

THE SIBERIAN IRIS



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MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

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All members of this Society residing in the United States and Canada shall be members of the American Iris Society.
Dues shall be \$1.00 per year.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Peggy Edwards

I'm sure that by now you have all heard the splendid news that Fred Cassebeer's White Swirl won the newly reactivated Morgan Award. Heartiest congratulations to the winner and his baby!

What is perhaps particularly interesting to us is this: White Swirl and the three top runners-up totaled 166 votes from the judges. That indicated that at least a quarter of all AIS judges looked at and voted for Siberians. Let's keep them looking and voting. Let's make the effort to put our seedlings and the best of the named varieties where they can be seen. If you have a regional Test Garden, and a nice seedling, try to get them to accept and display a piece. If you think it advisable, include planting and growing instructions suited to your area. Perhaps you have a division of a new variety. Why not write the introducer and suggest he send a piece to the test garden? And let the Regional judges know that in your garden they can see what's new in Siberians. After all, we can't expect the poor souls to vote for them if they can't find them.

I'm not going to discuss the various Committee reports - they can speak for themselves - but, in connection with the report of the Nominating Committee, there is something that I do think ought to be said. Ginnie Melnick, who was chairman for this year, had to resign because of ill health, and in the emergency Eleanor Westmeyer stepped in and did a good job on short notice. However, she had no way of knowing, and we had no way of telling her, who would be willing to accept nominations to jobs they had, perhaps, no training for. It was hard for her to figure out possible replacements for any present officials who might find it necessary to refuse renomination. She could hardly write all of you! So, please, if you are willing to work at anything, let us know, so we will have your name on file as being a potential worker. If there is some particular area in which you think you might be qualified, say so; but don't feel that you can't serve without training - as an officer, Board member, or on one of the Committees. Most of us have taken hold on jobs we knew little or nothing about; I think most of us are doing quite well in them. Some of our committee chairmen need assistants, one assistant needs a chairman (of all the silly situations!), and we have a couple of committees waiting for someone to start them going. How about sticking your neck out? Just a couple of inches?

Speaking of which, I will now do so: do you feel that there are things we should be doing but are not? Tell us. Do you grow some variety we haven't provided any comments on? Write us and say so - better still, send us your comments. Do you want an article on using iris in landscaping? If enough people would be interested we will try to find someone who can write it. Do you want a plant swap? Speak up, and we'll investigate the possibilities - state laws, etc. Want to get into a Siberian Robin? DON'T ask us - ask John Bartholomew; he's the boss Robin.

Let us know what's on your mind. After all, you're paying dues; you should get value for them. But we can't know whether we are giving it unless you say so - we can't tell where we might be short-changing you if we don't hear from you.

ON THE TRAIL OF A PINK SIBERIAN

James M. Aultz

Note: This article originally appeared in the American Iris Society Region 4 News Cast, Volume 4, No. 1, April 1962. It appears here through the courtesy of the author, who has amended it and otherwise brought the material up-to-date, especially for this issue of The Siberian Iris.

On the trail of a pink Siberian iris for the garden, this writer has been led to scan catalogs, leaf through old copies of garden magazines, read back numbers of Region 4 News Cast and the A.I.S. Bulletin, and finally to peruse a copy of Garden Irises, for an authoritative word on the subject.

Furthermore, letters have been exchanged with hybridizers and a grower who should have some pertinent ideas on the matter. Now comes an appeal to all readers who grow Siberians: can you help us?

What will be the end result of all this activity? Probably someone right around the corner will write in to say, "But I have had one for years." Well, good! If you'll send or sell a plant, or tell me where one can be bought, the trail ends happily, here and now.

All of this began, innocently enough, with a magazine ad in color... which should have been ample warning, for the pretty pictures--though they may not lie--do sometimes give a false impression. Anyway, the ad was misplaced before an order could be sent, as frequently happens in such instances.

Some time later, while visiting Mrs. Loren Hinchman in her beautiful Logan, West Virginia garden, my attention was called to a pale blue Siberian, "that was supposed to be pink, but you can see how it turned out", the owner said. "Maybe my planting it next to that old rotten tree stump caused it to change color." The lady gave me a piece of it, on the off-chance that it would bloom pink for me. Time passed, another bloom season has come and gone, and that particular iris bloomed exactly the same color that it did for its donor, and no old rotten tree stump in sight!

And dear Mrs. Hubert Johnson, of Jamestown, North Carolina, if a "light pink FAIRY DAWN" blooms in your garden as you say in your article on Siberian irises, Region 4 News Cast, April 1961...tell me, is it really pink, and how can I get one, please?"

