

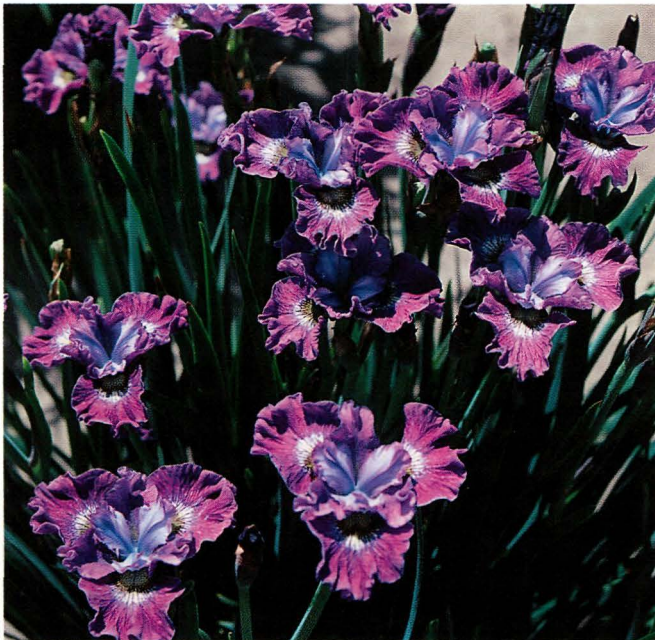
The Siberian Iris



Fall 1999



Lake Keuka (Borglum '94) Award of Merit 1999



Strawberry Fair (Hollingworth '94) Award of Merit 1999

— THE SIBERIAN IRIS —

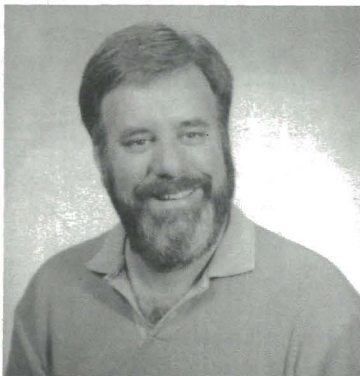
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Front Cover:

Roaring Jelly, Morgan-Wood Medal Winner for 1999

Photo: Jan Sacks

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



As the days shorten and the weather grows cooler, it's time to slow down, reflect on this past season and begin making plans for next spring.

I did not expect to see a lot of Siberian iris guests in Oklahoma, and in fact there weren't many. Those hybridizers who did send Siberian guests should be commended for their

courage in sending their beloved irises into such an inhospitable environment. I was very thankful that there were some Siberian guests in good bloom.

We did have a productive Board of Directors meeting in Oklahoma City. Bob Hollingworth gave an excellent presentation on his hybridizing efforts at our General Meeting. As a bonus, one of the evening Judge's Training sessions was on Siberians, given by Carol Warner. It was very informative. That these three events were well-attended attests to the continued growth in the popularity of Siberian irises. So although the guest beds weren't exactly bursting with Siberians, we had ample other Siberian activity to hold people's interest.

The announcement of the AIS awards is always a point of interest in the summer. I was neither surprised nor disappointed that a Siberian didn't win the Dykes Medal. One of these days... Congratulations to Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer for winning the Morgan-Wood Medal for **Roaring Jelly**. Congratulations also to Bob Hollingworth for **Strawberry Fair** and to Dana Borglum for **Lake Keuka**, both irises winning Awards of Merit.

Be sure to make the time to join our celebration in Iowa in June 2000! Our hosts have worked hard to put on this party, and we need to be sure to show up and have a good time. Our past two mini-conventions have been incredibly fun and educational. I'm looking forward to visiting an area I've never been to before, to seeing gardens I've heard and read about and I hope to see you there. And speaking of parties, don't forget June 2003 for our date in Burlington, Ontario Canada. Some guest irises have already been sent (they even have their own website:www.netcom.ca/~cris/sib2003.html).

Finally, thanks again and as always, to the Northeast Apogon Society for their donation to the SSI.

Tom Abrego

SIBERILLENNIUM:
Siberian Irises for the 21st Century

Iowa City, Iowa, June 2, 3, and 4, 2000

It's been three long years since the M.A.S.S. Medley, and we've been eagerly anticipating the next Siberian Convention. And now -- it's coming soon! The first weekend of June 2000 has been chosen for the Third National Siberian Iris Convention. The

event is being sponsored by the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society (CVIDS) and will also serve as the 2000 A.I.S. Region 21 Convention. Five private and two public gardens, all with guest Siberian and species irises, are included. Saturday you will visit the group of gardens in Eastern Iowa, and on Sunday tour the gardens in Central Iowa. Since the bloom season in Central Iowa is somewhat later than that in Eastern Iowa, at least one of these two areas should be at peak bloom for the tour. Garden judges' training will be provided. The Convention headquarters is the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Iowa City.

On Friday afternoon, June 2, convention attendees are invited to exhibit Siberian and species iris blooms and artistic designs featuring irises at the convention hotel. All attendees are encouraged to bring specimens for this exhibit. Currently scheduled as a non-juried show, this event will allow hybridizers, in particular, to show off their very latest blooms. Dinner is on your own. The evening includes a dessert reception, slide program, and People's Choice Awards from the iris show.

After breakfast (on your own) on Saturday morning, you will board the tour buses for visits to four gardens in the Iowa City area. All have been featured on several iris, daylily, and hosta tours. The eastern Iowa master planting of approximately 150 guest plants is in Barry and Lynn Stoll's Walnut Hill Gardens near Atalissa. Rural Cedar Rapids is the home of The Blooming Hill, the fine perennial garden of Jerry and Lela Hadrava. Monticello, northeast of Cedar Rapids, is home to both Riverside Gardens and Jim and Joy Adams' extensive woodland gardens. Lunch will be provided at Riverside Gardens; the evening banquet will be held at the Clarion.

On Sunday morning buses will take you on a longer trek to central Iowa. Two private gardens in Ames, those of Lois and Jack Girton and Kris and Tom Jurik, will be visited in the

morning. The central Iowa master planting of guests is at the Iowa Arboretum, near Madrid, and a delightful lunch buffet will be served at this location by the Broiler. Sunday evening's dinner will be at the Clarion Hotel. Following dinner, the convention will end with a rousing auction of irises donated by various hybridizers and growers.

THE GARDENS

By Lois Girton _____

The rolling hills of eastern Iowa (good walking shoes are a must!) are home to three very fine private gardens that we will be touring. The master planting of guest plants at Walnut Hill Gardens is only one of many attractions in Barry and Lynn Stoll's gardens. Almost all the introductions of Bob Hollingworth, Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks, and many other hybridizers are also featured. In addition to the guest plants, the Siberians total well over 300 and there are dozens of species irises as well; the species irises will be at their peak if the season is early. Over 500 hosta varieties are displayed around a gazebo in the woodland garden. Barry and Lynn's collection of outdoor sculptures range from the whimsical to serious art by the late Iowa City artist Eric Shaw. Other specialties include a huge collection of daylilies and ornamental grasses for later season interest.

Jerry and Lela Hadrava's Blooming Hill occupies land that has been in Jerry's family for 100 years. Originally a truck garden supplying local markets with fresh vegetables, it has been converted into extensive perennial beds. Irises are featured in the sunny beds close to the entrance but you won't want to miss Jerry's specialty, hostas! (He introduced 70 cultivars in 1999!) Lela is the flower person, enjoying Tall Bearded irises as well as Siberians and daylilies.

