

The Siberian Iris

Fall 2006

Riverdance (Schafer/Sacks '97), Morgan-Wood Medal '06

*My First Kiss (Dean Cole '05)
Best Introduced Siberian '06
'Another Shower of Iris'
Portland, Oregon*





*Best Siberian seedling at 'Another Shower of Iris'
99K1B30 (Bob Hollingworth) Tom Gormley photo*



*Best Introduced Species at 'Another Shower of Iris'
Alley Oops (Dana Borglum 02) Carol Coleman photo*

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2

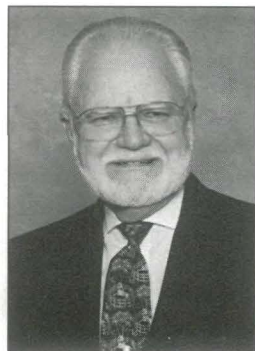
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Front Cover:

Photo credits for front cover: RIVERDANCE by Jan Sacks
MY FIRST KISS by Tom Gormley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sunday, May 28, the day following the regular AIS convention in Portland, OR, four bus loads of beardless iris enthusiasts toured the two host gardens for 'Another Shower of Iris': the garden of Ellen and Tom Abrego and the garden of Lorena Reid. It was a wonderful experience to have all of the beardless guests planted and blooming in these gardens. Were there showers? Oh, yes, and downpours as well. Mini-conventions such as this give us the opportunity to see the efforts of 'new' hybridizers such as **Dear Currier** (Jeff Dunlop '05); **My First Kiss** (Dean Cole '05) and **Joyce Cole** (Dean Cole '06); and **Willakenzie Wonder** (Debbie Gorham '04). Jeff and Dean have been pollen daubing for over 25 years, having been inspired and coached by Currier McEwen. Only in the last two years, however, have they marketed any of their work. Though not a guest iris, the planting of **Haleakala** (Marky Smith '06) at Aitken's Gardens was a show stopper of vibrant yellow blooms.

An auction of beardless plants was held on each of the four buses. The net proceeds from the auction and the excess income over expenditures of the mini-convention were donated 50/50 to SIGNA and SSI. Each of these groups received a check in the amount of \$2,872.00! So, not only were there showers of iris, showers of rain, but also showers of gold! On your behalf, I have expressed our sincere appreciation to Will Plotner, convention chair of 'Another Shower of Iris', and his staff.

Our thanks go to Susan Grigg and Ellen Gallagher for the display table that they manned at the AIS Convention. Many *Cumulative Checklists* were sold as were past issues of TSI. Also, several new members were recruited.

Congratulations to Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks for the Morgan-Wood Medal being voted to **Riverdance** for 2006.

An analysis of income from membership fees demonstrated that the cost of publication and distribution of *TSI* exceeds the annual fee income. Therefore, the Board of Directors voted to increase the membership fees. These new fees become effective October 1 and are printed elsewhere in this issue of *TSI*. The category of 'Life Membership' was eliminated from the dues structure. Most of the Sections took similar actions at their spring board meetings.

I hope to see each of you in Oklahoma City, April 30 - May 7, 2007 and especially for the 2009 Siberian/species Mini-convention in Minnesota.

E. Roy Epperson



THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

We welcome new members. Send your dues to the Membership Secretary, Susan Grigg, 105 Trotters Ridge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27614-9620; (919)870-8345; ssimemsec@nc.rr.com.

Dues - North America

Single Annual	\$10.00	Family Annual	\$12.00
Single Triennial	25.00	Family Triennial	30.00

Dues - Overseas

Annual	\$15.00	Triennial	\$40.00
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Society for Siberian irises web page: <http://www.socsib.org/>



2006 SIBERIAN AWARDS - AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

108 RIVERDANCE (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

93 SHIPS ARE SAILING (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

56 SOMEBODY LOVES ME (Robert Hollingworth)

AWARD OF MERIT

60 SALAMANDER CROSSING (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

53 BUTTER AND CREAM (Currier McEwen)

Runners-up:

48 LAVENDER FAIR (Robert Hollingworth)

47 BANISH MISFORTUNE (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

HONORABLE MENTION

111 HERE BE DRAGONS (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

59 CRÈME CARAMEL (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

46 TWELFTH KNIGHT (Carol Warner)

40 OUT IN MISSOURI (O. D. Niswonger)

39 KABOOM (Robert Bauer & John Coble)

36 MISTER PEACOCK (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

Runners-up:

35 NAVY TRIM (Calvin Helsley)

30 GOSSAMER BREEZE (Chandler Fulton)



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kip Ablin, PO Box 4084, Sonora, CA 95370

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REVISITING THE SIBERIAN IRIS 1995

(Reprinted from *The Siberian Iris*, Volume 8, Number 10, Spring 1995)

Esther C.D.M. Alias Gull's Wing

by Julius Wadekamper

After Dr. McGarvey died Mrs. McGarvey invited Borbeleta Gardens to come to Arkansas and dig Dr. McGarvey's seedlings. She wanted us to evaluate them and introduce any worthy material.

Several were outstanding. Amongst them was a superlative blue with darker veins that we named **Billy Mac**. Another, the best white we had ever seen, was named **Gull's Wing** and a third which was a light raspberry and a very late and long bloomer was named **Raspberry Snow**. This one bloomed over six weeks in the garden.

These plants, among others were all under number. In all we received about 25 seedlings. Regarding the other 23, while some of them may have served as good parents for one or another trait, they were not in our estimation worthy garden material for introduction.

The white Siberian, a late bloomer, was really special. We grew it next to **Wing on Wing** and **King of Kings**, two virtually indistinguishable from each other, only that one blooms three days before the other, but **Gull's Wing** outclassed them both, good as they are. We introduced **Gull's Wing** in 1989.

