



*The
Siberian
Iris
Fall 1991*

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4

FALL 1991

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Old Mother Nature had a few tricks left in her bag this year and our season was about three weeks ahead all summer long. Our daffodils bloomed for five weeks then summer came with a very nice, but early, Siberian bloom season. Many Michigan iris shows were cancelled because the season was past and the bloom charts I intended to keep for the third year didn't correspond to the dates for the last two years.

However, the AIS Convention had very good bloom on TB's, marvelous Siberian bloom, we even saw some Spurias and Japanese as well as medians. It was a lovely convention. The President's Cup was awarded to a Siberian, Carol Warner's SHAKER'S PRAYER ('90). It is an I. sibirica type with different coloring; red-violet standards and very delicate lilac veining on the falls. Its many branches give a very full blooming clump. A long row of SHAKER'S PRAYER in full bloom in Carol's garden was spectacular.

A trip to Oregon for the Japanese Iris Convention netted an unexpected bonus. Although we were disappointed that more Japanese were not in bloom the Siberians here were also spectacular.

I would encourage new hybridizers to begin introducing their seedlings. Plan to attend the first Siberian Convention here in Michigan in 1993 as there are many of the latest Siberians and good quality seedlings to be evaluated.

My three years as President of SSI have passed very swiftly. I want to thank all our officers, directors and committee chairs for serving so well and express my thanks for the opportunity to serve. I believe one of the best happenings during my tenure has been the quality of "The Siberian Iris" and that is due to the dedication of our editor Judy Hollingworth. I have met many wonderful people who

share the love of Siberian irises and made many new friends. I have tried to increase the popularity of these excellent perennials and I do feel they are beginning to get the attention they deserve from the gardening public. I only wish more of the newer, showier hybrids were being grown as is true of the TB's.

I know our society will be in good hands with Hal Stahly as president and the new officers taking over the reins in 1992. I wish them the best and may SSI continue to grow and may our love for Siberian irises further increase their presence on the horticultural map.

Anna Mae Miller

ADVERTISING RATES

A source list for Siberians is printed in each spring issue of TSI at a cost of \$5.00 per listing. Please send your check to the editorial office by February 15th.

Other rates:

FULL PAGE COLOR 4 x 7".....\$100.00
(color separation to be provided by advertiser)

FULL PAGE B&W 4 X 7"\$50.00
HALF PAGE B&W 4 x 3 1/2.....\$30.00
1/4TH PAGE B&W 4 X 1 1/2.....\$20.00

AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. _____

The very early season in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia area meant that Siberian bloom abounded in the convention gardens. And not only guests plants, for these gardeners had extensive beardless plantings of their own. As most of you will by now have heard, Carol Warner took the President's Cup with her Siberian SHAKER'S PRAYER and Anna Mae Miller's AQUA WHISPERS and LIBERTY HILLS were joint second runners up for the Franklin Cook Cup. Six Siberians made the list of favorite convention guest irises.

Here are some reports on the gardens.

THE NICHOLLS GARDEN

By Elizabeth Aulicky _____

After an impromptu visit to the Manassas Battlefield, and a delicious early lunch at the Holiday Inn, we drove a few miles through gently rolling countryside to the Nicholls garden in Gainesville, Virginia. Diana and her husband Mike were there to greet us. The front of the Nicholls' property gave little hint of the delights that were in store for us, other than a bed of guest Siberians. Their property slopes steeply from the front of the house down to a brick patio area that opens off the lower level of the house. All along this slope directly behind the house was a riot of color and texture created with a large variety of perennials. I particularly enjoyed some Clematis growing up the side of the house and some bright red oriental poppies near the patio area.

I remembered this garden from the Japanese Iris Convention in 1989 and had looked forward to returning during the AIS Convention. I was not disappointed. Since the spring was much warmer than usual, the tall bearded irises were a bit past peak, but that also meant that we were able to see more Siberians than usual. I, for one thoroughly enjoyed them.

Diana and Mike have a large collection of Siberians as part of their permanent collection. Here MARILYN HOLMES (McEwen '68) a pretty blue violet with lighter style arms looked very good as did ANNIVERSARY (Brummitt '65), along with many others.

Among the guest Siberians, I was particularly taken by several from Bob Hollingworth - CORONATION ANTHEM ('90) is a very vigorous medium blue violet with a white signal and light styles, HIGH STANDARDS ('87) is a well named deep blue violet with erect standards, also SULTAN'S RUBY ('88) a very rounded velvety deep magenta red with lighter styles and a gold signal. Two of Bob's seedlings I particularly liked were 85C3A2 a blue with a lighter edge on the falls, short cupped standards and lighter styles, and 85G2A3 a knockout with deep red violet rounded horizontal falls and lighter toned horizontal standards and styles. Very stylish indeed.



LIBERTY HILLS
(A.M. Miller '89)

Two from Anna Mae Miller that attracted much attention here and in other gardens were AQUA WHISPERS ('88) a vigorous and floriferous light blue with an aqua line on the standards. I also liked LIBERTY HILLS ('89) a mid violet blue with a deeper signal area.

TRI BLUE (Dale Johnson '89), as its name implies shows three shades of light blue and Ken Waite's SERENADE IN BLUE, ('88), a violet self with turquoise style arms is flared with slightly ruffled falls.

From Louise Bellagamba, we saw RILL ('91) a medium blue violet; the light blue upright standards have a darker blue line of color down their center which adds interest.

