

# *THE SIBERIAN IRIS*

*FALL 1996*



Property of The Society for Siberian Irises



**The idyllic hillside garden of Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer**



**Water, artfully channeled through the Smith garden**

# — THE SIBERIAN IRIS —

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FALL 1996

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## Front Cover:

**Shaker's Prayer (Warner '90)**

**Morgan-Wood Medal Winner 1996**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....**

With our second Siberian iris convention now behind us (not to forget the species iris component in the MASS Medley), it is only appropriate to thank the many folks in Massachusetts who worked so diligently and well to make it a success. Many people contributed very effectively behind the scenes on the background arrangements, but particular thanks are due to the Convention Chair, Jan Sacks, Guest Iris Chair, Barbara Schmieder and the registrar, Marty Schafer. Anyone who has committed to host a tour garden knows the mental anguish that decision can cause at times. No amount of work and planning can rule out the luck factor. Special thanks then to those hardy souls who were tour garden owners -- Chandler and Elaine Lai Fulton, Kathy and Curt Marble, Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer, Barbara and David Schmieder, and Marcia and Steve Smith. Over it all hovered the spirit of Bee Warburton who would surely be rapturous over the many fine new seedlings in Marty Schafer's garden that owe much of their parentage to her creations. Her lovely later introduction, ISABELLE, caught admiring attention in several gardens, and we have included a photo in this issue as quiet memorial to her contributions to Siberian breeding.

I would particularly like to thank the MASS Medley organizers for making a generous donation to the Society from the auction proceeds. Also, it was a great pleasure at the Medley to be able to present the SSI Distinguished Service Award to the Iris Society of Massachusetts (ISM) for the outstanding financial and moral support they have provided to SSI over many years. This is the first time the Award has been made to a group rather than an individual.

Just before the MASS Medley, a pair of white knights rode up in the form of Lynn and Barry Stoll. They proclaimed on behalf of the Cedar Valley Daylily and Iris Society that they would host the next Siberian convention in Iowa in 2000 with an early June date. Lynn and Barry will act as convention co-chairs and Lois Girton will be guest iris chair. The organizers have much experience with hosting regional iris and daylily meetings and we feel very lucky to have the benefits of their experience. The tour will be split between Ames and Iowa City and will include some interesting and novel general gardens as well as the lure of the irises themselves. The call for guest irises can be found on page 46.

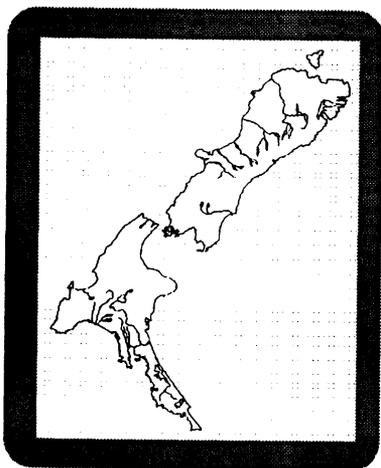
A couple of other quick points -- we expect to have the next Siberian Checklist out by March of next year, so look out for an ad in the next TSI. And, congratulations to Dale Hamblin, who has completely revitalized our Robin system. If you have an interest in joining one of our several new Robins, the details are in the last issue of TSI, or just drop a line to Dale.

Finally, congratulations to Carol Warner for winning the 1996 Morgan-Wood Medal with SHAKER'S PRAYER. Many of you will remember its dramatic landscape impact in Carol's garden at the AIS Convention in 1990. SHAKER'S PRAYER also illustrates the principle that there are a multitude of graceful forms for Siberians, and this iris, with its clear *I. sibirica* lineage, makes a good foil for the broader, ruffled and often shorter types that have been rewarded of late. I expect we shall see more of the dainty *I. sibirica* look with new colors and patterns in the coming years.

Bob Hollingworth

## HOOKED ON SIBERIANS

By Eddie Johns, Rongotea, New Zealand.....



In late October 1992, I took time out from the hectic dispatch of our dahlias to deliver a customer's plant order. In her small coastal garden, she had tried to grow a little of everything adding heaps of compost and animal manures to the pure sand in order to provide a soil that would sustain plant life. Water for the garden was collected from catchment off the house roof. Once the tank ran dry, the garden

was at the mercy of the elements. She used bark mulch to help conserve the ground moisture. In a sunny part of the garden, eight tall bearded irises of different colors were in full bloom smiling across the garden and capturing the eye. On the return drive home, I thought about the magnificent sight that I had seen and day-dreamed about how these plants could be fitted into the garden display that we had planned on a twelve acre site.

The opportunity arose when I glanced at a garden magazine and noticed an advertisement for bearded irises. I ordered a few to see how they would grow in our heavy loamy clay soils which are poorly drained. Grow they did and produced up to eight sets of daughters. But our heavy rains in autumn and through the winter months into early spring made the irises look sad and we had large losses from soft rot. It was a disappointing season with only a few flowers which did look amazing enough for me to persevere with them.

A grass-like iris was given to me to plant in the same area of garden along with advice to raise the iris beds with a minimum of six inches of soil in order to improve the growing conditions for the TB's. That task to this day never got done, but the grass-like iris grew madly. In mid-spring (early November) it produced about 20 flower buds in its reedy foliage and when it flowered, it was a spectacular sight of dark purple flowers standing proud in the garden on tall stems.

Later that week we delivered more dahlia plants to a grower in New Plymouth some 200 hundred miles away, and I was taken to visit iris growers Dorothy and Ray Wood who owned Puketapu Iris Gardens. They specialized in TB's, Spuria, Japanese, Siberian and species irises. The early TB's had finished their flowering and the mid-season ones were in full bloom. In the middle of this five acre flowering paradise was a patch of these reed-like irises and the haze of flowers was beautiful. I found out that they were Siberian irises and that the cultivar that had flowered a week ago at home was in fact CAESAR'S BROTHER (Morgan '31). My iris now had a name!

The cultivars that I liked the most were WHITE SWIRL (Cassabeer '57), AUSABLE RIVER (Cassabeer '69), AUGURY (McGarvey '74), LAVENDER BOUNTY (McEwen '81), DREAMING YELLOW (McEwen '71), TEALWOOD (Varner '60), SILVER ROSE (Warburton '85) and the Australasian bred cultivars CASTLEGRACE (Nelson '73), COOLABAH (Blyth '87), ARABIAN PRINCESS and ROMANO (Kokich '73). The Woods were growing another 20 different cultivars and I was super keen to purchase one of each, but was saddened when I was told that they had sold out during their Rhododendron festival and they had too many forward orders to commit more. Dorothy then gave me a photocopy of an Ensata Gardens catalog and suggested that maybe I should apply for a plant import permit and bring in a few from overseas.

In the meantime, I continued to try and find a source in New Zealand. I wrote to a nursery in the South Island, but they had not divided theirs that season due to ill health. I managed to get a few cultivars from Frances Love (Siberian hybridizer) in Carterton. She supplied me with WINE WINGS (Varner '77), ORVILLE FAY (McEwen '70), TOWANDA RED FLARE (Scheffy '48), REJOICE ALWAYS (Varner '75), PINK SPARKLE (Hager '85), MARILYN HOLMES (McEwen '72), SPARKLING ROSE (Hager '68), PEG EDWARDS (McEwen '75), AUGURY (McGarvey '73), CRYSTAL CHARM and EMMA RIPEKA, one of her own cultivars. EMMA RIPEKA won the Begg Shield for the best New Zealand - raised iris at the Wairarapa convention in 1989 and was the first recipient of the New Zealand Dykes Medal in 1995.

I purchased these in planter bags and planted them out to grow on, looking forward to their flowering the following spring. Heavy rains continued to fall on the area where I lived, and this certainly did not suit the TB's nor the dahlias. I had purchased a few Japanese irises at the same as the Siberians and they all grew extremely well. As a result, my partner Adrian and I decided to get an import permit and bring in some new blood lines of both Japanese and Siberian irises.

### **The Joys of Importing.**

Many weeks of talking to people in our iris society helped us determine when was the right time to import from the northern hemisphere. Most had only imported TB's and had little or no knowledge of the Siberians and Japanese. We picked late October for our area to import from the United States, as this was well into our spring, while the plants in the U.S. were preparing for winter dormancy.

