

*The
Siberian
Iris*



Fall 1994



Shaker's Prayer (Warner) Award of Merit 1994



Windwood Serenade (Hollingworth) Award of Merit 1994

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Two long-time workers for the society will not be in office after this year, both feeling it necessary that they be relieved of the responsibilities and work of their positions.

Gunther Stark has for many years been Treasurer of SSI. As such he has been a faithful custodian of our funds, handling efficiently both cash flow and investments. Ruth Wilder has served as Secretary, also for many years. In addition to the usual duties of secretary Ruth has also handled sales of the society's publications. Both of these people have worked long, hard, and well in their positions. Think for a moment; without dedicated workers such as these....

Our thanks and deep appreciation to both of you, Gunther and Ruth.

Hey, how about those Siberians at the AIS Convention in Oregon??! Most people who care about these things know by now, but let's give credit. In the Cook Cup competition for favorite iris (seen at the convention) originating outside the home region, both winner and second runner-up were Siberian irises. Congratulations to the Hollingworths in winning the Cup with their beautiful new **Strawberry Fair** and to Dana Borglum for runner-up position with his great looking **Lake Keuka**. And in the voting for President's Cup (favorite in-region), a second runner-up was Lorena Reid's strikingly beautiful 40-chromosome **Dotted Line**. Congratulations also to her.

I believe these award placements represent a high-water mark for Siberians at national conventions. Without intending to demean bearded irises in any way, I'm pleased to see people willing to vote for truly outstanding beardless cultivars in these competitions.

My three-year term of office is quickly coming to an end. Bob Hollingworth as President-Elect will automatically become President on January 1, 1995. Elsewhere in this issue is the list of nominees for other offices. My best wishes go to all who will be in office: things will be in good hands, and I'm sure SSI will continue to prosper.

We have had our first national convention, and at least two more are in the planning/working stages. I hope this activity will stimulate more growing of newer Siberian varieties and more interest in serious hybridizing. I think great things lie in the not-so-distant future.

My best wishes to all of you for a good winter and "iris prosperity".

Hal Stahly



**A BEAMING BOB HOLLINGWORTH ACCEPTS THE
FRANKLIN-COOK CUP FOR STRAWBERRY FAIR**

RAINBOW'S END 1994

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION PORTLAND, OREGON

THE SILVERBERG GARDEN (Abbey Gardens)

By Dave Niswonger _____

We arrived at the Silverberg garden on the first day of the Convention and were among the first to see the soon to be Franklin Cook Cup winner for the best out of region iris. I'm talking about **Strawberry Fair** (Hollingworth '94). What a magnificent clump it was - standing tall with the most luscious strawberry flowers imaginable and to top it off they were the most ruffled blooms I had ever seen. It was truly a masterpiece, but coming out of **Jewelled Crown** that wasn't any great surprise.

At the same time we also got our first glimpse of Dana Borglum's '91 registration **Lake Keuka** which was one of the runners up to the Franklin Cook Cup. A very wide formed, well proportioned ruffled bloom of violet blue with aqua style arms. I presume this was named for one of the beautiful deep blue Finger Lakes of Upstate New York which I was able to enjoy while in the navy at Sampson, N.Y. We saw it performing equally well in other gardens. The Siberians really did their thing at this convention.

I was thrilled to see Louise Bellagamba's '93 introduction **Patio Rose** blooming nicely with its mauve-rose color set off with a violet vein down the center of the falls. It reminded me somewhat of Louise's '85 introduction **President Truman** that has been one of my favorites for several years.

Anna Mae Miller's **Aqua Whispers** ('88) was looking

great as usual with its large blooms of pinkish blue. The well branched stalks are one of its greatest assets. Her **Dancing Nanou** ('83) with its flowers of medium blue was blooming with its stalks well above the foliage. Another that I really liked was Joan Cooper's **Linda Mary** '90). There was a pleasant contrast between the violet purple petals and the white area at the hafts.

Currier McEwen had a nice display of his whites with yellow influence in **Bernard McLaughlin** ('85) displaying its blooms well above the foliage, and **Golden Crimping** ('85) with large blooms showing yellow at the hafts. **Simple Gifts** (Hollingworth '94) was a white without yellow influence and a pale lavender-blue wash. It had an interesting form of flared, rounded blooms and was very floriferous.



DAVE AND NANCY SILVERBERG IN THEIR GARDEN

It was good to see **Over in Gloryland** (Hollingworth '93) again after seeing it for the first time at the Siberian Convention in East Lansing. Its large deep blue blooms set off by a creamy area at the hafts make it a very attractive plant. I also liked Hollingworth's seedling 88V3B3 which is a very deep red violet with darker style arms. The bloom is so round, full and flared and gives a very pleasing effect. Another attractive seedling was S86-20-1 of Schafer/Sacks

with lots of blooms. It is violet with the standards being a lighter shade of violet making it a very nice bitone color combination.

Two blues that I liked very much were **Vicki Ann** (Warburton '90) and **Coronation Anthem** (Hollingworth '90). I keep thinking the blues can't get any better - but they do.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Dave Silverberg's own seedling 89-43F. It was standing tall, well above the foliage with many blooms open in all their glory. By the way, I think David may register it as "In Her Glory" and perhaps introduce it in 1995.

As a final note, I must say that again I was struck by the possibilities of hybridizing with the 40 chromosome Siberians. I have been very much impressed with the results Tomas Tamberg of Berlin, Germany is getting with this type of breeding. Here at the Silverberg garden I saw Lorena Reid's '93 introduction **Party Paleface**. It is a cross between **Enbee Deeaych** (Reid '89), a seedling from *I. delavayi* and **Wild Party** (Ghio '83), a Pacific Coast Native hybrid. **Party Paleface** is a very attractive Cal-Sibe with its red-violet falls sporting a near fuchsia area at the hafts and a small gold burst in the signal area. The standards are blue-orchid and the crests blue violet. The falls are slightly ruffled and the upright stems make a very attractive presentation with a nice personality. Yes, I think more hybridizers should be getting into this field.

This was one convention where I thought the Siberians were well represented and especially in the Silverberg garden.



**STRAWBERRY FAIR (Hollingsworth '94)
IN THE SILVERBERG GARDEN**

THE ABREGO GARDEN

By Marky Smith _____

We arrived at Chehalem Garden, Tom and Ellen Abrego's hillside home, on the last day of the Convention. It was a classic Northwest spring afternoon: sunny, with scattered clouds that drifted patterns of shadow over the Willamette Valley spread out below us. The view is the first gift to the visitor; the sweep of the river valley to the south is visible from one side of the garden; and on the other, the vineyards of the Red Hills of Dundee and a progression of green hills and fertile fields march toward the east, the Cascades, and Mount Hood.

The second gift is the house garden, landscaped by Tom and Ellen's friend Michael Schulz. Entering through latticed archways, with wisteria and ornamental grapevines supported on trellises, the visitor is drawn into a private world of hybrid and species rhododendrons, old-fashioned roses, and wonderful perennials including astilbes, aruncus, hostas, lupines, nepeta, miniature broom, yarrow, and ornamental grasses. Along the gravel paths are small islands of rock and scree, each with its own tiny landscape. Two gigantic plantings of Siberians gave promise of more; a huge triple clump of snowy **King of Kings** (Varner '83) beside another of the vivid, pure blue **Jaybird** (Hager '82). More subtle were Pacific Coast Natives planted in the garden or wild beside the road.