A couple of years later I had a chance to see **Esther C.D.M.** (a McGarvey white) in another garden, and it struck me as being similar to **Gull's Wing**. I purchased some plants of "Esther" and planted them in a field row next to **Gull's Wing**. The two are identical! It is now my conclusion that the seedling we received from Bill McGarvey's garden was indeed the one he called **Esther C.D.M.** Mrs. McGarvey did tell us that he did not label it in the garden for fear of vandalism. Some of the plants in his New York garden had been dug out while he was in Arkansas and after he died. You may recall that Dr. McGarvey introduced **Esther C.D.M.** in 1982 through the AIS Bulletin at \$1,500.00. (emphasis added by Editor in 2006)

We are now wrestling with the question of what to call the white iris that we received as a ‘seedling’. We have done a lot of publicity on **Gull’s Wing** and frankly we think it is the better name. If you have **Gull’s Wing** you should be aware that it may be the same plant as **Esther C.D.M.**



*(This is pertinent in 1995 since **Gull’s Wing** is eligible for an AM award and **Esther C.D.M.** has already gone through the awards process. This has been brought to the attention of Melody Wilhoit, the AIS Awards Chairman. ED.)* {**Gull’s Wing** garnered a HM in 1991 and never went further in the process while the iris named **Esther C.D.M.** went without any awards’ placement. Ellen Gallagher, TSI Editor, 2006}



SIBERIAN CHECKLIST

The cumulative Siberian iris checklist will be available again in 2006. It will include Siberian registrations and introductions updated through 2005 and the price is \$8.00 for North American addresses and \$10.00 (USD) for overseas payable to the Society for Siberian Irises.

The same information is also available on a CD with the prices being the same as for the printed Siberian Checklist. The CD is text only and contains no photos.

Contact Ellen Gallagher, 1689 Riverside Drive, Berlin, NH 03570 or email: ellengalla@yahoo.com.

.....*More from TSI's Spring 1995 issue:*

(taken from writings of Gertrude Jekyll in *Wood and Garden*, 1899)

COLOURS OF FLOWERS

I notice in plant-lists the most reckless and indiscriminate use of the words purple, violet, mauve, lilac and lavender, and as they are all related, I think they should be used with greater caution. I should say mauve and lilac cover the same ground; the word mauve came into use within my recollection. It is French for mallow, and the flower of the wild plant may stand as the type of what the word means. Lavender stands for a colder or bluer range of pale purples, with an inclination to grey; it is a useful word, because the whole colour of the flower spike varies so little. Violet stands for the dark garden violet, and I always think of the grand colour of *Iris reticulata* as an example of a rich violet-purple. But purple equally stands for this, and for many shades redder.

Snow-white is very vague. There is nearly so much blue about the colour of snow, from its crystalline surface and partial transparency, and the texture is so unlike that of any flower, that the comparison is scarcely permissible. I take it that the use of "snow-white" is, like that of "golden-yellow", more symbolic than descriptive, meaning any white that gives the impression of purity. Nearly all white flowers are yellowish-white, and the comparatively few that are bluish-white, such, for example, as *Omphalodes linifolia*, are of a texture so different from snow that one cannot compare them at all. I should say that most white flowers are near the colour of chalk; for although the word chalky-white has been used in a rather contemptuous way, the colour is really a very beautiful warm white, but by no means an intense white. The flower that always looks to me the whitest is that of *Iberis sempervirens*. The white is dead and hard, like a piece of glazed stoneware, quite without play or variation, and hence uninteresting.



.....a little bit more from the Spring of 1995

WHITHER SIBERIANS? THE LONG VIEW

by Sarah Tiffney

I bought my first Siberian irises in 1927-28, and started to grow them in earnest in the mid-fifties when we got a big garden space. At the same time Eleanor Westmeyer and I collected almost all the cultivars then available. For many years it has been fascinating to watch the development at the hands of a few devoted growers, and then to see the great burst of interest in hybridizing which has resulted in the beautiful varied Siberian irises we have today.

Looking back over this long floral history I am struck with one thing - we have been seeing the same sequence of development as that which must have produced the magnificent modern Japanese irises. The Siberians are going through the same process that the same process that the Japanese went through in the last 200 years.

The original species of the 28-chromosome Siberians (*I. sibirica* and *I. sanguinea*) and of the Japanese (*I. ensata*, formerly *I. kaempferi*) are quite similar in flower style and plant habit, though not identical of course. From the simple Siberian species we have already developed larger flowers with much broader petals, ruffling and horizontal falls, very different in effect from the parent flowers. We now have taken on the characteristics of falls, like the "double" Japanese; there have been several reports of "petaloid anthers", common in JI's, and variegated Japanese-type colorings appearing in Siberians. Evidently the same potentials for development are present in the Siberian species and in the similar Japanese species. If you wonder how those devoted Japanese gardeners developed their magnificent modern irises, this is how.

With further development of the Siberians I think they will become more like the modern Japanese, though of course not identical. There will be specific differences in appearances, and the different bloom seasons and growth habits will mean that we have big beautiful temperate zone beardless irises for different times and different situations. In addition the Siberians have one thing that the Japanese lack - the beautiful yellow coloring pioneered by Currier McEwen.

This whole sequence has been a fascinating process. I am very glad that I have been around to observe it.

AWARD WINNING SIBERIANS

1920-1961: A STARTING PLACE

(Reprinted from ROOTS, Vol. 4, Issue 2, Fall 1991)

by Anne Lowe, Virginia

The 1991 National Convention showed us more than a few Siberian Irises in bloom, many of which were gen-u-ine antiques. Since several of the tour garden owners are active HIPS members, it is not surprising that a number of older Siberians are grown in Region 4.