At the time the above paragraph was written, I had not seen a description of Fairy Dawn or listing of it in any catalog. It has since been my pleasure to meet Mrs. Johnson in person at our Region 4 meeting, in Roanoke, Virginia, this past May. She assures me that she will send me a piece of the plant. Too, I have come across several other sources since then.

A frequent contributor to garden magazines, whose name appears often in Garden Irises is that of F. W. Cassebeer of New York State, who knows of no pink Siberian iris in commerce, although mauves, like HELEN ASTOR and others are available.

Might "Pink Siberians and Minor Frustrations" --written by William G. McGarvey for the October, 1961 A.I.S. Bulletin give me a clue to the illusive plant? Mr. Cassebeer thought so. The article begins with the intriguing statement, "Some pinks of rather good quality come from a cross designed to learn something about the genetic make-up of the fine Siberians from H.F. Hall, ROYAL ENSIGN." Alas! Mr. McGarvey gives no names of such plants of quality that are available to the general public.

The next step was a letter to Dr. McGarvey at the State University of New York in Oswego, for further information. To date, the good man has not answered our letter, but we understand he is very busy, and may reply at any time.

There the matter stood at the time the above lines were first printed. The author concluded, "We are rather warm, if not precisely hot, on the trail of a pink Siberian."

Late in April, a letter bearing a Rocky Ridge, Maryland, postmark was placed in the author's mailbox. With a "whatever can this be?" expression on his face he tore open the envelope: "This, as others have been rumored to say when standing on the brink of a great experience, "is it!"

"Before I forget it, I want to write to say, "But I have had one for years! (Bless you, Anne V. Houck!). Candor compels me to admit that the color could be better. But garden visitors always refer to it as pink. So I don't think I am being color blind when I think of it that way. It is not a named variety. It is just a seedling. I don't even know the parentage, for I didn't set it myself. It was in a batch of seed that I bought.

This Siberian has three things to recommend it. First is its unusual color--and I'm sure it is unusual. I'm no traveled Irisarian, but I've never read of anything like it. Then there is its unusual season of bloom. It is very early. It blooms right along with the tall bearded. And third, is its neat growth habit. I've had this one about twenty years. It never sprawls all over the place as some Siberians do if not restrained, but stays in a neat round clump.

If you think you'd like to try this seedling, and see for yourself what it is like, I'll be glad to send you a piece. I don't think you will find it the 'trail's end' you are seeking, but you might find it an interesting diversion along the way," concluded Miss Houck.

Losing no time, I answered promptly, and have since received a nice plant of the iris referred to now as "Orphan Annie" by the donor. I've gained another iris-loving friend, what's more. Another chapter in this story will be written next spring when "Orphan Annie" blooms in my garden. Meanwhile, write me if you have a "Siberian as pink as any of Dave Hall's pink tall bearded!"

(Mr. Aultz is a former Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern West Virginia Chapter, Region 4, American Iris Society, and is now President of the Huntington (West Virginia) Iris Society. Address: 1010 Thirteenth St, Huntington, West Virginia.)

OUR EXPERIENCES WITH 40-CHROMOSOME SIBERIANS
(And we need a shorter name for them)

They are fascinating, but by no means as easy and vigorous growers as the garden hybrids, the 28-chromosome group. The clue to culture is no summer drouth. Watering in dry spells is essential unless you have a handy swamp edge to plant them in.

They bloom after the garden hybrid Siberian season, and along with the Virginicas and Louisianas.

Delavayi is a moderately vigorous grower for the 40-c group, tall, lovely blue-purple color (there is supposed to be a red-purple too) with a distinctive sharp angle in the falls; they bend and hang down.

Forrestii is a beautiful little flower, clear yellow; but a puny, slow-growing plant. Perhaps other clones might do better.

Some chrysographes are fairly vigorous (or perhaps it is "at some times"); they are notable for deep velvety color, either red-purple or blue-purple.

The plants we have under the name "bulleyana" I think are untrue, and are really sibiricas or sibirica hybrids; for one thing, they do not fit the description, and for another they bloom with the 28-chromosome garden hybrids.

Perhaps the most astonishing of the group is one acquired as "Chrysofor tall hybrid" - and not very tall at that, a yellow flower with little gray-purple spots all over. I understand that a color slide of this attracted some notice at the New Jersey Convention. It is a fascinating flower close up, but at a distance it looks gray and gets lost. We call this one "Leopard" around here, and I was delighted to read in The Siberian Iris that Mr. Kitton's family in England gives similar flowers the same nickname - it's a natural! His flowers were delavayi x forrestii, whereas the parentage of mine is a little vague; the "Chrysographes x forrestii" cross, but they have been in commerce for a long time, and other 40-chromosome species may have gotten mixed into the parentage of any given plant. The 40-chromosome species cross freely with each other.