Past a superb ginkgo, a weeping deodar cedar, and a graceful 15 foot serpentine of **Cleve Dodge** McEwen '71), and the third gift, the "working garden", is spread out on the open hillside, with the view at the visitor's feet. Tom and Ellen have grown Siberians and Spurias commercially since 1982; and their spectacular display bed features over 200 different varieties of Siberians, backed by 150 different Spurias which were just beginning to show color. These plantings are a fairly complete collection of modern cultivars and a living catalogue for judges and enthusiasts alike.

The guest beds are set just below the house garden, beside a marvelous Italian marble mermaid. Siberians from many well-known hybridizers accounted for the majority of the guests. Dana Borglum's **Lake Keuka R.**'91, made a superb clump, with round, lakewater blue flowers floating just above perfect leaves. Bob Hollingworth sent an elegant array, including his sculptured diploid **Simple Gifts** '94, the palest lavender blue. In diametric opposition was his other '94 introduction, the mauve tetraploid **Strawberry Fair**, with heavily ruffled flowers. This stunning iris won the Franklin Cook Cup, the first beardless iris ever selected as Best Out-of-Region Guest. One of my favorites was Bob's seedling, 85U2B18 (now registered as **That's My Baby**), a very wide deep red whose flowers seemed cut from wine-colored velvet.

Currier McEwen was well represented. The well-proportioned dwarf **Baby Sister** '86, was covered with soft blue-violet flowers, and his tetraploid **Golden Edge** '92 displayed striking dark blue-violet flowers with gold signals and gold wire rims. Anna Mae Miller had several fine cultivars, including a beautiful clump of the mid-blue **Liberty Hills** '89. Nearby, I saw her '91 release, **Purple Sand**, a dark lavender, dashed and dotted with darker violet; and her '94 introduction **Rosebud Melody**, a very wide flower in dark violet.

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks contributed the refined, white **Bridal Jig**, '93 whose flower, with yellow signals and wide, pendant falls, is a visual bonus on the tall stalks. **Roaring Jelly** '92 was another nice clump, with hot violet falls and standards of a lighter mauve. The Schafer/Sacks seedling S87-10-1 had a red-violet flower with the blossoms very high above the foliage. In a wonderful variation from the horizontal, Hal Stahly's lovely blue seedling 0-34-A is a vertical flower, sculptured in tones of turquoise and blue. A perennial favorite, Carol Warner's **Shaker's Prayer** '90 was a medley of blue-violet standards, red-violet styles and veined gold falls.

Lorena Reid's 40 chromosome Sino-Siberians included the graceful *delavayi* hybrid **Enbee Deeaych** '89, which has an arresting darkest purple and black flower. Also on display were **Butterfly Mode** '91, a soft electric blue with a white, butterfly-shaped signal, edged and heavily striated with blue-black. One of the convention's stars was **Dotted Line** Reid '92) a **Butterfly Mode** seedling of a similar violet-blue, distinguished by its white signal, edged and marked by dotted blue-black lines.

Time was too short. A break under the dramatic, free-form tent, a snack of grapes and fresh strawberries, a last look at all the shades of green rolling into the distance, and it was time to reboard the bus. I heard a visitor say, wistfully, "I could stay forever".



SINO-SIBERIAN DOTTED LINE (REID '92)

SCHREINER'S GARDENS

By Peter Weixlman _____

Schreiner's Gardens conjure one image in my mind, and that is of Tall Bearded irises. Who knew! They show and display many beardless irises and, for this year's convention, they had an impressive collection. Forty cultivars from nine hybridizers across the country were represented in this particular bed. Displayed with Spurias, a few TB's, lupines,

pansies and several other companion plants the Siberians became a feature planting.

Before my review of the irises, I need to make a small disclaimer. The weather in Portland had warmed rapidly and accelerated the season. Little natural moisture forced the bloom on low stalks and poor foliage for the guest cultivars. Most of these plants had been viewed in other convention gardens growing impeccably when interventional cultural practices had been incorporated.

The smallest flower was Gene Gaddie's **Prairie in Bloom** ('90), approximately 1 1/2", white, upright standards and beige falls on a simple species form. This plant sported five blooms on tall stalks with tremendous branching, and the flowers danced in the slightest breeze like tiny butterflies.

Bob Hollingworth's many large clumps were well past peak bloom due again to the hot, dry conditions. His **Simple Gifts** ('94) held a dozen white flowers above the foliage, each displaying horizontal falls and standards. The name says it all - elegance in simplicity.

Several of his fine seedlings were also putting on a show; 85C3A2, a medium blue with nice branching and feathered styles. 87N4C10 had beautiful foliage, dark purple blooms with horizontal falls and lighter standards and every bit covered in ruffles plus - even the styles.

Currier McEwen's **Baby Sister** ('86), a short plant, perfect for the front of the border, had smallish purple flowers. Its white signal made a nice contrast and caught your attention. It was, however, blooming very short. Currier's cream colored flowers were represented by **Golden Crimping** ('85) and **Bernard McLaughlin** ('85). The former is an unusual flower with piecrust crimping and a light golden edge against the creamy, ivory falls and ruffled standards. The falls fade to sunny yellow shoulders and the cream frosts to pure white in the sun. **Bernard McLaughlin** had the same ruffled standards but boasted pale yellow horizontal falls with slight ruffling. This flower ages to white and is smaller than **Golden Crimping**, but has the same great branching.

Currier's blues on display were **Blue Reverie** ('85), a notably floriferous medium blue, with a white signal and nice branching over blue-green foliage, and **Regency Buck** ('85), a deep blue-purple. It had very large flowers with great substance that held up well in the intense heat.

Anna Mae Miller was the only hybridizer with all her cultivars in bloom during my visit, Her **Liberty Hills** ('89) a medium cornflower blue with lavender highlights has performance plus. **Frosted Cranberry** ('91) stopped many garden visitors. Its combination of lilac standards and flaring falls of icy cranberry is very distinctive. Her seedling 85.7.2, a tailored white with yellow signal held up quite nicely in the 85 degree heat.

Schafer/Sacks represented themselves well with their red-purples, **Devil's Dream** and **Roaring Jelly** ('92). **Roaring Jelly** was a wine-grape color with nice branching and blue-green foliage while **Devil's Dream** had a velvety finish to its horizontal falls and a small white signal. S86-20-1 had an unusual tricolor appearance, lilac standards, light blue styles and orchid falls - unique. S86-8-1 with navy blue falls and almost iridescent taffeta style arms, was held above good foliage and had slight ruffling to all parts. S87-10-1 was a nicely ruffled grape wine with gold signals and carried well in the garden.

Last, but not least, Bee Warburton's **Vicki Ann** ('90) a light blue self with horizontal standards and falls with a beautiful turquoise midrib on the styles - a pretty clump for brightening up any border.

