

# ***The Siberian Iris***



**BLUEBERRY FAIR (Hollingsworth '97)**

***FALL 2004***



**ROARING JELLY (Schafer/Sacks '92)**



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# THE SIBERIAN IRIS

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Front Cover: 2004 Morgan-Wood Medal Winner, **BLUEBERRY FAIR**, photo by *Edmundas Kondratas*

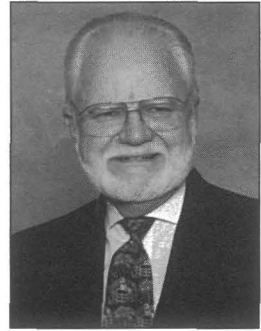
Back Cover: Iris Peak Bloom in California, photo by *Harold Peters*

Inside Front Cover: 1) **ROARING JELLY** (pop. poll winner) photo from Joe Pye Weed's Garden's online catalog, 2) Ad for JI convention, *Dennis Hager*

Inside Back Cover: 1) **SULTAN'S RUBY** (second in pop. poll), photo by *Edmundas Kondratas*, 2) *Dunlop & Cole* ad

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The AIS Convention in Fresno this spring was an excellent opportunity to see lots of bearded irises, but very few beardless iris. However, the bloom season for Siberians here in my garden was excellent! The winter rains had helped in the development of good root systems and a good supply of bloomstalks and blooms. The bloom season here appears to be earlier each year. This is probably because of the inevitable climate change that comes with global warming.



Don't despair! Mark your calendar now for the 2005 AIS Convention in St. Louis (May 10-14, 2005.) The SSI Board meeting is scheduled for May 10 and the general meeting of the membership on May 11. Siberians do very well here and we should see a lot of beardless bloom. Also, mark your calendar NOW for the SSI mini-convention in 2006. This will be held the day following the AIS Convention set for Portland, OR. All of the Siberian and species iris sent by hybridizers will be in the Tom and Ellen Abrego garden and the Lorena Reid garden. Registration will be limited to 300 participants due to the limited capacity of these gardens to receive buses. On that day, Sunday, May 28, 2006, we will visit these two gardens, hold our auction, and celebrate with a closing banquet that evening. The hotel headquarters for the Siberian/species mini-convention is the same as for the AIS Convention. Will Plotner is serving as general chairman of this mini-convention.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of SSI in Fresno, the following decisions were made: (1) No dues increase at the present time. The reserve funds are sufficient to support our activities without a dues increase; (2) The design and publication of new *Invitations to Join SSI* was authorized. 1st VP Judy Hollingworth is accomplishing this task; (3) The 2006 mini-convention will be a combined Siberian and species convention as we have done in the past; and, (4) The publication of the *2004 Cumulative Check List of Siberian Irises* was authorized. The complete printing of the 2003



*Check List* was sold out and there was a waiting list. This has been accomplished and the updated *Cumulative Check List* is now available for purchase. At the general meeting of the membership, Judy Hollingworth presented an excellent retrospective of the Siberian hybridizing efforts of Currier McEwen. There was spirited bidding on rhizomes of CURRIER (Hollingworth '04) and MERRYSRING (McEwen '04).

CONGRATULATIONS to Bob Hollingworth the hybridizer of BLUEBERRY FAIR that was voted the Morgan-Wood Medal for 2004 and SOMEBODY LOVES ME, voted an Award of Merit for 2004. Also to Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks for FOND KISS which was voted an Award of Merit for 2004.

I look forward to seeing you in one or more gardens in the coming years!

*E. Roy Epperson*



## THE 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, **Susan Grigg, 105 Trotters Ridge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27614-9620; (919)870-8345; smgrigg@bellsouth.net**

Dues: 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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Society for Siberian Irises web page: <http://www.socsib.org/>



# **AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY**

## **2004 SIBERIAN AWARDS**

### **MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL**

91 **BLUEBERRY FAIR** (Robert Hollingworth)

#### ***Runners-up:***

61 **RIVERDANCE** (Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks)

55 **SPRINKLES** (Bob Bauer and John Coble)

53 **MESA PEARL** (Bob Bauer and John Coble)

### **AWARD OF MERIT**

64 **FOND KISS** (Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks)

62 **SOMEBODY LOVES ME** (Robert Hollingworth)

#### ***Runners-up:***

57 **CARMEN JEANNE** (Calvin Helsley)

50 **BUTTER AND CREAM** (Currier McEwen)

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

47 **CHINA SPRING** (Bob Bauer & John Coble)

46 **LAVENDER FAIR** (Robert Hollingworth)

37 **BARBARA SCHMIEDER** (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

36 **JUST CRUISING** (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

33 **DANDY'S HORNPIPE** (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

30 **IN FULL SAIL** (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

30 **MAGNUM BORDEAUX** (Bob Bauer & John Coble)

29 **LEMON VEIL** (Bob Bauer & John Coble)

#### ***Runners-up:***

27 **TUMBLEBUG** (Bob Bauer & John Coble)

26 **PLUM FROLIC** (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

25 **ROSY BOWS** (Bob Bauer & John Coble)



# **BLUEBERRY FAIR**

*by Bob Hollingworth, Michigan*

I'm glad **BLUEBERRY FAIR** received the recognition of winning a Morgan-Wood medal because it may be my favorite of all the irises we have introduced. It's in the top three for sure. Although the color isn't particularly novel among Siberians, there are enough variations in the blue shadings to be interesting. But the thing that always draws me is the perfect round, full, very ruffled form.