A plant purchased as "Chrysofor dwarf hybrid", which we call "Dark Dwarf", is shorter and has the most intense dark color that I have seen in a beardless iris; I would think this color must have come from chrysographes.

Another iris that blooms at the same time, although it is not a 40-chromosome one, is 'Long-sib', a gift from a generous friend. This is from a cross made in England by Perry in 1925, of the Californian longipetala x sibirica (28-chromosome Siberian). It is a good grower; the flowers are narrow, ivory with blue veins, odd and attractive. It makes a few seeds, and we have a seedling that is presumably 'Long-sib x self, but time will tell.

SUMMARY ON SIBERIANS - BEE PODDING AND FOLIAGE HABIT
Peg Edwards

	<u>No. Stalks</u>	<u>Total Pods</u>	<u>Foliage Sept. 10</u>
Alaskan Siberian	8	0	Semi-upright
Ann Stahlman	9	3	almost horizontal
Blue Charm	2	0	" "
*Blue Star	36	14	" "
*Blue Ridge	0	0	semi-upright
*Caesar's Brother	2	0	erect
Congo Drums	2	0	floppy
I. delavayi	0	0	erect
Fairy Dawn	2	0	almost horizontal
Gatineau	6	0	" "
Grey Dove	0	0	semi-upright
Helen Astor	3	0	floppy
*Llewellyn	5	1	semi-upright
Madawaska	1	0	" "
Matane	5	1	floppy
Matawin	4	0	semi-upright
Mildred Stahlman	2	0	floppy
Mountain Lake	1	0	"
Mrs. Rowe	0	0	semi-upright
Moonsprite	0	0	erect
Ottawa	1	0	floppy
Perry's Blue	5	8	semi-upright
Red Emperor	2	0	erect
Royal Ensign	2	0	"
*Royal Herald	23	1	almost horizontal
Seven Seas	2	0	erect
*Silvertip	3	0	floppy
Skeena	3	1	erect
Sky Blue	5	2	floppy (also covered
Snow Crest	2	0	" (with aphids)
*Star Wheel	2	0	"
Summer Sky	9	0	"
Towanda Redflare	6	0	"
Tropic Night	0	0	erect
Tunkhannock	0	0	erect
Turquoise Cup	2	1	erect
Tycoon	1	1	floppy
Westmeyer seedling	2	0	floppy
Yankee Trader	6	0	floppy
Zerita	2	0	"
Zest (back yard)	4	0	"
*Zest (front yard)	21	0	(removed, early Aug. for auction)
Acuta	0	0	erect

Starred (*) plants are established; the others were planted last year - 1961. Very low set of pods may be due to sudden hot dry weather before and during Siberian season; poor showing of so many varieties as far as foliage is concerned may or may not be typical. Of the starred ones I would say it is.

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS, BASED ON DESCRIPTION FORM
Nickerson Color Fan Used