CONVENTION NOTES - THE AITKEN GARDEN

By Cathy Boyko _____

Terry and Barbara Aitken garden on a large property nestled into a beautiful suburban area. Their home's modern lines and entrance gardens full of shade loving

perennials and shrubs, are beautiful, but iris heaven lies beyond them. Since the Aitkens grow the widest range of irises possible, tucked into the entrance plantings of hostas and rhododendrons were healthy clumps of *Iris graminea*, *I. foetidissima*, *I. pseudacorus*, *I. japonica* (green and variegated forms), *I. pallida variegata*, and an unidentified PCN, a tall blue Siberian and the inter-species cross **Holden Clough**. Try these in part shade, since they made nice clumps in Oregon at least!

The rectangular beds beyond the house were far too extensive to view in detail in the allotted time. Many of the guest Siberians were not happy. I suspect something peculiar was going on in this bed, since Terry and Barbara are meticulous gardeners and had many irises in glowing health. Bare soil marked the graves of **Dancing Nanou**, **Windwood Serenade**, **Prairie in Bloom**, **Baby Sister**, **Roaring Jelly** and others, and **Shaker's Prayer** was among those with one foot in the grave. These irises had looked great in other convention gardens nearby. The clumps displayed severe tip browning on the foliage, and one clump showed bloom with mottling not normal to the variety, and blooms that did not open properly. I'd like to know the cause - but enough of this depressing stuff!

Many Siberians guests did look good here: **Liberty Hills** (Anna Mae Miller '89) was growing well (as it does everywhere), and was especially blue in this garden. It is of tailored form with a signal that is barely visible. Blooming in profusion above the foliage, and making a handsome clump it is one of my favorites, and always beautiful.

Lake Keuka (Borglum R.'91) is an exceptionally true bright mid-blue without a hint of purple. The styles are paler blue with very slight white signals. It was showy in many gardens: a cool oasis in the heat of the afternoon. Three buds and a branch, and evidence of sequential bloom stalks, combined with beautiful flowers make this one a must-get!

Strawberry Fair Hollingworth '94). I didn't think I'd ever see Bob Hollingworth floating above ground level, but this

iris did it to him! The 1100 convention goers liked **Strawberry Fair** so well that they voted it most popular introduction bred outside Region 13. To do this in the Tall Bearded Capitol of the World is a huge compliment that the Hollingworths were not expecting. Congratulations! Needless to say, this one's a real beauty. The falls are held flat and are extremely ruffled, beginning at the edges as a rosy red-violet, followed by blue, the white and finally gold as you follow the bee's path to the center of the flower. The standards are really more gathered than ruffled, the ruffling's so pronounced, and they are slightly lighter than the red-violet in the falls (bright rose?). The style arms are a bit lighter still, with blue at their center. The flower has an overall triangular shape from above, but it is the ruffling and clear, bright color that sets it apart. As if the "pretty flowers" were not enough, the blooms are held well above the attractive foliage on stalks with four buds each. I didn't note if there were sequential stalks coming, but there likely were. Exquisite!

Rosebud Melody (Anna Mae Miller) had pretty mid-blue flowers on it but the plant was quite short, so I'll not comment further since it was likely not near its potential.

85-17-2 (Miller) was a medium height tailored white with yellow infusion.

Purple Sand (Miller '91) was forming a nice tall clump with perfect blue-green foliage. All the buds and branching were well above the foliage, and waist high on my 5' 2" frame. The flowers were in lilac shades with turquoise infusions. The lack of a signal, except deep in the flower's throat, was not enough to deter a "hybridizing" bumblebee. Very nice!

Lavender Stipples (Miller '91) which I saw in another garden only had one bloom open and was nice enough to grow for the foliage alone, nearly as blue as some of the blue ornamental grasses. To notice it out of bloom tells you how nice the leaves can be in her breeding lines. And if you've ever grown those darn grasses without huge barriers around them, you'll be glad to have a well behaved version of that foliage effect.

Devil's Dream (Schafer/Sacks '90). The falls are richest red-violet with a blue infusion near the golden signal, which is way down in the throat of the bloom. The standards are ruffled and perfectly match the falls. The ruffled styles are a little lighter and have some blue on them. This is a later bloomer than many, judging by the buds yet to come. An excellent iris overall, with a great clump effect. Watch these hybridizers - they had a lot of fine seedlings under number with unusually rich colors.

Regency Buck (McEwen '85). If you see **Regency Buck** and **Regency Belle** together, this one is the darker of the two, at least it was in this garden. Unfortunately, only two of the lovely ruffled dark blue blooms were open, but they were beautiful.

Over In Gloryland (Hollingworth '93) had one glorious bloom open. Each round fall was nearly 2" in diameter and was holding its rich royal-navy velvet color in the afternoon heat which had melted many of the TB's here. In general, it appears that Siberian petals are more heat tolerant than the TB's, but the plants seem to mind it more. Despite the fact that **Over In Gloryland's** neighbor was near death, it was in radiant blue-green health. The large, distinct, clear white signal is an eye catcher on the richly colored blooms. Really marvelous.

S86-20-1 (Schafer/Sacks) was a lavender with red-violet at the hafts. Very cooling in the afternoon heat.

Shirley's Choice (McEwen '87) This one was really going to bloom heavily. What a great clump! The flowers are slightly ruffled, colored white with yellow hafts and icy lemon buds. Obviously a late one since most buds were not open.

Lorena Reid's **Dotted Line** ('92) is a gorgeous Sino-Siberian in clear mid-blue. The signal is large, and pure, unmarked white, surrounded by a distinct "dotted line" of navy. This is another Siberian that gained the admiration of the convention guests. **Enbee Deaych** was good here too, a tall, dark, handsome 40 chromosome Siberian.

I must mention one more Siberians that was really outstanding here. It was our host's own baby - seedling 88S1 from **Dear Dianne x High Standards**. This tall clump did everything right in my book - blooms well above the foliage, a branch on each stalk, lots and lots of bloom, and sequential stalks. The blooms were a crisp mid-blue, with lots of ruffles, a white signal and diamond dusting around the petal edges. Vigorous and a real beauty.

On the way out we enjoyed Terry's show quality orchids and begonias. Truly a wonderful visit.



TERRY AITKEN'S SEEDLING 88S1

THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

By John Coble

We decided to take time off this year for the National AIS Convention because we would have the chance to see the largest Tall Bearded iris gardens in the U.S., and we knew that Oregon can also grow Siberians to perfection. We were not disappointed with either, only disappointed that we had not sent some of our own Siberian seedlings as guests!

We were all (1100+ attendees) drawn to the "Mecca" of Tall Bearded iris growing and then surprised that a Siberian iris took the Franklin Cook Cup, **Strawberry Fair** (Bob Hollingworth '94), and the second runner-up, **Lake Keuka** (Dana Borglum R.'91). And in the voting for the President's Cup, against all of the Tall Bearded introductions by the famous Oregon hybridizers, a Sino-Siberian was the second runner-up: **Dotted Line** (Lorena Reid '92). For many of us, it was a wonderful Siberian convention.