For example, **Caesar's Brother** was seen blooming uniformly well in almost every tour garden - further evidence of what a stellar performer it is! I found several beautiful oldies which I had 'seen' only in print and I came away with at least a dozen of these antiques on my 1991 iris Want List. How wonderful that Siberian cultivars don't go "out of Style;" that the form and color of **Nigrescens** (1875) is just as pleasing as any of the more recent offerings - that **Nigrescens** is a proven survivor is a real plus for the Sib fancier.

Back to the subject at hand: OK, so beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I wasn't the only one taking notes and making lists during the convention tours.

In seeking information on some of the older Siberians that I subsequently ordered, I was struck by the fact that only 17 Siberians had won awards between the years of 1920 and 1961, and the same chosen few seemed to win them all. Only 6 failed to go on from HM to the coveted Morgan Award. While most were familiar to me, a few were not and I wondered what has happened to some of these cultivars? The deeper I delved, the more questions I had. For instance:

- Why were so few Siberians awarded HMs?
- Siberians in the 1940s were awarded the AM. Why were no more AMs given until the 1986 award year when the Morgan

Award was elevated to medal status and became the Morgan-Wood Medal?

- Why were no Morgan Awards given between 1955 and 1961? Award Reports in the Minutes of the AIS Board do not address this. Indeed, the only Siberian awards given in this entire 6 year period were HMs to **White Swirl** and **Royal Ensign**.
- The World of Iris states that there were 17 Siberians registered before 1900. Can anyone provide a list of these? Can anyone account for the whereabouts of all 17?
- Were Siberians seen on garden tours as the exception rather than the rule? Did judges not vote for Siberians on a regular basis; did judges not vote them at all?
- Were the 4 HMs awarded in 1961 the direct result of increased interest sparked by the activation of the Society for Siberian Irises in 1960?
- What did the British know that we didn't? They gave Royal Horticultural Society AMs and HCs right and left - even awarded one Dykes to a Siberian [**Anniversary** 1979] and another to a Siberian hybrid. [Noname 1976 - both by Mrs. Marjorie Brummitt]

All the Siberians listed below were registered and introduced in this country; no species or collected 40 chromosome cultivars are included; irises are listed by date of the HC/HM Award:

Caesar's Brother (Morgan '32) HM '36, Morgan Award '53; **Martha Le Grande** (Washington '35) HM '36 (No source is listed for this one); **Snow Crest** (Gage '32) HM '36, Morgan Award '63; **Helen Astor** (Whitney-Kellogg '38) HM '41, AM '42; **Mountain Lake** (Gersdorff '38) HM '42, AM '44; **Eric the Red** (Whitney '44) HC '43, HM '44, AM '46; Morgan Award '52; **Tycoon** (Cleveland '38) HM '50, Morgan Award '51; **Cool Spring** (Kellogg '40) HM '51, Morgan Award '66; **Tropic Night** (Morgan '37) HM '51, Morgan Award '54; **Royal Ensign** (Hall-Nesmith



© sdt

'51) HM '51 and '58 (Why the same award twice and then nothing more? Does anyone grow it?); **White Swirl** (Cassebeer '57) HM '57; Morgan Award '62; AIS Board of Directors Award '87. NOTE: This lovely white prototype for flare started its career as **Frank Stubbs** in 1954. The name was changed to **White Swirl** in 1957. Do you suppose fame and fortune would have come so swiftly had its name remained Stubbs? Anyone know who Frank Stubbs was? **Blue Brilliant** (Cassebeer '60) HM '61, Morgan Award '67; **Blue Moon** (Schefty '52) HM '61- (Its sprawling growth habits probably kept it from any further awards.) **Silver Tip** (Cleveland '39) HM '61; **Violet Flare** (Cassebeer '60) HM '61, Morgan Award '65; **Tealwood** (S. Varner '59) HM '63, Morgan Award '69.

I would like to share a couple of interesting bits of iris trivia which came to light.

- **Remouski** (I. Preston R. '37) was the first Siberian repeater registered. I located a source and, like most remountants, it is now a foot high and growing in my front border two months after planting. Can any of you report on its remountancy?
- **Wisley White** (RHS 1940) AM, BIS 1953 is a foundling - it just appeared in the Wisley test gardens. There are no records and therefore no pedigree is available, but it is important as a breeder and is one of the parents of Marjorie Brummitt's **Anniversary**.

Several people had a hand in getting this article onto the page. My thanks to: Harry Kuesel for suggesting where to begin; Joan Cooper for bringing my attention to the Knowlton listing in AIS Bulletin #130, thus saving me hours of research; Howard Brookins for the Siberian Check List; and my husband who went through this Check List page by page to glean award info for the years 1953 to 1961.

I realize that I have posed a number of questions and made some observations which are open to conjecture. Aside from my burning desire to mount a 'Search and Rescue' mission on my own behalf, I hope this article will provoke some response from ROOTS readers

and increase awareness of just what worthy garden plants these older beauties are - and how important it is to not let them be lost. How many of these Siberians are preserved in your garden?

(ROOTS is in the Journal of the Historic Iris Preservation Society)



[The following comments came in response to my article on Award Winning Siberians which appeared in the Fall '91 issue. That these people read the article and took the time to respond is gratifying indeed, both to the author and to the editor. Thank you all. - Anne Lowe]

...in response to your question Why no more AMs til 1966?: The AIS awards system was changed several times over the years, and from 1951 to 1966 was a period when no AMs could be awarded to Siberians. The first Morgan Award was given to **Tycoon** (Cleveland) in 1951. Prior to that, the highest award a Siberian could receive was an AM, except of course the Dykes which almost always went to a tall bearded. When the Morgan Award was established it became equivalent to an AM. So, for all these years from 1951 to 1966 when the Morgan-Wood Medal was established, there were no AM Siberian winners. When the Morgan award was elevated to Medal status, this made room for AMs again in the Siberian awards structure....