- Perry's Blue: Rhizome not inspected; Basal foliage generally erect - did not measure etc.; Stem-did not check; Flower: standards, 10PB 5/9, held 10 degr. off vertical, 7/8" x 1 1/2"; falls 10 PB 5/9, held 50 degr. off horizontal; style arms, 2.5 P 6.5/7.5 horizontal. Some white on falls. Some stems had one branch. Seems hardy and vigorous-a newly set division gave 5 stems. Sets pods freely.
- Red Emperor: Rhizome not inspected; Foliage erect-not otherwise checked; Stem-did not check; Flower-standards, 10 P 3/9, erect, twisted, 5/8" x 1"; falls, 10P 4/10, large veined white area, 1 1/4" x 1", held 40 degr. off horizontal; styles 10 P 4/10, horizontally, free above claw. Set no seed.
- Royal Ensign: Rhizome not inspected; foliage erect-not otherwise checked; Stem-did not check; Flower-standards, 2.5 RP 4.5/9, 3 1/4" x 1 1/4", 10 degr. off vertical, falls 2.5 RP 4.5/9 with spot 10 PB 4/10, 1 1/2" x 1 1/4" (wide oval) 60 degr. off horizontal; styles 10 P 5/10, tilted upward; flower measured 3 1/4" wide, 2 1/2" high. Slight marking below haft. Three buds. Reddest 1've seen. Set no seed.
- Royal Herald: Rhizome not checked; foliage 25-27" long, 3/8 to 1/2" wide, dull green, tending to fall over as season advances, almost horizontal by late summer; Stalk: averages 33-34", 3/16" thick, hollow, unbranched, straight, 2 buds in socket, spathes green w/ red overlay, 1 3/4" long; some stem foliage, 3 to 6" long, narrow, rusty green; stem clear green; Flower: 3" x 3" overall; standards 2" long x 7/8", angle of 65-70 degr. from horizontal, long oval, slightly ruffled, slightly pointed tip, smooth, thin, color 10 PB darker than 3/10; falls-blade almost vertical-to 80 degr. from horizontal, 1 1/2" long, 1 3/4" wide, wide oval, tip rounded, color 2.5 P 3/8, no markings, signal patch white veined violet; claw horizontal (slightly arched) 1" long, 3/8" wide, brown, white, and violet; style arm-pressed close to claw, 1 1/4" long, 3/8" wide at stigmatic lip, edges of tips notched, color 2.5 P between 4/9 and 3/8; early blooming, seems resistant to disease, seems hardy and trouble free; a reluctant podder here though others report it pods freely. Have no seedlings as yet.
- Zest: Rhizome not checked; Foliage 14" x 3/8 to 1/2" and 18" x 1/2", light green, dull (matte) tending to fall-floppy by Sept.; stalk-18" and 26", 1/8" thick, hollow, unbranched, straight, 2 buds per socket, spathes green edged white, the outer 3" long, the inner 2", keeled; stem green; Flower-2" high, 2 1/4"-2 3/4" wide overall; standards 1 1/4" long x 5/8", 60 degr. from horizontal, long oval, sort of fluted crosswise along edges (that is, not from base to tip), color 2.5P 3/8, crepy, thin; falls-blade vertical, 1" diameter circular, rounded tip, color 2.5 P 3/8, signal patch white-edged yellow, veined violet; claw horizontal, 7/8" long x 1/4", yellow, veined; style arms-stands free above claw, 1" long, 1/4" wide at stigma, color 7.5 P 4/10; early blooming, disease-resistant, seems hardy and easy to grow, very vigorous-21 stems on a 2-year old plant, 4 on a one-year-old. Does not seed freely here. Occasionally there is a stem leaf, set very low, longer than basal foliage but same width and color. NOTE: there are two foliage lengths and stem heights quoted - the shorter plant was about 25' south of the house and bloomed ten days before the taller which was 25' north of house.

Peg Edwards

MR. MAURICE KITTON RECEIVES AWARD

The information that Mr. M. E. Kitton has received the Hugh Miller Trophy for his BLUE CAPE Sibirica, a royal blue in color, was noted in the British Iris Society Newsletter. This is a top British award.

We are very glad to read of this honor bestowed on Mr. Kitton's Siberian iris and also extend our congratulations to him. We hope he will be the recipient of more honors for his work with the Siberians.

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* EDITORIAL RAMBLINGS *

The letters I receive from the members are greatly appreciated and contain many interesting items and comments about their iris gardening. This half of the Editorial Staff has enjoyed these letters very much and I do try to answer them-well, maybe not promptly - but sometime.

Here are some excerpts I thought you would like to share:

Mrs. Herman Knock, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has registered TWO of her seedlings, BETH ELLEN (551) B I. Hyacinth blue self; DARK MARINE (5520) V3, S. Dauphine Violet F. Methyl Violet. Both midseason bloomers.

She also has some very promising seedlings which she hopes have a future in the Siberian world. We're glad to hear this which shows some work is being done in hybridizing in OUR area.

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In a letter from Mr. Clinton Ziems, West Monroe, New York, he reports he had a good Siberian bloom. White Swirl put on a show along with Gatineau running a close second. Also Royal Ensign and one of Tom Hall's white seedlings putting on a good display. He stated he had won enough blue ribbons on Siberians at his local show to get the AIS Bronze Medal! How about that?

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In a letter from Dorothy Spofford: "Eric the Red blossomed for the first time in my garden - such a lovely wine red. My slides did not do it justice as they had a purple tinge that the flower did not have. I shall use the sky filter next year. Royal Herald with it's bluish bud sheathes was lovely."

"I have registered SEVEN of the seedlings that I like the best. They are: Bonnie Blue Ribbon - midseason, pale baby blue with flared falls.
Bright Shadow - purple with white style arms and semi-flaring falls, late midseason.
Mandy Morse - large medium blue with white style arms, midseason.
Mildred Peck - a very clear pinkish lavender.
Sailor's Delight - similar to following one but medium blue and mid-season.
Salem Witch - very early purple with large white blaze on drooping oval falls.
Sea Turn - midseason, grayish oyster white."

Note that Mrs. Tiffany mentioned Mildred Peck in her review of seedlings in another part of this issue.

KINGWOOD CENTER IRIS DISPLAY

Sponsored by the Central Ohio Iris Society

- Policies of Operation -

1. The Kingwood Center Gardens are open free to the public from 8 A.M. to sundown every day from Easter Sunday through November. All plant collections and displays are maintained strictly for the education and enjoyment of persons interested in gardening and related subjects. No iris plants or divisions are sold or given away.