The vigor and clump structure are also extremely satisfactory. Like so many other tetraploids we have introduced, this owes its qualities mainly to two induced tetraploids that came from the germinal cross of **RUFFLED VELVET** and **SHOWDOWN**. **JEWELLED CROWN** was one, which led to **CORONATION ANTHEM**, one parent of **BLUEBERRY FAIR**. The other parent (82J2C7), a sister seedling of **JEWELLED CROWN**, contributed much of the wonderful ruffling. This seedling, too, might well have been introduced, but it was a chimera from the colchicine treatment that threw both diploid and tetraploid parts and I never did get them completely sorted out.

Still, I've kept it around for 20 years and once in a while still use it to make a cross. Curiously perhaps, although **BLUEBERRY FAIR** has been used as a parent a number of times, none of the seedlings has led to a further introduction. Maybe it's too hard to improve on the original.



## **AIS CONVENTION MAY 9-14, 2005, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

### *Scheduled SSI meetings:*

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2005, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

SSI Program:

Wednesday, May 11, 2005, 2:30 - 3:30 pm



## **NEW MEMBERS**

### **KATHY ZELLER**

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### **NANCY CHAMBELLAN**

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Hope NJ 07844-0309

### **CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN LIBRARY**

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Groton, MA 01450

**CHUCK & BECKY SIMON**

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**ALISON SIMPSON**

Limavady' 9.C.R.D.  
Oamaru  
New Zealand

**WINONA STEVENSON**

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Lake Isabella, CA 93240

**GAY TAKAKOSHI**

11272A Waples Mill Road  
Oakton, VA 22124

**LYN WILSON**

500 Adair Circle  
Hutchinson, KS 67502

**NOTICE FROM THE NEW AIS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

Section dues will be accepted by credit card **IF** they are sent along with AIS dues. This should be especially attractive for overseas members. If you have any questions on this procedure, please give me a call or e-mail.

Tom Gormley  
AIS Membership Secretary  
P. O. Box 28  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016-0028  
aismemsec@earthlink.net  
636-274-6149

## **SIBERIAN POPULARITY POLL**

	<u>2004 Votes</u>	<u>'03 Rank</u>
1. <b>ROARING JELLY</b> (Schafer/Sacks '92)	16	2
2. <b>SULTAN'S RUBY</b> (Hollingworth '88)	11	4
3. <b>CARELESS SALLY</b> (Schafer/Sacks '96)	10	3
4. <b>OVER IN GLORYLAND</b> (Hollingworth '93)	9	5
<b>SHAKER'S PRAYER</b> (Warner '90)	9	6
5. <b>CORONATION ANTHEM</b> (Hollingworth '90)	8	1
<b>FOND KISS</b> (Schafer/Sacks '99)	8	8
<b>SHALL WE DANCE</b> (Hollingworth '92)	8	5
<b>SOMEBODY LOVES ME</b> (Hollingworth '98)	8	9
<b>SUMMER SKY</b> (Cleveland '35)	8	10
6. <b>BLUEBERRY FAIR</b> (Hollingworth '97)	7	5
<b>LEMON VEIL</b> (Bauer/Coble '00)	7	....
<b>MAGNUM BORDEAUX</b> (Bauer/Coble '00)	7	....
<b>MESA PEARL</b> (Bauer/Coble '94)	7	8
<b>STRAWBERRY FAIR</b> (Hollingworth '94)	7	5
7. <b>BANISH MISFORTUNE</b> (Schafer/Sacks '99)	6	7
<b>LADY VANESSA</b> (Hollingworth '86)	6	9
<b>PENNYWHISTLE</b> (Schafer/Sacks '00)	6	....
<b>REPRISE</b> (Warburton '87)	6	10
<b>RIVERDANCE</b> (Schafer/Sacks '97)	6	6
<b>TRIM THE VELVET</b> (Schafer/Sacks '95)	6	8
<b>WHITE AMBER</b> (Schafer/Sacks '01)	6	....

### **RUNNERS-UP**

<b>BABY SISTER</b> (McEwen '86)	5
<b>CAESAR'S BROTHER</b> (Morgan '32)	5
<b>CHINA SPRING</b> (Bauer/Coble '99)	5
<b>ESTHER C.D.M.</b> (McGarvey '82)	5
<b>HARPSWELL SNOWBURST</b> (McEwen '91)	5
<b>JEWELLED CROWN</b> (Hollingworth '87)	5
<b>JUST CRUISING</b> (Schafer/Sacks '01)	5
<b>MABEL CODAY</b> (Helsley '85)	5
<b>NEAT TRICK</b> (J. White '97)	5
<b>PANSY PURPLE</b> (McEwen '71)	5
<b>ROSY BOWS</b> (Bauer/Coble '00)	5



# **SIBERIANS IN THE CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY**

*by Harold Peters, California*

I believe that every article about gardens needs to start with the basic climate, geography and general details of the garden. In my case, my hobby of growing irises went amok and turned into a small commercial garden growing and selling about 900 TB cultivars, 250 medians, 80 Louisianas, 60 Siberians, 40 spuria, 80 PCIs, 30 arilbreds and 5 species. Numbers have varied significantly from year to year. My first iris purchase was in 1986 and this year completes 9 years of being commercial. I started with TBs and then quickly expanded with arilbreds. Medians were added in 1996 and the beardless spuria, Siberians and LAs were added in 1997. I started commercial operations with about 1000 TBs in pots. Carriage (walk-in) trade is still a major portion of my business. I am planning on having about 2000 pots for the 2005 season. I have expanded to a printed catalog and a website. The website is terribly out of date and will be the focus of this winter's chores.