Joy and Jim Adams' garden is a designer's paradise. It is profiled in Pamela Wolfe's book, **Midwest Gardens** (1991: Chicago Review Press). This is the heart of Grant Wood country and most of the island beds here are at least gently rolling. Joy is an artist and she and Jim have filled the beds with colorful drifts of perennials and annuals. There are natural springs, caves, and vestiges of wagon trails that you will also want to explore. A rare walking fern is well worth the trip down the ravine. Jim and Joy's antique garden sculptures are also a delight.

Riverside Gardens in Monticello is a community garden project with beds being designed and maintained by various individuals, families, and community groups. Joy Adams is the person behind all of these activities. A gazebo offers a nice resting spot and a vantage point for viewing the gardens. Named guest plants are featured here among the perennial plantings.

Sunday tours begin in Ames. Kris and Tom Jurik's garden is on a large acreage north of Ames along the Skunk River. Pulling up the driveway, you'll get just a glimpse of the extensive plantings which await beyond the home. Steps lead you through terraced gardens where some of the guest irises are planted. The main plantings of Siberian irises are on level ground at the base of the hill. Kris and Tom also have huge shade gardens full of hostas and companion plants.

The only "in town" garden of the tour is that of Lois and Jack Girton in Ames. An original farm home remains on a little more than an acre lot. The curved driveway leads past an ancient American elm (now battling Dutch Elm disease so we hope it's still there at convention time). Guest irises are in three locations to facilitate viewing. Most are in the Iris Walk where there are over one hundred other Siberian irises. Dwarf conifers, hostas, ferns, pulmonarias, crested irises, Buck roses, and ornamental grasses are also featured.

The final garden of the Sunday tour is the Iowa Arboretum, southwest of Ames. The main area of the Arboretum comprises 40 acres of perennial, shrub, and tree plantings. Trails through native woodland and a prairie restoration area are just across the road. The Iowa Arboretum has a complete collection of Morgan Award and Morgan-Wood Medal winners, hosts the central Iowa master planting of guest irises for this convention, and has about one hundred other Siberian iris cultivars in its extensive perennial beds. Irises are combined with gas plant, *Dictamnus albus* 'Purpureus', and false indigo, *Baptisia australis*. Named cultivars are in a bed in front of the Cafferty building and guest seedlings (some named since the planting) are in a long narrow bed midway between the two buildings. The Iowa Arboretum is firmly committed to displaying Siberian irises. Each year, the sale of hundreds of Siberians at the spring plant sale, "A Green Tie Affair," has helped to promote our favorite plants. The addition of the guests makes it likely that the Arboretum has the largest public collection of Siberians in the country, if not the world. Recently, more than one million dollars was donated for the Arboretum to build an education center, the Hughes Center. With opening scheduled for Arbor Day of 2000, we will be one of the very first plant societies to enjoy this new facility.

LODGING

The convention headquarters is the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center located at the northwest corner of I-80 at Exit 242 in Iowa City. A block of one hundred rooms have been reserved for this convention until May 12, 2000. For the special group rate of \$64 (single) or \$74 (double) per night, call the Clarion at (319)-351-5049 and mention CVIDS or the Siberian Iris Convention to receive the convention rate. If it is more convenient, you can FAX your reservation to the Clarion at (319)-351-1117. Early registrants can choose a smoking or non-smoking room.

AIR TRAVEL

The Cedar Rapids Airport is located about 20 miles from Iowa City and the Clarion. The Airport Express shuttle from the airport to Iowa City is \$20.00 per person. Our small club will not be able to provide individual transportation from the airport. However, if you include your airline, flight number, and arrival time, we may be able to arrange small group shuttle service with Airport Express.

SIBERILLENNIUM: THE GUEST PLANTS

By Lois Girton and Lynn Stoll _____

One of the rewards of being a tour garden owner is the opportunity to grow many new cultivars and seedlings received as guest plants from hybridizers. Over the past two years, we've enjoyed watching these new plants grow and bloom. The first plants we received were from Hiroshi Shimizu of Japan, **Roku-Oji** and **Amano-Hane**. **Roku-Oji** has become a favorite, perhaps partly due to its early arrival and early bloom. It is a dark blue-purple with six overlapping falls arranged in a fairly flat flower on a short plant. Unfortunately, if we have a "normal" spring in Iowa in 2000 you may miss its bloom period. Even more unfortunately, plants we received from Ho Shidara and Hiroshi Shimizu in the fall of 1997 uniformly failed to make it through the winter.

Neat Trick (John White, 1994) probably received the most comments from Girton garden guests this spring. (But then again, we had several geneticist friends here who were speculating on transposable elements!) It certainly has both a distinctive and attractive flower and has proven to be a good grower in all the gardens. **Elisabeth McEwen** (1994), with its beautifully formed, ruffled blue-violet blooms, is another of John

White's recent introductions which has proven to be a fine performer in our gardens, and a favorite of Lynn's.

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks sent a large number of guest seedlings, which are distributed among six of the gardens. These plants will give visitors a broad overview of the Schafer/Sacks hybridizing program and show some of the new directions this program is taking. There are several stunning yellow amoenas. **S93-76-2** has the most intense yellow color Lynn has ever seen in a Siberian iris. Other Schafer/Sacks seedlings in this line, such as **S92-82-24**, are less intense in color but display exquisite flower form. **S92-45-1** has been exceptionally vigorous. Other favorites in the Stoll garden have been **S92-119-14**, an exceptionally floriferous lavender pink with a long bloom time and re-bloom; **S92-70-1**, with its white standards and icy pale pink falls and the tall early-blooming blue **S92-54-10**. Many of these display excellent branching, even on relatively new plants. Also, mature clumps of **Riverdance**, **Blackberry Jubilee**, **Off She Goes**, **Drops of Brandy**, and **Ships Are Sailing**, received as guest seedlings under number, will be on display. **Riverdance**, which was chosen as the best seedling at the 1996 Siberian Convention, is a particularly imposing clump with fine form, overall plant habit, and branching.

Ten seedlings were received from Bob Hollingworth and three of these have since been introduced. **Hello Yellow** (Hollingworth, 1999), a ruffled white and yellow amoena, has been slow to increase but the flowers are worth the wait. One of the most exciting new color patterns was exhibited by the late-blooming **97C8B15** (now named **Emily Anne** after Bob and Judy's granddaughter). The falls have a large gold blaze widening to white and are rimmed with a relatively narrow band of blue. This plant can be found at the Iowa Arboretum. Established clumps of many recent Hollingworth introductions, including the delightful

Blueberry Fair (a favorite of Lynn's) and **Over in Gloryland**, are included among the guests along with the seedlings.

Bob Bauer and John Coble sent us several of their seedlings with multi-petaled flowers, the results of crosses between multi-petaled Japanese cultivars and American bred Siberians. **S95Y-5** has proven to be a good grower in several gardens and has a distinctive gold blaze combined with the rosebud form of the blue-purple petals. **S95JE-3** has been a top favorite at the Stoll garden. This tall, large-flowered rich rosy-violet double is a vigorous grower, forming a spectacular clump with an extended bloom period. In contrast, their **Sprinkles** is a charming tailored lavender, with violet "sprinkles" on the falls.

Several guest plants from Dana Borghum have matured into splendid clumps in the Stoll garden, and should make a stunning display in 2000. These include **Lake Keuka**, **Seneca Feather Dancer**, **Seneca Cloud Puffs**, and **Seneca Night Skies**. All are nicely proportioned and floriferous. Currier McEwen's recent tetraploid introductions are represented by such cultivars as **Harpowell Chanteuse**, **Harpowell Velvet**, and **Harpowell Snow**. Calvin Helsley's work is represented by a number of seedlings as well as recent introductions. Many have very intense rich jewel-tone colors. His **92-1** is a rich wine-red with a white signal; the color holds well for a full three days without any sign of fading. Other hybridizers whose guest plants will be on display include Tomas Tamberg, Chandler Fulton, Anna Mae Miller, Louise Bellagamba, Art Cronin, Terry Aitken, and Dave Niswonger.