2. To be accepted for display in the Kingwood Iris garden, varieties must be named and registered with the American Iris Society and be available for purchase by the public from some source.

3. All plants sent for display in the garden must be addressed as follows:

KINGWOOD CENTER
900 Park Avenue West
P.O. Box 1186
Mansfield, Ohio

4. The evaluation committee of the Central Ohio Iris Society is to evaluate the varieties in the display garden for two successive years. A copy of its evaluations is to be sent to all those who contribute plants.

5. At the end of the third growing season (second evaluating season) low rated varieties will be destroyed. High scoring varieties will be divided and retained in the garden until such time as they are superceded by similar but higher scoring varieties.

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SLIDE COMMITTEE REPORT

Betty Rowe - Chairman

Many thanks to those members who have forwarded slides to me for use in our Siberian Slide sets. To date I have received about 75 slides but some of these are duplicates of the same varieties or slides of a single flower and a clump of the same Siberian. Therefore we still need slides of a wider variety of Siberians.

Some of the slides show clumps of Siberians used in landscaping which is a good idea and will be of help to those who have never used Siberian irises before in plantings. Slides of special interest would be those showing arrangements, close-ups of clumps and special settings in the garden, such as used in rock gardens, near pools and ponds. In fact, if you have any ideas for good slides, please pass the information along to me so we can start planning for next spring's camera shots.

REGIONAL PUBLICITY FOR SIBERIANS

Mildred J. Johnson, Publicity Chairman

At the Logan Show this spring there were five stalks of Kingfisher Blue, with tall bearded branching and excellent coloring. These were shown in a class for Siberians, and the judges there (and viewers, too) were simply overwhelmed with the elegance of the display. Eva Berntson, who brought them, said she has had the variety for many years, and this year they seemed especially nice so she showed them. I might say her grooming of them was really good, also; and they were given a Rosette and put on the Queen Table, where they caused considerable comment all day. More displays like that would 'up' our Siberian irises' dignity for sure.

I received a nice collection from Walter Marx this year. They all look like good sized clumps and I look forward to their bloom next year. We hope all Siberian fanciers are putting in new (even though the variety is old) Siberians in their gardens; and PLEASE invite your TB friends to see your Siberians. Some of them don't even know there is such beauty in this variety - and we don't want to leave them in the dark.

I would appreciate suggestions in publicizing Siberians in your Regions, friends. Please write to me at 2275 Kensington Avenue, Salt Lake 8, Utah.

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SIBERIAN OBSERVATIONS

Irene Van de Water

Cassebeer says its a good practice to collect all seed pods from the best varieties, even though insect-pollinated, and plant them in rows in the open garden. Purists will throw up their hands in despair. But didn't Luther Burbank use this method and produce many notable plants?

Anyone who has tried pollinating the Siberians knows its not as easy to be sure of a "true" cross as it is with the Tall-Bearded iris. Since the Siberians are so readily self(?) or cross(?) pollinated, it is necessary to open the bud the day before it would naturally open, and emasculate it. At this stage the pollen is not yet ripe and dry. It has been observed that very soon after the flower opens, the pollen disappears or is hard and caked. Many insects seem to be very partial to this pollen and probably rob the flower, and while they are doing so, some of the pollen is dropped on the stigma. The stigmas of Siberians are as a rule very close to the tips of the stamens which, no doubt, accounts for the high rate of pollination. If this is self-pollination, then Cassebeer's advice is excellent. And, since he is the honored recipient of the Morgan Award this year for his White Swirl, who has a better recipe?

Therefore, my advice to all who read this is, collect all your pods from White Swirl, even those that were insect-pollinated, and plant them as soon as you read this - - or sooner.

MINOR PROBLEMS

Pests and Diseases

Siberians are relatively free from diseases, but I have seen a little fungus trouble on them. Leaf fans on one side of a clump will sometimes turn brown and die, and this slowly spreads through adjacent fans. Examination shows that the trouble starts near the base of the plant one or two inches above ground on the outside leaves of a fan, and works inward and spreads. The fuzzy growth of a fungus can be found here. I think it is Botrytis, probably B. cinerea, but have not checked it out for sure. Clearing away the affected parts and spraying or dusting with a fungicide (Captan, Fermate, etc.) will control it. I have never in reading come across any mention of this sort of thing in this country.

The only reference I have ever found to fungus disease on Siberians is in Jean Stevens' book, "The Iris and Its Culture", page 65-66. She describes "Brown Collapse" caused by a soil fungus, Corticium solani, which attacks the Californian and Siberian groups of irises as well as many other plants, in New Zealand. The disease sounds somewhat like the one I have described, except that it apparently progresses faster. Mrs. Stevens recommends digging the affected parts, then watering the area with Bordeaux solution or copper sulfate.