The garden is located in the beginning Sierra Nevada foothills 25 miles east of Sacramento. The climate is Mediterranean with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. My normal rainfall is somewhere between 30 and 40 inches with the majority between January and May. My garden is on top of a hill at 1100 feet elevation and hasn't had a killing frost for a couple of years. Summers usually have hot spells in the 100s but these are generally limited to a week to 10 days and then the sea breeze comes in and cools the highs to the upper 80s to low 90s. The earliest 100 temperatures I remember was the first week of May and the latest was mid October.

The property is 5 acres and kite shaped with the house about where the string would be tied. Access to the road and the lowest part of the property is at the tail end of the kite. The lot initially had no level area. I had a bulldozer level the area at the top and on the southwestern corner so our four children could play various ball

games and other activities that are best on level ground. Initially the irises were planted near the house. They soon expanded to the hillside alongside the driveway at my wife's suggestion/demand because she wanted something green instead of weeds when approaching the house. When I went commercial, the level area was progressively converted to irises. The rows on the hillside consist of a series of 16' long 3" x 6" cedar boards on edge following the contour of the hill. The area uphill of the board was leveled to 2' back by using the dirt uphill or by importing dirt.

In most respects my garden is planted like a hobby garden. Meaning that I grow one clump of each cultivar 24" apart in rows. I dig a row when the row would be too crowded next year or too unsightly with some spaces empty and other spaces clumps consisting of 1 or 2 rhizomes, some with 5 to 10 rhizomes and some nonsellers with more than 10 rhizomes. The commercial aspects that relate to the Siberians have all been potted irises obtained by wholesale purchase. The Siberian customers have been in the minority but most have been very enthusiastic.

## **2004**

Most articles are upbeat and positive. Unfortunately, this article does not fit that pattern. For the Siberians, 2004 comes real close to being a disaster. Spring was early and short. The major newspaper for the area did not print my ad due to a mixup. The two situations cut garden visitor traffic significantly. Very few Siberians were sold. I start the wholesale order in pots in kiddie pools as late as my supplier can ship. When the rains start, the pots are transferred to frames in the pot sales area. Based on lessons learned earlier, leftover pots are transferred to 40" diameter by 8" tall kiddie pools in a heavily shaded area under the canopy of four Japanese flowering cherry trees and east of a wall of lilacs. The area is just north of a rhododendron so the pots get watered frequently. I did not get this transfer done in a timely manner this year. Twice the Siberians were water stressed and a number did not survive. The ones that did survive are still bedraggled.

The 126' field row was a combination of established clumps and new divisions to fill the numerous holes. A gopher was working in the west end of the row and had been successful in avoiding my traps by burying them. I assume it was a different gopher on the east end of the row that also was successful in burying the traps. Those two gophers continued this year. As I am writing this article on October 11, 2004 I finally caught a gopher near the west end of the rows. Between my normal losses to climate intolerance and the gophers, what was a respectable row of established clumps and new plantings is now reduced to a few small divisions that escaped the gopher's attention.

## **Weeds**

Weeds have also been a major problem with the Siberians. The soil in that row has been amended extensively with compost and has also been mulched with compost. The transition area from the flat area of the individual terrace to the bare hillside area was a very favorable area for the germination of weeds. With an acre in irises and another "landscaped" acre, weed control is a combination of herbicides and premergents with hand pulling as a final cleanup. The system works well when I follow an every two week spraying program. There is one herbicide that kills grasses that I can safely spray on TBs. I was leery of spraying the Siberians because of their more grass like foliage. I have since been told by a knowledgeable irisarian that I did not need to worry about using the pesticide on Siberians because he did it without a problem. Hand weeding the Siberian row was required more than even the medians. With the slope of the dirt below the Siberian row at 20 to 45 degrees, the ankles and feet were frequently the limiting factor in how long I could weed at one session. The back was a close second in being the limiting weeding factor.

## **The Future**

Shade for plants is precious on the property. I have two 25' beds on the hilltop that gets some useful afternoon shade. I will move the survivors to the bed that gets the most shade. During the AIS

National Convention there was a nice Siberian clump in bloom at the Sutton's garden in Porterville. That is a tough environment for a Siberian so I arranged to buy the clump of **'Kentucky Maid'** as it has since been registered. One of the Louisiana iris robin members in Arkansas mentioned his *Iris sanguinea* so I arranged to get a division. Any remaining spaces will be filled from the left over pots.

The new Siberian bed is on level ground so hand weeding will be easier on my body. One edge is already bordered with 3" x 6" cedar boards. The remaining 3 edges will also be bordered with cedar. This controls the transition zone between moist/mulched and dry/bare so RoundUp can be used as needed outside the beds. Hand weeding inside the bed should be minimal and easy. Gophers are still a potential problem but historically that general area has only had one gopher that had to die of old age. Even gopher trapping is easier on level ground.

I am discouraged because my Siberian experience has taken a major setback. The new location has lots of potential advantages including better exposure to the walk-in customers. I am hopeful that a better gopher control strategy can be found. Then I could expand back to what I used to have. I like Siberians more than 25 clumps can satisfy.





# **ENTERING SIBERIANS IN IRIS SHOWS**

*by Dorothy Willott, Ohio*

Do you want to win more ribbons at your local iris show? Bring in Siberian irises as specimens and to use in arrangements.