The plants traveled well, their roots wrapped in moist paper towels and sealed in small plastic bags, to prevent them from drying out. The carton of plants took two days to travel to New Zealand and a further 12 days to pass through the Department of Agriculture inspection and be placed back into the mail system. The foliage had been removed as hard back as possible to pass our conditions of entry into the country. The clumps of rhizomes had gone a bright pink and shoot growth was in progress, with shoot tips a light yellowish green from lack of light in the carton. The paper toweling was just starting to dry out. We removed the rubber bands and filled the bags up with rain water, allowing 24 hours for them to soak up moisture and become turgid. They were then removed from their wrappings, planted in 6 inch pots using a standard soilless potting medium, and placed under benches in a cool glass house. This allowed the shoots to green up and prevented any sunburn. After 7-10 days they were exposed to more light.

Once the shoots were 2 inches in height, they were moved out into cold frames on moist, well-aged untreated sawdust to grow at their own pace. The sawdust retains enough moisture in case one misses watering them, and as the plants take hold, the new white roots are quick to pass through the drainage holes of the pot and into the sawdust. They were watered as required and I used a soil drench of systemic fungicide (Taratek 5F) to prevent a wide range of fungal problems which may affect the rhizomes as they acclimatize to NZ conditions. Because we were by now well into spring, the plants forced themselves into a second growth period instead of going dormant. From their last dormancy in the United States until they go into winter dormancy in NZ there has been approximately 16 months of continuous growth.

## **Planting Out.**

Once the plants had established themselves in the pots and the foliage was 6-8" high they were then ready to be planted out in a garden situation. The soil had been dug over with the incorporation of composts and well-rotted sawdust with animal manures. The plants tended to sit still for a few weeks as they adjusted. Over the growing season the foliage was very coarse and leathery and a hard deep green. The leaves grew to only about 12-18" high and curve out and downward as though they were slightly deformed. Overall the growth was quite healthy. They flowered at ground level in January / February through to late Autumn (May) on some varieties and even flowered through early winter, just as the foliage was on the turn. Some cultivars (the tetraploids) never flowered the first growing season.

The second year growth started a little later for the imports than for our New Zealand Siberians but they caught up fast and flowered at the same time, producing one to three stems on foliage about 12-18" tall. The flowers were usually in the top of the foliage or just above. This was a good time to do a bit of pollination as the early, mid and late season varieties all bloomed within a few days of each other. (They were still a little confused as to life in general and which hemisphere they were in.) This was also a good time to see what had been purchased, and each day I did roll call, with coffee in hand, checking to see what had opened before anyone else got a chance.

The foliage has straightened up and is not as curved as the previous year. The tetraploids still have that heavy look and are more vigorous, unlike the previous season of stunted growth. I use heaps of slug and snail bait, and mulch with barley straw to suppress the weed growth and retain moisture. I wait for the plants to produce shoots before applying the straw as I found the

slugs used the straw as a hotel and can demolish the young shoots overnight.

In the third growing season the foliage has got back to some normality and reaches high and wide in some varieties. A couple of cultivars, CORONATION ANTHEM (Hollingworth '90) and REPRISE (Warburton '86) rebloom towards the end of the growing season, when the foliage is turning yellow.

Unfortunately, the flowers are slightly disfigured, and only a half to three quarters of them open. I now grow 122 Siberian varieties with plenty of room for more.

### The Top Ten

This year, from our Siberians both imported and home grown, I have listed the top choices in order of popularity from our garden. These were our visitors preferences from our display of over 60 cultivars in their second or third year of growth.

1. Frosted Cranberry ✓
2. Aqua Whispers
3. Jewelled Crown
4. Lilting Laura ✓
5. Pink Haze ✓
6. Percheron ✓
7. Liberty Hills, Reprise, Wizardry
8. Esther CDM, Lady Vanessa, Moon Silk, Temper Tantrum ✓
9. Navy Brass, Ruffled Velvet, Lady of Quality, Contrast in Styles, *I. typhifolia* ✓
10. Butter and Sugar, Caesar's Brother, Dreaming Holiday, Emma Ripeka, Gull's Wing, Marilyn Holmes, My Love, Silver Rose, Sky Mirror, Sultan's Ruby, *I. sibirica nana alba* ✓

A very strong interest has been expressed in dwarf cultivars for those keen gardeners with very small gardens. Maybe we shall be able to import some in the near future.

## HIGHNOTES FROM THE M.A.S.S. MEDLEY

By Keith Keppel, Oregon.....

Having lost a significant portion of an acre of bearded irises to rot after the floods, I thought it wise to learn something about irises that can take lots of water. My decision to attend the M.A.S.S. (Mad About Species and Siberians) Medley convention was reinforced when my two-year clump of DOTTED LINE bloomed with 33 bloomstalks, and a quick run to Springfield to see Lorena Reid's Sino-Siberian seedlings sealed the deal!

Sponsored by the Iris Society of Massachusetts, the M.A.S.S. Medley was held at Westford, MA, June 14-16. Registration was limited to 200, allowing a manageable convention. On Friday there was a very presentable iris show, complete with arrangements and an educational entry. Imagine two and a half tables of nothing but great seedlings, in addition to the usual horticultural entries! HARPSWELL HALLELUJAH and LIBERTY HILLS won best tetraploid and best diploid. Siberian entry respectively, while an *I. sanguinea* entry was judged best Siberian species. (No sino-sibes in sight; their success is limited in New England.) Best "other" species went to *I. laevigata* REGAL. Best seedlings were (species) a mauve *I. setosa* entered by Andy Wheeler and (Siberian) Marty Schafer's ruffled yellow amoena S91-15-1.

The welcome continued Friday evening with a buffet dinner, followed by some fascinating slides. Darrell Probst gave us glimpses of species such as *minutoaurea* and *verna*, goodies not often encountered. Tony Huber told us about *versicolor* and interspecific crosses such as *versata* and *biversata*. Greg Speichert told of *versicolors* and *virginicas* and such, followed by Tomas Tamberg's talk of tetraploid interspecies crosses and Carla Lankow's tales of her dearly departed sino-siberian seedlings (lost to disease). Dale Hamblin, Anna Mae Miller, Hal Stahly and Marky Smith all showed Siberian seedling slides and Currier McEwen's talk dwelt upon greenish yellows and gold-edged darks. I snapped to attention when Bob

Hollingworth's presentation included a "plicata" Siberian...falls with a wide blue band around a white central blaze. Katharine Steele showed her white pseudacorus, and Dave Niswonger showed tetraploid cal-sibes from Tamberg seed and the "new" Siberian species, *I. typhifolia*.

Saturday, the garden tours began. "Joe Pye Weed's Garden," home of Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks, was the site of the judges' training session, for which we had a choice of Marky Smith, Hal Stahly or Bob Hollingworth as instructor. Hard decision! We also had a marvelous collection of Marty's seedlings, both first-year bloom and reselets, to evaluate. The Siberian spectrum is widening, and the petals are also widening and becoming more ruffled. It was stressed, however, that all forms are (if pleasing) acceptable, and the airy, more "wild" forms were also in evidence.

Joe Pye Weed's Garden is a joy to behold. The two-story house sits at the top of the slope; the best view is at the flatter, lower elevation, looking up the hill through the iris planting, to the central and upper rockier areas, planted with all sorts of interesting perennials, accented with small shrubs. Much of the plant material is for the cut flower trade or for wedding decoration. It is a lovely 2-1/2 acre garden, established less than five years ago. Some of Marty's named Siberians that looked appealing were CARELESS SALLY ('96) (named for an old fiddle tune, not a past girl friend), a round, ruffled pastel of blue, rose and yellow; ROARING JELLY ('92) (another tune, named for an Irish slang term for explosives, and also the name of a band Marty once played with), a raspberry and lavender combination; JUST BECAUSE ('94), a mid-height blended blue; and DEVIL'S DREAM ('90), dark wine red with a purplish fall blaze. Bee Warburton was still very much in evidence in this garden. Her BELLISSIMA ('86) made lovely clumps of ruffled white; MAD MAGENTA ('87) was another in that magenta-wine red range; and PURPLE PROSE ('86) was an unusual violet tone that almost qualifies as heliotrope. Terry WALL STREET BLUES ('95) was a big, robust clump here, although in a later garden where many of the guests looked sad we tentatively renamed it "MARKET CRASH"! STRAWBERRY FAIR (Hollingworth '94) was

much shorter than we saw it at the Portland convention, but at the lower height the multi-ruffled flared crushed-strawberry flowers were shown to better advantage. LORENA CRONIN (Cronin '96) was shorter and daintier (wilder-looking), with smallish flowers with bright blue-violet lines on white.