Carol Warner's SHAKER'S PRAYER ('90) very vigorous though delicate appearing, really made a statement. The name comes from its habit of fluttering in a gentle breeze, much like its namesake the Shakers, a religious community who prayed through dance.

All too soon it was time to leave this delightful garden.

THE FIGGE GARDEN

By Art Cronin _____

This was our first tour garden of the Convention on Monday morning, May 20th and we were given only 45 minutes before whistle blowing time. Rosalie Figge greeted us as we streamed down the drive to the irises in the back yard.

With such a short time for this garden I felt I had to concentrate on the Siberians, although I did see beautiful Hostas, my childhood favorite bleeding heart, foxgloves, Clematis, many coral bells and on the back fence pink and red roses. I saw these on my way to see the old and big Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) in the back right corner of the yard. How did it get so large?

Now to the Siberians. First has to be Carol Warner's 1990 introduction SHAKER'S PRAYER, growing vigorously almost everywhere. Standards and styles violet, falls white with extensive and pretty lilac veining. Lorena and I both voted for it for the President's Cup - I saying a Siberian had no chance, she that she had heard support for it and thought it did have a chance. As usual she was right, it did win!! It is available from Mahan's Iris Pond while the supply lasts.

The rest are listed more or less alphabetically:

ANNICK (McEwen '86) a 12" mini purple with a white signal.

AQUA WHISPERS (A.M. Miller '88) a lavender pink near amoena - do get this one.

BIG BLUE (McEwen '70) big, big dark blue with broad standards and falls.

BLUE BURN (McGarvey '68) a light blue with lighter styles. CAMBRIDGE (Brummitt '67) the British Dykes Medal winner that other light blues are judged against. DEEP SHADE (Warburton '72) dark purple self with lighter styles. LAUGHING BROOK (Waite '84), LAVENDER BOUNTY (McEwen '81), MABEL CODAY (Helsley '85), PINK HAZE (McGarvey '80), REPRISE (Warburton '87) RUBY WINE (Hager '68) were also in bloom as were SEA SHADOWS (Brummitt '82) a medium blue self which looked good and SHIRLEY POPE (McEwen '79) a popular dark red-purple, velvety with a white signal and named after a great lady.

As we left the garden Rosalie's black and butterscotch cat Nefertiti helped bid us goodbye.

SIBERIAN IRISES IN THE WARNER GARDEN

By Eveyln White_____

This year's convention was handicapped by an unusually warm spring. In some gardens the tall bearded irises were well past peak bloom. The Siberians, however, were putting on a pretty good show, though some were growing shorter than usual. Perhaps the hot weather forced them into bloom before the plants had time to grow properly.

In the garden of Carol and Andy Warner of Upperco, Maryland, there was a good mixture of old favorites, newer introductions and seedlings. Carol's SHAKER'S PRAYER ('90), a small bloom of violet standards and off-white falls with delicate lilac veining, was growing vigorously. So eye-catching and unusual was it, in all the gardens, that it was voted the President's Cup for the best iris by a hybridizer within the host region.

Bob Hollingworth's WINDWOOD SERENADE ('90), a large, ruffled bloom - deep red violet with a small white blaze - caught my eye. Two other creations of his, HELIOTROPE BOUQUET ('86) and JEWELLED CROWN ('87), had lovely blooms but were shorter than normal. Two Hollingworth seedlings stood up and demanded attention: 85B3B10 is a large velvety deep blue (almost navy) with a gold signal. I called it glorious!; 85G2A3 has red violet falls

with a definite blue haze around the signal and lighter standards (really nice!).

Another interesting seedling growing in a big clump was Stadler's L42/1 - a dainty lavender specimen.

Hal Stahly's MOON SILK, a '91 introduction with creamy white standards and wide pale yellow falls and an orange/yellow signal, would be welcome in any garden. IT'S DELIGHTFUL by Dale Johnson ('87) was not open, but a thrifty clump of soft blue buds looked promising.

Sarah Tiffney's charming little white SNOW PRINCE ('88), was in full bloom, and there was a lovely clump of Bee Warburton's REPRISE ('87) with its unusual violet glow. McEwen's GOLDEN CRIMPING ('85) and LUCKY LILAC ('88) were showing off, as was Ben Hager's SWANK (so blue!). Among the old and not so old favorites blooming were DREAMING YELLOW, PINK HAZE, ORVILLE FAY, RUFFLED VELVET, ANNIVERSARY, ANN DASCH, FROSTY RIM, and STEVE VARNER.

Besides the Siberian plantings in the Convention beds, there were several varieties used as lively complements to the wonderful peonies the Warners grow. The beautiful landscaping and well-placed plantings make this garden a real delight to visit. Our thanks to the Warners!

THE WEBER GARDEN

By Marjorie Jansen _____

With the fragrance of several hundred old roses filling the air, no one had to urge us to "take time to smell the roses" when we visited the Weber garden. Better known as the Heritage Rosarium. The peaceful country setting provided a lovely backdrop for the iris guest beds.

It was here I first made the acquaintance of SHAKER'S PRAYER (Warner '90). Growing well above waist height, its slender foliage was crowned with a profusion of dainty flowers and it became the deserving winner of the President's Cup.

SPRINGS BROOK (Warburton '88) with pale blue-lavender standards and darker fall area was showing more contrast than it does in my garden. This was the case in all convention gardens where it was growing. In general, the blue and blue violet Siberians were paler than they are at home.