The Tom and Ellen Abrego garden was a mini Siberian convention; only beardless iris guests were grown here beside their commercial line-out garden of Siberian and *Spuria* irises. A long row of 3-4 year old clumps of Siberian iris, well spaced for maximum clump effect was very impressive and educational. Each cultivar could be observed for its foliage habit, color, height, and height of bloom in relation to foliage. I took several slides of impressive clumps to show different landscape effects of foliage and height of bloom of: **Sky Mirror**, **White Triangles**, **Regency Buck**, and **Standing Tall**. Visitors could also observe several beardless species in bloom and Cal-Sibes, which is a rare treat. Beside the guest beds of modern cultivars there was a waiting line to photograph *I. forestii* with **Whodunit** (versicolor) in the background, the Cal-Sibes **In Stitches** and **Half Magic**, and the 40 chromosome **Dotted Line**. And in the guest bed we saw our first blooms of **Belle Promesse**, a wine-red *Versata* (versicolor x *ensata*) by Dumas-Quesnel ('94) from Quebec.

If an award could have been given to the tallest Siberian in the garden, it would have gone to Schafer/Sacks S86-8-1, a velvety dark blue blooming at about 50" tall.

Terry and Barbara Aitken's Salmon Creek gardens is large and expansive with their commercial gardens, home landscaping, and orchid greenhouse. Though past peak bloom, there seemed to be a little of every class of iris in bloom. Here is where conventioners were also impressed with the vote-getting, **Dotted Line** (Reid '92). The dark blue flowers have a large white signal patch that is edged with blue "dotted lines".

The Ludi garden, at higher elevation near Mount Hood, appeared at peak TB and Siberian bloom. Though not a garden for Siberian guests, we wondered why not. Here were about 100, four year clumps of newer and older Siberians. Most all of them were growing and blooming at registered height or taller (34-38"). For contrast, I photographed *I. sibirica* 'grandis' beside **Caesar's Brother** and picture perfect clumps of **Shirley Pope**. There was one light blue Siberian different from all other 99 clumps that was drawing attention -- **Harbor Mist** (Waite '83). And favorable comments were overheard about the handsome contrast of ruffled blue blooms coming from the red spathes of **Ego** (McGarvey '66). In one bed you could observe the advancements in hybridizing with **Snow Queen** growing beside **White Swirl** and **Crème Chantilly**.

Duane and Joyce Meek's garden was also not chosen for Siberian guests. Why not? We were really treated to one of the finest displays of Siberian irises here. Lined out in the commercial field were tall rows of named Siberians growing to cultural perfection. The growth habit, branching, height, and slight color differences between cultivars could be compared. **Variation In Blue** (McEwen '83) was a light blue, lighter than **Steve Varner** (Briscoe '78) growing beside it. **Young Lady** (Warburton '82), a nice white with one branch was blooming just at the top of its 30" foliage. **Vi Luin** (DuBose '74) was blooming at about 38", and **Star Glitter** (Hager '85) was blooming at about 32" and looking much like **Butter And Sugar**. **Shirley Pope** (McEwen '79)

was blooming at 38", above the very upright clumps of foliage; no branch but many stalks. **Ruffled Velvet** (McEwen '74) was the nicest I've seen, blooming at 32-34" (registered at 22"). **Pas de Deux** (Hollingworth '88) had just started to bloom at 30". **Dear Diane** (McEwen '79) was a big tetraploid with one branch, blooming at 36" with dark blue flowers with a white wire rim. **Forrest McCord** (Hollingworth '83) was the tallest I've seen it at 38" -- a bouquet of dark blue blooms with white wire rims above the vertical, vase-like foliage clumps. And a big, tall white Siberian was drawing people's attention to read the name tag -- **King Of Kings** (Varner '83). It was also of interest that some of the same varieties here were being affected by botrytis that are affected in the Midwest.

Schreiner's -- what a sea of color! So many display beds of Tall Bearded iris (50?). Several guest beds contained most of the beardless guest plants, and they were sought out. Most of the Versicolor x Ensata guests by Dumas-Quesnel were in bloom. Several showed improvement over wild versicolor forms, but no new color breaks. I would like to raise a few to observe their performance; its hard to judge a new plant on one day's observation. However, the most striking observation today was the tallest guest Siberian (just like in the Abrego garden), Schafer/Sacks S86-8-1 at 40+". This has deep velvet blue falls with a white rim and white "eyelash" signal containing dark blue veins, and medium blue standards and styles for more contrast. Also tall and drawing attention was Schafer/Sacks S87-10-1, a ruffled red-wine, and their S86-36-1, also red-wine. Of the named guests, Vicki Ann (Warburton '90) was putting on the best performance, adding a nice light-blue bouquet of bloom.

In Dave and Nancy Silverberg's Abbey Gardens, the beardless guest bed was full of bloom. From a distance you couldn't pick out the best performer, many clumps were in cultural perfection. Close up examination let one pick out their favorite personality. And here is where most fell in love with the rose ruffled **Strawberry Fair** (Hollingworth '94), and voted it the Franklin Cook Cup. The upright, blue-green foliage made a vase for the rose-violet, very ruffled blooms with their gold and white sunburst signals

and ruffled light-rose styles. The tetraploid blooms hold their falls flaring.

Lake Keuka (Borglum R. '91) captured votes in this garden to be a runner-up for the Franklin Cook Cup. The clump was striking with its neat, upright foliage holding a crown of blooms in mid-blue with lighter blue styles and nice, ruffled form; picture perfect, and you could hear the shutters clicking! **Simple Gifts** (Hollingworth '92) was giving ample rewards with large, horizontal, silvery falls holding a cup of white standards and styles. **Coronation Anthem** (Hollingworth '90) was a beauty in blue ruffles, white blaze, and light blue styles. Performing well again was Schafer/Sacks S87-10-1; from the upright, 20", blue-green foliage arose 36" stalks with ruffled, red-wine blooms with very ruffled, light-violet styles with blue midribs. The numerous thick stalks had no branch, but there were three buds in each terminal. **Vicki Ann** was performing well again, and **Party Paleface** (Reid '93) was a striking bicolor of blues from 40-chromosome hybridizing. In a line-out garden there was an impressive row of Dave's own seedlings exhibiting traits that showed he has been using **Percheron**, **Harpswell Haze**, and **Silver Edge** in his hybridizing.

There was so much to see at this convention in full bloom, and established clumps of Siberian iris to compare. We appreciate all of the care and culture the guest gardeners put into making this a rewarding trip to the Rainbow's End.

PUBLICATIONS

All back issues of TSI are \$2.50 each. We no longer have copies of some of the early issues. Judging standards should be ordered from AIS. Checks for publications, payable to The Society For Siberian Irises, should accompany orders. Send to the Publication Office, c/o Howard Brookins, N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051



LAKE KEUKA (Borglum R. '91)

SLIDES AND VIDEO

Two sets of slides suitable for a club program are available from Tom Abrego, 19105 N.E. Trunk Rd., Dundee, OR 97115. Tom also has a video tape of the Friday evening meeting at the 1993 Siberian Convention which includes the talks and slide presentations of Dr. Tomas Tamberg and Mr. Ho Shidara. This is also available for interested individuals and clubs.