It has been a great pleasure for us to observe these cutting-edge Siberians, and we are eagerly looking forward to sharing our excitement with you! These splendid irises will indeed give us a glimpse into the next century. Come and share the excitement!

SIBERILLENIUM:
Siberian Irises for the 21st Century
Iowa City, Iowa, June 2, 3, and 4, 2000

The registration fee for the convention is \$125 per person. This fee includes two days of bus tours, Friday reception, and lunch and dinner Saturday and Sunday. Friday night dinner and Saturday and Sunday breakfast are on your own. (Guests of the Clarion receive a complimentary breakfast buffet of coffee, tea, rolls, donuts, fruit, juices, and pastries.) Registration must be limited to 200, so register early!

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Are you interested in exhibiting at the Iris Show?

_____ horticulture _____ artistic design

Hybridizers: Do you plan to show slides on Friday night?

NO or YES : _____ Approximate # of slides _____

(# of slides per person may be limited; so choose your very best!)

If you would like the CVIDS to try and arrange a shuttle for you, please provide the following additional information:

Date of Arrival _____ Time of Arrival _____

Airline _____ Flight # _____

Make registration checks payable to CVIDS (Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society) and send them to our Registrar:

Jean Hecht
105 N. Dubuque St. North
Liberty, IA 52317

Phone: (319)-626-6159
E-mail: jhecht@compuserve.com

For additional information, contact Convention Chairperson
Barry Stoll (319-946-3471; E-mail walnuthl@netins.net)

IN MEMORIAM – HARRY B. KUESEL

By Fran Evers_____

On March 30, 1999, AIS lost a dedicated irisarian who had supported and encouraged many a newcomer in the pleasures of growing irises and being involved in iris society activities.

Harry was born in Brooklyn Hospital in 1920. He received his BA from Amherst in 1941 and a degree in Industrial Administration from Harvard in 1942. World War II interrupted his educational pursuits. He served as a captain in the US Army Quarter Master Core from 1942 until 1947. During his military service he met and married his wife Elinor. After the war, Harry completed an MBA at Harvard and began working for Johns Manville Corp. He and Elinor were also blessed with three children—Jane, Jeff and Tim. He

retired as Vice President in charge of Corporate Services from this corporation in 1982 after 35 years of service.

It was during this period that Harry's interest and love of irises blossomed. He joined the American Iris Society in 1951. He began hybridizing in the sixties and published the first Old Brook Gardens catalog located in Old Brookville, NY in 1963. From this garden he introduced Siberians for Bill McGarvey, Bee Warburton and Kevin Vaughn from 1963 to 1976.

In 1979 he won the Knowlton Medal for STEPPING LITTLE (BB) which continues to be a popular iris. He was transferred to Colorado with Johns Manville Corp. and was responsible for coordinating the corporation's relocation. In 1996, he and Elinor moved to Arizona.

Harry was no stranger in service to AIS. He served twice as the President of the Median Iris Society, was President of the Empire State Iris Society as well as RVP for both Region 2 (New York) and Region 20 (Colorado). He was president of the Siberian Iris Society from 1983 to 1985 and was on their Board of Directors for many years. He was honored with the S.S.I. Distinguished Service Award in 1988 (see TSI Vol. 6, no. 8, Fall 1988).

In 1993, Harry became an Emeritus Judge after being nominated for this honor by Region 20. He was a contributor to the AIS bulletins, the Siberian Society's newsletter, and Regional publications. He also wrote articles for the British Iris Society publications. Wishing to share his love of irises with all gardeners he made generous donations of median, Siberian and spuria irises to the Denver Botanic Gardens. These plants continue to provide pleasure to garden visitors, exposing them to irises they might not otherwise have the

occasion to see. As a related interest, he also had an extensive collection of iris stamps.

Harry had a special gift for making the people around him feel special: that the subjects they were interested in or projects in which they were involved were important and mattered. He was genuinely interested in other people. Associating with Harry brought out the best in others. His positive enthusiasm for life made the world a little better place. He will be missed.

OVER-WINTERING SIBERIANS IN POTS

This fall I had a couple of inquiries from people who were interested in over-wintering Siberians in pots. One local nurseryman wished to have them ready for spring sale. Since I had no experience in this matter, I went to the experts. The following are their replies. ED

By Robert Dunkley, Montana, USDA Zone 3 _____

Several years ago, as I was just getting started growing Siberians, I thought I was going to move, and hurriedly put about 50 Siberians in pots in the fall. I planned to take them with me to my new location. Needless to say, I didn't move, but the next summer about half of the potted stock bloomed. I thought this would be a good way to sell stock here in the local area, so I started taking the blooming plants to the local Farmer's Market. They sold like hotcakes! And I got quite a thrill selling the plants to customers who, for the most part, had never grown Siberians. This created a group of gardeners who came back year after year to buy from me, and increase their collections.

I planted the first year's plants in ordinary garden soil,

thinking that I would be putting them right into the ground. The second year I mixed about one-third peat moss with my sandy garden soil, and got even better bloom. I eventually started depleting my garden soil, and tried mixing common topsoil with peat moss as a potting medium. The results were disastrous. Next I used sterilized potting soil from a wholesaler in the area, mixing it with Osmocote slow-release fertilizer. The sterilized soil worked well, but I don't believe that the Osmocote had any effect. For the last 3-4 years I have just used the sterilized potting soil. I still only get from one-half to two-thirds of the pots to bloom the first year. They all bloom the second year.

One year we had a very messy spring with lots of snow that melted into the pots, and froze and thawed repeatedly. The bottoms of the pots stayed frozen, and prevented drainage. The growing buds were severely damaged that year. A contributing factor may have been that that was the year I tried the topsoil, and it didn't drain very well. After that spring I started covering all my potted stock with a white, opaque, nursery plastic to prevent the snowmelt from getting into the pots. That has worked very well, and I've had minimal losses.

I have gotten rid of almost all of my potted stock in preparation for a move to Hawaii, but for the last several years have been maintaining about 500 gallon cans. I sell about 200 of them each year. The gallon cans are an easy size to handle, and seem to hold the plants for up to four years without any serious growth retardation. I use several applications of Hyponex-type liquid fertilizer on the potted stock when they get about a foot of growth on in the spring.

From Maureen Mark, Ottawa, Canada, Zone 4 _____

We started potting up irises received late in the season after we suffered 90% losses of Siberians purchased at the end of

September at the club fall auction. In the past two years, potted irises have been piled into the compost container (emptied, and the compost worked into vegetable garden) and leaves are piled up to fill the containers. We have three compost piles, so there is generally enough space for all late acquisitions. I have heard from friends who have overwintered half-hardy plants in pots in large cardboard boxes filled with Styrofoam. With a very large number of pots, I would gather all discarded Christmas trees in January and pile them around and over the pots.

From Marty Schafer, Zone 5 _____

We have had good experience wintering over potted Siberians. We wait until the weather gets quite cold and cover them with pine needles - at least 8 to 12 inches thick. Pine needles work well because they do not mat down like leaves can. The mulch is there to limit the extremes of temperature caused by cold nights and warmer days. This can also be limited by placing the pots in winter shade. The ideal situation is to wait until the pots freeze, cover them, and have them in a spot which will not thaw until spring. To protect against voles and chipmunks we use moth balls underneath the mulch and place 4 inch X 2 foot PVC pipes around the area with mouse bait placed in the center of the tube. We are also careful to use fast draining soil mix.

