especially when using a filter. In this year's slides many reds came out dull and bluer than reality. I do not recollect this happening in the past, but the vividness of color was clearly lost.

KODACHROME 25 - Surprisingly useable film despite its slow speed. Gave the best color accuracy. The pink/red shades were good (no filter) and blues were reasonable (with filter, but this makes the film even slower).

With both Kodachrome films, the effects of sun and shade were very marked, presumably because of the variations in incident infra-red light. The direct sun had a clear "reddening" effect in comparing slides taken with the same flower in light and shade. In an ideal world it seems that photos of red shades should be taken in full (mid-day) sun and blue irises in the shade (perhaps with the filter). Shade can always be arranged, but not sun - - dull reds on dull days?

It seems we have a complicated set of interactions between film type, quality of light, type of flower and, probably, film processing. This is particularly infuriating when a flower has both red and blue colors like TEMPER TANTRUM, CHILLED WINE or CONTRAST IN STYLES. These are lovely, subtle color blends that usually are completely lost in photographs. Are we forever condemned to seeing red and getting the blues when the slides come back from the lab?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS_____

I love the 1989 Cumulative Check List (of Siberian Irises) and use it constantly. I think Howard Brookins did a superb job! However, there were several Siberian irises in my garden that I could not find listed.

Rehobeth Gem (Trommer) was never registered, but so many people are growing it that it should be listed. Several years ago I bought a delightful, small flowered variety from a major supplier of Siberians called Suji Iri, a spatulate white covered with blue lines. Another is a very dwarf white called Weisser Zwerg (small white in German). I would appreciate it if anyone can give me information on these latter two.

Harry Bishop, 71 Basket St. RR 1, Box 27
Huntington, MA 01050

THE LAST WORD

We were hoping to bring you a photograph of the 28 chromosome Asian species I. typhifolia in this issue. Unfortunately it will have to wait until next year. Bob Fabel-Ward was on vacation when his plant bloomed, the flowers on Jim Waddick's were caught by frost (it is apparently a very early bloomer) and our plant while looking very healthy did not produce any bloom. The leaves are certainly unusual - very narrow and with a twist. It has been bloomed in the in the UK but under greenhouse conditions.

Enclosed in this issue is your 1990 ballot. Please be sure to fill it out and return as soon as possible. Results will be printed in the Spring 1991 issue. We plan to have a ballot every two years, the next one will be Spring 1992 (this one should have been in the Spring 1990 issue but space limitations prevented it).

My apologies to Bob Bauer and John Coble of Ensata Gardens for leaving them out of the Commercial Listing in the Spring 1990 issue of TSI (and they paid their \$5.00 too!). Besides their extensive Japanese iris list, they do also sell Siberians. Their address is 9823 E. Michigan Ave. Galesburg, Michigan 49053.

I would like to compile a list of public gardens that have good plantings of Siberians. It would be useful information for our members to have when traveling. If you or your local society has been involved in arranging such a planting please write and let us know how you went about it. If you have not, do consider approaching your local public garden with an offer of some modern Siberians. We need to be actively engaged in promoting these wonderful perennials to gardeners other than AIS members.

IRIS ROUNDUP '93

REQUEST FOR BEARDLESS GUEST IRISES _____

The Fort Worth Iris Society and Region 17 will host the 1993 American Iris Society Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. The Guest Iris Committee invites hybridizers to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of beardless irises under consideration for introduction.

When sending guests irises, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Four rhizomes of each variety should be shipped.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 1 to October 15th, 1990. *
3. All official guest irises must be shipped to:
Keith Smith, 1993 Guest Iris Chairman
6008 Wonder Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76133
4. The following information should accompany each plant:
 - A. Hybridizer's name and address.
 - B. Name or seedling number of the variety.
 - C. Type of iris; i.e. LA., SPU., SIB.
 - D. Height and color.
 - E. Year of introduction (if introduced).
5. When guest seedlings are named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman not later than December 1st, 1992.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15th, 1993, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all stock. All official guest plants which are to be returned will be shipped postpaid, except to foreign addresses.
7. The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will follow the statement of the code of ethics as printed in the A.I.S. Convention Handbook.
8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only rhizomes received through the Guest Iris Chairman will be listed in The Convention Handbook.

* Ray John, Chairman of the Convention said that they very much want Siberians, and can accept them as late as Nov. 1st, if this request spurs you to send some. Ed.

THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

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Robins: Mrs. Anna Mae Miller (as above)
Slides: Mr. Thomas Abrego (as above)
Editor: Judith M. Hollingworth (as above)

Membership is open to all AIS members in the United States and Canada, and to all iris fanciers elsewhere. Send your dues to the Treasurer, Mr. Gunther Stark at 631 G24 Highway, Norwalk IA 50211.

Dues are:

Single Annual	\$2.50
Family Annual	\$3.00
Single Triennial	\$6.50
Family Triennial	\$7.50
Single Life	\$50.00
Family Life	\$60.00

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WHICH SIX STATES LEAD IN MEMBERSHIP?

MICHIGAN	CALIFORNIA
ILLINOIS	MASSACHUSETTS
WASHINGTON	VIRGINIA