The second garden on tour was Steve Smith's. Guests were planted on either side of a tiny stream, dammed to form two small ponds. The area turned out to be too marshy for good Siberian growth, but some of the species never looked better. Versicolors MINT FRESH (Warburton) and MYSTERIOUS MONIQUE (Knoepnadel) were particularly striking, the former with white ground striped magenta, and the latter with very dark violet falls and white signal. There were *laevigatas*, and there were forms of *I. pseudacorus* in various sizes and shades from ivory to rich golden yellow, one of which had not a trace of brownish signal. Of the Siberians that were thriving, PRESIDENT TRUMAN (Bellagamba '84) looked good, (as colorful as "give-'em-hell-Harry" himself), a red-violet with bluer crescent below the white, violet-veined blaze, with yellow showing below the style arms. BABY SISTER (McEwen '86) was noteworthy as a foot-high violet blue with white signal veined blue. ELISABETH McEWEN (White '96) was a pleasing medium-sized dark pansy purple with a strong white signal.

The day's "finale" garden had no guest irises, just a great mix of perennials, shrubs, trees, and a few rocks, one of which qualified as an erratic boulder and was as big as a small house. Kathy Marble is an arranger (hers was Best Arrangement in Show the previous day), and plants were grouped most attractively. A few random apple trees left intact from the original five-acre orchard, surrounded by grass, gave an airy, country feel to the garden. SILVER ILLUSION (Johnson '87), silvery off-white with pale greyed violet undertoning in the falls, was my favorite Siberian here. Then it was back to the hotel, where dinner-in-a-tent and a silent auction ended a busy day's activities.

Sunday's tours started at the Schmieder garden. It is set in a wooded area, and trees had to be cleared to give enough light

for the bearded irises. A bed of Louisianas adjacent to the house were gorgeous; although hardly any were in bloom. I have never seen such rich, green, zit-free foliage. There was a blue form of *I. prismatica* in bloom, and the sino-sibes were finally represented with a single blossom of the yellow *I. forrestii*. There were also maiden blooms -- or should I say buds -- on three sino-sibe seedlings from SIGNA seed. Joan Cooper drew a crowd as she massaged, blew and coaxed the buds into opening. Tetraploid cal-sibe Tamberg/Niswonger CS1-93 was an attractive lined blue on tall, sturdy stalks. HOLDEN CLOUGH (that's "Cluff"--pronunciation verified by Jennifer Hewitt, the British Iris Society registrar who was in attendance) had two children in bloom, HOLDEN'S CHILD (Tiffney) in tones of violet, and ROY DAVIDSON (Hager) in yellow and brown. The blue-purple on white LIMBO (Ellis), a pseudacorus-versicolor hybrid from England, was also in bloom, as were the late-blooming tall-bearded HALO IN ORANGE, CONJURATION and FINALIST.

The final garden on tour was that of Chandler and Elaine Fulton. Their house had been designed so almost all windows looked toward the tree-clad and serene back of the property, bordering a pond area rife with wildlife, part of the Cambridge Reservoir. The side and front gardens were wooded and beautifully landscaped with hostas, conifers, rhododendrons and ferns, among other material. Here we liked the bright deep blue Siberian GLANUSK (Foster '90) from England; MESA PEARL (Bauer/Coble '94) with its very rounded, horizontal falls and pale pinkish lavender tones; and Hollingworth 87N4C10, rich violet blue, with style arms so ruffled and doubled that they gave the flowers a very full effect. Also in bloom was BERLIN VERSILAEV (Tamberg), deep violet with a small yellowish signal, from *I. versicolor* and *I. laevigata* breeding.

Then it was back to the hotel for lunch and announcement of the award winners.

That was the end of the convention, but as a post-script, some eighty attendees reconvened the next day at Currier McEwen's garden in Maine for a catered lunch and more Siberian viewing. Stops were also made up the road at

Sharon Whitney's Eartheart Garden, where Currier's stock is propagated and shipped. Several other options were also available, depending on individuals' circumstances.

A few final notes about the New England scene. It's lovely, green, woody (more hardwoods, fewer conifers), but days can be warmer and muggier than in western Oregon. No poison oak...they have glossy roadbank coverings of poison ivy instead, like right across the road from the hotel! We saw one tick, and almost enough mosquitoes to sub for a blood bank stop. But as to irises...

We saw iris borers, including ones which stayed in the flower to do their feasting, finally tunneling down the flower stalk when their tummies were full. We'd seen them eating on leaves/rhizomes before, but not in the bloom! Another blossom pest is the larva (maggot) of the fly *Orthochaeta dissimilis*. Usually 2-3 of the critters will be found in affected iris buds, quarter- to half-inch white "worms" that chew up the inner parts of the flower, then move on to the secondary buds in the socket, then pupate in the flower stalk or drop to the ground. A third malady of eastern irises is acid rain. When atmospheric conditions are right (or should we say "wrong?"), disfiguring spots appear on the iris petals, especially those with thin substance. With a bad outbreak, holes may actually be eaten through the petals. And it doesn't have to be rain...dew drops on the petals when the air is laden with contaminants can do the trick.

But despite some local iris horror stories, the New England beardless bloom season was great, as was the convention and the camaraderie.

*(This article is reprinted by courtesy of the author and the AIS Region 13 Bulletin Editor. Ed)*

## SCHAFFER-SACKS GARDEN

By Terry Aitken.....

Jan and Marty's garden is a clearing in the dense deciduous forest that blankets the rolling New England countryside. Their house is a typical New England salt box type which has evidently undergone several charming alterations and additions. The house is located at the top of a hill overlooking the iris garden. The slope is dramatically punctuated by large rock outcroppings. Jan and Marty have done an outstanding job of landscaping the entire hillside, using a bewildering array of companion flowers integrated with the many iris types. Guest irises were lined out at the base of the hill with the extensive Schaffer-Sacks seedling rows beyond.

An excellent display of guest irises was in full bloom. Starting off was SNOW PRINCE (Tiffney '90), already famous for its appearance at the National Convention in York, PA last year. The foliage is tiny, perhaps 12", with many ramrod straight vertical bloomstalks rising to 30". Multiple branches distribute a delicate sprinkling of white flowers (1'1/2") up and down the stems. The flowers are close to the species form with upright standards and narrow, recurving falls. Another miniature that actually stole the show was LORENA CRONIN (Cronin '96), which had similar proportions to SNOW PRINCE but with high contrast violet rim over snow white ground falls. Another miniature, mostly overlooked because it was on its last flower, but certainly the all star novelty of the convention was NEAT TRICK (White, '97), which follows Allan Ensminger's theme with deep blue purple overlaid with irregular white striations. This is a small plant; early blooming; very floriferous with upright stems, compact, round, flat flowers which show off its pattern very well. This is not a unique pattern though, as we discovered

in another corner of the garden where we found a nice clump of APPALOOSA BLUE (Bellagamba '86), a medium light blue with lighter blue/white dappling. Schafer/Sacks seedling S92-13-12 also showed a streaking pattern on a very nice light blue ground.

We saw several plants which I classify generally as raspberry reds with a blue blaze. FISHERMAN'S MORNING (Copeland '94) is an excellent example. Its striking feature was the bright aquamarine stylearms. STRAWBERRY FAIR (Hollingsworth '94), the star of the 1994 Portland Convention, fits this category. Here, the very round form accentuated by extensive ruffles, sets it apart. This plant is shorter, perhaps 24", with a solid layer of blossoms floating above the foliage. Both branching and sequential stems reinforced its staying power. Another in this group is RASPBERRY RAINBOW (Fulton '96), done in more pastel colors and a very tailored form. The color appears like rings, thus the rainbow. The outer ring is raspberry, then a ring of blue, then a prominent yellow signal which becomes an integral part of the pattern. Upright standards leave the falls to express themselves. This is also a small plant, standing about 30". There are two buds per stem, but with sequential stems. Some very promising seedlings are on their way. Bauer-Coble S89N2 is a very rich raspberry with intense blue blaze, about 24". Schafer/Sacks S90-38-2 is a large, robust plant with two branched stems (4 buds), standing at 40". Large, loosely ruffled petals are unique with a "marbled" look (deeper flush following veins). S90-45-2 was much more pastel with flared ruffling.