REPRISE (Warburton '87) was performing nicely. This is a purple with a rosy mauve cast that defies description. AQUA WHISPERS (A.M. Miller '88) was a lovely creation of palest lavender with aqua blue veins on the falls. A large clump of SWIRLING LAVENDER (A.M. Miller '84) was making a good show with flowers of pale lavender. SERENADE IN BLUE (Waite '88) was a softly ruffled medium blue with light veining. Something a little different was DOTTED MISS (Helsley '90), a red-violet featuring a small dotted signal area.

These were a few of the Siberian beauties to be seen in the midst of a rose garden.

PUBLICATIONS

All back issues are \$2.50 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.



Carol Warner
shows off
SHAKER'S
PRAYER to Bob
Hollingworth

Anna Mae
Miller's
AQUA WHISPERS



1991 S.S.I.

SECTION MEETING_____

The SSI section meeting convened at 4pm on Sunday May 18th in Salon 1-111 of the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel. Approximately 160 were present (an unofficial record).

Anna Mae Miller opened the meeting by introducing the board members who were present. Vice President Hal Stahly introduced the nominating committee and presented the proposed slate of officers for 1992.

Jim Waddick introduced his guest Dr. Zhao Yu-tang a professor at North East Normal University, People's Republic of China; author of "Irises of China" and a first time visitor to United States.

Bob Hollingworth updated us on the 1993 Siberian Convention in East Lansing, Michigan. The weekend of June 10th - 12th has been chosen. The convention headquarters will be the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University campus.

There is to be a new Canadian robin, organised by Cathy Boyko and Bob Hollingworth will restart the international one.

After the business part of the meeting Hal Stahly initiated a panel discussion. Panel members Bob Hollingworth, Anna Mae Miller, Shirley Pope, Dave Silverberg and Ruth Wilder were asked to name the five Siberians they would take with them should they be banished to a desert island.

Anna Mae began with a discussion on length of bloom in Siberians and chose ESTHER C.D.M., YOUNG LADY, SUPER EGO, PERCHERON AND SPRINGS BROOK.

Shirley said she was a foliage person and as a perennial gardener would choose irises whose foliage looked good for the rest of the year. Rather than rebloomers she prefers repeat bloomers which can do it without committing suicide. Her choices were HARPSWELL HALLELUJAH, SNOW PRINCE, RUFFLED VELVET, JEWELLED CROWN and BLUE REVERIE.

Ruth also liked those that keep on blooming and throwing up new stalks and likes to go out in the early morning and discover the new blooms. Her favorites - LAVENDER BOUNTY, WHITE SWIRL, DANCING NANOU and anything Bob Hollingworth has introduced.

Dave Silverberg chose WHITE SWIRL, JEWELLED CROWN, REGENCY BUCK, HUBBARD (his favorite red tetraploid) and a sentimental choice TIFFANY LASS which was named for Elaine, Dave's late wife. He then added that he would sneak on MABEL CODAY!

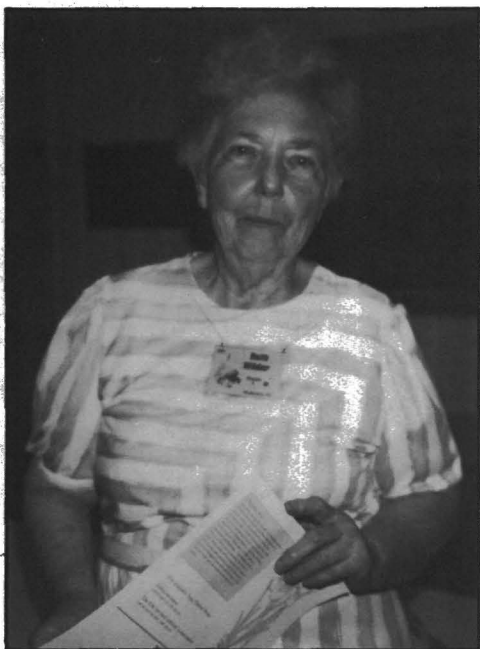
Bob Hollingworth, in response to a request from Hal, discussed the diagnosis and treatment of fungal diseases which attack Siberians. On the subject of favorite cultivars he said he was still casting loved ones overboard but that his choices would be CAESAR'S BROTHER, RUFFLED VELVET, SUPER EGO, SALLY KERLIN, HARPSWELL HAPPINESS and he would join Dave beating and sticking a sixth, LADY VANESSA, in his back pocket.

Hal then asked if there were any questions from the floor. The panel was asked for five foolproof irises. Some mentioned were TEALWOOD, MARANATHA, WHITE SWIRL, SUPER EGO and RUFFLED VELVET. We were told that in the south CAESAR'S BROTHER, PINK HAZE, LADY VANESSA, WHITE SWIRL, HALCYON SEAS do very well. There was lively discussion with most of these suggestions coming from the floor.

Pete De Santis from California - who is fortunate enough to have SPARKLING ROSE bloom for him at Christmas time - mentioned the growing popularity of Siberians among garden clubs and flower arrangers. He suggested that the board conduct a geographical survey to find the five best growers in different locations in the country.