Who was Frank Stubbs? He was a father-in-law of Fred Cassebeer's that Fred admired very much. But Fred's wife was in public relations work and quickly recognized that an iris with a name like that which was not known to gardeners would prevent it from getting very wide recognition which is richly deserved. So she persuaded Fred to change it to a more descriptive name which caused him to choose **White Swirl**. I used to work on Manhattan Island on 40th Street and Madison and Fred, who was a pharmacist, owned an old fashioned drug store on upper Madison Avenue. It was just a 2 mile walk for me to go up and see him, which I often did several times during the bloom season. We always discussed what was new in Siberians and he was very

pleased with the new recognition **White Swirl** got when he changed its name.

Why no Morgan Awards between 1955 and 1961? This was a period when there was very little improvement in these flowers. Bill McGarvey was one of the first to recognize the reason for this. Why? Because the bees always got there first and made a bee cross. So he tore off the falls to remove their landing platforms and covered his crosses to avoid contamination. Since the bees mostly crossed similar Siberians with one another, there was little chance for improvement. Most of the introductions were field selections of bee crosses at that time. Bill changed all this and as soon as he began to hybridize them, others like Bee Warburton and Currier McEwen did too and then improvements came quickly.

Royal Ensign - does anyone grow it? I first saw **Royal Ensign** in Tom Hall's garden in the Syracuse area during the 1959 AIS convention. Bill McGarvey used it to develop his pink Siberian line. I'm pretty sure it is still being grown in the Central NY Iris Society area. Suggest writing to Jane Hall to find out more specifically who has it. Harry Kuesel, AZ & CO...I have been doing Siberians seriously for about 40 years, and bought my first ones about 60 years ago. If I can find the energy, I might write you a piece about it. On page 18, that picture of **Caesar's Brother** is beautiful - shows the very distinctive shape of the falls perfectly. However, I do not think the **Mountain Lake** picture is right. The one I had about 1960 was a quite broad petalled flower, much more worthy of an award.

You say **Rimouski** was the first repeater registered - I hadn't heard that. I thought Scheffy's **My Love** was the first. Could you give me the reference for **Rimouski** repeating?

Sarah Tiffney, MA

[Sarah is absolutely right - the **Mountain Lake** picture caption was switched with the **Cool Spring** caption. **Mountain Lake** is the clump shot and **Cool Spring** is the mug shot. Sorry about that - I'll have to speak to my layout man - again!! The **Rimouski** reference came from The Siberian Check List.]

And yet another editor speaks!

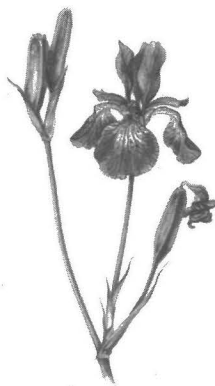
...Re your article on page 18 about AMs for Siberians. AIS bases the number of awards on the number of cultivars introduced and Sibs were only awarded one AM which was the Morgan Award just as the Payne Award presently is an AM for Japanese. In '86 because of increased interest in Sibs, the number of AMs was increased to three and the Morgan elevated to Medal status as you noted.

Judy Hollingworth, MI - (TSI Editor)

...The Siberian Check List lists Dr. Marc Simonet as the source of the Siberian **Grey Prince**. I believe this is incorrect and that Hendree Paine Simpson of Virginia, as listed in some current catalogs, was the correct grower. The confusion probably came from the abbreviation in the '39 Check List which could apply to both names. Also, **Nigrescens** (Van Houtte 1875) has been omitted from the current Siberian Check List but is alive and well in some gardens. It is parent to the famous **Caesar**, etc....In a tentative list of the 17 Siberians listed in The World of Iris, I count 18 but perhaps the W. of I. authors didn't count **Euterpe** (Dammann 1874)??

Richard Sloan, AR

~ Reprinted from ROOTS, Vol. 5, Issue 1, Spring 1992.



WILDWOOD GARDENS AT THE A.I.S. 2006 CONVENTION

by Carol Coleman at C. Iris On Pond (Idaho)

We were given the chance to write this article about Wildwood Gardens and this was not our first visit to Will and Tracy Plotner's garden. But this was the first time to write an article for Ellen so we jumped in and said yes.

I guess that we felt that having been there before would make writing up this garden easier. We knew that the display plants would be found in the upper gardens near the road. The AIS convention write-up stated that the beardless irises would be planted in the center of most rows. So we had our plan set up. Ken would get the photos of Will and Tracy (something that often gets left out when the iris call to the photographer in us) and I, Carol, would start doing the plant photography in the beardless rows. He would join me when he could. With the heavy rain most of the week, the center rows would be muddy and just a little slick but I needed those photos. So we came off the bus ready to go. I put the green poncho on to protect the camera and it started off as a slight drizzle. "Get those photos" was running through my head as I started down the rows on the outside and then into those middle rows. First plant to catch my eye was a spuria in bloom, **Solar Fusion** (Walker 05). What a nice plant.

Then my eye caught sight of a small little flower at the base of the spuria. It was an *Iris milesii* (IMS-A). Never seen that before - take the picture. Really like that...I wonder if it would grow where we are from and I have to remember to show it to Ken later. Oh, focus...get back to what you are supposed to be doing. Thus I wandered up and down the rows taking photos of everything that was blooming in the wet weather and hoping that the photos would help in my writing this first article for Ellen.

It is now July 10th as I write this and the temperatures are supposed to reach 100 F degrees. Time to stay inside in the air conditioning

and write the article. I look at the photographs and see what stood out in the weather conditions. Because Ken and I work totally independent, it is always interesting to see what each of us picked to photograph. If we both take pictures of the same plant than we look to see which one of us got the best shot. Lively discussions can happen during this part of the process. (You all should see us try to decide on the pictures for our website.)