Rarely I find a small clump or a portion of one dead or nearly dead in spring. My present theory is that these had fungus troubles last season which weakened them. I have also seen, in a very humid period, this Botrytis-like fungus on leaves of seedling Siberians which were still crowded in seed trays. Spraying with fungicide took care of it. One year there was a long period of almost continual rain and fog just after the blooming season and many developing pods began to show spots of rot on their walls. In every case the rot had started from the old shriveled flower which had fallen down against the wall. The fungus had first grown on the dead flower and had then invaded the wall; this is a standard procedure for Botrytis, according to Cynthia Westcott's book. The answer is simple - just pick the shriveled petals off the pods as soon as there had been enough time for fertilization to be completed.

Siberians can have an occasional borer, which will cause a leaf fan or two to yellow and die, but in this case a gentle tug will pull the fan out because it has been cut off at the bottom. One can then poke a wire down the hole the fan base came out of and eradicate the varmint, or dig him out. If your garden has borer problems, it is important to follow the usual advice about spring spraying of iris and fall clean-up of all dead plant material. If weather and local fire regulations permit, an effective and effortless way to clean up the Siberians is to burn them over in late winter; this gets rid of lots of pests and the rough old leaves too, but it has to be done before growth starts in the spring, in this latitude the first of April. This becomes a little impractical if the snow cover is still several inches deep at that date, because the plants start to grow underneath anyway. If you try burning, don't overlook the fact that many plastic and even some metal labels will burn merrily too!

Besides borer, there are two other insects that can be a nuisance here, the verbena bud moth and the iris snout beetle. Both lay eggs in the young pods and their grubs eat the developing seeds - this can be no end frustrating if it is a very special cross. The adult beetle will also chew up iris petals. The basic control method for these critters is, don't leave any iris pods in the garden all winter, in fact, don't leave any in summer except those you want for seeds, and don't throw the half-developed pods on the compost heap, because the bugs will continue to develop there. (The moth attacks other plants too, so removing the iris pods will not eliminate it entirely, but it helps.) If you should be so unfortunate as to have a plague of the beetles chewing your iris flowers, a light spray of insecticide (Malathion, DDT, Rotenone, etc.) directly on the flowers and buds will eliminate many of them. It may spot today's flowers, but will preserve tomorrow's, and cut down the numbers left to make the next generation. Spraying developing pods at intervals will help keep grubs out of precious crosses; no doubt bagging them would be effective also. All these pests are described in detail in The Book (Garden Irises). It might give you some emotional satisfaction to know that there is an ichneumon-like wasp that parasitizes the grubs in iris pods - but I fear he will never get ahead of them all.

But these problems are minor! Siberians are vigorous, hardy and beautiful! They are the easiest and most satisfactory of irises to grow! (Ed. note - the writer is prejudiced, but it is true anyway.)

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SOME HAPPY SIBERIANS WAY UP NORTH

While the following descriptions aren't as complete as they should be I felt a few words about them would be of interest to those who are planting Siberians for the first time.

- Blue Wings - Dwarfy-foliage and bloom 22", pale lavender-blue open standards, paler style arms - yellow in throat, whitish halo. A lovely 'little one'.
- China Blue - Tall foliage - 30". Bloom stalk 38". Palest blue-white flash with some yellow in throat. Very, very pleasing in garden.
- Gatineau - Very tall, even blue. Started blooming early and continued to very end of season. Many bloom stalks. Even now foliage is erect.
- Kingfisher Blue - for us a little shorter than Gatineau but very pleasant as a landscape clump.
- Lactea - First bloom was June 8th. Listed as white, is actually a dirty color with yellow buds. Not one of my favorite Siberians.
- Mrs. Rowe - Bloomed June 10th. Nice, neat, pale mauve. Withstood rain, sun and wind very well. Short but very handsome.
- Miss Duluth - Red-purple with dark brown in throat and a few black lines. Very attractive and neat dark Siberian.
- My Love - Two garden clumps, both had neat foliage, still erect and compact. On short side but still a very good Siberian for landscaping and one of my favorites.

(Cont. Pg 71)

LOVE AFFAIR

Peg Edwards

Once upon a time I wrote a small epic about the people who frustrate the living daylights out of the devoted Siberianite. Now it is time to consider the ones we love - or should love.

1. The lovely soul who, when you visit her garden and see all those beauties your budget won't stretch to accomodate, says: "Would you like a division of Violet Flare - or that nice clone of chryso-graphes - or this seedling I'm registering this year?" and doesn't wait till you say yes, but runs for the spade.