1994 AIS AWARDS FOR SIBERIANS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

		Votes
SULTAN'S RUBY	R. HOLLINGWORTH	83
Runners-up		
AQUA WHISPERS	A.M. MILLER	79
TEMPER TANTRUM	W. McGARVEY	73

AWARD OF MERIT

SHAKER'S PRAYER	C. WARNER	152
CORONATION ANTHEM	R. HOLLINGWORTH	99
WINDWOOD SERENADE	R. HOLLINGWORTH	74
PAS-DE-DEUX	R.HOLLINGWORTH	72
Runners-up		
CONTRAST IN STYLES	R. HOLLINGWORTH	48
WHITE TRIANGLES	B. Warburton	42
REGENCY BELLE	C. McEWEN	38

HONORABLE MENTION

MOON SILK	H. STAHLY	74
FROSTED CRANBERRY	A. M. MILLER	67

THE BACKGROUND OF SULTAN'S RUBY -MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1994

By Bob Hollingworth _____

Sultan's Ruby: More From The Miraculous Mating

Sultan's Ruby is a needle stuck in the groove -- same story as last year and the year before. This iris is a diploid sib of **Lady Vanessa** ('93) and **Jewelled Crown** ('94); so from one cross, **Ruffled Velvet** x **Showdown**, resulting in three introductions, has now come a third Morgan-Wood medal winner. A Miraculous Mating indeed. In a way, this is depressing because if I had just chosen this one cross to make, and the 80 or so seedlings that came from it to grow and evaluate, we could have saved the huge effort of growing all those thousands of other seedlings from hundreds of other crosses that didn't make it.

Sultan's Ruby is a great favorite of mine but its beauty is not without a flaw. When it opens with its intense wine red, velvety falls and a quite bright gold signal it is breathtaking. Later the falls curl down and display the contrasting signal so that it seduces the eye from across the garden. However, towards the end it fades and loses much of its splendor. Regrettably, that applies to many of us, too, so we can hardly hold it as a fatal flaw, just nature about its work.

There were a dozen others that could have been named from among these sister seedlings. We still have several that I use for breeding and from time to time look at with a calculating eye for introduction. They make fine parents. **Sultan's Ruby** has given some quite unusual seedlings, both through selfing and through crossing with yellow amoenas to give moody, smoky blue tones and strong purple/gold combinations. Such tetraploids as **Coronation Anthem**, **Over in Gloryland**, and **Strawberry Fair** are later developments

from this miraculous mating too. So one can dream that there may be another chapter to this story someday. But, for the moment at least, the run of luck that started with planting a short row of seedlings in 1981 must end here.

MYSTERY CONDITION CLARIFIED

By Terry Aitken

For those who may be wondering about the strange condition of the beardless irises at our place this spring, let me put your mind at ease. The damage was entirely man-made (Terry-made, you might say), and the plants that managed to survive through the bloom season are showing substantial recovery with the flush of new root growth that follows it.

When we weeded through the garden about a month before the AIS convention, we realized that we would not have time to do it again. We felt reasonably confident that a weed retardant could be laid down around established three year clumps of beardless irises with little concern for their well-being. How wrong we were! We had used PRINCEP 80W for several years in our bearded iris beds without problems. Last fall, that product was discontinued and replaced with PRINCEP 90W.

This was applied after the fall transplant in the bearded iris beds. This spring in the bearded irises we noticed brown leaf tips (usually a sign of root loss or damage) and later, with bloom season, more than usual bloom-outs and generally poor increase. The actual blooms seemed unaffected. Plant growth improved considerably after bloom. Also, each plant exhibited its own unique tolerance - some unaffected, others clearly unhappy with the whole affair.

We observed a much more violent reaction to the spring application of PRINCEP 90W in the beardless display beds. Some plants died outright, many showed brown leaf tips with some die-back, bloom was distorted on others. A few were unaffected. Like the bearded irises, recovery was underway following bloom season, at least on those plants that had the strength to go on! (Also, fortunately, we had not applied this weed retardant to our beardless irises in other areas, so catalog stock was unaffected).

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

Austin, R.L., 122 S. West St., Brandon, WI 53919
Beeson, Lyle J., 1204 W. Superior St., Alma, MI 48801
Blue, M/M Ron, 3131 7th St., Hubbard, OR 97032
Blyth, Barry, PO Box 604, Pearcedale, Victoria 3912
Australia
Borglum, Dana, 2202 Austin Rd., Geneva, NY 14456
Bourn, Diane, 645 Rosalia St. SE., Atlanta, GA 30312
Brand, Mark H., 62 Cosgrove Rd., Willington, CT 06279
Brown, Mary C., 2438 Ozark, Joplin, MO 64801
Brown Steven, 2493 Pinch Rd., Manheim, PA 17545-9466
Cameron, Dugald, PO Box 760, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 4A5
Canada
Churchill, Richard D., 140 Pontoosic Rd., Westfield
MA 01085
Clark, Dr. Caven, PO Box 117, Van Buren, MO 63965
Connor, Richard R., PO Box 711, Wilmington, NC 28402
Countryman, William D., Rt. 1, Box 990, Northfield,
VT 05663
Dawson, Neil, PO Box 189, Tuckasegee, NC 28783-0189
Diestler, David R., 315 N. Lafayette St., Shawino, WI 54166
Eacker, Russ/Carol, 2513 Lelaray St., Colorado Springs,
CO 80909
English, Rosemary, 3826 62nd Dr., Lubbock, TX 79413
Gaddie, Gene, 913 S. 1st St., Norfolk, NE 68701
Gallagher, Ellen M., R2 Box 506, Lancaster, NH 03584

Gibson, Dianna, 330 P St., Port Townsend, WA 98368
 Grant, Neil, 28 Wenonah Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866-1404
 Griner, Martha Ann, 21 Chesterfield Rd., Bordertown
 NJ 08505
 Hettman, Paula J., 2824 Lydick Way, Eugene, OR 97420
 Hoover, Cy/Jerrie 1153 Canal Rd., Griggstown, NJ 08540
 Iler, Kathy A., PO Box 581, Coos Bay, OR 97420
 Isbell, Dan/Irene 79 N 76th, Kansas City, KS 66111
 Jarrell, David, Waxwing Gardens, 45077 SW Knight Rd.,
 Gaston, OR 97119
 Judd, Mrs B.M., HWY 58, Pauatahanui RD 1, Porirua, New
 Zealand
 Kaiser, Dr. Alfred J., 22 School St., Box 47, Hatfield,
 MA 01038
 Kelly, Gordon E., 520 Skyline Dr., Algonquin, IL 60102
 Latchy, Gayle A., 2801 Flag Ave N #120, New Hope,
 MN 55427
 Layman, Victor/Dayna, 2733 McVitty Rd SW., Roanoke,
 VA 24018
 Lesage, Martin, 203 5E Ave., Ste-Anne-Des-Plaines, Quebec
 J0N 1H0 Canada
 Marx, Mary-Margaret, 8129 N Ozark Ave., Niles, IL 60714
 Mater, Oscar A/Virginia M., 500 Dennis Dr., Fenton,
 MO 63026
 Miller, Mrs. Karen A., 2715 S 11th St., Grand Forks,
 ND 58201
 Mohr, Kathryn E., 111 Washington Rd., Scotia, NY 12302
 Myers, Marie A., PO Box 112, Fayetteville, NY 13066-0112
 Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens, PO Box 150, Niagara Falls
 Ontario L2E 6T2 Canada
 Niederauer, James B., 17 Mt. Rascal Rd., Hackettstown,
 NJ 07840
 Piper, Stephen, 201 Township Line Rd., Kempton, IL 60946
 Rawlings, Sandra L., 6569 Bridgeton Manor Ct., Hamilton,
 OH 45011-9223
 Richardson, Bob, 2227 Howle St., Lancaster, SC 29720
 Riehl, Frank, 630 E Washington, Iowa City, IA 52240
 Sims, David, PO Box W, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
 Smith, Damon C., 102 Blue Bill Ct., Havre De Grace,
 MD 21078
 Stevens, Sally W., Star Rt Box 102, Ellisburg, NY 13636