Here are some of our favorites at the Wildwood Gardens that we hope to add to our garden in Boise, Idaho.

SIB Amethyst Echo (Carol Warner 04) - a very nice early 34" plant with standards that are amethyst purple. The style arms are amethyst purple with blue midrib. Falls are amethyst purple with a narrow edge of white at the haft and a broken white signal. It is listed as being a rebloomer which will be a very nice plus.

SIB Willakenzie Wonder (Debbie Gorham 04) - this 28" plant has nice light blue standards that are shaded turquoise and heavily veined lavender. The style arms are pale blue white with a turquoise rib and curled crests. The falls are medium-wine lavender which seem to pale toward the edge. It has a yellow signal which is orange wine at the edge. We had noticed this plant at more than one garden and it seemed to be doing well at each garden.

SIB Fresh Notes (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks 04) - we enjoyed the two-tone effect of this very nice 25" Siberian. The standards were medium blue with lighter-blue style arms that had a darker edge and blue-green midrib. The falls are a dark blue with a diffused rim of light blue. The signal is yellow with dark blue violet veins.

SIB Joyce Cole (D. Cole 06) - a ruffled white with green veins. It has wide white standards. The styles arms are white with cream ribs and the falls have prominent green veins that blend to yellow. It had held up well to the rain. It even had a bumblebee trying to get in from the weather.

We wanted to mention the following as well:

(Continued on page 20)

COSMIC SYMPHONY
(O. D. Niswonger 04)



JOYCE COLE
(D. Cole 06)

Photos by Carol Coleman



FRESH NOTES
(Schafer/Sacks 04)



WILLAKENZIE WONDER
(D. Gorham 04)



IMPRESSION
(Schafer/Sacks 03)

SUN COMES UP
(Schafer/Sacks 04)

Photos by Lowell Baumunk



Row of HALEAKALA at Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

Spec-X - **Cosmic Symphony** (O.D. Niswonger 04) - this was fun for as as Calsibs will not grow in our area. A very nice 24" plant that caught both of our attention in the camera. The standards and style arms blue lavender with a darker lavender falls. The falls have a near white edge with a yellow signal. The spathes are burgundy with the color extending down the stem. But it is ok, Dave, we can grow **Everest Blue** and **Everest White**.

Spec X - **Ally Oops** (Dana Borglum 02) - We were glad to see this one in bloom as ours had not bloomed before we left for convention. The standards are light blue with falls that are yellow with blue veining. This is a tall plant (at least in Oregon) which appeared to be growing well. When we returned home, ours was blooming. So it has adapted to our region which can be a test for some plants. Because of its probable cross to pseudacorus, I had hoped it would be well for us. Some of the clumps at the AIS Convention were quite large so give this one a little room to grow.

We spotted a few SIB seedlings that were very nice and we hope they are considered for introduction. Other plants of note for us at Wildwood were *Iris versicolor* **Raspberry Slurp** (Rita Butler 03)...we loved the color. We also enjoyed SPEC X - **Wooly Bully** (Jill Copeland) and **ZZ Zanziber** (Brad Kaperek 05).

Our thanks to Will and Tracy for a wonderful afternoon visit.



LORENA REID'S GARDEN AT 'ANOTHER SHOWER OF IRIS'

by Anna Mae Miller, Michigan

I was lucky to see Lorena Reid's garden in sunshine in previous years and before she reduced the number of plants she grows. Lorena and her husband, excellent nursery people, have gardened on this flat area since 1966. I am fascinated with the 40-chromosome plants that Lorena has hybridized and grown. She has also introduced some lovely Japanese irises that have extended the bloom season by having earlier Japanese iris bloom.

Our visit this time at the Siberian/species convention day (immediately following the A.I.S. convention) was hindered by about a 15-minute downpour of rain which made the name of the mini-convention ring true. It was called 'Another Shower of Iris'. The pounding rain made it impossible to view the iris at their best and the downpour, unfortunately, damaged some of the blooms.

A first attendee noted that there were flowers that were suited for arrangements while others looked perfect for the perennial border. She noted the variations in the garden with good contrast in plant shape, textures and leaf color that would look good all season.

Two new hybridizers from Maine, Dunlop & Cole, had lovely clumps of Siberians in bloom: Dean Cole's **My First Kiss** (05), which was voted Best Introduced Siberian by the attendees, is a tetraploid in shades of lavender-pink, violet-blue veining, aqua ribs, and it made a stunning clump. **Joyce Cole** (06) a nice white tetraploid with green influence was wide and ruffled. Jeff Dunlop had three introductions here: **Dear Currier** (05) tetraploid, ruffled blue bitone with darker veins and a narrow light edge which was a present to Currier McEwen on his 100th birthday (who had helped them and shared pollen hoping that they would continue some of his lines); **Miss Portland** (06) in shades of blue, ruffled, with ruffled style arms with a touch of aqua, **Tranquility Base** (05) a tetraploid in deeper violets, ruffled with aqua highlights and a triangular shape. The last two are out of McEwen's **Tiffany Lass**

(88), which I feel is not grown as much as it should be.

New England was well represented with other hybridizers and another newer hybridizer, Chandler Fulton of Massachusetts, had an unusual and nice Siberian, **Gossamer Breeze** (01) with light-yellow falls veined darker violet and blueberry-blue standards and style arms which was well-named.

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks, also from Massachusetts, had many guests with some blooming early so we could make a list to extend the bloom season: **Elegance and Simplicity**, **Fresh Notes**, **Kiss the Girl**, **Plum Frolic**, **Sea of Dreams**, **Sunfisher**, **Sweet Little Susie**, **Turn a Phrase**, **White Amber** and **Uncorked**.