2. The equally lovely soul who comes to see your garden, and after touring the seedling patch, taking pictures and writing down numbers and descriptions, asks you to let her (or him) know when this one and that one and the one at the end of the other row are going to be introduced so that she/he can buy them - and when you offer her/him a piece right now as a gift, actually looks delighted as she/he accepts.

3. The loveliest soul of all, who tells you that your pride-and joy is a nice iris, with many good points, and then suggests exactly what improvements should be bred into it and offers you the parents to cross it with (if you don't have them). This is being heroic and gallant beyond the call of duty, because it is constructive criticism (which is hard to give and often harder to take) put in such a way that even us dumb bunnies recognize its value and accept it cheerfully.

4. And then of course there is that darling who comes to visit the day after you cut your best stalks for a flower show, or the day after a big wind or a hailstorm, or the day after the pack of dogs conducted a clinic in your garden (or some other equally ruinous event) and still finds something to admire - the planning of the beds, or the neatness of the labels, or those three stalks of Royal Ensign that escaped the damage, or even the number of varieties you have; and promises to come back next year, and then COMES! This one really makes you feel he wanted to see it in bloom.

5. And if, perchance, you have one on the market - oh, the delight you feel, the warmth of the heart, when someone tells you that he has ordered it and can "hardly wait" to see it in his garden, so he came to see it in yours.

He and she shall be construed as interchangeable throughout.

* * * * *

VARIETAL COMMENTS

Eleanor Westmeyer has a fine dark purple flat-type seedling, very rich and velvety, and a good medium height. Leona Moon's 10-57, a lavender-pink, is the most ruffled Siberian I have seen.

Dorothy Spofford has a group of very interesting seedlings. Mildred Peck is a lavender-pink self of good size and shape and a fine clear color; its style-arms are long and closely held against the falls, covering the signal area and giving a particularly clean color effect. It makes a lovely clump, and the color carries well in the garden. Salem Witch is a large blue of excellent shape with light style arms which show conspicuously from a distance; this was awarded an exhibition certificate at the Boston Iris Show in 1961. Mandy Morse is a tall, well-branched purple with a very showy, large white blaze on the falls.

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Among the older varieties, I made some lists of plants that show various characteristics:

Light blues with especially clean quality (pale hafts) - Blue Charm, Wisteria, Turquoise Cup, China Blue.

Cup-shaped - White Swirl first, then Grey Dove, Mountain Pool, Periwinkle, Turquoise Cup.

White edge on falls - Nora Distin, Kenogami, and one of my Skylarks!
Very dark throat, almost no white - Velvet Gown, Tycoon, Imperial, Royal Ensign, Caesar's Brother and Tropic Night.

Flats - Blue Moon, Blue Star.

Color deeper at center, paling toward edges - Cool Spring, Skeena, Little Boy Blue.

Medium blue, with falls nearly horizontal - Kingfisher, Kindfisher Blue, Sky Blue.

Deep rich purple - Caesar, Caesar's Brother, Royal Herald.

Sarah Tiffney

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Some Happy Siberians (Continued from Page 69)

Towanda Redflare - 22-24" tall, foliage a yellow-green. Eleven stalks on a 2 year old plant. Deep red-lavender, falls have light splash with yellow-brown throat and deep purple veining. Attractive.

Zerita - medium size. Light purple, white throat, tan overlay, reddish style arms. I liked this one very much and caused much comment.

Of course the well-known ones, like Snow Crest, Caesar's Brother and Llewelyn are always a point of interest to everyone who visits the garden. As the clumps of these Siberians had to be raised and divided I have given good sections to people I thought would be interested in growing them and consequently I feel I have made many friends for the beautiful Siberians. Many new gardeners like the idea of being able to leave the plants in one place for several years rather than having to reset them as is necessary with the faster multiplying tall bearded irises.

Charlotte Withers.

MEMBERSHIP LIST AS OF OCTOBER 10, 1962

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Honorary Members:

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Mr. F.Cleveland Morgan	c/o Henry Morgan & Co., Ltd.
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Mr. Charles E.F.Gersdorff	1825 N Capitol St., Washington 2, D.C.