As if in transition to the orchid pinks, we found CARELESS SALLY (Schafer/Sacks '96) in a class by herself. Very frilly, pastel orchid standards and round falls were accented by soft blue styles. This is a compact plant with plenty of bloom and a lot of class.

Much progress is being made with orchid pinks towards bigger, broader, showier flowers. Anna Mae Miller's FROSTED CRANBERRY ('91) represents a transition from pink towards red and could be an important breeder for its reddish pink color. Most orchid pinks are amoenas with cream to white standards. CHEERY LYN (A.M.Miller '91) was a good example. ILLINI ROSE (Varner, not introduced), has very wide, flat compact flowers with minimal signal and a bright blue rib on the styles. AT THE BALLET (Helsley '96) was wide and flared with sequential bloom. SPRINKLES (Bauer/Coble '94) is a very smooth lavender self with a rose flush at the petal base and very healthy foliage. The clump was very floriferous with two branched stems and some sequential stems. MESA PEARL (Bauer-Coble '94) is a tailored, very clean, bright orchid pink. Some very promising seedlings were also in display. Hal Stahly's 93-24 had very wide, round falls in pastel orchid with white standards. Copeland 88-12 was another dramatic variation. Wonderful round falls with a large orchid pink spot surrounded by a white rim was topped off with matching white standards.

There was very limited activity in whites. With so many good ones already available, is it any wonder? Stahly 93-26 was outstanding though, with interesting feathered white styles and very wide form.

Yellows are proving to be a tough group in which to make progress. We consider PAS DE DEUX (Hollingworth '88) to be the best all around yellow Siberian to date. Many Schafer/Sacks seedlings were showing promise of progress with yellows for the future. Schafer/Sacks S86-2-1 had interesting (for me) feathered styles; their S92-87-4 showed wonderful round form and S90-31-1 had good width in yellow falls, cream standards, with a branched stem. HARPSWELL CHANTEUSE (McEwen '92) opens as a yellow amoena, then fades to white. It has nicely ruffled form with an intense yellow flash at the hafts. It is

floriferous, with two branched stems and sequential bloom. Hollingworth 91A2B13 is probably the most intense yellow color yet. Four buds to the stem was encouraging. Plant growth appeared weak in this particular garden, but I will be watching for this plant at future conventions!

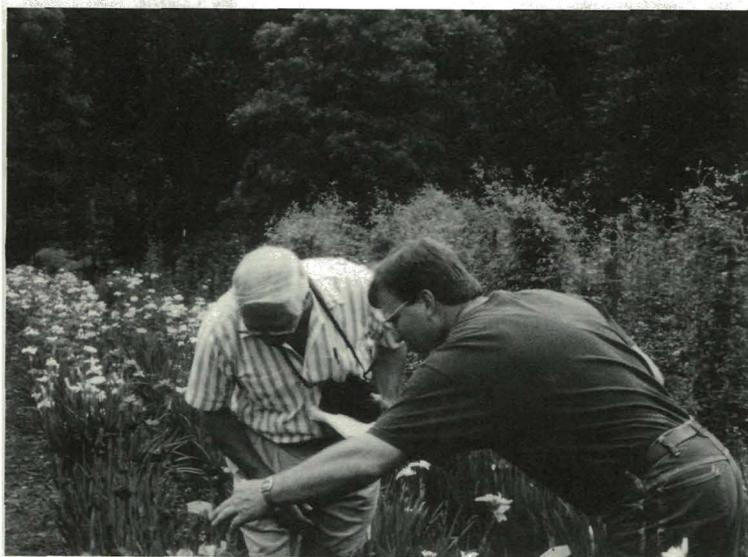
Many fine blues were doing themselves proud. Briscoe 81-17-C is a light blue with a darker line flash down the center of the falls. It is potentially a good breeder with two branches and a triple top socket. SENECA FEATHER DANCER (Borglum '95) was a light blue with a dramatic deep blue flush at the petal base. No signal was visible. LAKE KEUKA (Borglum '94), another star of the Portland convention, was putting on an outstanding performance. This is a very rich, smooth, bright blue bitone with round, lightly ruffled flowers. JUST BECAUSE (Schafer/Sacks '94) is another very fine smooth mid blue self with excellent compact flowers on good healthy floriferous clumps. In deep blues we saw SILBERKANTE (Tamberg '93), a tetraploid with large flowers on branched stems and big foliage. Nearby was our own WALL STREET BLUES (Aitken '95) with large foliage and loaded with late bloom. The huge clump was obviously happy with its move to the East Coast! GLANUSK (Foster '90) is a very rich, deep blue with lighter styles and large flowers. It had three buds and some sequential stems.

One might suspect that everything that could be done with purple Siberians had been done. Not by a long shot! The Bauer-Coble seedling S85H-REB has intensely saturated deep purple falls with prominent, rich raspberry red stylearms and standards. This one is also supposed to have a rebloom tendency and is definitely worth the price of admission!

With all of these grand champions strutting their stuff in the convention plantings, the icing on the cake was the huge Schafer/Sacks seedling patch. Great progress was evident in

many different directions including yellows, blues, raspberry reds, ruffling and branching. The real pioneering work was the yellow-lavender crosses which showed a yellow base color with the lavender overlay. Schafer/Sacks S92-107-15 seemed to be the best example.

I came to this convention to learn about what was happening in the Siberian iris world. It was an outstanding experience that went far beyond my expectations. I can well imagine Bee Warburton sitting on a bench in the shade of the pine trees, smiling.



**Terry Aitken Checks Out The Seedling Patch  
With Marty Schafer**

## THE MARCIA AND STEVE SMITH GARDEN

By E. Roy Epperson.....

As you walk into this garden, you can readily see that many hours of hard work have gone into cutting and clearing brush to reopen and revitalize the old fields that surround the family home. Much landscaping has been accomplished and this is especially evident in the naturalistic setting of the small stream that meanders through the property. Steve has constructed three bridges over the stream and has structured two pools to highlight the beardless plantings along its banks. Several shaded benches invite one to sit and contemplate and simply enjoy the site and the many beardless irises planted and blooming there.

The *I. pseudacorus* were performing well in this bog-like setting. I especially liked SUN CASCADE (Tony Huber '93) . It is a sun-yellow and my notes indicate "trying to be double". Dave Niswonger's GORDONVILLE CREAM ('95), a light chartreuse with a slight burgundy eyezone, and GORDONVILLE WHITE ('95), a near-white with slight maroon eyezone were both demonstrating the advances that Dave has made in hybridizing for white *I. pseudacorus*.

Of special interest were the versicolors. It had been said to me earlier that versicolors were poor garden subjects. These plantings certainly disproved that statement! MINT FRESH (Warburton '83) has a white ground with heavy magenta-red veining with magenta ribbed styles and red-edged crests.

\* MYSTERIOUS MONIQUE (Knoepnadel '92) was outstanding! Reddish-violet standards and almost black, deep-velvety falls with large white signals caused this well grown clump to be a show-stopper. AQUATIC ALLIANCE ( Reid '94) is a SPEC X, a versicolor-laevigata. It should love the marshy conditions and it

did. The standards and styles are light violet with a large gold signal and dark purple veins.

Of the Siberians, *I. sibirica nana alba* was performing well as were its children BABY SISTER (McEwen '86), a violet-blue, and the dark violet-blue ANNICK (McEwen '86). These 6 to 12 inch bloomstalks are welcome as border plantings. WEISSER ZWERG (not registered) had many white blooms at 7 to 8 inches.

ILLINI VALOR (Varner '92) is a striking deep burgundy wine with somewhat open form. A beautiful deep wine with white signal is WINGS OF NIGHT (Helsley '91); I first noticed this cultivar on the show bench. John White's 1996 introduction ELISABETH MCEWEN is a velvety deep-blue purple with white signals. LORENA CRONIN (Cronin '96) was performing well here. The strange FAIRY FINGERS (A. & D Willott '91) has narrow white standards, firmly incurved and short, narrow white falls, with a full yellow signal. It is an attention-getting cultivar.