The midseason varieties that caught my eye were **Charming Billy** (04), lots of bloom stalks with red-violet shades; **Drowsy Maggie** (02), an unusual purple; **Floating Candles** (03) Spec-X which is a delicate yellow amoena with narrow short foliage and tall bloom stalks; **Ships are Sailing** (98) - one growing tall at Chad Harris' garden but showed shorter here but it has a nice ruffled shape in shades of bluebird-blue and is less expensive being older and a proven good grower. **So Van Gogh** (05) has unique coloring and well-named. So many S/S varieties had bloomed or were blooming so it was a real treat to let personal likes take over and choose which ones to grow, so many traditional as well as unusual colors and shapes. It was good to see the Siberians performing well in several gardens in the Portland area.

The middle of the country was represented by Jill Copeland with the large blooming clump of **JinYu** (06) an *Iris mackii* from Russian seed as well as her **Pixie Won** (97), Spec-X pseudata was blooming nicely, a beautiful medium-purple with large yellow haft. A huge clump of **Sea Krill** (04) pseudacorus and **Wooly Bully** (06), a robusta was blooming well.

Bob Hollingworth had a nice plant of **Galadriel** (02), a white heavily ruffled; **Hello Yellow** (99) a nice bright yellow (growing too short) and both **Blueberry Fair** (97) **Lavender Fair** (00) blooming but not representative of those plants. Lorena lives a long

way from the guest chairman and she got some plants not in prime condition and unfortunately Bob's and Hal Stahly's and others' plants were not blooming as well as they usually do.

I'd like to mention Dana Borglum, New York, and his Spec-X, **Alley Oops** (02), really blooming up a storm in several gardens and won the top favorite for introduced species.

Tony Huber, from Quebec, had many of his Spec-X (versata, biversatas, versi-virginica, re-ensatas, etc.) that extend the bloom season and are sturdy plants being used for landscaping. They bloom with and about a month later than the Japanese irises and Tony has broken new ground and we need to try to understand them better.

Tomas Tamberg was represented by several diploid and tetraploid Siberians and he also works with the Spec-X and Sibtosia tetraploids. There were several nice clumps, although Tomas didn't feel they were performing well. **Berliner Overture** (01), a pale-violet flower tetraploid and **Ahrtalwein** (02), a red-violet with a white signal and **Viel Crème** (01) which is a nice yellow with white tetraploid Siberian.

A new hybridizer from Region 13 is Donna Gorham with a shorter variety, **Willakenzie Wonder** (04) light blue-shaded turquoise, heavily-veined lavender was nice. I am glad to see new hybridizers entering the field.



SIBROB

The Sibrob is an internet mailing list (discussion group) centered on Siberian irises. It is free and open to all from novices to more experienced growers. It also functions as a part of the Round Robin program of the American Iris Society. Any questions please contact:
ellengalla@yahoo.com

Subscribe: sibrob-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sibrob/>



THE ABREGO GARDEN AT 'ANOTHER SHOWER OF IRIS'

by Carol Warner and Mike Shadrack

On a good day you can see clear across the Willamette Valley from the hillside garden of Thomas and Ellen Abrego. Weatherwise our day was not a good one, but everything else about the visit was perfect.

The garden is entered through a rustic wooden arch supporting a very unusual variegated Porcelain Vine (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculus*) and before reaching the iris fields we walked on thyme covered paths through mixed perennial beds.

On three sides tall hedges sheltered the garden and the iris beds. Beyond the iris a double line of the Giant Weeping Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Pendulum') stood sentinel and, with the distant vineyards beyond, gave a Tuscan hint to the view. Adventurous visitors later found that these sylvan fingers actually formed a guard of honor along a sunken path leading to a wonderful feature, designed and lovingly built by Tom and Ellen, The Temple Abrego. High walls built of thousands of empty wine bottles arranged in colorful patterns to cleverly catch the rays of sun surrounded a sunken area about 45 feet by 30 feet that will one day be a private garden. Tom proudly says, "Our wine bottle wall is visible from space, well United flights anyway". Everyone who tore themselves away from the irises and visited it has their own exciting plans about what they would do with such a wonderful feature if it were in their garden.

The iris beds were in full late season bloom allowing us to see some of the later blooming varieties. In the guest bed, Jill Copeland had several species irises which were quite interesting. **Woolly Bully** is a beautiful blue-violet robusta. Virginica and versicolor irises cross naturally and botanists have given that cross the name robusta. **Celia Welia**, also a robusta, was short but had a lovely deep wine or plum purple bloom. Stalks of **Seakrill** were

beautifully branched, sporting small yellow flowers with a dark signal. Jim Copeland's Siberian, **Yellowtail**, was also nice here with round ruffled yellow flowers.

Ally Oops (Borglum '02) had formed a clump 4 feet wide covered with small yellow with blue veined flowers. This Spec-X had grown beautifully in all the gardens seen at the convention, earning it the top award for a guest plant. I was pleased to see that my **Twelfth Knight** and **Sea Star** were blooming very well in the Abrego garden. Bob Hollingworth had a couple gorgeous seedlings, #98H8B12, light blue styles on a purple flower, and #99K1B30 **Mister Peacock**, which was my favorite seedling. I described it as a blend of blue and mauve.

Marty Shaffer and Jan Sacks are producing many of the most original Siberians. **Here Be Dragons**, **Raindrop Melody** and **So Van Gogh** attracted a lot of attention. **Ships Are Sailing** and **Harmony Hill** are both incredible landscape plants with tall bright flowers held high above their foliage.