Siberian irises are easier to transport than tall bearded irises and more stems fit in smaller spaces in your vehicle. There are numerous methods of transporting specimens. We are fortunate to have crates of glass pop and milk bottles available which are ideal. Our clubs also have glass vases which came in divided cardboard boxes. Some societies have constructed carriers with plastic tubing in various lengths. Another option is a pail with chicken wire placed so stems can be inserted without touching each other. An enterprising exhibitor to our last show brought pots of growing Siberians from which he selected the best stems for entry at the show. Use your imagination to come up with a method that best suits your mode of transportation.

When selecting stems for entry, try to pick the straightest ones, making sure there is no insect damage or evidence of disease. Specimens are supposed to be judged against perfection for that variety. A variety that normally has only a terminal bloom and a bud (that does not interfere with the open bloom) can be deserving of a blue ribbon. But a variety that normally has branching would be penalized if there was only a terminal bloom. Therefore, select the stem that best represents that variety, while making sure that branches are well balanced in their spacing. If you have plenty of stems available, it is a good idea to bring more than one of a variety in case one folds or is damaged. Excess stems can be used in arrangements or in a display.

## **Siberians in Arrangements**

Siberian irises are more suitable for arrangements than bearded irises. They are more graceful and can easily be cut to various lengths. The only drawback is when a design schedule calls for spe-

cific color irises which are not readily available in Siberians, such as brown, deep yellow or orange. NOTE: Discourage show planners from citing specific colors for design classes. It is really difficult to find just the right color in any type of iris.

One of the best designs for Siberian irises is the vertical design. This is often awkward for bearded irises, but the normally vertical stems of Siberians are ideal. The current trend in judging arrangements is the principle of “less is more” and away from mass type designs. The simplicity of Ikebana designs uses this effectively. Again, Siberians are thus better to use in arrangements than tall bearded irises.

The rule for designs in an AIS approved show is: “One or more iris bloom(s) must be used in each design and should be the dominant flower in the design.” Designs are judged on conformance to show schedule requirements such as whether dried materials may be included or accessories used. Use of color and creative expression are evaluated along with the actual design components. The elements of design to be considered are balance, proportion, scale, rhythm, dominance, contrast and unity.

Visit your local library to find books which describe these principles. Practice on whatever flowers you have available and, when iris season comes around, have fun making entries to enhance your iris show. You could win a Best Design of Show Award.



## **GIFTS TO SSI IN MEMORY OF CURRIER McEWEN**

Robert and Judith Hollingworth, Michigan  
Proceeds from auction at SSI meeting in Fresno, CA

## 2004 POPULARITY POLL COMMENTS

This year 35 people voted with ballots coming from 16 states, Canada and Russia. Here in Massachusetts, we had an outstanding Siberian season which was quite gratifying since the bearded irises performed so badly (they didn't like the ice cover that they got all winter!). There are so many exciting new Siberians in commerce and they are making their way onto the Popularity Poll. There are many older ones that are still popular, too, and, thank heavens, we are allowed to vote for any Siberians that we think are deserving. I hope that all of you will try to add a few new Siberians to your collection in 2005. If you don't already grow **SUMMER SKY**, get it and you'll see why an iris introduced in 1935 is still on the Popularity Poll.

I hope that you will have a great iris season and don't forget to vote for your favorite Siberians after bloom is finished.

*Barbara Schmieder*



After frightful November-December 2002, when we had temperature to -40 C without snow during more 10 days, became very wet weather in the year 2003. Very wet and very, very cold was in May and June 2004 this year.

Very, very cold for this time of year. Also, in May were many frost nights. Therefore, I could lose more 120 beardless irises, imported from your country (USA). Siberians didn't want to grow and bloom. Blooming was very late - only to the end of June. After blooming, I lost many Sibtosas and Sino-Siberians. Possibly, they don't like such wet weather and very wet soil and need planting more like bearded irises.

I wrote in ballot only that 20 Siberians bloomed very abundantly and looked very nice during long time. King of Siberian show of this year for me was **LORENA CRONIN** (Cronin '96), very nice iris with wonderful narrow foliage and simple flowers of nice colour combination.

One of first in blooming were T. Tamberg's sibtosas: white **BUTTERFLY FOUNTAIN** '00, light blue **PAUSBACK SIBTOSA** '94, **BERLIN CHALLENGER** (NR). But the best was **ROYAL DOLLY** (Reid '95) for its fantastic colour. I lost all these Sibtosas not including only **BUTTERFLY FOUNTAIN**. Very good were Tamberg's tetraploid Siberians: **BERLIN PURPLE WINE** '93 (nice colour, good substance), **BIG'S CHILD** '94, **BERLIN SKY** '95, **STEPS IN BLUE** '00 (very good cold colour combination). But the best were his **SILBERKANTE** '93 and **BERLINER WELLE** '01 (possibly, the best).

Very nice looked these blue Siberians: **WHERE EAGLES DARE** (Helsley '95), **DEAR DIANNE** (McEwen '79), **OUT IN MISSOURI** (Niswonger '01), **SHIPS ARE SAILING** (Schafer/Sacks '98), **JAYBIRD** (Hager '82).

Bauer/Coble are outstanding modern hybridizers. They introduce fine Siberians. Simply super were their **LEMON VEIL** '01 and their **CHINA SPRING** '99 which bloom one of the first in my garden each year.