**Roy Epperson Visiting With Barbara Schmieder**

The many irises in this garden were complemented with lots of ferns, foxgloves, bleeding hearts, dictamnus and Japanese primulas in white, rose, cream and yellow shades. All in all, the Smith garden beckons one to wander and admire and sit by the water's edge and "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow."

## THE FULTON GARDEN

**By Peter Weixmann.....**

*Garden: Form, texture and colorful vegetation combined with space, function and depth, harmonize to create a place of serene repose.*

*Style: Characteristics expressing one's individuality through personal preference and skillful organization working to form a unique presence.*

Both of these definitions reflect our hosts Chandler and Elaine Lai Fulton's garden and home. A successful garden not only should be beautiful as well as livable but should set a mood or posses an aura. This is accomplished quite well. Reflective, tranquil, soothing , restraint is the soul of this lovely garden.

Dappled sunlight through tall hardwoods dances across their environmentally friendly modern home of glass and redwood. A strong oriental influence is expressed through the placement of every plant, shrub and rock. Granite paths meander through the entire garden. Beginning in the front are red barberry and lace leaf maple which provide colorful foliage to contrast with the



**Schafer/Sacks seedling S90-13-1**



**Careless Sally (Schafer/Sacks '96)**



**Lorena Cronin (Cronin '96)**



**Lake Keuka (Borglum '94)** ✓



**Isabelle (Warburton '89)  
in the Marble Garden**



**Liberty Hills (A.M. Miller '89)** ✓



**Mesa Pearl (Bauer/Coble '94)** ✓



**Strawberry Fair (Hollingworth '94)**



**Super Ego (McGarvey '66)  
in the Marble Garden**



**Tamberg /Niswonger seedling CS1-93**



**Silberkante (Tamberg '93)** ✓

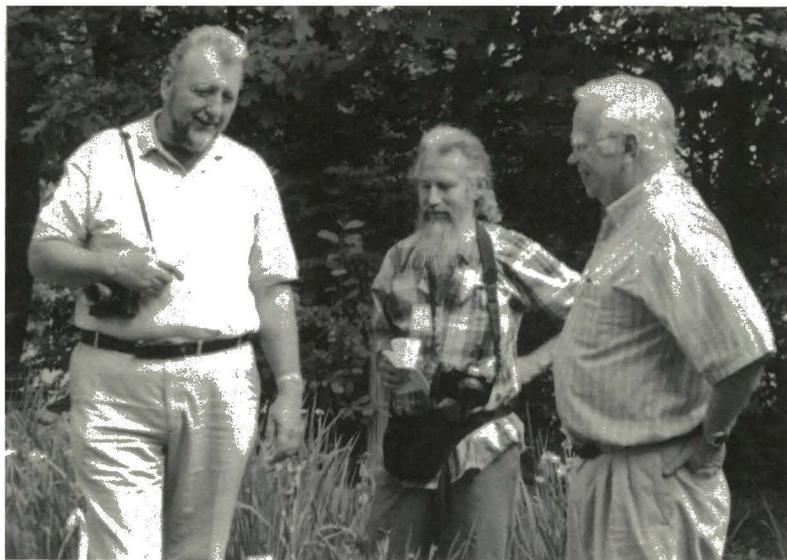


**Little Blue Sparkler (Tiffany '96)**

greenery of the Siberian irises. Ornamental grasses brighten the area and accents of pink peony, salmon poppies, pale pink carnations and geraniums play well opposite the late season Siberians. Some of note were GLASLYN (Foster '90) a ruffled cobalt blue, with turquoise styles above a white signal; McEwen's T7 85/97(4) a tetraploid with a large flower, purple standards, violet and blue styles and dark satin purple falls and Bob Hollingworth's 87N4C10, an extremely ruffled medium purple tetraploid. As we drift down the path we pass the Morgan Row, where all the past winners of the Morgan-Wood Medal are represented and plantings of ferns and hostas abound.

The rear garden over looking the lake is a white garden. Astilbes, peonies, dicentras, foxgloves, veronicas and Siberian iris KING OF KINGS (Varner '83) in full bloom, highlighted this area. An unusual birdbath of carved granite as well as a granite bench invite the visitors to the woodland walk down to the lake shore.

Finally, the hostas were by far the most extraordinary plantings of the garden. The collection is absolutely topflight. **Spilt milk** (Seaver) a puckered moss green with irregular white streaks and mottled areas caught many visitors attention. The Fulton's own **Watermelon Pie** has a ruffled pie crust edge and is leaf green. Just as wonderful is their **Jolly Blue Giant** -- large cupped with puckered leaves of blue-gray, and the charming seedling WL5 is a small leafed, variegated cream and green treat. All the hostas combine with dogwoods, various long and short needled pines, ferns and rocks to create a lasting impression of calm and peace. A delightful last stop of the convention and gracious hosts as well.



**Bob Hollingworth and Michael Zarky with Chandler Fulton  
in his seedling patch**

## **THE SCHMIEDER GARDEN**

**By Ellen Abrego**\_\_\_\_\_

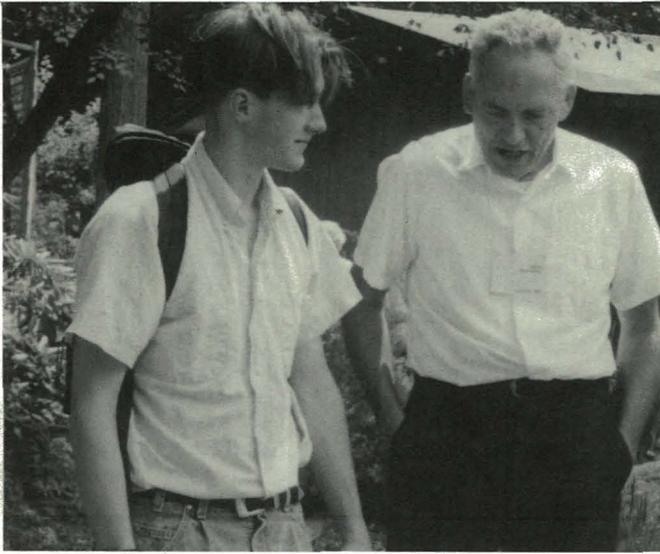
A bumpy bus ride brought us to our last garden. The cool breeze was a welcome relief to the previous day's heat and humidity. Barbara and David Schmieder greeted us warmly at the driveway. Off to the right was the house, with refreshments on the deck overlooking a nice planting of Louisiana irises. The garden is set under a canopy of mature trees with openings for filtered sun. The best of two gardening worlds - sun and shade.

The first guest bed contained the species crosses. There was no sign of plant disease anywhere, just nice, clean, green foliage and

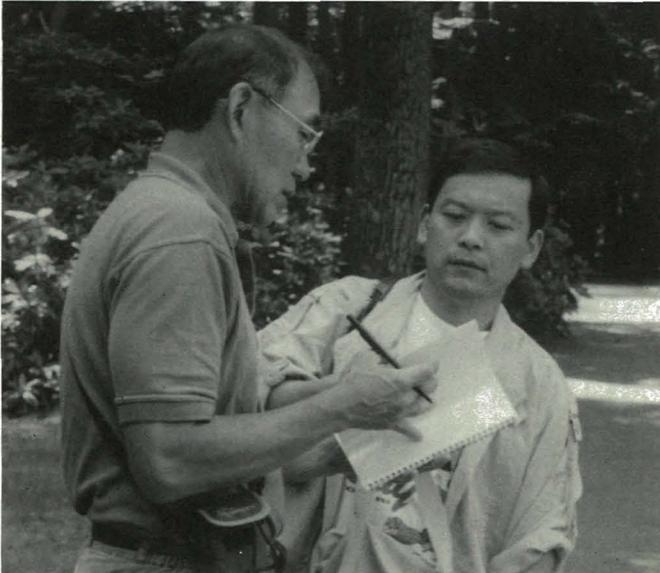
well-grown plants. Unfortunately the hot weather of the previous few days had taken this lovely garden well past peak bloom. However, the cal-sibe CS1-93 (Tamberg/Niswonger) is a nice blue self with white veins radiating from the yellow signals, presented a show that attracted much attention. The foliage has a graceful fountain effect. ARCTIC REBLOOMER (Lankow '94), a setosa, was on its last flower. By the number of spent flowers, it looked very floriferous. I wish I could have seen it at peak bloom.