The Portland convention offered many of us the first opportunity to see Siberians hybridized by Dean Cole and Jeff Dunlop. Their plants were outstanding here as they had been in all the gardens for the AIS portion of the convention. **Joyce Cole** with ruffled light yellow flowers; **Dear Currier**, a light blue, turquoise and purple combination; **My First Kiss**, pinkish lavender and blue blend; **Miss Portland**, a mid blue with a white wire rim, and DC 97-89-1, a very deep wine-red with a very green signal; all caught everyone's attention.

Other guests that I noted were **Park Spark** by Tony Huber. **Brighter Days**, **Hohe Warte**, and Lorena Reid's 00VL-24-2G.

Tom and Ellen also have a very large personal iris collection. Planted in a long double row down the edge of the property were beautiful clumps of **Bountiful Violet**, **Careless Sally**, **King Of Kings**, **Chartreuse Bounty**, **White Encore**, **Pas-De-Deux**, **Slightly Envious**, **Sky Mirror**, **Harpwell Happiness** and **Esther CDM**. The stock beds also had displays of **Shall We Dance**,

Rosebud Melody, Moonsilk, Harbor Mist, Baby Sister, and Book Of Secrets. Lemon Veil, Pink Pepper, Crème Caramel and the late Harpswell whites, **Harpswell Love and Butter And Cream** were all blooming very well. **Fond Kiss and Blackberry Jubilee** were planted together and I was impressed with how well that combination looked together.

A few of the Abrego's huge collection of spurias were starting to bloom, but the long sweeping curved bed held the promise of another whole season of gorgeous bloom.

With all that the Abrego garden had to offer it was hard to take the time for refreshments but we were treated to healthy snacks of juices, berries and croissants. Only better weather could have made this beardless iris paradise any more perfect.



AN INVITATION FROM REGION 6

AIS Region 6 (Indiana, Michigan & Ohio) invites you to join them for their 2007 Spring Meeting which is scheduled for Siberian bloom season. The three tour gardens will have a variety of Siberian guests and we will end up at the Hollingworths' garden with many seedlings to evaluate. Judge's training in Siberian and bearded irises (by Paul Black) will be offered. Within easy driving distance are Ensata Gardens and Jill & Jim Copeland's garden with many more Siberians to view. We would be delighted if you can join us!

Meeting hotel: The Kellogg Center on the lovely Michigan State University campus.

For further information contact: Bob Hollingworth
(cyberiris@cablespeed.com; (517) 349-8121).

SIBERIANS IN 2006 IN RUSSIA

by Andrey Treschenkov, Russia

Hot hello from a winter of snow and cold in Moscow. Such winter is better than a wet and warm winter without the frosting of the soil. It's very good for zest of Siberians, our favorite perennial.

Last year (2005) became for me not very pleasant. I lost 20% of my beardless iris collection (about 200 plants). Many of them were first-year planted irises. During last three years, we had very wet (2003, 2004, spring-June 2005) and not very warm weather and my spurias felt themselves badly and many of them were ill. Some varieties (about 40) died after such not hopeful conditions of growth. In 2004 year, I had lost 130 irises and in 2005 year, 200. Very wet and warm winter with large amount of snow and melted soil, a wet and cold weather during all spring and June and, of course, rodents made one's own work wonderful. Beginning July and until the end of the season establish very good weather for the growth of irises.

In our small garden (about 1/3 acre), we grow 900-1000 beardless irises: Siberians (Sino-Siberians live and then die), spurias, versicolors, virginicas, laevigatas, pseudacorus, prismaticas and another small irises.



2006 WINNERS AT 'ANOTHER SHOWER OF IRIS':

Best Introduced Siberian:

My First Kiss by Dean Cole '05

Best Introduced Species:

Ally Oops by Dana Borglum '02

Best Siberian Seedling:

99K1B30 by Bob Hollingworth

Best Species or Species X Seedling:

00VL-24-2G by Lorena Reid

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

There have been changes in membership rates for SSI. After many years of keeping membership rates some of the lowest in AIS, the SSI Board realized that the Society was losing money at a rate every year that was unacceptable for the future health of the Society. At the AIS spring convention in Portland in May the following schedule of membership rates was adopted:

Single Annual Domestic and Canada -- \$10.00

Single Triennial Domestic and Canada -- \$25.00

Family Annual Domestic and Canada -- \$12.00

Family Triennial Domestic and Canada -- \$30.00

Annual Overseas -- \$15.00

Triennial Overseas -- \$40.00

No Youth or Life memberships will be offered.

These changes are necessary to offset rising costs of postage and printing. The Board wished to continue the high quality of our publication, *The Siberian Iris*, and the printing of color pages is expensive. Please do your part to keep our costs under control by notifying me of any changes to your address and by renewing your membership before it expires on December 31st. Your membership expiration year is printed on your address label of your copy of TSI. Please check it when you receive your copy in late November.

You may now renew your AIS and SSI memberships by use of a credit card account. Go to the AIS website, www.irises.org for more information.

Please contact me with any questions you may have about your membership.

Susan Grigg

ssimemsec@nc.rr.com



PAST ISSUES OF TSI AVAILABLE

Past issues of TSI are available for sale as follows:

Spring 1961 through Fall 1970

cost: \$18.00 (includes shipping at book rate)

Spring 1971 through Fall 1980

(Spring '74, '77, Fall '79 will be copies)

cost: \$18.00 (includes shipping at book rate)

Spring 1981 through Fall 1990

(Spring '85, '87, Fall '85, '86 will be copies)

\$18.00 (includes shipping at book rate)

Spring 1991 through Fall 2000

(Spring '91 will be a copy)

\$18.00 (includes shipping at book rate)

Complete set Spring 1961 through Fall 2000

(with copies as listed above)

\$60.00 (includes shipping at book rate)

Single copies

(from Spring 1961 to the present)

\$1.50 per issue (includes shipping by 1st class mail)

Shipping for overseas members will be at cost.