From Kathy Guest, Buffalo, NY, Zone 6 _____

There are two truths which are self-evident when you're a gardener...

1. If you planted everything you bought, you didn't buy enough
2. If you haven't lost a percentage of the plants you bought you just aren't trying.

When you're a gardener in Buffalo, these truths can easily become combined - large losses of plants that didn't get

planted. I've managed to keep my obsessive collecting intact, while also keeping the greatest percentage of plants alive, by developing the following system.

First of all, many Siberian iris growers do not ship in the spring. Spring planting is preferred in the great white north, but you have to take what is available. When I receive my Siberians in the fall, I always pot them up, and I don't plant them in the garden till spring. I've found that the best mix is a combination of compost, potting soil and peat moss - this seems to hold enough moisture, but not so much that the plant drowns. I use plastic pots large enough to accommodate the root system without cramping and I try to get the plants into active growth before the cold shuts them down.

I have a wonderful area between my garage and my neighbor's yard where there is a short length of privacy fence - just slightly longer than my garage. I layer the ground in this area with 3 or 4 inches of shredded bark mulch and then begin placing my pots on top of this. I place the pots as close together as I can get them, with the tallest pots in the middle of the rows.

Between each row of pots, I add more bark so that each pot is really mulched on all sides - and they also have the advantage of being situated together. I put a small amount of mulch over the top, but allow the green leaves to grab whatever light is still available.

When the foliage finally gets knocked down completely, I throw another few inches of mulch over the top. I do nothing further till spring.

When I notice things beginning to stir in the garden, I'll begin to remove the mulch from the top of the pots and gradually

move them back out. I've had very good success with this method - and I don't worry in the least about holding over potted Siberians.

From Carol Warner, Maryland _____

I don't pot up plants for sale but have wintered over plenty of potted Siberians. When we plow the garden in the fall there is a deep furrow along one side. I line up the pots in the trench and pack regular garden soil around them and then mulch with pine needles when the weather turns cold. After Christmas I use any Christmas tree branches or roping that I have and put that on top so they are mulched well. In the spring I just dig them up. (If you don't do it pretty quickly they will start to send up long yellow leaves to try to get to the top of the mulch and it is difficult to get the leaves to turn green again.)

From John Bruce , SW Ohio near Cincinnati, Zone 5b

I have not sold any potted Siberians, but I have potted them in spring and over-wintered them until the following spring and fall for planting.

I use gallon or larger nursery cans, and a mixture of 2/3 bagged topsoil and 1/3 peat. I plant the Siberian in the pot with the "toe" closer to the rim of the pot to allow for increase space. I top off the pot with about 3/4 inch of sand to help retain moisture.

They are kept watered through summer and fall, and when late fall arrives, they go into a cold frame or the pots are planted to within about 3/4 inch of the rim. If I plant the pots, they also get a nice mulch of pine needles or hardwood mulch.

The pots from the cold frame are usually advanced in growth, and the lid must be propped open when temperatures start

hitting the mid-50s to help harden them off and prevent them from cooking on an extra warm day.

I usually give them a couple of weak doses of Miracid after active growth begins. Many of the potted Sibbs bloom in their first spring while still in the pots. I have only had minimal losses with this method, perhaps 3% or less on several hundred pots over the last 5 years. Temps below zero are not unusual during the winter.

From Jane Millhorn, Ohio

We have kept Siberians in pots over the winter with good success. After they're potted in the fall we make sure the soil is moist, but not really wet and put them in our poly house (white poly) over the winter.

It is unheated, though in terribly cold weather we sometimes keep a small space heater going over night to keep the temperature around 32 degrees. In a normal winter the poly house holds enough heat from the day to keep it from getting too cold over night. We can open the doors in spring if the weather gets too warm. The pots are ready to put out for sale about the time our other perennials are. We tried putting the pots under "winter blanket" (an eighth inch thick plastic mulching cloth) but this did not work as well. We lost plants and in the spring you had to be taking it off and putting it on all of the time which was a real bother, since the sun would heat things up enough to kill plants during the day if you didn't remove it.

After two years in pots, plants that don't sell are planted back out since they seem to decrease in pots after that time. We then pot up some new ones. One addition, last year we did have to water in the poly house in January during a warm spell

as things dried out a little too much, but we don't always have to do that. Some years it just takes care of itself until spring.

From Leroy Kriese, Vernon, BC, Zone 5

I have done this frequently over the years in zone 5 and zone 2 (when I was in Alberta). This may sound all wrong but it is what I experienced.

The times I went to great lengths to heel the potted Siberians into sawdust or cover them. I had nothing but dead rotten plants come spring. I was careful to water in heavily just before freeze as well.

When I just neglected them - left them uncovered (and without consistent snow-cover as well) and let them dry out after they went dormant they came through at a much higher rate of success. I think that Siberians, once they go dormant in a pot, don't like wet feet. Perhaps one of these plants that they say are susceptible to winter drowning? Certainly more susceptible to drowning than freezing.

Most temperate zone plants can take very low root temperatures. Some Siberians don't over-winter very well at all. Sino-sibs seem to rot out in pots over winter.

The mix I use is a commercial recipe that we mix at the nursery. The recipe comes right out of the provincial nursery guide. It consists of peat, sawdust, sharp sand, Nutricote, dolomite lime, gypsum, micro-nutrients and tri-phosphate (double is better). Sawdust is just a cheap inert filler. Sharp sand is the key, and I have found that increasing it makes healthier plants but tired arms. Those are certainly NOT requirements!

1999 AIS AWARDS FOR SIBERIANS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

	VOTES	HYBRIDIZER
Roaring Jelly	126	M. Schafer/J.Sacks

Runners up

Contrast in Styles	50	R. Hollingworth
Snow Prince	44	S. Tiffney

AWARD OF MERIT

Strawberry Fair	181	R. Hollingworth
Lake Keuka	118	D. Borglum

Runners up

Mesa Pearl	55	J. Coble/R. Bauer
Harpwell Snowburst	50	C. McEwen

HONORABLE MENTION

Careless Sally	70	M.Schafer/J. Sacks
Carmen Jeanne	59	C. Helsley
Band of Angels	48	R. Hollingworth
Lorena Cronin	41	A. Cronin
Elisabeth McEwen	37	J. White
Pleasures of May	37	M. Schafer/J. Sacks

Runners up

Fisherman's Morning	36	Jim Copeland
Simple Gifts	35	R. Hollingworth
Where Eagles Dare	35	C. Helsley

THE BACKGROUND OF ROARING JELLY MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1999

By Marty Schafer_____

Over the years many people have asked the origin of the name **Roaring Jelly**. Jan and I had decided a few years before to name our Siberians after folk tunes, fiddle tunes, New England contra dances and the like. They seemed to have the appropriate whimsy built right in (and we had met each other folk dancing). I had played stand up bass in a contra dance band called **Roaring Jelly** so we knew we would name an iris that when one came along with the right color. This happened in 1988.

Our second batch of seedlings bloomed in June of '88 - our first big batch. Most were from crosses of various Bee Warburton Siberians and most of them were from her **Atoll X Ruffled Velvet** line (ARV). The first parent of **Roaring Jelly** is **Springs Brook** - a seed made by Bee that we had grown, bloomed and selected. **Springs Brook** is a large blue-violet bicolor with heavy dappling on the shoulders, tall double branched stems and strong repeat bloom. It came from **George Henry**, a white ARV with a very golden yellow signal and which was also a good repeater. The second parent of **Roaring Jelly** was a Warburton seedling from a back-cross of an ARV to **Ruffled Velvet**. It was a fascinating plant, shorter than **Springs Brook** with smaller flowers that opened bright yellow, then faded to white. The flowers were arched and re-curved, showing as much of their petals as possible to the distant viewer.

When we saw **Roaring Jelly** bloom in '88 we loved it - it had one perfect stalk with a well-shaped flower with the most unusual dappled raspberry falls and lighter standards. We

knew of nothing else like it and with beginners' enthusiasm we photographed it, measured it, color charted it and divided it up into little pieces which grew with great abandon. We never really saw a good clump of it again until it was introduced in 1992.

Our first visitors to the Siberian rows in that year were Bob and Judy Hollingworth (being pre-eminent hybridizers we were tickled pink that they would be coming to their son's graduation here on June 6, certainly the peak of our seedling bloom). Of course 1992 was no ordinary year and on June 6, only our earliest seedlings were blooming - normally blooming around May 20. As we walked through the field of green with Bob and Judy we were heartened to notice from a distance one flower of **Roaring Jelly** had opened, but when we got up close our spirits fell. Could this be the iris we introduced? Small, squished, washed-out - oh horrors!

Well, the disaster was a false alarm. As the season progressed, **Roaring Jelly** bloomed and bloomed and looked more beautiful than we had even remembered. In a large clump it really came into its own. The lavender standards floated over the raspberry falls with a mysterious flash of blue, creating a visual song. We also discovered for the first time that **Roaring Jelly** was a repeat bloomer. Reports came back from Bob and Judy in Michigan (where RJ was growing for the 1993 Siberian Convention) that it bloomed beautifully there as well. Someone we never met before saw it and wrote to us calling it "sumptuous". We were relieved - and thrilled!

Of course there is another significance to the name **Roaring Jelly** (and probably the reason my band used the name) – it is slang for the nitroglycerine used as an explosive. That meaning has turned out to be as appropriate as the picture

created by the words - our good friend Kathy Marble reported to us that her clump had 200 bloom stalks last year!

SIBERIANS IN OKLAHOMA

By Peter Weixlmann_____

Oklahoma where the wind comes whistlin' down the plain (yeah, a tornado), and the waving wheat (irises) sure smells sweet (and their battered remains are there today).

I can say that this past AIS convention will be among the most memorable ever. Every year the ante seems to escalate. In Michigan the very wet and cold spring was a bud and flood convention. The Colorado convention went for snow, but Oklahoma went all out with huge multiple tornadoes. Beware Dallas, Texas next year! I can't imagine working for years to plan a great convention and have Mother Nature slap you around at the last minute. My thanks to all the hard working convention planners.

All kidding aside, the devastation of the area was totally blown away by the hospitality of the Oklahomans, and the true spirit of compassion and aiding one another in crisis was wonderful to experience. The garden owners after having one of the hottest summers on record last year, days of 110 degrees, had lost many of the Siberian guests. I searched every garden listed in the convention book for the elusive Sib listing and then when we arrived, I was met with garden markers and little else. I still was not deterred; however, by the second day, at the last garden stop, I almost gave up. But there they were at last. Not many, not as tall as they should have been, but yet beautiful Siberian flowers.

Unfortunately **Over In Gloryland's** (Hollingworth '93) last flower was closing, but the size of the clump was almost right for a three-year planting. **Band of Angels** (Hollingworth '96) had several freshly-opened blooms. White edged wide royal purple falls, accented by the white signal surrounded by a cobalt blue halo and somewhat redder standards looked lovely. Blue green upright foliage and sturdy stalks, with one branch and three buds, showed its tetraploid heritage. **Mystic Lagoon** (Willott '91) had rather large spaces within the clump but never the less bloomed with abandon. The blue violet blend is accented by the turquoise styles, mid ribs and wine colored hafts. The Hollingworths were again represented well by **Shall We Dance** ('92). Stalks with two branches held multiple open flowers above the thick foliage. Violet falls, upright tall standards and the turquoise styles caused many to comment (several folks recalling a more blue color to the falls, perhaps a cultural anomaly). Also **Blueberry Fair** ('97) a heavily ruffled confection of blueberry violet, with wide almost overlapping falls and small wide standards hiding the white signal. Even the styles had ruffles with a shot of turquoise. With four buds, branched stems and very clean foliage this iris was added to the "must have list" of the irisarians surrounding the plant.

Finally a Siberian/Versicolor seedling of Mary Betts, SV7, was putting on quite a show. The cornflower blue tailored petals and yellow signals seemed to have come from the Siberian side, the plant habit showed more of the versicolor characteristics, fountain like foliage, very vigorous and not so sturdy stems. It had lots of flowers on an almost three foot clump.

There was not as much to see as we might have hoped, but still proof that Siberians can be grown with a little extra attention on the rolling plains of Oklahoma.

THE FAVORITE 15 SIBERIAN IRISES FOR 1999

By **Barbara Schmieder**_____

Some Interesting Statistics on the Voting:

1. Sixty nine people voted this year, as opposed to 83 in 1997.
2. The votes came from 23 states, plus Canada- three more states than the last vote.
3. Votes by state: Massachusetts (8), Michigan and Oregon (6), Illinois, New York and Washington (5), Ohio and Virginia (4), California, Canada, Maine and North Carolina (3), Indiana and Missouri (2), and one vote each from Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee
4. 229 varieties got at least one vote.
5. Eleven of the favorites are Morgan-Wood Medal winners.

Geographically, the representation of voters was good this year but I am disappointed that 14 fewer people voted. Some people asked for more that 15 votes and maybe we should think about that for 2001, our next symposium year. It is encouraging to see that **Summer Sky**, the oldest iris in the top 15, is still a favorite in gardens. Can you imagine an iris introduced in 1935 making it on to the 1999 Tall Bearded Symposium?

THE RESULTS:

	#votes	position in '97
1. Roaring Jelly (Schafer/Sacks '92)	33	2
2. Jewelled Crown (Hollingworth '87)	30	1
3. Lake Keuka (Borglum '94)	28	8
4. Coronation Anthem (Hollingworth '90)	27	3
5. Over In Gloryland (Hollingworth '93)	26	6
Strawberry Fair (Hollingworth '94)	26	7
6. Sultan's Ruby (Hollingworth '88)	21	8
7. Shaker's Prayer (Warner '90)	20	4
8. Reprise (Warburton '87)	17	8
9. Mabel Coday (Helsley '85)	16	12
Pink Haze (McGarvey '80)	16	8
Springs Brook (Warburton/Schafer/Sacks '88)	16	7
10. Careless Sally (Schafer/Sacks '96)	15	13
Mesa Pearl (Bauer/Coble '94)	15	14
Steve Varner (Briscoe '78)	15	new
11. High Standards (Hollingworth '87)	14	14
Temper Tantrum (McGarvey '86)	14	new
12. Lady Vanessa (Hollingworth '86)	13	5
13. Esther C.D.M. (McGarvey '82)	12	10
King of Kings (Varner '83)	12	new
14. Aqua Whispers (Miller '88)	11	9
Shirley Pope (McEwen '79)	11	11
15. Pleasures of May (Schafer/Sacks '95)	10	new
Shall We Dance (Hollingworth '92)	10	15
Summer Sky (Cleveland '35)	10	12
Trim the Velvet (Schafer/Sacks '95)	10	new

Runners up:

9 votes: Cheery Lynn, Percheron, Sprinkles, Windwood
Serenade

8 votes: Blueberry Fair, Countess Cathleen, Dance Ballerina Dance, Fisherman's Morning, Liberty Hills, Moonsilk, Silver Illusion, Snow Prince, White Triangles

Some of Your Comments:

From Tony and Dorothy Willott, Beachwood, Ohio.

This was a good year for Siberian bloom in spite of a hot dry spring (and summer).

We were surprised by **Coronation Anthem** having several stems of repeat bloom two to three weeks after good initial bloom. **Reprise** bloomed over a long period of time.

With the weather being so warm we had more Siberians than TB's at our Memorial day Iris Show. We won best specimen with our late-blooming TB, Ice Goddess, but runner-up was a gorgeous stem of **Berlin Purple Wine** exhibited by another member. Siberians were extensively featured in arrangements. We won a section certificate for Siberians with 23 blue ribbons in that class.

From Verna Laurin, Ontario, Canada.

As I write this **Coronation Anthem** is sending up another bloom stalk. The only other Siberian that has repeated here is **Reprise**.

From Kitty Ackerman, Ashton, Maryland.

Couldn't stop at 15, we have over 250 Siberians!

There have been good advances in Siberian breeding in the last ten years – better substance, richer colors, ruffling etc. Now we need to work on extending the season earlier and later and developing more repeaters or re-bloomers.

From Currier McEwen, South Harpswell, Maine.

Some favorites:

Pride in Blue – the first Siberian I have seen to match true blue (100 in the RHS color chart).

Demure Illini – a red repeater.

Lavender Bounty – a close to pink repeater.

Ever Again – the most reliable repeater that I know.

From Carol and Ken Coleman, Boise, Idaho.

We have had wonderful blooms this year as we had a wetter, cooler spring than normal. **Coronation Anthem**, **Reprise** and **Snow Prince** were outstanding in the front display area, while **Shaker's Prayer**, **Mabel Coday** and **Jewelled Crown** were stars in the back....

We very much enjoy the look of Siberians in the garden setting and since we entered the first one seen here in a show three years ago, interest has taken off. **White Swirl** was our first Siberian and it is very large now.

From Elaine Hulbert, Virginia.

Writing now toward the end of the season, I am keenly aware of how important the very-early and very-late varieties are. Repeating and re-blooming are impossible in our 95 degree weather.

So I appreciate all the more the Joe Pye Weed “earlies” like **Banish Misfortune** and **Windwood Spring** and **Heliotrope Bouquet** from Windwood Gardens. They may have to make room for the great midseason varieties in my favorites list, but now I am looking past the favorites too at the later ones – **Forrest McCord**, **Shall We Dance** and the forty chromosome Siberians. Thank goodness for them all.

From Marky Smith, Yakima, Washington.

A very cold spring with late freezes, record snows in the mountains, and a perpetual gale off those snows. The Siberians for the most part loved it! (The gardener didn't).

Saw my limited seedlings from pollen Marty Schafer was kind enough to share with me as M.A.S.S. medley in 1996, and I will add my praise for **Careless Sally** as a fine parent. After dabbing pollen for ten years, I finally have seedlings that look good. Now we're having a heat wave, (over 100 degrees in the sun) so I'm waiting to line out this year's seedlings (only one cross) from Bob Hollingworth's **Hello Yellow** and a Schafer/Sacks yellow amoena seedling. I'm hoping for yellows with form and branching. (Dream on! I'll probably see creams with 2 buds and propeller shaped falls.) Hybridizers should give seminars on optimism and positive mental attitude in the off-season.

From Jim Morris, Missouri.

At the Region 18 spring meeting and tour in Kansas City, MO, **Where Eagles Dare** was an overwhelming two-to-one winner as the best In-Region guest iris.

The Kevin Morley garden was the master planting for beardless irises and looking impressive were **Festival Prelude, George Henry, Where Eagles Dare, Shakers Prayer, Careless Sally** and **Magenta Moment**.

From Jean-Marc Boileau, Canada.

Despite the hot and dry weather, **Blackberry Jubilee, Countess Cathleen** and **Trim the Velvet** repeated strongly this year. **Countess Cathleen** has been particularly impressive; it bloomed non-stop for about three weeks, took a short break, then sent up repeat stalks with three to four buds.

IN MEMORIAM - BEN HAGER (1915-1999)

By Tom Abrego _____

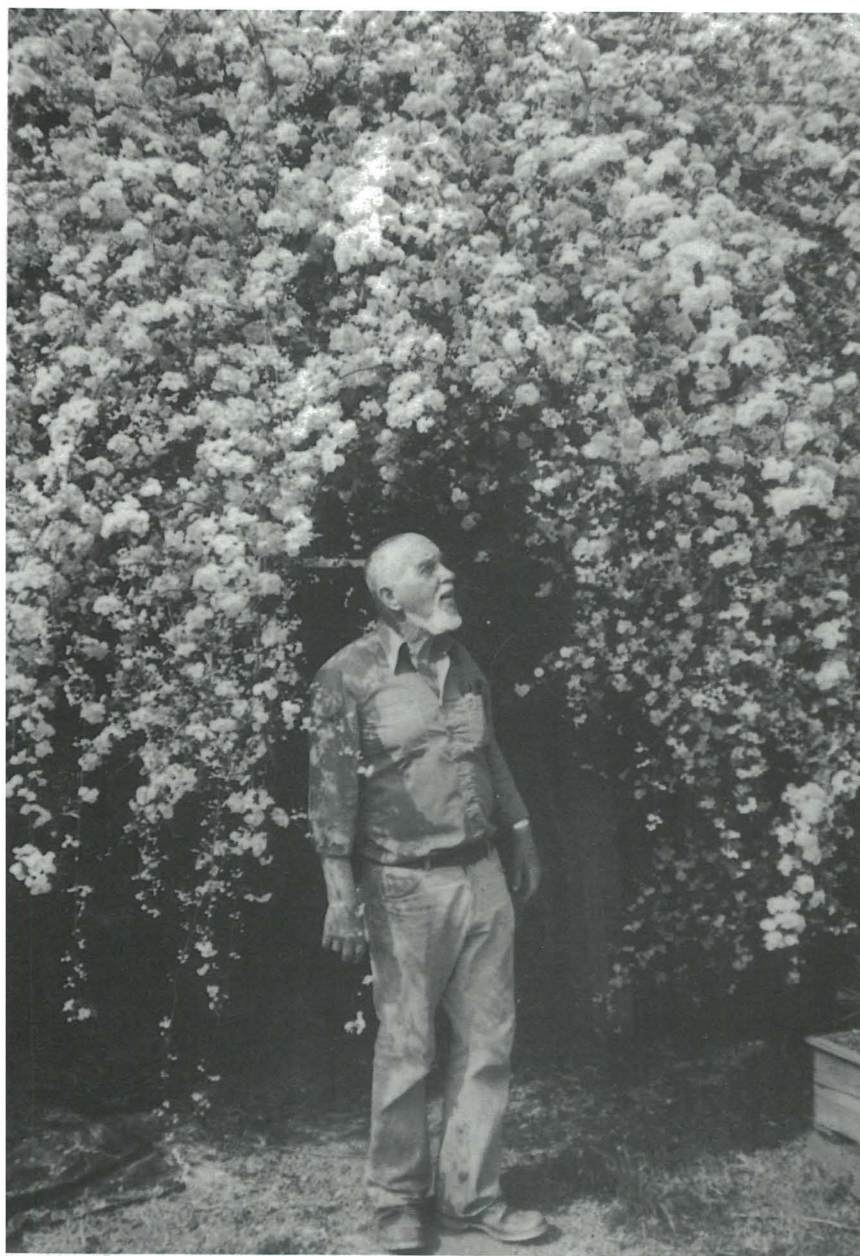
This spring the iris world lost one of its most colorful characters and one of its most successful and versatile hybridizers, Ben Hager, after a long illness. Ben became interested in irises in the early 1950's, while living in southern California, then a center of iris activity and hybridizing. He had the good fortune of working for noted hybridizer Tom Craig, of Escondido. Later Ben became the manager of Milliken Gardens of Arcadia, the area's largest commercial iris enterprise. In 1955 Ben and partner Sid Dubose bought Melrose Gardens in Modesto. They published their first

commercial catalog the spring after their move. Four years after settling in Modesto, property development spurred another move north, this time to Stockton. Their 1961 catalog, their first after the move, featured Ben's first iris introduction, the Tall Bearded **Foray**.