The second guest bed was further in the back of the garden. Following the path back, it was delightful to see drifts of *I. cristata* growing near the Kalmia "Raspberry Glow". Upon reaching the guest bed, TRIM THE VELVET (Schafer/Sacks '95) a blue-purple self with white edged falls, caught my eye. The flower stood well above the upright foliage. Two fine pink seedlings were noted. Jim Copeland's 88-12 has a pleasant two-tone coloration; soft pink standards with darker pink falls. Schafer/Sacks S89-16-1 has light pink (almost white) standards and pink falls. Both plants displayed good vigor. A bench by the Daphne "Carol Mackie" offered a place to sit and look at the different plantings around the garden. Many iris species were planted among the borders; a trellis supporting a clematis was surrounded by different hybrid iris beds; there were irises interplanted with European ginger and some hostas in the shady areas. So many different plant communities to see - lilies, peonies, daylilies - the list could go on and on - and so many interesting planting ideas to absorb.

The sound of the whistle drew me back to the bus. The time was too short! All the irises were grown to perfection - the Schmieder garden was a joy to visit.



**Hybridizers Andrew Wheeler and David Schmierer, evaluate the species guests in the Schmierer Garden**



**Richard Kiyomoto (MA) having a similar discussion with Hiroshi Shimizu from Japan**

## THE MARBLE GARDEN

By Lynn Stoll.....

The garden of Kathy and Curt Marble was like a miniature private arboretum, with a fascinating variety of interesting and unusual plants. The property is an old apple orchard, which Kathy described as "five acres of rocks and poison ivy" when they bought it. Now the visitor is greeted by a spacious expanse of lawn and trees, with scattered "rocks and rubble", and carefully placed beds of irises and other perennials. Kathy thoughtfully provided an extensive listing of the many unusual trees, shrubs and perennials to be found throughout the grounds. All garden visitors were impressed by an outstanding specimen climbing hydrangea on the corner of the house.

Kathy Marble is a highly creative flower arranger and many of the plants found in her garden, such as the corkscrew willow, have been selected for their potential as elements of design. (Kathy and her garden contributed many of the flower arrangements seen in the artistic division of the Friday show. ) Although there were no guest Siberians in this garden, it was interesting to see irises growing together in combination with other less familiar perennials -- all carefully placed in the garden with the eye of a master arranger. Some of the most interesting specimens were carefully sited in a series of raised beds facing the sun room on the south side of this passive solar home. Asparagus, snap peas and herbs were growing in a harmonious blend with Siberians, poppies, peonies, Asiatic lilies, larkspur, salvia and many other perennials. Birdbaths were placed among the plants; I thought how utterly pleasant and relaxing it must be to sit in the sun room looking out on this wonderful view. (I hope that Kathy has some time to relax and enjoy it all!)

Along the west border of the property is a landmark “Big Rock” where Kathy and Curt are developing a natural woodland garden with rhododendrons. On the other side of the house is “Little Rock”, the focal point of an island bed of kalmias, or mountain laurels. Having grown up in western Pennsylvania, where the woods are full of wild mountain laurel, I was surprised to find them growing so successfully in full sun. Kathy suggested that the critical factor was probably an acid soil. One variety called “Raspberry Glow” was a glowing red unlike anything I had ever seen before.

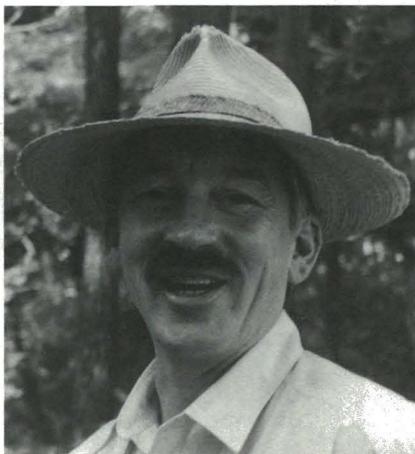
Kathy told us that many of the individual beds represent her developing and changing interests. Irises have been a continual, long-time interest; the kalmias represent another interest, as do a grouping of Japanese maples. One perennial bed is centered around a beautiful group of birches. Other garden areas which have evolved gradually include a mixed perennial garden, a separate cutting garden and a planting of ornamental grasses. A shady area features huge mature clumps of hostas, along with ferns, coral bells, grasses and many different astilbes.

Visitors could only imagine the succession of bloom from these interesting perennials and shrubs throughout the season. But it was clear to everyone that this is a garden that would be a treat to visit any time during the year!

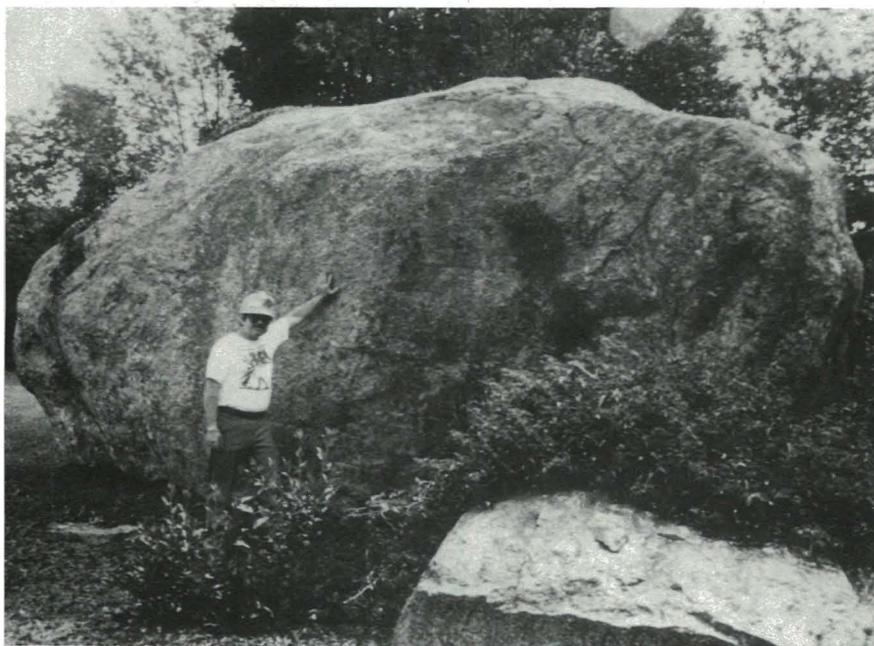
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**Ellen Abrego and Kathy Marble**



**Steve Smith**



**Barry Stoll propping up the "Big Rock"**

## MASS MEDLEY AWARDS

Submitted by Lucy Burton.....

### Best Introduced Siberian Guest (Foster Cup)

	VOTES
LORENA CRONIN (Cronin '96)	20
CARELESS SALLY (Schafer/Sacks '96)	19
MESA PEARL (Bauer/Coble '94)	16
TRIM THE VELVET (Schafer/Sacks '95)	16

### Best Siberian Seedling (McEwen Cup)

Schafer/Sacks S90-13-1	18
Schafer/Sacks S90-38-2	10
Schafer/Sacks S 91-9-1	10
Schafer/Sacks S89-16-1	8

### Best Species Seedling (Tiffney Cup)

Tamberg/Niswonger CS1-93	69
ENFANT PRODIGE (Huber R. '93)	17
HAPI TOK (Bishop)	2

### FAVORITE GUEST SIBERIANS

MESA PEARL (Bauer/Coble)	57
CARELESS SALLY (Schafer/Sacks)	53
LORENA CRONIN (Cronin)	53
TRIM THE VELVET (Schafer/Sacks)	44
LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER (Tiffney)	40
LAKE KEUKA (Borglum)	37
STRAWBERRY FAIR (Hollingworth)	35
LIBERTY HILLS (Miller)	30

SILBERKANTE (Tamberg)	29
SNOW PRINCE (Tiffney)	27
CS1-93 Cal-Sib (Tamberg/Niswonger)	24
JUST BECAUSE (Schafer/Sacks)	24
BAND OF ANGELS (Hollingworth)	22
SENECA FEATHER DANCER (Borglum)	20
FROSTED CRANBERRY (Miller)	20
SPRINKLES (Bauer/Coble)	20



**Art Cronin accepts his  
award for  
LORENA CRONIN  
from Jan Sacks**

**IN PRAISE OF..... SOFT BLUE**

**By Jennifer Hewitt (England).....**

We can all think of at least one iris which, we believe, has never had the recognition it deserves, and until 1995 in England, my prime candidate would have been Currier McEwen's **Soft Blue** (1979) . When it first bloomed for me in 1980, I was not much impressed as it seemed to lack personality; I hoped it would make up for this by repeat blooming, but that has never really happened here, except for nearly two months of flower in 1982.