Please send your order to Judy Hollingworth

124 E. Sherwood Rd.

Williamston, MI 48895

Check payable to SSI.



SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Portland, Oregon ~ May 23, 2006

- I. Call to Order: President E. Roy Epperson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. A quorum was present.
- II. Approval of Minutes of May 10, Board Meeting (as printed in TSI, Volume 10, Number 10, Fall 2005, pp 28-29).
Approved by those present.
- III. Discussion of 2006 mini-Convention of SSI.
Will Plotner warned attendees about the long bus trip, but said an auction of donated plants on the bus would help pass the time. He said there were 196 registrants.
- IV. Reports of Officers
 1. President: E. Roy Epperson
One hundred cumulative checklists were printed. A CD is available (no pictures), PDF format, read-only in alphabetical order.
 2. First Vice President: Judy Hollingworth (Report of Nominating Committee)
Nominations are: Judy Hollingworth for President, Harold 'Hal' Griffie of Region 3 for First Vice President, Chuck Simon of Region 9 for Second VP, effective 1/1/07, per bylaws. No directors terms are expiring. It was moved and seconded that the offered candidates be accepted.
 3. Second Vice President: Sandy Ives - no report
 4. Secretary: Lynda Love - no report
 5. Treasurer: Jim Copeland
Jim noted the negative income for SSI in 2005 when he presented the treasurer's statement. He anticipates another decrease of \$1000 in income this year. Donations to SSI have decreased over the years. The major expense is the TSI bulletin, which costs more than the SSI membership fee. There has been no dues increase since 1991, when dues increased from \$3.50 to \$5.00. Roy estimated the

society has enough money to operate for two to two and a half years without additional income.

6. Editor: Ellen Gallagher - no report

V. Administrative Reports

1. Membership Secretary: Susan Grigg

Susan presented her membership report. Total membership remained steady, with a slight decline in memberships so far this year. Judy Hollingworth pointed out that SSI membership has not seen the percentage decline that is occurring in AIS. Susan reported that the second renewal post card paid for itself. Susan also reported that life memberships are no longer paying for themselves over the years when bulletin costs are factored in.

2. Webmaster: Jim Wilson - no report

VI. New Business

1. Discussion of Increase in Membership Dues

a. Life Membership

Roy proposed eliminating life memberships because the society loses money on them. However, members who are already life members will continue to maintain life member status. Other AIS sections, such as Median and SJI have already eliminated life memberships. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to eliminate new life memberships, effective at the end of the meeting. Motion passed.

b. Membership Categories

After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the membership categories would stay the same:

Single Annual

Family Annual

Single Triennial

Family Triennial

Motion passed.

c. New Membership Rates

The following new rates were proposed:

Single Annual \$10.00

Family Annual \$12.00

Single Triennial \$25.00

Family Triennial \$30.00

Proposal was moved and seconded. After discussion, motion passed.

d. New Overseas Membership Category

Because overseas memberships are more expensive, the following new rates were proposed:

Overseas Annual \$15.00

Overseas Triennial \$40.00

Motion made, seconded, passed by the assembly.

e. Date of Effectiveness of New Membership Rates

It was moved and seconded that the new membership rates go into effect on October 1st, 2006. Any memberships received before this date will be honored (except life memberships). Motion passed.

2. Discussion of Complimentary TSI memberships

Ellen presented the list of people who get complimentary copies of TSI. There were 13 names on the list, nine were overseas. After discussion, the Chinese names were removed, as well as other names, and four names remained, two are overseas.

3. AIS Web Site Changes

AIS is working on an online membership page where dues can be paid online by PayPal or credit card. The fee to SSI would be about \$0.59 per membership. Does SSI want to be a part of this? It was moved and seconded that SSI wants to also participate in online memberships with AIS.

4. Invitations to Join (IJT's)

New IJT's are needed with the new membership rates and categories. It was moved and seconded for the executive committee to print sufficient quantity of updated IJT's at the best rate. Motion passed.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Lynda Love, Secretary



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:

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

(questions write to: ellengalla@yahoo.com)



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SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

By James Copeland

Income Statement 2005

Income

Membership dues	\$1,407.00
Ads	385.00
Interest income	358.46
Sale back issues of TSI	153.00
Gifts	100.00
Checklists	55.50
Total Income	<u>\$2,458.96</u>

Expenses

Membership Chairperson Expenses	\$159.42
Miscellaneous Bank Charges	6.00
Website Expense	42.50
Total	<u>\$207.92</u>

TSI Publication

Spring 2005 Smith & Town	
Printing	\$1,895.00
Editor Mailing	90.55
Envelopes (2 issues)	226.00
Total	<u>\$2,311.55</u>

Fall 2005 Smith & Town	
Printing	\$1,610.00
Editor Mailing	203.83
Bulk Mailing Permit	150.00
Total	<u>\$1,963.83</u>

Total TSI	\$4,275.38
Total Expenses	\$4,483.30
Net Income	(\$2,024.34)

Balance Sheet

As of 12-31-2005

Checking Account\$1,346.36

Investments

Certificate of Deposit 2.96% APY due 9-16-06	\$8503.11
Certificate of Deposit 2.86% APY due 10-18-06	<u>\$3224.08</u>

Total Assets\$13,073.55

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





*Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks with Ships Are Sailing at the AIS Convention  
Barbara Sautner photo*



*Will and Tracy Plotner during the AIS Convention in Wildwood Garden  
Ken Coleman photo*





*Hill of Siberians at Aitken's 'Salmon Creek Garden'*  
*Lowell Baumunk photo*



*Rainy Day Tour at 'Another Shower of Iris, Lorena Reid's Garden'*  
*Jean Morris photo*