Ben did not believe in line breeding. Rather, he preferred to select the newest and best irises as parents. In 1968, coinciding with the AIS Convention in Region 14, Ben introduced his first Siberian originations: **Ruby Wine** (Towanda Redflare x Red Emperor) and **Sparkling Rosé** (Towanda Redflare x Eric the Red). The following year he introduced **Swank** (White Swirl x Bluecape), which went on to win the Morgan Award in 1973. Over a period of seventeen years Ben introduced seventeen Siberian irises (more in fits and spurts than at a one-a-year pace). He and Sid were charter members of SSI.

Ben will probably be best remembered in the Siberian iris world for his contribution to the wine color class: **Ruby Wine** and **Sparkling Rosé** in 1968, **Thespian** in 1980, **Chilled Wine** in 1981, **Cabernet** and **Omar's Cup** in 1982 and **Rose Quest** in 1983. Although he introduced just a few blue Siberians, two were very well-received: **Swank** and **Jaybird** (1982) which won an Award of Merit in 1986. He also introduced two yellow amoenas: **Star Cluster** (1978) and its child **Star Glitter** (1985).

Three of Ben's Tall Bearded irises won Dykes Medals. His introductions won the highest awards in just about every class of iris. Ben himself was honored by the AIS with its Distinguished Service Medal and its Hybridizer's Medal. Ben was outspoken and opinionated, hard-working and talented, but above all, he was a warm and generous person. He is survived by Sid DuBose of Stockton.



Ben in the garden framed by a magnificent *Rosa banksia*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE SOCIETY FOR
SIBERIAN IRISES ANNUAL MEETING,
MAY 4, 1999, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

By Carol Warner, Acting Secretary_____

The Executive Board Meeting of the Society for Siberian Irises was called to order by the President, Tom Abrego at 1:00 p.m. on May 4, 1999. Officers and Directors present were: President, Tom Abrego, 1st Vice-President, Carol Warner; Directors Howard Brookins, Bob Hollingworth, Jim Wilson and Peter Weixlmann (proxy for Kathy Guest). Other members present included Bill Smoot, Display Garden Chairman; Dorothy Fingerhood, Jim Loveland and Dave Silverberg. Carol Warner was asked to take the minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

REPORTS:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Fall 1998 TSI.

The Treasurer sent in a detailed report. Howard Brookins suggested that the expenses for membership secretary be listed apart from those of the publications chairman. He also suggested that the treasurer be asked to change one of our bank accounts to a money market account to earn additional interest. Tom Abrego will discuss these matters with the treasurer.

Howard Brookins reported that the membership stands at 475 members in the USA and 67 foreign memberships. He has sent out renewal postcards. Howard also has past publications which he would like to sell at a cost of 6 issues

for \$10.00. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept Howard's suggestion. President Abrego has a supply of extra membership applications if anybody needs them. Howard Brookins will have a new zip code and possibly an entire new address, which will have to be changed on the applications for membership.

A report was received from the Robin Director, Dale Hamblin. The robins are flying fine.

Editor, Judy Hollingworth, is always in need of good articles for our publication, *The Siberian Iris*.

Carol Warner reported that the nominating committee is in need of one more member. President Abrego will find another person to serve on that committee.

Bob Hollingworth reported that the slide collection is in pretty good condition but that more landscape slides are needed. There are two working sets of slides, but Bob would like more and may try to have some slides duplicated. Jim Wilson would also like to have copies of slides to put on the Society's web page. He is need of some slides of clumps and especially of good blues.

Carol Warner reported that Bob Hollingworth will present the slide program at the general meeting.

Display Garden Chairman, Bill Smoot, has 18 people signed up but wants to write to the old members of the display garden list to ask if they still want to be listed. At the present time we have no foreign gardens and no public gardens listed. Jim Loveland is in charge of the St. Louis Botanic Garden and suggested they might be listed. He also suggested that the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley, UK, has a good

collection and that we might contact them. It was also suggested that a little blurb be put in TSI asking the entire membership to let us know of any public gardens with good Siberian plantings.

OLD BUSINESS

Tom reported that the 2000 convention in Iowa will be held Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4. The business meeting is scheduled for Friday and garden tours will be all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Tom will talk to Barry Stoll about an auction, the Saturday banquet and a few other questions. SIGNA is not part of this convention but some of their members are expected to attend and it will be advertised in their publication. Howard made a motion that SSI should pay for an ad in *THE BULLETIN* for the convention. The motion was seconded and passed.

The 2003 Convention will be held in Canada with Chris Hollinshead as chairman. The dates will be June 13, 14 and 15. There will be six tour gardens visited on two days. Two of the plantings will stay in place after the convention at the two public gardens. A committee of 24 people is in place including Kathy Guest as US coordinator and Kathy Boyko as Canadian coordinator. There will be two registrars and two guest iris chairmen to make everything flow smoothly between the two countries. SIGNA will probably be involved in this convention.

The subject of incorporation and 501-C3 status was discussed. The AIS has volunteered to help any unincorporated sections achieve this status as subordinates of a parent organization (the AIS). The AIS will pick up the filing costs for this application. The AIS will examine our by-

laws to check for conformity. Carol moved that we approve this, Howard seconded and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

We are still looking for a convention site for the year 2006. Suggestions were Portland, Maine, Portland, Oregon and Tennessee.

Convention awards to be voted by participants at the Siberian Convention were discussed. Suggestions were made for a plaque for the "best official guest seedling" and "the best official guest introduced variety". These awards would be given by the SSI. Carol made a motion, Jim Wilson seconded and the motion passed to have these awards ready for the 2000 convention at a cost not to exceed \$100.00. Howard Brookins will get this done.

Tom Abrego thanked Bob Hollingworth for all of his work to rewrite the Siberian section of the Judge's Training Handbook. It is very well done.

Two sad announcements were made noting the passing of Harry Kuesel and Ben Hager.