However, I was completely wrong about its personality as it proved when it really got going. I now consider it to be the ideal garden Siberian and it is top of my list of those I wouldn't be without.

The light blue color carries well in the garden, it produces generous numbers of spikes even if it doesn't get perfect TLC, and normally starts to flower early with at least a branch and four buds. If it doesn't repeat, it does produce its flowers over quite a long period, at least a month. But it is the form of this iris that is its especial virtue. The vertical standards and semi-flaring falls are broad enough to show an exceptional area of color from a distant sideways view and make it a standout in the garden. To me it has all the virtues and graces of the older 'vertical form' Siberians but far excels most of them in its display. My only regret, apart from stems which sometimes become snaky if there are strong winds while they are growing up, is that I have never raised a seedling from it with any of its good points - alas, they have all been dogs!

I continue to hope for repeat bloom, probably in vain, but if it doesn't occur here, I do know that in warmer gardens it may well happen. In the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Gardens in Surrey, **Soft Blue** does repeat magnificently - so much so that in 1995 it received an Award of Garden Merit which is the top award an overseas-raised iris can achieve in Britain. Long overdue recognition, yes, but completely deserved.

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**THE BACKGROUND OF SHAKER'S PRAYER  
(Warner '90) MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER  
FOR 1996**

**By Carol Warner.....**

SHAKER'S PRAYER is every hybridizer's dream. No work on hot summer days was required; the bees did that. There was no need to harvest the seed at just the right time, refrigerate, or soak it; the seasons did that. Planting under lights or transplanting small seedlings could be dispensed with; it chose its own spot in the sun.

Two possible parents, SPARKLING ROSE and GRAND JUNCTION, were growing well in a new island bed. Other perennials that were growing there were small, and so when about a dozen Siberian seedlings emerged between the clumps, they were left to fill the spaces. The first bloom season showed ten of the seedlings to be very ordinary, and they were hauled off to the compost pile in the woods. The two remaining, a tall blue one and a very tall multicolor striped one, grew on to form fine clumps, blooming in the garden for the next couple of years. Many garden visitors admired the multicolored one, but the blue was not as interesting and eventually joined its siblings in the compost pile.

The Francis Scott Key Iris Society hosted a regional tour in 1988 and Clarence Mahan was present. He admired the multicolored seedling and even took a stalk with him on the bus. "This has five colors in it" he said. Entered in our local show, the seedling, now labeled CW-10, received an EC as the best seedling. Lined out, planted by the pool and sent as an official guest for the 1991 AIS convention in Washington D.C., the seedling was on its way to being seen by a wider audience. All the while, visitors continued

to admire it. Clarence proposed a few names, and SHAKER'S PRAYER seemed the best fit for a tall iris: simple and traditional in form, with upstretched stalks that swayed with the breeze. The Iris Pond registered and introduced it in 1990.

At the 1991 AIS Convention, the three year clump by the pool had 197 stalks, and the performance of that clump as well as of guest showings in other gardens and of a row of lineouts, captured for it the President's Cup. SHAKER'S PRAYER went on to win the Walther Cup for most HM votes in 1992, and the Award of Merit in 1994.

A plant of exceptional vigor, SHAKER'S PRAYER has been proven to grow in almost every part of the United States. In the south it seems to grow shorter, but in cooler areas with a slower springtime warm-up, the stalks can grow over four feet tall. Clumps quickly become very large with a multitude of stalks, each carrying about five buds. While often one of the first Siberians to bloom, its bloom season is an extended one.

SHAKER'S PRAYER excels as a landscape plant, yet is difficult to photograph because of the small multicolor blooms. Its form, in contrast to many other modern Siberians, is drawn heavily from the *I. sibirica* side of the 28 chromosome subseries. Its flowers are neither tiny nor as large as even the large-flowered diploids; Currier McEwen labels this size as "traditional". Since SHAKER'S PRAYER was introduced, several other smaller-flowered Siberians have also found success. Luckily the standards for judging Siberians allow for many different acceptable flower forms. Maybe some of SHAKER'S PRAYER's children will inherit the vigor and good garden qualities of the very simple chance seedling that found fame and glory beyond all expectation.

## 1996 AIS AWARDS FOR SIBERIANS

### Morgan-Wood Medal

	votes
SHAKER'S PRAYER ( C. Warner)	96
runners up	
CORONATION ANTHEM (R. Hollingworth)	56
HIGH STANDARDS (R. Hollingworth)	45

### Award of Merit

FROSTED CRANBERRY (A.M. Miller)	75
MOONSILK ( H. Stahly)	70
runners up	
DEVIL'S DREAM (Schafer/Sacks)	60
ILLINI RUBY (S. Varner)	43

### Honorable Mention

OVER IN GLORYLAND (R. Hollingworth)	153
FAIRY FINGERS (A. & D. Willott)	39
HARPSWELL CHANTEUSE (C. McEwen)	36
HARPSWELL SNOWBURST (C. McEwen)	36
RILL ( L. Bellagamba)	36

### Walther Cup (Most HM votes in all categories)

2nd runner up

OVER IN GLORYLAND (R. Hollingworth)	153
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## IN MEMORIAM

Geneva Stark of Norwalk, Iowa, passed away on January 10th 1996. Geneva was the wife of Gunther Stark, longtime treasurer of the Society for Siberian Irises. Geneva will be remembered for her patience with Gunther and all the people of the plant societies as he was off touring or buying the latest plants at auctions. Her family said, "she never met a stranger."

Lois Girton

## SIBERIAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES 6/13/96, WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

By Ada Godfrey, Secretary.....

Board members present: Bob Hollingworth, Jim Holmes, Hal Stahly, Tom Abrego, Kathy Guest, Ada Godfrey, Judy Hollingworth and approximately 10 SSI members.

President Bob Hollingworth welcomed members to the board meeting. It was moved, and seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in TSI.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer's report given by Jim Holmes was accepted as read.

**Slides:** Tom Abrego said there were just enough slides to make two sets of 100. Rentals were heaviest in January, February and March and he has had to turn some requests away as there weren't enough sets. In Sacramento, Anna Mae Miller gave him over 200 slides in excellent condition. These, when organized, will add a further two sets. Tom would like hybridizers to send him good quality slides of their new introductions. There is a lot of interest.

**Siberian Checklist:** Howard Brookins, who was unable to attend the convention, told the president that he plans to have the checklist ready for distribution this fall. Details will be listed in

the fall issue of TSI. A suggestion was made to work on its availability on computer disk.

**Robins:** Dale Hamblin reported that there were six robins with, on average, 6-8 members in each; three growers robins, two hybridizers and one international robin. He is looking for interested people for more. (A suggestion was made for an e-mail robin and he will look into this.) (me)

**Membership:** Membership grows slowly but surely. Ten years ago we had around 400 members; today we have about 720.

**New Book:** Dr. Currier McEwen will be available to sign copies of his book, The Siberian Iris, at the convention. Cost to members is \$29.00 plus shipping. Buying it at the convention will save money as there are no shipping costs involved.

**Editor:** Judy Hollingworth asked permission to spend money to have convention color coverage for the Fall '96 issue of TSI. The '93 cost was approximately \$1000. Jim Holmes said there was still \$4200 in reserve in the treasury for such items as additional color, etc. It was moved and approved to use what was necessary from this fund for color for the fall issue.