Tilghman Tamplin, Joanna, 5841 Castle Haven Rd.,
Cambridge, MD 21613
Thompson, Richard C., 829 Clarkston Dr., San Jose,
CA 95136-1504
Turnbow, M/M Charles, R3 Box 422, Murray, KY 42071
Wamba, Sally, 1602 E Heritage Ln., Spokane, WA 99208-8509
White, Gary E., 701 Old Cherry Rd., Lincoln, NE 68512-1168
Williams, John H., 8 Catfish Dr., Ponca City, OK 74604
Williams, Wesley, Maiers Rd., Lyndeboro, NH 03082
Zack, Kenneth/Margaret, 1877 Taper Dr., Pittsburgh,
PA 15241

IN MEMORIAM

KAY NELSON-KEPPEL

Kay is gone, after a courageous two year battle with cancer. Her participation in the awards ceremony at Portland this spring - the last time most of us saw her - was truly heroic.

We have lost a good friend and a superb registrar. Kay became keeper of AIS Registrations and Introductions in 1972 after helping her father, J. Arthur Nelson since 1965. We all marveled at the way she kept the registrations in order, a monumental task which demands great attention to detail. Never have I heard a complaint about Kay. She was unfailingly patient and helpful with members seeking her expertise.

Lovely Kay, as Melba Hamblen named the iris for her in 1980. She was an elegant and lovely person and the society and all of us who counted her as a friend will miss her deeply.

JOAN TREVITHICK

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Joan Trevithick, editor of *The Siberian*, *Spuria* and *Japanese Iris Group* of the British Iris Society (SS&J) from 1977 to 1994. She died on July 9 after a long battle with cancer.

For a group that cannot meet, its newsletter is critical. Joan's very personal, people-centered editorial style endeared her to her many readers. With many overseas subscribers, the SSJ publication became a sort of international robin for beardless iris lovers.

In addition to her editorial duties, Joan became secretary/treasurer in 1979. With the help of her son David, yearly sales of plants and seeds were organized. The income generated from these popular sales supplemented the membership fees and greatly improved the financial state of the group. Joan worked incredibly hard for SS&J and will be acutely missed.

Anne Blanco White will be interim editor until a successor can be found.

SIBERIAN IRIS CHECKLIST

A LISTING OF 900 SIBERIANS FROM 1700-1990

Postpaid: \$5.25 USA, \$5.75 Foreign

\$10.00 Foreign airmail (US Dollars)

Order from: HOWARD L. BROOKINS

N75 W14257 NORTH POINT DRIVE

MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53051

Make checks payable to: Society for Siberian Irises

SSI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TO ANNA MAE MILLER



Anna Mae Miller of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was the unanimous choice of the Board of Directors to receive the Distinguished Service Award.

This award is given by the Board to a member who has made a special contribution to the society.

Anna Mae certainly fits this criterion.

Joining SSI in 1977 she became Director of Robins in 1983 and continued in that position until 1992.

She was Vice President

from 1986 through 1988, President from 1989 through 1991 and currently directs the 4H Hybridizer's Robin.

After graduating from William Jewell College with an AB in Chemistry, Anna Mae found an outlet in hybridizing for her scientific training, gained at the Upjohn Company. Introducing her first Siberian **Dancing Nanou** in 1983 she has a total to date of fifteen introductions and has several AM's to her credit.

Anna Mae has been, and continues to be a great promoter of Siberians. As a prominent member of Federated Garden Clubs of America, she named several of her Siberian introductions for presidents of the Michigan chapter (e.g. **Cheery Lyn**) in an effort to catch the interest of members. As an accomplished flower arranger she has also

given exposure to Siberians by prominently featuring them in her Federated Garden Club show arrangements.

Anna Mae has written a wealth of articles on Siberians for the AIS bulletin and TSI. An article published in a national gardening magazine (Fine Gardening No. 33, October 1993) brought welcome attention to Siberians and generated many new members and checklist sales.

She and her husband Ronald, a retired school teacher, maintain a beautiful perennial garden and regularly welcome both garden club and iris society members. They were one of the tour gardens for the first Siberian Convention in 1993, and those who rode the buses will never forget that first view of the garden and the breathtaking sea of color.

With this award the board thanks Anna Mae, on behalf of us all. A neat lady and an asset to any society!

IN PRAISE OF..... ESTHER C.D.M

By Anna Mae Miller

White Swirl the white Siberian considered the "mother" of the modern Siberian form and involved in the parentage of most introductions since 1957 is now almost old enough for the HIP's (Historic Iris Preservation) registry. Several wonderful whites could replace it in the garden.

Esther C.D. M. (McGarvey '82) is an excellent white of similar form which has the finest glaucous foliage of any Siberian. It passes this feature on to its progeny plus it has given at least two new color patterns; blue brushing over white, **Mesa Pearl** (Bauer/Coble '94), **Lavender Stipples** (A.M. Miller '91) and lavender with darker veining and sanding of a darker color, **Sprinkles** (Bauer/Coble '94) and **Purple Sand** (A.M. Miller '91). The surface has just been scratched using Esther C.D.M. as it has only been in commerce since the late 80's.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

This excerpt from an article by long-time TSI. editor Peg Edwards was originally printed in TSI., Fall 1975. It has some ideas for plant associations which I think you might find interesting.

KEEPING COMPANY

**By Peg
Edwards**

In previous issues there have been several articles, by myself and others about plants that can be grown among the Siberians to good effect in order to provide color in the dull season (that is, any time the irises are not blooming). But I have recently heard of, or experienced myself several combinations I don't believe have been mentioned.....