Very good were next Bea Warburton's irises: **PURPLE PROSE** '86 and **TWEED** '83 - small copy in such outstanding colour, cultivars as **PERCHERON** '82 and **SPRING'S BROOK** '88.

Schafer/Sacks Siberians: **BANISH MISFORTUNE** '99, **PENNY WHISTLE** '00, **WHITE AMBER** '01, all bloomed very, very long and looked all this time wonderfully. I saw many another their very nice Siberians but they didn't bloom very abundantly.

Discoveries for me became very fine **FULFILLED PROMISE** (Jamison '??) and **OUT IN MISSOURI** (Niswonger '01). They must be getting more popular for their super qualities: nice colour combinations, forms, velvety, foliage, growth.

Very long and unusually bloomed was Dana Borglum's **ALLY OOPS** '02, hybrid between *Iris pseudacorus* and *Iris sibirica*. These fantastic cultivars have very nice arched foliage.

In the end of Siberian blooming, very fantastic looked L. Reid's Sino-Siberians **PLUM GORGEOUS** '01, **BLUE-EYED PRINCESS** '02 and **PASTEL DANCER** '02. But I lost many of her cultivars and is not easy iris culture. Possibly, I'm not doing it right.

*Andrey Treschenkov, Russia*



**DEVIL'S DREAM** (Schafer/Sacks '90) put on the best show for me this year. I counted 67 bloomstalks on the clump when I cut them back this week.

*Linda Ridlon, Maine*



Thanks Barbara for doing the job of Pollster. We get a lot from studying the standings and even more from working on our lists.

My #6, **MAJESTIC PEARL VIOLET** - (is not newcomer to my garden and I have been ready to vote for it ever since Dave Niswonger sent it to me six years ago.) It has performed consistently through years of drought and seasons of downpours. I don't think we know yet how much of it is 40-chromosome Siberian (for sure it is one-quarter PCI), but it is a breakthrough of some kind.

The Sino-Siberians add so much to the colors and patterns of the Siberian collection, I do hope they get into the mix a little more regularly. **MAJESTIC PEARL VIOLET** has great growing qualities and it keeps making big bee pods and one of these days there will be a seed in there.

*Elaine Hulbert, Virginia* (Ed. note: 'Majestic Pearl Violet' is not listed in the 2003 Siberian checklist)



We've had a wonderful season, lovely and long with some rebloom

but very low takes on our tetraploid crosses. This seems a little off since the diploid crosses took about as well as usual.

*Jeff and Joyce Dunlop, Maine*



Weather conditions must have been ideal this year – very wet spring and a not-extra-hot June because the bloom was outstanding, with several super clumps. One that really outdid itself was **DREAMING YELLOW** (McEwen '71) which not only put up a wonderful set of bloom stalks but bloomed over a long period of time. **GERMANTET ONE** (Tamberg '93) was spectacular and drew a lot of attention from garden visitors: tall bloom stalks and gorgeous deep purple flowers of super size. **LADY OF QUALITY** (McEwen '84) isn't new but may still be my favorite because of its pinky lavender color, so clean, and its big, wavy form. This is the first year we have ever had repeat bloom, and we got it on two McEwen cultivars: **CHATTER BOX BELLE** '91 and **RUFFLED VELVET** '73.

*Arnold Koekkok, Iowa.*



My votes are probably not significant because most of my Siberians bloomed for the first time this year. Although I had admired Siberians in my son's garden in California, I thought I couldn't grow there here in our arid high desert climate and alkaline soil. I live in the mountains east of Albuquerque at the 7,000-foot elevation, Zone 5. When I heard a talk by one of our local New Mexico Iris Society members who grows Siberians (although 2,000 feet lower and with sandy rather than clay soil), I decided to give them a try.

Some of my first Siberians were given to me by a friend who found them in the garden of a home she purchased in Iowa. She didn't know the names but one of them, from growth habits and bloom, just has to be **CAESAR'S BROTHER** (Morgan '32). It was one of my



first Siberians to bloom and it has performed well in the garden ever since. This is probably no surprise to Siberian growers.

Also, in that year, 1999, I ordered some Siberians from Julius Wadekamper including **HARBOR MIST** (Waite '83). This Siberian has bloomed and repeat bloomed for me many times. **BABY SISTER** (McEwen '86) and another he called '**GERMAN TET ONE**' I don't know if it ever got another name. (*Ed. note: see Arnold's comments above*).

In 2001, having finally seen some bloom on the Siberians mentioned above, I expanded the Siberian bed and ordered more. Among the survivors, the following bloomed this year for the first time: **BUTTER AND SUGAR** (McEwen '77), **FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES** (Witt '75), **WIZARDRY** (Hollingworth '85), **EVER AGAIN** (McEwen '92), **MY LOVE** (Scheffy '48), **SPRINGS BROOK** (Warburton '88), **FROSTY RIM** (Bush '79), **CAMBRIDGE** (Brummitt '87), **SEA SHADOWS** (Brummitt '66), **OVER IN GLORYLAND** (Hollingworth '93) and **SILVER EDGE** (McEwen '74). I did not make adequate notes regarding the quantity of bloom and whether or not the blooms were above the foliage. Next year, with luck, I will make a better report.

Some of my other Siberians have yet to bloom and part of which is my fault because I neglected to check my drip system and it became clear that some were not getting enough water. Our total rainfall was under 7 inches and so far this year, it is still under 8 inches.