**Obituaries:** The editor raised the question of who should be mentioned in obituaries. Until now, the only people who have been mentioned were hybridizers, officers, or those who have been active in SSI. Judy Hollingworth, Kathy Guest and Ada Godfrey will work on a policy to present at the next meeting.

**Invitation to Join:** Should it be reworked. There are enough brochures to take us through the next few months after which at least 5000 copies will be needed. Tom Abrego agreed to organize a new brochure.

**Awards System:** With the new awards system, it is more difficult for a Siberian to receive an HM than an AM. Previously an iris received an HM if it garnered 5 votes, and plenty were awarded. The system changed radically in 1993. Now only 10% of those eligible can get an HM. Since we typically have 20-30 eligible we get only 2-3 per year. The president will draft a letter to the Awards Committee of AIS to ask them to reassess the HM

system for Siberians by raising the percentage to 20% per year. That will double the number of HM's each year and increase the competition for AM's .

**Awards:** A new set of medals needs to be struck at a cost of \$3000 for 25. The motion was made and approved to change the wording on the medal. It will now read: The Morgan-Wood Medal for Siberian Irises.

**Next convention:** The Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society has proposed holding the next Siberian convention in Iowa in the year 2000. After discussion, the motion was made and approved to encourage them to go ahead.

**Distinguished Service Award:** It was voted to present the award to the Iris Society of Massachusetts (ISM) whose members have made very significant contributions to the society over the years.

**Species Awards:** Discussion then centered on the recent species awards set up by AIS and the potential for problems due to the lack of definition on what constitutes a species. Where do Siberians start and species finish? SIGNA has given much thought to this issue, but at the moment, the hybridizer decides whether an iris is registered as a species or a Siberian. There is no clear understanding of where the boundaries are.

**Other Business:** SSI will work on developing awards for the next Siberian convention in Iowa. It was suggested that a plaque or medal for the best seedling and/or best iris would be suitable.

Dr. Tomas Tamberg said he had received a letter from New Zealand announcing the New Zealand Iris Society's Jubilee in 1999-2000 and said he planned to attend.

The next board meeting will be at the AIS Convention in Dearborn, Michigan in 1997.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By James Holmes.....

### BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1995

#### INCOME STATEMENT

Year ended 12-31-95

#### Income

Ads	\$ 220.00
Interest income	\$ 566.89
Membership income	\$3,381.50
Slides, rentals, book sale	<u>\$ 67.00</u>
Total income	\$4,235.39

#### Expenses

Membership Secretary	\$ 201.57
TSI printing -Spring '95	\$1,954.35
-Fall '95	<u>\$2,243.59</u>
Total Expenses	\$4,399.51

#### Assets

Bank Accounts	
Checking	\$3,103.30
Savings	<u>\$4, 202.88</u>
	\$7,306.18

#### Investments

U.S Treasury Note 6% due 6/30/96	\$5,000.00
U.S. Treasury Note 6.25% due 8/31/96	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	\$10,000.00

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$17,306.18

#### Liabilities, Reserves, Surpluses

Reserve for iris research and special projects*	\$ 4,200.00
Surplus available for general purposes	\$13,106.18

**\* represents donation from Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan from surplus of the 1993 Siberian Iris Convention for research on iris diseases and for color plates.**

## **THE LAST WORD.....**

Just a few housekeeping items. As you may have read in the minutes of the board meeting, the Iris Society of Massachusetts (ISM) received a Distinguished Service Award from SSI in 1996, a report will be printed in the Spring 1997 issue of TSI. Also, we don't have a list of new members - take heart, they haven't been forgotten! You will find a listing next time.

Once again we bring the stars of the Siberian Convention to you in living color (the plants not the people) thanks to the generosity of the board and Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan who, in their wisdom, banked money with us to cover the cost of separations. Because of the convention coverage, this year's AM winners will be featured in color in the next issue.

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### **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, made payable to the Society for Siberian Irises, to the editorial office at:

124 Sherwood Rd. East  
Williamston, MI 48895 by February 15th.

Other rates:

FULL PAGE COLOR 4" x 7" .....	free
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*Slides suitable for a club program are available at \$5.00 per rental from:*

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*Some back issues of TSI are available at \$2.50 per copy from:*

*Howard Brookins  
N75 W14257 North Point Dr.  
Menomonee Falls WI 53051*

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### **—THE SIBERIAN IRIS—**

*By Currier McEwen*

To order a copy of this definitive new book on Siberian irises, send a check or money order, payable to The Society for Siberian Irises for \$29.00 per copy plus \$4.00 shipping and handling to:

*James P. Holmes  
2 Deer Hill Rd.  
Chester NJ 07930*

Timber Press will mail the book directly to your home.

#### **Photo Credits:**

**Bob Hollingworth** - Back cover, pg. 24; Top r., bottom l and r, pg. 25, 26; top and bottom r.

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**Carla Lankow** - pg. 19. **Shirley Pope** -Front cover.

**Jan Sacks** -pg. 23, 24: top l, 26; bottom l.

**Lynn Stoll** -pg. 33 (from a color slide).

## **REQUEST FOR GUEST IRISES FOR 2000**

**The Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society** will sponsor the **Third Siberian Iris Convention** in eastern and central Iowa in early June of the year 2000. Five private and two public gardens will be on tour. The master planting will be located at the Iowa Arboretum where the Morgan and Morgan-Wood Medal winners are already on permanent display. During Spring and Fall of 1997 we invite hybridizers to send guest plants, both Siberian and species irises, for the convention displays in these gardens.

Before April 1, 1997, contact the 2000 Guest Iris Chairperson with the following information about each plant: cultivar name or seedling number, number of divisions to be sent, height, bloom color and approximate bloom season. The latter is important in that the gardens in eastern Iowa tend to have earlier bloom times than those in the Ames area and we will locate your plants accordingly. Cultural information on species irises would also be appreciated.

All guest plants should be sent to the chairperson who will then distribute them to the tour garden owners. As far as possible, please send plants during either April 1-May 20 or August 1 - September 1, 1997. The chairperson is : **Lois Girton, 2519 Hoover Ave. Ames, Iowa 50010-4453**. Phone: 515 -233-0841. Email L- Girton @ molebio. iastate.edu.

The Convention Committee and tour garden owners will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. Official guest status will apply only to those plants that are received according to the above procedure. Thank you for your assistance in making this another wonderful convention.

## POPE'S PERENNIALS

### SIBERIAN IRISES

### JAPANESE IRISES

We finally have enough stock to introduce **NEAT TRICK**. This Siberian iris brought Ohhhhhhhhs from the irisarians at the Siberian Judges Training Session during the 1995 AIS Convention. A color picture is in the new **SIBERIAN IRIS BOOK, Plate 25**, published this year and in black and white in **THE SIBERIAN IRIS BULLETIN, 1995 FALL ISSUE, page 37**. We are also introducing a Japanese iris that makes you look twice, **DIRIGO OLD PEWTER**. It's a stunning iris.

#### **SIBERIAN IRIS INTRODUCTION OF JOHN WHITE -1997**

**NEAT TRICK:** Diploid, 35", E-M. A two-tone blue violet with neat white splashes on the falls. A medium size iris considered by Dr. McEwen to be a breakthrough in the Siberian iris world. **\$40.**

#### **JAPANESE IRIS INTRODUCTION OF JOHN WHITE -1997**

**DIRIGO OLD PEWTER:** Diploid, 6 falls, 40", M-L. This 6 fall Japanese iris is a subtle shade of gray-blue-violet (closest to RHS -94C) with very fine, slightly darker veins, slim gold signals and white style arms tufted blue-violet. **\$30.**

When ordering please add \$4. for shipping and handling. Postage for overseas and Canadian shipment will be for full amount including State of Maine Phytosanitary Certificate charge of \$19 per package. Please specify spring or fall.

For these cultivars and a list of other Japanese and Siberians irises send a stamped, self addressed business envelope to:

**Shirley Pope  
Pope's Perennials  
39 Highland Ave.  
Gorham, ME 04038-1701**

# THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

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### SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES:

Membership is open to all AIS members in the United States and Canada, and to all iris fanciers elsewhere. Send your dues to the membership secretary, Howard Brookins at N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 Phone: (414) 251-5292.

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

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**Back Cover: A profusion of perennials grace the  
Schafer/Sacks garden**