Dot Husjak asked about scorch in Siberians and was told that scorch-like symptoms have been observed in Siberians but as yet they refer to a set of symptoms rather than a single defined disease. Mention was made of Dr. Sjolund's research on mycoplasma-like organisms (MLO's) a kind of soft-walled bacterium, as a cause of scorch. Since MLO's are transmitted from plant to plant by insects it was suggested that spraying for sucking insects should be a preventative.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD FOR 1991_____**



Ruth Wilder
at 1991 AIS
Convention

It was no surprise (even to Ruth who saw through the ruse to get her out of the board room during voting) that Ruth Wilder was the unanimous choice to receive the society's Distinguished Service Award.

Ruth, a retired nursing supervisor, is a no-nonsense person who gets on and tackles jobs.

She was for many years a resident of Huntsville Alabama - her garden was on tour for the 1979 AIS Convention - before moving back to her birthplace of Anderson, South Carolina. She, and her mother "Miss Nellie" before her, have always grown Siberians. She has done a little "pollen daubing" and may have a worthy seedling or two! She is currently RVP of Region 5, host region for the 1992 AIS Convention.

Ruth has been secretary of SSI since 1980 and is our publications chairman. She also maintains a full set of TSI publications for the society. Always a strong promoter of, and educator on Siberians, Ruth is a worthy recipient of our society's award.

IRIS TYPHIFOLIA:

THE "NEW" SIBERIAN IRIS

by James W. Waddick_____

In 1934, the Japanese botanist Kitagawa described a new species of Iris found in extreme northeast China (TSI Vol.6, no.9, Spring 1989). Because of its narrow, slightly twisted leaves, he named it Iris typhifolia. Typha is the generic name for cat-tails also known as reedmace in Europe. This new species' affinities to the series Sibiricae was obvious. Except for a few herbarium specimens, the species has been essentially unknown in the West until very recently.

Professor Zhao Yu-tang, the foremost expert on native Chinese irises, relocated the species in isolated areas of Inner Mongolia, Liaoning and Jilin provinces. He was able to collect seed over the past few years and distributed these to iris growers in various parts of the world. Last year a good quantity of seed was sent to me and I distributed it to many Siberian iris growers and through the seed exchange of the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA). SIGNA has had exceptional interest in seed of this species.

I have grown a few seedlings for the past four years and can report on this species with some specifics. I first obtained a very few seeds in 1988 from Maurice Boussard of France which he had received from Zhao the same year. I produced a dozen seedlings and planted them in various locations in my garden in Kansas. The seedlings grew vigorously and uniformly. A few were given to specialist iris growers in various parts of the US.

Bloom stalks first appeared in my garden in the spring of 1990, but a freak late frost killed the buds, while causing no harm to the foliage. A single seedling that I sent to my friend Bob Ward in Little Rock, Arkansas did bloom in the spring of 1990. Unfortunately Bob and his family were out of town and no flowers were observed or photographed.

Bloom stalks appeared again this spring (1991) and I took special care to protect them from frost damage. Fortunately no late frosts occurred and bloom continued in a normal fashion. Flower stalks were evident by early April, quite early for any Siberian iris in my climate. There were five bloom stalks on two plants in a group of three seedlings. The first three flowers appeared on April 17th. Flowering continued with one or more flowers open at once through April 30th. The final unopened bud dropped on May 1st.

At flowering the stalks measured 17, 22, 25, 25 and 26 inches (44, 56, 64, 64 and 67 cm) in height while the leaves ranged from 25 to 32 inches (34 - 82 cm) in length. The widest leaf was barely $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch (1cm). Three of the stalks had terminal buds and a short spur. Of the five stalks, three had two terminal buds and two had three terminal buds. Both plants with three terminal buds also had a single bud on the spur, only one of the stalks with two buds had a spur with a single additional bud.

Flower color is surprisingly bright and brilliant. Falls are a rich deep blue-violet with true blue at the signal area. There are strong vein marks and a dull gold wash at the hafts. The standards are held erect and are an unmarked rich violet-blue. The falls measure approximately 1 inch wide by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long (2.6 by 3.8 cm), the width at the hafts is $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1 to 1.3 cm); the standards are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and 2 inches long (2 by 5 cm). The entire flower is $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches in height (9 to 10.3 cm) by $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide (5.8 to 6.4 cm).

Due to the intense rich color and the relatively large flowers, this species has potential as a good garden plant. The foliage is deep green and very elegant. It is held upright throughout the growing season unless badly battered by strong winds. Because it is believed to be a member of the 28 chromosome group of Siberian irises it has even greater potential as a source for new genetic material. It should cross easily with species and hybrids derived from I. sanguinea and I. sibirica.

The first recorded cross involving Iris typhifolia was made by Mr. R. Wise in England who obtained viable seed using its pollen on the cultivar DREAMING YELLOW. Due to its early bloom

here, I was only able to cross it onto my earliest hybrid, FAIRY DAWN. Pollen was saved, but proved to be of low viability and of numerous attempts, I believe the only success was with AQUA WHISPERS. Both crosses may show some interesting results.

Although few iris species have either logical or likely common names, I suggest the quite appropriate common name of "Cat-tail Iris" for this species. It has proven itself easy to cultivate, easy to germinate and widely adaptable although because of its early bloom season it may be best suited to locations where late frosts are uncommon. It has never been commercially available in the West, but owing to the wide distribution of numerous seeds, stocks should appear from specialist nurseries within the next year or two. I hope that it will prove a genetic treasure for the hybridizer and a garden treasure for the average gardener.