Foreign Correspondents:

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Mr. Maurice Kitton	"Littlecourt", Page Heath Lane
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Brenner, Francis	Rte 2, McMahon Rd., Pedatonica, Ill.
* Brink, Mr. Paul	77 Huron Street, Milan, Ohio
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* Brown, Mrs. Rex (Alta)	14920 Highway 99, Lynnwood, Wash.
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	R.D.#3, Oswego, New York

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| Myers, Mr. Eugene M. | Rte 6, 17800 Madison Rd., South Bend 14, Ind. |
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| * Nelson, Mrs. J. Arthur | 3131 N 58th St., Omaha 4, Nebr. |
| * Nesbit, Mrs. Joe S. (Connie) | 248 Summour St., Norcross, Ga. |
| * Parsons, Mrs. Eugene H. (Pat) | 2635 South 9th St., Lincoln 2, Nebr. |
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| Poston, Irene | 302 Ray St., Bakersfield, Calif. |
| Preece, Mr. Sherman, Jr. | Linda Vista Addition, Rte 3, Missoula, Mont. |
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| Randall, Allan L. | 3864 St. Nicholas Drive, West Richfield, Ohio |
| * Reath, Dr. D. L. | Box 251, Vulcan, Michigan |
| Rice, Mrs. Burton | 134 Newland Rd., Arlington 74, Mass. |
| * Rowe, Mrs. Elizabeth H. | 1231 Wightman St., Pittsburgh 17, Pa. |
| * Saddoris, Dr. M. L. | 209 N Jordan, Cleveland, Oklahoma |
| Saddoris, Mrs. M. L. | 209 N Jordan, Cleveland, Oklahoma |
| * Sargo, Mrs. Sam (Vay B.) | RFD 7, Box 80, Hot Springs, Ark. |
| Sherman, Mr. Ted | 1029 East 8th St., Pittsburg, Kansas |
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| Spofford, Mrs. Foster (Dorothy) | 19 Everett St., Beverly Farms, Mass. |
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| Terrill, Mrs. Joseph E. | Rte 1, Burlingame, Kansas |
| Thoma, Mrs. Michael V. (Ruth) | Bunker Hill, Nassau, New York |
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| Whitsett, Mr. Gale | 2327 Kemper, Cincinnati, Ohio |
| * Wilkie, Mrs. Harry (Leonora C.) | 302 N Main Street, Bellbrook, Ohio |
| Withers, Mrs. John (Charlotte) | Rte 1, Box A-10, Mandan, N. Dak. |
| Ziems, Mr. Clinton | West Monroe, New York |

* American Iris Society judges.

We are sorry to report that ten former members did not renew their memberships for 1962. But we have added eleven new members since our May issue. So we are at least holding our own.

We extend our best wishes to the new members and sincerely hope we will be able to prove membership is worth their dollar dues. If anyone has questions they would like to have answered, please do not hesitate to write us a note. If you have any ideas on how to increase membership or improve our publication--pass them along. We are always receptive to new ideas and suggestions.

KANSAS CITY - MAY 1962

I can't resist the temptation to add a few words about the Annual Meeting of the AIS in Kansas City. You have already read all about it in the Bulletin but my comments aren't on the parentage, stamina and future availability of the irises on display. The qualified judges of the American Iris Society have already taken care of that. Just let me state that the hospitality of the committees was as warm as the weather!

This was the first time there have been enough Siberians in bloom for judges and laymen to get a good chance to see their versatility as landscape and arrangement subjects. Good sized clumps of Siberians were in several gardens, especially in the Becker garden (Caesar's Brother), Glen Rogers (Cool Spring), Minnick (Crystal Charm), with a planting of Pseudacorus at Mrs. Miller's pool in Tonganoxie. There were several beds planted only to Siberians at Prices', all labeled and mulched with hay which helped to encourage the camera fans to 'snap a few'. At the Dr. Taggart garden in Topeka, many seedlings were tucked in among the Tall Bearded irises, but few were in bloom. At the McHugh garden there were more seedlings. A lovely little blue-purple one was planted under a tree and though I tried several times I was unable to get a good slide of it.

The Siberian and Median sections held a joint session on Saturday Afternoon. We were very well represented with about a dozen of our members present. Slides provided for the meeting by F. W. Cassebeer, Eleanor Westmeyer, Sarah Tiffney and Peg Edwards were shown and enjoyed. Sorry Peg Edwards couldn't be there to give a more technical descriptive narrative along with the wonderful slides. However, they say, one picture is worth a thousand words. Let's hope it is true.

At the meeting held for the judges it was brought out that with the increase of varieties of irises being shown at shows it behooves the judges to study up and know the qualifications of good irises in each class in order to give a fair and true judgement. At the Kansas City flower show in the Auditorium on Saturday afternoon and evening this was forcefully brought out with many of the arrangements featuring Siberians and Spurias in their composition. The Siberian irises seemed to hold up very well in spite of the warmth of the auditorium. In showing arrangements this, to me anyway, is a very important point in selecting irises, or for that matter, any type of flower.

Well, all in all, I would say it was a very satisfactory convention, with lots of bloom and sunshine to make the camera fans happy. Again, I urge the members-if the Annual Meeting of the American Iris Society is in your area, make a special effort to attend. It is an experience you will long remember. Not only for the display of irises, old and new, but for the friendships you will form. In other words, it's fun!

Charlotte Withers

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