*Helen K. Crotty, New Mexico*



## FROM SIBERSPACE

*by Edmundas Kondratas, Lithuania*

The spring and summer until now were quite unusual, but we live in area where such things can happen and this is not great surprise. Every year can be different. Spring was long and cold and, by the way, dry. Beginning of summer also was cool, but I was hoping to have warmer weather at iris bloom time. It started with cherished hopes but not for long.

Only **BANISH MISFORTUNE** and some earlier ones avoided rain period. With more abundant flowering rains began and continued until end of flowering. As weather was not only wet but cool too, flower opening was slow and drops of rain penetrated inside bud, also flowers opened still damaged in many cases. There was impossible on several varieties to take not good, but only satisfactory photo. You will see it on my photos. (*Ed. note: some of the photos will appear in future TSI*). Some varieties such as **SAILORS FANCY**, **RUFFLED VELVET**, **EGO**, **AQUA WHISPERS**, **CORONATION ANTHEM**, **LADY VANESSA**, **TOM SCHAEFER**, **SULTAN'S RUBY**, **LEMON VEIL** and some others have flowered quite abundantly and only often were damaged by rain or hail. Some, as **PLEASURES OF MAY**, **CHEERY LYN**, **DEVIL'S DREAM**, **ROARING JELLY**, **SHIPS ARE SAILING** had less flower stalks, but there was enough to enjoy. I was pleased this year with Marty's **RIVERDANCE** which is of unusual color and had 6 or 7 flower stalks, though clump is not large. I was unhappy because of damaged flowers on **DAWN WALTZ**, **SARAH TIFFNEY**, **SEA OF DREAMS** the opening of which happened in most rainy period. Near **SULTAN'S RUBY**, which by visitors was confirmed as real jewel, another was **BLUEBERRY FAIR**. **LEMON VEIL** has sent lot of flower stalks and I think is very good for landscaping purposes as well as for enjoying from shorter distance.

I was some disappointed, that some good developed clumps had no bloomstalks at all or only one or two. Such were **JEWELLED CROWN**, **SOMEBODY LOVES ME**, and **STRAWBERRY FAIR**. But what

was my surprise when after flowering time (I was at sea resort for 5 days) and after returning found new stalks on clumps. Especially rich was **SOMEBODY LOVES ME**, which two clumps had 2 stalks each before and next time 12 and 13. **SAILOR'S FANCY** showed real repeat bloom sending the same count of stalks repeating (about 10 each clump). **STRAWBERRY FAIR** sent 3 stalks instead of none first time and **BUNDLE OF JOY** one. One stalk had **CARELESS SALLY** and one **CORONATION ANTHEM**. This is first time when American hybrids show repeat bloom for me. But I was sad with Ensata's doubles this year. Though **RIGAMAROLE** has sent number of stalks not one bud could open because of rain damage.

Many good hybrids flowered, but I cannot describe all. I must tell that I very liked Bee Warburton's hybrids and favorite one is **PURPLE PROSE**. I also like for its unusual early color C. McEwen's hybrid **PANSY PURPLE**. It is found in background of other sibs. There was for me surprise with C. Bartlett's **PERFECT VISION**. I have sent photo on list from first stalk, but other was much stronger and bud larger. Unfortunately, before my arrival on holiday it did not open and I cut stalk and took with me. It flowered in vase and what surprise for me when this flower distinctly differed from first flower. It was compact with darker color and with no expressed light rim, though tendency of lighter edge was visible. Maybe in the garden on the sun it do another way. Growing Siberians, I observed, that not all American varieties flower or grow well. Adaptability to climactic conditions changed their nature. Especially it is obvious with SDB irises. I found that when growing Siberians from seeds, they are better growers and bloomers.

So in my modest work with Siberians, my main goal is to select better growers than modern forms of flowers. From other hand here in Lithuania now is very popular movement for beautifully equipped farmsteads which are mostly composed on showy landscape views. Also Siberian clumps with good silhouette for that purpose can be welcome. My seedling selections partially answer this request. Seedling *Adolf Svoboda* is not of that modern form, but as tetraploid is very good performer here. My Czech friend

Milan Blazek has reported that he have sent this seedling to exhibition “Floriade” in Holland and when he came once to visit it during iris flowering time, he observed unbelievably well-developed clump. Also, Japan tourists turning round and making photos of this iris. I could not do good photo of clump in my garden because of not good place in garden and also bad weather. Seedling *Leonas Melenis* is not so tall as former, but also good grower with many flower stalks. Sdlg. *Karaliene Morta* and sdlg. *Karalius Mindaugas* as well as Sdlg. *Milzhinu Daina* are tall plants and good to make landscape silhouettes. When last flowered almost all visitors first paid their attention to this seedling asking: “What is this?”. Several new seedlings are still growing in containers and I am waiting to see what they will be like.



## **Online Iris Register**

*Submitted by John Jones, California*

The Electronic Services Committee of the AIS has embarked on a project to provide electronic access to registration and Check List data. The long-term goal of this project is to have the complete registration data for every iris registered by the AIS in a database on the internet and to have it searchable with a standard search engine.

We have electronically scanned the 1989, 1979, and 1969 Check Lists and a group of volunteers have proof read and corrected the errors that were found.

Additionally, we have recently formatted and added the electronic version of the 1999 Check List. All four Check Lists are in the main database (called Checklist Database) at [www.irisregister.com](http://www.irisregister.com) with a search engine to access the data.

Additionally, we now have a list of every iris name ever registered by the AIS through 10 Sept. 2004. It also contains all the "reserved" names as of the same date. Hybridizers in particular will appreciate this complete list.