One suggestion is to inter-plant the Siberians in a rose bed. I have seen this done and it does look very attractive; the irises provided colors that the roses lacked, and those colors blended very harmoniously. The blues and purples of the Siberians seemed to intensify the reds and yellows of the roses - and vice versa. Judicious placing of the varying heights of the Siberians allowed the taller ones to overtop the roses toward the back of the bed while some of the smaller irises, set well in front, or between lower growing varieties of roses, were well positioned for looking down on. The grower helped matters along nicely by his pruning methods for the rose bushes; none was allowed to grow too large for its companions. Care of both kinds of plants is sufficiently similar so that no problem of any seriousness seemed to interfere in a successful planting. But of course the effect was only available during the spring bloom period - there aren't very many Siberians that will bloom when the roses make their big fall splurge. Still, if you like to grow

roses as well as Siberians, you might try them together.

A small planting of Siberians in a bed to themselves in a friend's garden was overplanted with the deep purplish-bronze form of ajuga which found a happy home in the spaces between the irises. Ajuga roots are not deep-running and do not interfere with the roots of the Siberians, and the owner of this planting says it is not difficult to pull the occasional plant that crowds too close to the base of an iris. The total effect is very attractive: the bright blue spires (which look to me like tiny pagodas rising above their foliage) enlivened the area while the Siberians were just beginning to make their spring growth, and lasted almost until the first Siberian bloom stalks reached their blooming height. When the irises began to bloom there was no competition for attention; the spraying foliage of the iris simply had a backup of deep bronze which was present but not obtrusive, letting one enjoy the color of the irises. And after bloom, there was a harmonious blend of the green iris leaves and the purple ajuga, which lasted well into the fall. Then all winter the ajuga had the bed to themselves, and as, at least in this climate, it keeps its looks quite well, the result was attractive. As companions they get along well. The ajuga keeps weeds to a minimum, while the foliage of the irises provides shade enough to keep it happy in the hot summer sunlight.

Three years ago I tried something; I had ordered some lily bulbs, mostly July bloomers, intending to put them in another part of the garden.. But the area I meant to use them in was, at the time the bulbs arrived, putting on such a good display of annuals (which had sulked all summer) that I didn't want to disturb them. What to do? I could, of course, hold the bulbs for a month till cold weather would put the annuals out of commission. But I don't like to keep lilies out of the ground; they never really go dormant until the ground is frozen, So someplace had to be found quickly. The only spot I could see was in the iris bed, where there were a few gaps in the planting, mostly through the center of the bed. So in went the lilies. The result was delightful. Of a dozen varieties planted, only one was lost in the three winters they have spent here; the other eleven

have done well and increased. By the time the lilies are making their early growth the various irises are leafing out nicely and providing to the lilies the shade they need at ground level to keep the bulbs and roots cool. And yet the irises do not grow too tall for the lily foliage, which needs to be in the sun. About the time the last irises have curled up and died, the first of the lilies are nicely budded, and bloom in this first planting provided a series of focal points through July and in to August. Stalks ranged from under two feet to nearly six feet, bloom lasted on individual plants from about ten days to nearly three weeks, and colors varied from white through yellows and oranges to pinks and reds, and except for the Mid-Century Hybrids which I really believe would grow enthusiastically even in pure sand, I have never had such good results from any other planting of lilies. They must like the company of irises.

I am so happy with this result that when, this summer, I remade the iris bed, I ordered several more lilies to be interplanted in the same way. I'm looking forward to the next spring and summer. A few words of advice might be helpful. however, to anyone wanting to try the same device: you should either confine your choice of lilies to those normally blooming in July and August, or if you do want some blooming along with the irises, stick to those having white or pastel coloring on fairly tall stalks. I think it would take a fairly strong stomach to endure the sight of one of the strongly colored orange-red lilies particularly one with very glossy petals - blooming within eye-range of some of the more magenta-tinged purples, or even worse, near some of the delicate pastel pinks and lavenders! Also, for this purpose, I wouldn't favor trying to plant cold-storage lilies which are available in the spring from many sources (I don't think too highly of spring-planted lilies in any case unless you can be certain that they have not sprouted more than an inch above the bulb.) Spring planted lilies have to make all their root growth at the same time as they are making the top growth and this can be just too much for them. Soil for lilies should be prepared at least 18" deep and for most should be fairly rich and nourishing. Nothing low-calorie.....

After all, irises just aren't that wildly exciting when they are done flowering for the year - not if you like to sit in the back yard and enjoy the scenery. Except of course, for helping you to daydream about next year's bloom.

MINUTES OF SSI BOARD MEETING 5/21/94, AIS CONVENTION, PORTLAND, OREGON

Submitted by Ada Godfrey, Secretary Pro. tem. _____

In attendance: Hal Stahly, President,
Bob Hollingworth, Tom Abrego,
Howard Brookins, Judy Hollingworth,
Ada Godfrey, Marky Smith plus many
members and guests.

The minutes of the 1993 Siberian Convention, printed in the fall bulletin, were approved as printed. There was no treasurer's report as the new treasurer, Jim Holmes, NJ Region 19 could not be here. Transferring money and CD's is still in progress.

Display Gardens: Howard Brookins reported that he had approximately 25 people visit him. A listing of new gardens has not been compiled yet but when it is it will be printed. The names were sent to Currier McEwen as they came in for insertion in his book. A database will be set up to show location of irises.

Membership: The policy is that if renewals are not received by May 1, it costs the member 75 cents to have the bulletin mailed. Only one came in late. Over 100 checklist were sold and a great many members joined as a result of the article in Fine Gardening. The post office is checking into mail problems. Checks for four members who renewed in February have not been received.

Registrations and Awards: In order to get these into TSI an issue earlier, the editor asks the registrar to mail her a

copy of the year's registrations as soon as it is printed. The Siberian listings are then taken out for TSI.

Bob Hollingworth Research: A project started last year, giving growers the opportunity to have diseases identified will continue this year. Samples of diseased plants should be sent to:

Dr. D. Roberts
Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology
Michigan State University
East Lansing
Michigan 48824

The sooner diseased material gets to him, the more likely the primary pathogen will be diagnosed.

Marky Smith reported that Terry Aitken was having problems with Siberians in his display garden possibly caused by a change in concentration of the herbicide Princep. Samples will be sent to Dr. Roberts.

Slides: Tom Abrego has two sets of slides of 100 each and would like to work some new ones in, including new introductions and garden settings. New slides should be sent to Tom Abrego.

The editor said that the treasurer's report is usually reported in the spring issue of TSI and approved at the following board meeting. It would be more sensible to report it at the board meeting in spring, approve it, then print in the fall issue. The new treasurer will implement that.

TSI: Because of the tremendous amount of interest generated by the use of extra color in the fall bulletin, a motion was made and carried that extra color should be included in future TSI issues, at the editor's discretion. To be published would be AM winners, top of the popularity poll, and garden arrangements of irises. The editor would judge whether slides submitted are good enough to be published. Slides will be the accepted format. In a year when there is a Siberian Convention, only AM's would be printed and all other convention flowers would be held over

to the following spring.

The Nominating Committee recommended the following slate be elected: Bob Hollingworth - President (automatic succession, according to bylaws); Tom Abrego- 1st VP; Shirley Pope - 2nd VP; Board of Directors: Marty Schafer and Bob Bauer. Treasurer - Jim Holmes, Secretary - Ada Godfrey. The secretary cast one ballot. Bob Hollingworth's term as president begins January 1, 1995.