Dr. Zhao lends a hand in weeding the '93 Convention guest irises while visiting Michigan after the AIS Convention. The temperature when this photo was taken was 92° F.!

MCGARVEY GARDEN IN NEW YORK

By Helen Schueler_____

Initial contacts with the President of State University of New York, Oswego (Dr. Steve Webber) regarding establishing a McGarvey Garden on the campus received an enthusiastic response. Central New York Iris Society (CNYIS) is pursuing this. Tentative plans are for the college to provide the site, basic preparation and general maintenance, while irisarians provide the plants, signage, and specialized maintenance. CNYIS members will be asking Empire State Iris Society (ESIS) to give some initial support for signage, and urgently request members to let us know if they are growing any of Dr. McGarvey's lesser known cultivars or numbered seedlings. We in CNYIS expect to provide most of the labor to install and maintain the planting, because of proximity. We anticipate that after about three years, we can offer surplus plants at the annual auction and make the garden self supporting. We will concentrate initially on Dr. McGarvey's cultivars. If we are successful we will expand to include other New York State hybridizers' work.

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E.S.I.S. Newsletter, Spring 1991.
Helen B. Schueler Editor.

1991 AIS AWARDS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|
| MABEL CODAY | (C. Helsley) | 83 VOTES |
|-------------|--------------|----------|

Runnersup

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----|
| WINDWOOD SPRING | (R. Hollingworth) | 53 |
| JAMAICAN VELVET | (W. McGarvey) | 44 |

AWARD OF MERIT

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----|
| JEWELLED CROWN | (R. Hollingworth) | 118 |
| INDY | (R. Hollingworth) | 66 |
| SILVER ILLUSION | (D. Johnson) | 65 |

Runnersup

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----|
| PINK SPARKLE | (B. Hager) | 53 |
| HIGH STANDARDS | (R. Hollingworth) | 43 |
| PRESIDENT TRUMAN | (L. Bellagamba) | 42 |

HONORABLE MENTION

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----|
| LIBERTY HILLS | (A. Miller) | 72 |
| SPRINGS BROOK | (B. Warburton) | 31 |
| SNOWY MOUNTAIN | (D. Johnson) | 28 |
| CONTRAST IN STYLES | (R. Hollingworth) | 27 |
| DIANNE'S DAUGHTER | (C. McEwen) | 27 |
| QUEEN'S GAMBIT | (D. Johnson) | 24 |
| WHITE TRIANGLES | (B. Warburton) | 23 |
| ILLINI PURPLE PEPPER | (S. Varner) | 21 |
| BABY SISTER | (C. McEwen) | 19 |
| ILLINI GLORY | (S. Varner) | 17 |
| STANDING TALL | (D. Johnson) | 17 |
| TRI BLUE | (D. Johnson) | 17 |

**THE BACKGROUND OF
MABEL CODAY (HELSLEY '85)
MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER
FOR 1990**

BY CALVIN HELSLEY _____

In the spring of 1983 the AIS National Convention was held in Boston. I remember that May well, as something came up that prevented me from attending the convention. I was not overly disappointed as there was an iris in the seedling patch that would bloom for the first time during that week from a cross of WHITE SWIRL (Cassebeer '57) by SHOWDOWN (Varner '76).

I noticed this particular seedling early as it was going to have four stems, each with two branches in addition to the terminal. My anticipation grew as an extremely ruffled deep blue bud began to peek out of the spathe. When it opened I was extremely excited and pleased with all its good qualities and immediately numbered the seedling.

Normally the story would end with that chapter until the next bloom season. My garden is sixty miles from where I teach school and the last bloom of the seedling opened on a Sunday so I cut it to take back to school with me. During the trip I started to pick up a light unexplained fragrance. From that chance picking I discovered that added to its other superior qualities was the trait of a delicate fragrance. The next time I was in the garden I sniffed from flower to flower and discovered that fragrance is quite rare in Siberians.

A special flower had to have a special name and after much deliberation it was decided that this special seedling would bear the name of my grandmother Mabel Coday, who had passed away the year before. For thirty years we had shared a garden together and from her I had received the

love of irises as well as for plants and gardening. It was only fitting that this special seedling be named for her.

MABEL CODAY has proven to be a useful garden and show Siberian with favorable comments coming from all over the U.S. A vigorous propagator providing a wealth of bloom each spring, it is also proving to be a super parent. It passes on its ruffling and width of falls as well as its branching. One seedling regularly produces three branches and terminal with 8 -10 buds per stalk. The fragrance trait has only been transferred to two seedlings so far but as yet I have not crossed it with another fragrant variety to intensify the trait. Several seedlings from MABEL CODAY have been numbered so look for her good qualities to appear in more Siberians in the future.

1991 AWARD OF MERIT WINNERS



JEWELLED CROWN (Hollingworth '87)



INDY
(Hollingworth '85)

SILVER ILLUSION
(Johnson '87)



FORTY CHROMOSOME

SIBERIANS LIVE

By JOHN COBLE•

A funny thing happened this year at the Japanese Iris Convention in Oregon: The Siberians were in bloom. Although the weather there was cool and wet all spring and delayed the JI bloom by at least ten days, we thoroughly enjoyed the well-planned convention. The 28 chromosome Siberians were in peak bloom at Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden; rows of commercial lineouts afforded comparative study of blooms, growth habits and facilitated the making of "want lists"

Lorena Reid had only four or five Japanese iris cultivars in bloom but we were not disappointed for her 40 chromosome Siberians were at the height of their bloom - and we're talking hundreds and hundreds of plants. We seldom even get to see the Sino-Siberians in bloom, let alone see them grown to absolute perfection. In Michigan gardens we are fortunate to bloom the 40's at 30" (76 cm) tall (in fact we are very fortunate to even keep them growing!). In Lorena's garden the average bloom height was 60" (156 cm). It was our first time ever to see many of the different 40 chromosome Siberian species growing at their proper heights and various colors and patterns. And then we saw the hundreds of Lorena's seedlings blooming, noting the particular species characteristics that were inherited dominantly over others and some very new color combinations and patterns - especially in the signal area. Some extremely attractive "owl eye" patterns were showing up - I should say double "owl eye" - an expanded "UU" pattern to the signal with wide eyelash patterns in gold and white surrounding the darker "UU" centers. Not only were these "eye catching" amongst the many more common colored signals, but many were tall enough to look you in the eyes!

Another (or the other) spectacular sight in this garden was two new 40 chromosome Siberian seedlings blooming with rather uniform self colors of peach sherbet! These appear to be a new color

in Siberians, even for the 40's. I would expect that this new color breakthrough pressages fantastic things for the future, especially if Lorena starts crossing the gold and purple "double owl eyes" with peach petalled parents - sounds like Peach Melba may be on our future menus. Congratulations Lorena.

SIBERIAN IRISES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Pete De Santis_____

Are you kidding? Siberian irises in Southern California? No I am not kidding, they do grow in Southern California even though I was told not to waste my money on them.

So being the renegade that I am, I set out to determine do they or do they not grow here. I live in Reseda, California which is in the center of the San Fernando Valley. The temperature varies from 29° F (-2° C) to 101° F (38° C) and water is being rationed.

I have received blue ribbons for SPARKLE (Hager '77), CAESAR'S BROTHER (Morgan '31), SPARKLING ROSE (Hager '67), SILVER TIP (Cleveland '39), LIGHTS OF PARIS (Rich '66), and red ribbons on some others. I have twelve different Siberian clumps hybridized by Mr. Varner, Dr. McEwen and the Hollingworths who live in different parts of the country. These Siberians are all doing very well in my garden.

One of my friends Michael Zarky lives in Culver City, twenty miles south west of me, and he has also had very good luck with his Siberians. He has received blue ribbons for BLUE MOON (Scheffy '52), CAESAR'S BROTHER, ORVILLE FAY (McEwen '69), PANSY PURPLE (McEwen '69) and SPRINGS BROOK (Warburton '88). Another friend Betty Squires whose garden is only ten miles away from mine has also had good luck, in fact she was awarded best of Siberian section with SPARKLE. My friend Joe Daugherty in Alta Loma, sixty miles east of me, is also a great Siberian grower, and Judy Mogil of Woodland

Hills (The Vanowen Iris Garden) is also doing very well with her Siberians - I could go on and on. Because we have entered them in different shows, the iris and garden public have fallen in love with the dainty Siberian iris.

I must tell a story about my friend Jeanne Plank who not only grows Siberians in her home garden close to me, but is in charge of the iris bed at Descanso Gardens which is world renowned for its flowers, plants and trees. She also has Siberians on display there - but back to my story. One day while visiting Jeanne at her home garden, I spotted a beautiful clump - and I mean clump - of CAESAR'S BROTHER. It was 4 1/2 feet tall with numerous bloom stalks and dark green foliage. I was so intrigued with this enormous clump, because in my garden it only grew 3 feet, that I began to ask the usual questions. What did you put in the soil? when and what fertilizer did you use? how often do you water? She answered all my questions and I slowly shook my head in wonder because I had been using the same culture for my Siberians and mine have never grown that tall. A month later I received a call from Jeanne telling me that the mystery of her tall CAESAR'S BROTHER was solved. She found out that a water pipe running under the clump had broken and her CAESAR'S BROTHER had all the water it wanted!

Yes, Siberian irises will grow in Southern California, from the desert to the sea and to the mountains and from hybridizers all over the country. I learned a very important lesson in the iris world - don't believe all you hear. Go out, try it and that goes for all types of irises.

SIBERIANS SEEN IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

By Jennifer Hewitt _____

Thanks to the great kindness of relatives and friends, I had a wonderful visit to Australia and New Zealand in the Autumn of 1990 and fulfilled a long-held wish to see something of both countries.

It began with a fortnight staying near Melbourne with a cousin I had not seen for 42 years - a very happy reunion and a lot of family news to catch up on. This time was not intended to be iris-dominated, but I spent a most enjoyable day experiencing the hospitality of Les and Gwen Donnell and their daughter Helen. They took me first to Barry and Lesley Blyth's Tempo Two nursery. Barry grows quite a number of Siberians but there was little in bloom on the small lined out plants. He is also hybridizing them and I saw there and again at the Donnell's home garden, Barry's COULABAH (Reg. '87), a wine red, well-shaped flower which recently won the Ira Wood Award for Australia. This award has been established by Betty, Ira's widow, to encourage Siberian breeding in Australia: a similar award exists in New Zealand.

The climate and soil in this area are not ideal for Siberians; varieties seen here and later at the Victorian Region Show were much shorter stemmed than we expect, with the exception of COOLABAH - clearly the home product is best for these conditions.

New Zealand was irises from end to end. I cannot possibly mention all the Siberians I saw, but some must be singled out. Most were American or British cultivars, but hybridizing is making progress. There were a number of tetraploids grown from seed supplied by Currier McEwen; most of those I saw were not "finished" flowers but provided a good basis for future work. Two already raised in New Zealand which have received the Begg Shield for the best seedling seen at a New Zealand Iris

Society Convention are the deep blue-violet CASTLEGRACE ('72), a diploid raised by Pat Nelson (an excellent clump was in full bloom at Paul Richardson's garden) and EMMA RIPEKA ('90) a very fine medium blue tetraploid raised by Frances Love. This too was making the best of itself in her garden. Frances is doing more Siberian hybridizing and has some nice seedlings coming along, especially shorter ones.

Two other clumps which stand out in the memory in North Island were ERIC THE RED (Whitney '43), a beautiful clump in the Cracketts' garden in Rotorua, and an equally fine show of FOURFOLD LAVENDER (McEwen '82) in Marion Ball's garden in Hawkes Bay.

In the Thomas garden at Mona Vale, Christchurch, I was particularly interested to see a very fine-leaved form, or perhaps a cultivar of I. sibirica, which I also grow. It was sold to me some years ago as a setosa which it clearly is not. Small, dark violet-blue flowers of typical sibirica form have white signals and are borne on 12" stems. it would be interesting to know exactly what it is.

Other Siberians of interest included two that were new to me. LILAC NYMPH (Kokich '73) - a little pinky-mauve charmer with white style arms - in the McDonnell garden; and "White Fairy" (which does not seem to have been registered), a white, somewhat similar to WISLEY WHITE in shape, with yellow hafts and very free-flowering.

Some of these irises mentioned may, if plans work out, be coming to Britain in the future. Meanwhile I have a lot of happy, colorful and sometimes intriguing memories, and a great debt of gratitude to family and friends in the Antipodes.

(This account is extracted from one written in the Newsletter of The Siberian Spuria and Japanese Group of the British Iris Society, No. 29, July 1991. Printed with the kind permission of Jennifer and the Editor, Joan Trevithick).

SSI BOARD MEETING

By Ruth Wilder, Secretary_____

The Board of Directors of the Siberian Iris Society met at the Marriott Hotel in Falls Church, Virginia on May 19th 1991. The meeting was opened by Anna Mae Miller, President. The minutes of the 1990 board meeting were approved as published in the Fall 1990 TSI. Those present were Anna Mae Miller, Elizabeth Aulicky, Howard Brookins, Art Cronin, Jim Foreman, Bob and Judy Hollingworth, Sterling Innerst, Shirley Pope, Dave Silverberg, Hal Stahly and Ruth Wilder.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The treasurer's report was approved as printed in the Spring 1991 TSI with the following correction - the amount in CD's is \$9000.

"INVITATION TO JOIN" BROCHURES - Two thousand updated brochures have been printed and are available here at the convention.

TSI - Judy Hollingworth was commended for the beautiful TSI covers for the last two issues. A discussion of the sales of back issues of TSI was next on the agenda. A motion to increase the cost of each issue from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per copy was made by Shirley Pope and seconded by Dave Silverburg. The motion carried. Ruth Wilder reported that several issues are not available.

CONVENTION '93 - Bob Hollingworth reported on the 1993 Siberian Convention. At present over two hundred cultivars have been received.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - Motion passed unanimously that Ruth Wilder be given the award for 1991.

MEMBERSHIP - It was decided that the membership secretary develop a welcome letter to send to new members in place of a back issue of TSI.

ROBINS - Anna Mae Miller reported that the 4H robin is flying. Cathy Boyko will start a Canadian robin and the International robin will be restarted.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - The committee presented the following slate of officers;

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| First Vice President | Bob Hollingworth |
| Second Vice President | Tom Abrego |
| Secretary | Ruth Wilder |
| Treasurer | Gunther Stark |
| Directors | Shirley Pope |
| | Marty Schafer |

Hal Stahly is the incoming president

OTHER BUSINESS - Dave Silverberg made a request for Siberian guests for the 1994 AIS Convention. The Board thanked the North East Apogen Society for their donation of \$300 to the society.

NEW MEMBERS

We are again delighted to welcome our new members. Interest in Siberians is definitely growing and our many new members reflect that fact. A few of these names should have been included in our previous list and we apologize for the oversight.

Acito Elaine M., 533 Kirk Rd., Rochester, NY 14612
Adkins, M/M John J. Jr., 200 Pecan Ave.,
Albertville, AL 35950
Allen, Patty R., 5842 Velma Ln., Humble, TX 77396
Allery, Phillip E., 199 Walsall Rd., Aldridge
Walsall, West Midlands, England WS9 OBE
Aulicky Elizabeth, 9 Partridge Run, Warren, NJ
07059-6815
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98292
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50010
Bianco Augusto, Via Lagrange 3, 10040 San Gillio
(TO) Italy
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37659
Brina-Harris Stephanie L., 49 Foxcroft Dr.,
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 Cranor Robert, 5018 Ringer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63129
 Crawford Frank/Shirley, 7572 Smale, Washington, MI
 48094
 Davis Bill, 6232 NW Grand Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK
 73112
 Davis Buella M., R-2 Box 179, Connersville, IN 47331
 Dougherty William, 7420 Concerto Curve NE, Fridley
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 Dulgaard Sigrid E., 977 Brookdale Dr., Minneapolis
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 Godbey, William J., 6 Willow Oak Ln., Russellville,
 Ar 72801
 Griffith Bruce F., 1350 E. Colonial Dr., Salisbury,
 NC 28144
 Grigg Mrs. Glenn Jr., 4908 Auburn Rd., Raleigh NC
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 Harris Jared, 3088 South Highway 89-91, Logan, UT
 84321
 Hornbaker Rich, R-4, Princeton, IL 61356
 Jones Billy T., 739 Nolte Dr., Dallas TX 75208
 King Mary Ann, R-1 Box 474, London, AR 72847
 Kuchmas Michele, 113 Washington St., Kearny, NJ
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 Murrain James, 3233 McGee, Kansas City, MO 64111
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 48067

REPORT ON THE 1993 SIBERIAN CONVENTION

By Bob Hollingworth, Chairman_____

By all reports the convention irises had a good first year in 1991. Only a few have been lost and most have grown away nicely. Next year we should see a good deal of bloom as a preview for 1993. Although only a few flowered for us this year one really stood out. Bauer-Coble S85B-1 is a light pink-lavender with stronger color in the center of the falls than at the edges. It has an exquisite form -- flaring and full. Given continued good growth, this one looks like a winner to me. We were also fascinated by three interspecific hybrids that Tomas Tamberg sent this spring, a tetraploid sib. X I. versicolor, a tetraploid sibtosa (3/4 sib.), and a diploid sibtosa (3/4 sib). Despite their later start than the other cultivars that arrived in the previous fall, their growth rate was phenomenal and now each is a large clump of broad-leaved foliage. A testimony to hybrid vigor or does spring planting lead to better growth? These are some crosses I am very anxious to see. Tomas calls the diploid sibtosa a "pausback" (meaning chubby-cheeked) based on the flower form. None of the multipetal Siberians from Ho Shidara bloomed this year but are eagerly awaited. We shall not lack for novelty.

The Convention will be held the weekend of June 10-12th with the headquarters being the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University. The university conveniently changed from a quarter to a semester calendar this year thus making sure our convention will not be held on graduation weekend when hotel accommodation would be impossible. We are hoping for a "normal" year in 1993 and not a replay of this year when the bloom season went by in a flash three weeks early. Perhaps the cooling effect of the Phillipines volcano dust will balance the global warming effect from carbon dioxide and our timing will be perfect. Having so many things you can't control is bad on the nerves!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Hal Stahly_____

The nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for office in The Society for Siberian Irises. If approved the term of office would be from January 1, 1992 to December 31, 1994.

President: Harold Stahly
1st V.P. Robert Hollingworth
2nd V.P. Thomas Abrego
Directors: Shirley Pope
Martin Schafer

The bylaws require that these nominations be sent to all voting members of SSI by Nov. 15th, (publication in TSI fulfills this requirement). If no additional nominations have been made within four weeks, that is by Dec. 13th, the slate is to be considered elected.

Additional nominations may be made in writing, signed by at least eight members "acting in concert", that is all signing the same nominating petition, and sent to the chairman of the nominating committee not later than Dec 13th together with a letter of consent from each candidate. In this case the Elections Committee shall prepare a ballot including all nominations, and designating those made by the nominating committee. The ballot shall be mailed to all voting members not later than Jan. 15th with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots must be returned to the Elections Committee not later than Feb.1.

LAST WORD _____

Is there in the world a climate more uncertain than our own?

William Congreve, Ammendments of
Mr. Collier's False and Imperfect Citations.

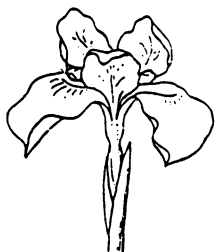
Every year seems to find us in agreement with the above quotation and in need of imaginative measures to counteract the vagaries of weather. So it was with interest that I listened when Shirley Pope was telling me about the quality of Lorena Reid's irises and the fact that they were all mulched heavily with sawdust.

Shirley had been back in Maine for a few weeks mulling over what contribution this mulch had made in the cultivation of the plants. She said that she had remembered that her parents always used sawdust to insulate the ice in their ice house in the days before refrigeration and wondered if in fact it could be the ideal mulch for Siberians by keeping the soil cool.

With this on my mind I was digging in our manure pile (composed of well rotted horse manure and sawdust) a few days later and found a few inches down that it was positively wet compared to the soil in the garden at a similar depth. I also recalled that there were ice crystals in the pile well into spring, suggesting that it is a very effective insulator and also holds moisture well.

When many areas of the country have watering restrictions and very hot summers, perhaps we should take Lorena's lead and consider sawdust as a mulch - not forgetting to add a little extra nitrogen fertilizer since sawdust is nitrigen-deficient.

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Numbers in parenthesis denote date term expires

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AIS Bulletin: Judith M. Hollingworth (as above)
Display Gardens: To be appointed
Convention Liason: Mr. David Silverberg,
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OR 97362

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The Siberian Iris is published twice yearly by the Society for Siberian Irises, a section of the American Iris Society.
 Editorial office is at 124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895. Deadlines for copy are Feb. 15th and Sept 1st, but earlier receipt is appreciated. Reprinting is by permission of the author and editor with due acknowledgement.
 Postmaster; Send address changes to The Siberian Iris, 124 Sherwood Rd. E. Williamston MI 48895.

Back Cover: Shaker's Prayer (Warner '90)

Photo: Bob Hollingworth