Note that the names from 2001 to date do not have any indication of type or awards, just the year of the publication in which they were registered.

This data is available at the Namelist Database button on the iris-register home page: <http://www.irisregister.com>

Since the addition of the 1999 Check List data, the Board of Directors of the AIS has approved a new subscription fee schedule for Irisregister:

1yr - \$10.00; 3yr - \$28.00; 5yr - \$45.00; 10yr - \$85.00.

However, you may download for free, the electronic versions of any of the 1989, 1979, or 1969 Check Lists. The 1999 Check List is not downloadable at this time.

This data is available on the irisregister website: <http://www.iris-register.com> at the Checklist Database button.

The Check List data is divided into three segments:

Segment 1: Iris Name

Segment 2: Hybridizer, Year, Seedling number, Type, Height,  
Season

Segment 3: Parentage, Introduction, and other info

Each of these sections can be selected to be included or excluded from a particular search. More information is available through the Help button on the website.

The Namelist Database is useful if you don't know which Check List a particular iris is registered. Saves you having to look through the '39, '49 and '59 Check Lists for those names you can't find in the Checklist Database ('99, '89, '79, and '69 Check Lists)

Hybridizers Note: The Namelist database is the one to search when you are looking for a name for that new fire-engine red flower you just discovered in your seedling patch. While the data is accurate through September 10, 2004, we are working on a process that will update the database on a monthly basis.

In order to use the search engine you will need a user ID and a password. Follow the instructions at the database website:

<http://www.irisregister.com>

John Jones

Chairman, AIS Electronic Services



**SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRIS BOARD MEETING**  
**Fresno, California**  
**Tuesday, April 20, 2004**

I. Call to Order: President E. Roy Epperson at noon, Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Welcome, opening remarks, and Introduction of Board Members.  
Board Member Katherine Steele's husband is in hospice care at their home in North Carolina.

**In attendance:**

Terry Aitken  
Dana Borglum  
Jill & Jim Copeland  
E. Roy Epperson  
Ellen Gallagher  
Susan and Glen Grigg  
Bob & Judy Hollingworth  
Lynda Love  
John Ludi  
Sandy Ives  
Anna Mae Miller  
Will Plotner  
Carol Warner  
Jim Wilson

II. Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2003 (as printed in TSI, Volume 10, Number 6, Fall 2003, pps. 33-37).

Minutes were approved with the following change: Tom \*Gormley\* should read Tom \*Abrego\*

III. Discussion of 2006 mini-Convention of SSI.

It was decided that the convention will be a combined Siberian and Species convention. The convention will be a one day convention consisting of two gardens: Lorena Reid's in the south and Tom

Abrego in the north. These two gardens will be exclusive to the mini-convention. The schedule is planned as follows: Tour first garden, lunch (2 hours between gardens), tour second garden, banquet and program. A planned plant auction may take place on the buses \*during\* the tour. Registration will be limited to 300 registrants (6 buses) and will be open to SSI/SIGNA members first. Banquet attendance is not limited.

The SSI Board Meeting will be held during the AIS Convention to provide more time for the mini-convention garden tour.

Hybridizers have been asked to send 7 divisions of each plant to be exhibited: two will go to the mini-convention gardens and the other five will go to the AIS convention gardens. Mini-convention awards will not be limited to plants seen in bloom at the two mini-convention gardens only, but will also include Siberians and Species seen blooming in the AIS convention gardens.

#### IV. Reports of Officers

##### 1. President: E. Roy Epperson

Invitations to Join (ITJ's): We need new ones. Judy Hollingworth volunteered to do the ITJ's. The new IJT's will include a slip-in listing the current commercial directory. A motion was made by Sandy Ives to print two thousand new IJT's at the most beneficial price. Carol Warner seconded. Motion passed.

Checklists: There are no checklists currently available and there is a waiting list. E. Roy Epperson is working on updating the current checklist. He will check a price on fifty checklists to fulfill the current waiting list. A new checklist will be published in 2006. A suggestion to burn the checklist on a CD was made, also that members can update their current checklist by adding the R&I's that are published in the spring TSI to their checklists.

##### 2. Treasurer: Jim Copeland

The treasurer's report was presented. Income exceeded expenses

for 2003 by over \$600. Current assets total nearly \$16,000. Jim wants a minimum of 2 years of operating funds in reserve. A proposal to increase membership dues was discussed. Sandy Ives suggested encouraging the triennial membership. Carol Warner moved to \*not\* increase dues. Dana Borglum seconded. Motion carried.

3. First Vice President: Judy Hollingworth (Report of the Nominating Committee)

Jim Wilson will be replaced on the board by Chad Harris in January 2005. David Niswonger and Peter Wiexelman will re-run.

4. Second Vice President: Sandy Ives

Sandy reported that he has put digital pictures of the Hamilton 2003 Siberian Iris convention onto a CD and offered to burn a duplicate CD for interested parties.

5. TSI Editor: Ellen Gallagher

Ellen said that complimentary copies of the TSI are a non-issue because they are part of the SSI's education mission. She also reported that 7 copies are sent to China to college professors there. Ellen also reported that the Fall TSI will use barcodes to increase efficiency and decrease cost. She is also moving towards having the TSI shrink-wrapped to decrease costs.

V. Administrative Reports

1. Membership Secretary: Susan Grigg

Susan presented a detailed membership report. There are 453 current paying members, 88 new members and 49 non-renewing members. Susan reported that a second notice sent to members with expired memberships got a good response and was worthwhile.