Publication Sales: Previously the secretary took care of publication sales. A letter was received from Ruth Wilder saying that her arthritis was becoming a problem and she was not up to keeping the position of secretary. A motion was made and carried to tie the publication sales in with the membership chairman's position.

Future Convention: Julius Wadekamper called the president to invite SSI to hold the 1999 convention in Minnesota. Unfortunately it coincides with the Median convention so he said they were prepared to hold it a year earlier or later. Howard Brookins reported that the JI society has a convention scheduled for 1998 but if Minnesota holds it in 1998 the Japanese Iris Society will not hold a convention that year. The AIS has set up a committee to look at the timing of all the section conventions.

The Siberian Iris Book: The final writing is now being done and it will go to Timber Press in June. No completion date has been set although there is a contract. The details of any special sales to members will be handled by the board.

Official stationary is needed and Bob Bauer will look into costs.

Bob Hollingworth reported that the program for the section meeting would be Carla Lankow talking about the 40 chromosome Siberians.

A letter was received from Joe Griner of Region 19 concerning the Morgan-Wood Medal. Originally, Region 19

had custody and financial responsibility for the medals. The board affirmed its intention (voted on at the 1993 board meeting) to take custody of the medals and to pay for future striking and engraving. The president of the society will be the custodian of the medals. At year-end the medals will be turned over to Bob Hollingworth. Betty Wood is willing to make a financial contribution to the society to ensure the continuance of the medal in its present form. The president will contact her.

The members of the board voted to award the Distinguished Service Award to Anna Mae Miller.

The board members gave a vote of thanks to Ruth Wilder for all the excellent service she has given to the society. Ruth has been secretary since 1979 and the board is very grateful for all the good work expended by her on its behalf.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36pm.

SSI SECTION MEETING

The section meeting was held on Sunday, May 2 and in keeping with the largest convention ever, we had a huge crowd in attendance, with over 200 people present.

President Hal Stahly introduced Anna Mae Miller, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, reviewed the progress of the Siberian Iris book, discussed the upcoming Siberian Convention in Massachusetts in 1996 and a possible future convention in Minnesota. He also presented the slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee.

Vice President Bob Hollingworth introduced the speaker, Carla Lankow.

Carla's topic was the 40 chromosome Siberians. She began by describing the distribution of *I. chrysographes* and with the aid of slides showed the progression and improvement in

introduced cultivars from the 1960's on.

She then showed some of the variations in seedlings - bizarre patterns, contrasting style arms and color breakthroughs such as Lorena Reid's **Anticipation Orange**.

The progress of Cal-Sibes was then covered - starting with Amos Perry's winning of the British Dykes Medal in 1927 with **Margot Holmes** an *I. douglasiana* X *I. chrysographes* cross - to the present.

After the talk, which was very well received, Carla was joined on the podium by Lorena Reid and they both fielded questions from a lively audience.



**CARLA AND GEORGE LANKOW AT
THE SECTION MEETING**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Bob Hollingworth _____

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 1995 to December 31 1997.

President:	Robert Hollingworth (automatic)
1st Vice President:	Thomas Abrego
2nd Vice President:	Shirley Pope
Secretary:	Ada Godfrey
Treasurer	James Holmes
Directors:	Martin Schafer Robert Bauer

The bylaws require that these nominations be sent to all voting members of SSI by November 15th 1994. Publication in TSI fulfills this requirement. If no additional nominations have been made within four weeks, that is by December 13th 1994, 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 December 13th together with a letter of consent from each candidate. In this event, 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 no later than January 15th 1995 with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots must be returned to the Elections Committee not later than February 1st, 1995.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By James Holmes _____

BALANCE SHEET As of September 30, 1994

ASSETS

Bank Accounts

Checking	\$5,410.91	
Savings	\$3,170.70	\$8,581.61

Investments

U.S. Treasury Note 6% due 6-30-96	\$5,000
U.S. Treasury Note 6.25% due 8-31-96	\$5,000

Total Assets	\$18,581.61
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LIABILITIES, RESERVES, SURPLUSES

Reserve for Iris Research and Special Projects*	\$4,200.00
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Surplus available for general purposes	\$14,381.61
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Total	\$18,581.61
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* Represents donation from Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan from surplus of the 1993 Siberian convention for research on iris disease and for color plates.

**INCOME STATEMENT,
Nine Months Ending 9-30-94**

INCOME

Ads	\$110.00
Interest income	69.95
Membership income	2,741.00
Slide rentals, book sales	45.00
Donation from '93 Convention	4,200.00
Total Income	\$7,165.95

EXPENSES

Membership Sec. expenses	\$199.72
Spring '94 printing etc.	1,852.05
Bank Charges	21.86
Total Expenses	\$2,073.63

LAST WORD_____

Everyone is doing such a great job - I don't have much to say. Convention garden reports were all received and fed into the computer before the end of June - unbelievable. I wonder if these capable people realize that such efficiency is likely to generate a second invitation?

Only John Coble held his article hostage, vowing not to finish it until it rained. It arrived September 30th! They have had quite a dry summer in Galesburg which is only an hour west of us here in Williamston. In contrast we had 10 1/2" in June, 5" in July and about our average of 2-3" per month since then (but who's counting John?).

Many of you wrote to say that you appreciated the extra color in the Fall '93 issue of TSI. Recognizing that, the board voted to print color photographs of the AM winners in each fall issue of TSI and to continue with color coverage of the Siberian conventions. There has always been some reluctance to feature irises still eligible for awards in color fearing that it could influence future voting. However, since all AM winners will be so represented and photographs provided or approved by their hybridizers, this should equalize things. AIS has now decided to show section medal winners in color, and they of course, are still eligible for the Dykes Medal.

The 1993 Siberian Convention was a very busy time for many of us. When I came to put together the Fall 1993 issue of TSI I realized that no-one was asked to take notes at the Friday evening get together and consequently there was no report to print. Then Ada Godfrey mentioned that her husband Bill had video-taped the meeting. A copy of this tape is now available from our slides chairman, Tom Abrego (thanks to Ada and Bill). It includes the presentations of Dr. Tomas Tamberg and Mr. Ho Shidara

It would be wonderful to have a video of the convention gardens. If anyone has one and is willing to share, please let us know.

THE SOCIETY FOR

SIBERIAN IRISES

OFFICERS

President:

Dr. Harold L. Stahly (1994)
8343 Manchester Dr., Grand Blanc, MI 48439

1st V.P. Dr. Robert M. Hollingworth (1994)
124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895

2nd V.P. Mr. Thomas Abrego (1994)
19105 N. E. Trunk Rd., Dundee, OR 97115

Secretary

Pro Tem: Mrs. Ada Godfrey
9 Bradford Ave., Foxborough, MA 02035

Treasurer: Mr. James P. Holmes
2 Deer Hill Rd., Chester, NJ 07930

DIRECTORS

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Pas De Deux (Hollingworth) Award of Merit 1994



Coronation Anthem (Hollingworth) Award of Merit 1994