Bill Smoot made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 3:04 p.m. It was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Statement -by James P. Holmes

Income Statement 12-31-98

Income:

Ads	\$180.00
Interest income	732.59
<i>The Siberian Iris</i> book-book sales \$ 161.00	
royalties	1,246.32
total	1,407.32
Membership income, checklists, etc.	\$3,572.35
Slide rentals	45.00
Donations-Northeast Apogon Society	500.00

Total Income **\$6,437.26**

Expenses:

Membership Secretary expenses	\$635.00
Engraving	20.00
TSI publication-Spring '98	\$1,675.43
-Fall '98	2,025.85
-color separations	125.10
total	3,826.38

Total Expenses **\$4,481.38**

Income net of expenses **\$1,955.88**

BALANCE SHEET As of 12-31-98

Assets:

Bank accounts	
-checking	\$2,274.17
-savings	6,159.62
total	8,433.79
Investments	
U.S. Treasury Note 5 3/8% due 6-30-00	\$5,000.00
U.S. Treasury Note 5 1/8% due 8-31-00	5,000.00
total	10,000.00

Total Assets **\$18,433.79**

Liabilities, Reserves, Surplus:

Reserve for iris research and color plates	\$698.68
General surplus	17,735.11
total	\$18,433.79

“HARESUGATA” RENAMED

By Bob Hollingworth

“Haresugata”, the six-fall Siberian iris sent by Mr. Ho Shidara to the 1993 Michigan Siberian convention has been renamed. This was necessary because, as it became distributed in commerce, it was pointed out that the name Haresugata had already been registered with AIS for a Japanese iris. The new registered name for the Siberian “Haresugata” is **Parasol**. This name was chosen because of the flower form and because the word has the same meaning in both Japanese and English. At the same time, two more of Mr. Shidara’s 6-fall Siberians, **Kita-no-seiza** and **Nagareboshi**, were registered with AIS together with **Ranman**, a flower with multiple petals.

LAST WORD

Formatting for this issue has left no space for an editorial of any length. Please note though that my email address has changed from the previous long string of numbers to the more manageable cyberiris @netcape.net

There was a good response to the articles by new hybridizers in the Spring '99 TSI. Due to the volume of information that needed to go in this issue, further development of that subject had to be postponed until next spring.

Thanks to all who contributed to this bulletin, and a special thank you to Barbara Schmieder for counting all the ballots.

Judy

NEW ZEALAND IRIS SOCIETY

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MOUNT MAUNGANUI, NEW ZEALAND

NOVEMBER 2-6, 2000

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New Zealand

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email: berryp@kiwi.co.nz

You are warmly invited to help the New Zealand Iris
Society celebrate their 50th anniversary

NEW ZEALAND – first country to see the sun,
spectacular landscapes and distinctive native flora
and the place where many types of irises grow
beautifully.

Siberian-Species Convention 2003

Date: June 12-15, 2003

Location: Burlington/Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

(main display garden and center of activities is to be at the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG))

Information on procedures for submission of guest irises to the convention.

Dates for receiving guest Siberian Irises:

Beginning this year, the Autumn of 1999, with the latest possible receiving time the Autumn of 2001.

We will be accepting either Spring or Autumn shipments:

Spring shipments - until April 30

Spring 2000

Spring 2001

Autumn Shipments - until September 15

Autumn 1999

Autumn 2000

Autumn 2001

Canadian hybridizers will send guest irises directly to RBG in Canada.

USA hybridizers may send iris directly to RBG in Canada (required phyto to be supplied by sender for direct to Canada shipments)

OR

Iris may be sent to the USA collection point in Buffalo. No phyto required for shipment from within USA to the Buffalo, NY collection point. See below for the special USA collection point address.

The contact and address for the USA collection point of the guest irises is:

**Peter Weixlmann
280 Seneca Creek Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
e-mail: pweixl@aol.com**

Europeans / other foreign hybridizers should send guest iris directly to RBG in Canada (any required certification to be provided by sender). Contact the Guest iris registrar David Schmidt at the RBG for import information if necessary.

**David Schmidt
Plant Propagator and Production Supervisor
Royal Botanical Gardens
P.O. Box 399
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8
e-mail: dschmidt@rbg.ca
Phone: 905-527-1158 ext 279
Fax: 905-577-0375**

Photographs: We are also requesting that hybridizers send along a 35 mm color slide of each of their submissions. These should be clearly marked as to the name or seedling number of the iris. We will use these in one of our evening convention programs and this will help increase exposure for your irises.

Guidelines: Three to five divisions of each variety may be shipped (thus we will be able to display an iris in more than one garden and under different growing conditions).

The name of the variety or seedling number must be clearly marked on each division. In addition, the following information for each plant must be supplied on a packing list.

**Hybridizer name and address
Name or seedling number of variety
Category/type of iris (Siberian, species, etc.)
Height, color, description, bloom season (E,M,L)
Year of introduction (if applicable)**

If a guest seedling is named subsequent to shipping to the convention, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman not later than January 1, 2003.

Disposition of Guest iris after the convention: We ask that the hybridizer include information as to the disposition of their iris after the convention.

We can offer the following alternatives;

- 1. Destruction of the iris.**
- 2. Return of the iris to hybridizer (unfortunately due to the fact that the plants require a phytosanitary certificate and cross-border shipping there will be a charge attached for this service, still to be determined but likely to be about 25-30 dollars)**
- 3. Donation of the iris to the RBG, CIS and WNYIS for permanent display plantings or such dispersal as they see fit.**

We hope that the participating hybridizers will opt for the third alternative but we will honor all requests. The absence of instructions will automatically indicate the third alternative. The convention committee and owners of tour gardens will follow the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

Only officially submitted guest iris will appear in the Siberian-Species Convention booklet.

PUBLICATIONS

***SOME BACK ISSUES OF TSI ARE AVAILABLE AT
\$2.50 PER COPY FROM:***

**Howard Brookins
N 75 W14257 North Point Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**

Please make check payable to SSI

SIBERIAN IRIS SLIDE SET

***SLIDE SETS SUITABLE FOR A CLUB PROGRAM ARE
AVAILABLE AT \$5.00 PER RENTAL FROM:***

**Bob Hollingworth
124 Sherwood Rd. East
Williamston, MI 48895**

Please make check payable to R.M. Hollingworth

SIBERIAN CHECK LIST

**The check list is available. To order, please send a check
for \$6.50/copy (\$10.00 for overseas orders).**

**To: Howard Brookins
 N75 W14257 North Point Drive
 Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**

Please make checks payable to SSI

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.

Other Advertising Rates:

Full Page (4" x7") Color

If separation provided	free
If we provide separation	\$60.00

Full Page B&W.	\$50.00
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Half page B&W. (4 x 3 ½")	\$30.00
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1/4 th page B&W. (4 x 1 ½")	\$20.00
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SIBERIAN IRISES

DIRIGO BLACK VELVET (White '99) (Tet) This is the "nearest to black" Siberian that we have seen. Upon opening, it has a velvety black sheen overlaying a dark purple flower with a prominent gold signal. 40-44 " tall. Its parents are GOLDEN EDGE (McEwen) and OVER IN GLORYLAND (Hollingworth). Judges awarded it an EC in 1995 and 1996, and an HC in '96..... \$25.

NEAT TRICK (White '97) - a two-tone blue violet with neat white splashes on the falls. Considered by Dr. McEwen a breakthrough in the Siberian world..... \$8.

ELISABETH MCEWEN (White '96) Deep blue-violet diploid with stylearms near white on edges. White signal. Received an HM in 1999.....\$5.

MAURICE POPE (White '96) Velvety red violet with greenish hafts and a large white signal. Vigorous grower!.....\$5.

LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER (Tiffney '96) - a small dainty bloom - standards, violet blue with faint darker edging; falls, cream w/violet blue veins and edging.....\$5.

RASPBERRY RAINBOW (Fulton '96) - Violet and green buds open to raspberry pink flowers, blending to sky blue. Bright yellow signal. Unique rainbow effect! long bloom season.....\$5.

For a complete listing and descriptions of Siberian and Japanese irises (including John White's 2000 Japanese Iris introduction, "DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE"), send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Shirley at above address.

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. Fax: 414 251-8298

Dues are:	Single Annual	\$ 5.00	Family Annual	\$ 6.00
	Single Triennial	\$ 13.00	Family Triennial	\$15.00
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**Back Cover: Siberians Irises Incorporated into the Perennial
 Beds at the Iowa Arboretum**

Photo: Lois Girton