2. Webmaster: Jim Wilson

Jim moved that all elected officers, directors and the editor be listed on the website along with contact information. Sandy Ives seconded. Motion carried. Jim pointed out that no @ sign appears in the email addresses on the website so intervention is required by the user to use the email address.

### 3. Slides: Bob Hollingworth

The SSI slides are requested 8 to 10 times per year and are up to date. Also, a set of historic Siberians hybridized before 1975 will be available.

## VI. Other New Business

### 1. Back Issues

Per Bob Hollingworth, Linda Doffek has back issues of the TSI that need to be moved to the Hollingworth residence. Jim Copeland volunteered to travel to Linda's home and deliver the back issues back to Bob. Both Ellen Gallagher and Bob Hollingworth have a complete set of back issues. There is a possibility the back issues may be scanned and put on a CD in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Lynda Love, Secretary



## **SIBERIAN CHECKLIST NOTICE**

There was such a demand for the new cumulative checklist that it was sold out in record time as reported in our last issue. The Society reprinted some copies to hold us over until the next scheduled printing. The price is \$7.00 payable to the Society for Siberian Irises. Contact Ellen Gallagher, 1689 Riverside Drive, Berlin, NH 03570 or email: [ellengalla@yahoo.com](mailto:ellengalla@yahoo.com)



# SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

## Treasurer's Statement 2003

*by James A. Copeland*

Income		
Ads		\$ 220.00
Interest Income		241.86
The Siberian Iris Book Royalties		202.23
Membership		2,256.94
Checklists		596.00
Slide Rental, net		25.00
Donations in Memory of Currier McEwen		430.00
Donation Beardless and Borderless Convention		500.00
Donation Southwestern Michigan Iris Society		<u>500.00</u>
Total Income		<b>\$4,972.03</b>
Expenses		
Membership Chairperson Expenses		63.42
Treasurer's Expense		7.40
Checklist Printing		388.43
Checklist Mailing		24.30
Morgan-Wood Medal Engraving		29.40
TSI Publication - Spring 2003 Smith & Town		
Printing	\$1,349.00	
Mailing	<u>184.38</u>	
	Total	\$1,533.38
Fall 2003 Smith & Town		
Printing	\$1,792.00	
Envelopes (1000)	169.00	
Bulk Mailing Permit	150.00	
Mailing	<u>172.65</u>	
	Total	<u>\$2,283.65</u>
Total		\$3,822.03
Total Expenses		<b>\$4,329.98</b>
Income Net of Expenses		<b>642.05</b>

### Balance Sheet

*As of 12-31-2003*

Assets		
Bank Accounts		
-Checking	\$2,031.85	
-Savings	2,716.22	
Advance to Editor	<u>27.35</u>	
	Total	\$4,775.42
Investments		
Certificate of deposit 1.98% APY due 9-16-04	\$8,073.57	
Certificate of deposit 2.37% APY due 10-18-04	<u>\$3,071.95</u>	
	Total	\$10,915.29
Total Assets		<b>\$15,920.94</b>
Liabilities, Reserves, Surplus, General Surplus		
Total		<b>\$15,920.94</b>

## **ADVERTISING RATES**

*A source list for Siberians is printed in the 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: 1689 Riverside Dr., Berlin, NH 03570 by February 1st of each year.*

### **OTHER ADVERTISING RATES:**

<b>FULL PAGE COLOR</b> (4" x 7")	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>FULL PAGE B&amp;W</b> (4" x 7")	<b>50.00</b>
<b>HALF PAGE B&amp;W</b> (4" x 3 1/2")	<b>30.00</b>
<b>1/4 PAGE B&amp;W</b> (4" x 1 1/2")	<b>20.00</b>

(questions write to: ellengalla@yahoo.com)



## **SIBERIAN IRIS SLIDE SET**

***SLIDE SETS SUITABLE FOR A CLUB PROGRAM ARE  
AVAILABLE AT \$5.00 PER RENTAL AND THERE IS NOW  
AN HISTORIC SIBERIANS' SET AVAILABLE FROM:***

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# THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

*Section of the American Iris Society*

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### *Membership:*

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- 2) **Anna Mae Miller**, 1700 Bronson Way, Apt. 177, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009  
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### *Publicity: Tom Abrego*

**Robins: Michael Zarky**, 10963 Citrus Dr., Moorpark, CA 93021;  
**mzarky@earthlink.net**

**Research/Slides: Bob Hollingworth**, (same as Judy Hollingworth)





**SULTAN'S RUBY (Hollingworth '88)**

**DUNLOP & COLE**  
**- SIBERIAN IRISES -**

*Breeders Since 1993 - Originators - Display Gardens*

**NOTICE to MEMBERS of The SOCIETY for SIBERIAN IRISES**

*In 2005 we expect to offer two initial Siberian Iris introductions to the public. These will be DEAR CURRIER and MY FIRST KISS.*

*Both are superlative and will be listed at \$50. each. DEAR CURRIER however, may be offered with as few as 18 divisions available for sale. Public issue by our introducer, Fieldstone Gardens, begins in January.*

*Descriptions and photos of these will be in the Spring issue of TSI.*

*Members who wish to pre-register ahead of the public issue, to buy next spring, should please contact Jeff Dunlop at [DunlopJJ@aol.com](mailto:DunlopJJ@aol.com). Thank You.*



IRIS BLOOM IN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY