

the
Siberian
Iris

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Fall 1986



THE SIBERIAN IRIS

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Fall 1986

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Want to be useful?

Write the Chairman of the committee of your choice!



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our membership is growing, and I extend a sincere welcome to all of our new members. At present, this mailing is going to 511 members, 41 outside of the United States and 470 inside the U.S. This does not mean we have 511 in the current membership, as TSI is mailed to members whose dues are up to one year overdue. Check the mailing label for your dues expiration date. It should be at the right hand end of the top line as year/month.

During a recent conversation with Mrs. Elsie McGarvey, the Siberian Iris Esther C. D. M. was brought up. Mrs. McGarvey is aware that her late husband requested that all stock be destroyed. She and numerous people fortunate enough to grow it felt that it was too good an iris to destroy; consequently, it still exists. Since Dr. McGarvey destroyed his stock, Mrs. McGarvey would like to reacquire it. She feels it is a quality iris, and would like to reestablish it in commerce so that it may be seen and have the opportunity to win awards. According to Kay Nelson, the AIS Registrar, the registration was never cancelled, changed or withdrawn; so it is properly registered, is introduced, and as far as the AIS knows, it is in commerce.

The notice of Carolee Clay's resignation appeared in the last issue of TSI. Although Carolee has only been with us a short time as TSI editor, she has devoted many hours trying to make TSI a better publication. We sincerely regret that she does not have more hours in the day so that she could continue, but I know that is not possible. Carolee, we shall miss you. Thank you for the time and effort you have contributed to SSI on our behalf.

Potential candidates for the editor's job were discussed with several of the board members. The most difficult part was finding someone qualified. Vice President Barney Hobbs did an outstanding job in

locating a new editor, and I am proud to announce that Mrs. Judy Hollingworth has graciously accepted the position. Judy is very familiar with siberians, as she and her husband Bob have been hybridizing for a number of years. Many of you will recall their interesting seedlings from the 1985 National convention in Indianapolis.

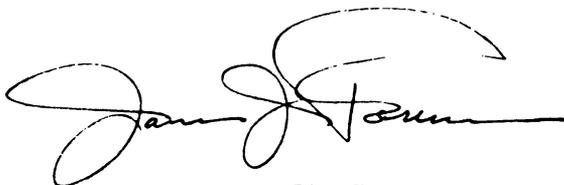
The most difficult task facing Judy will be the availability of material to edit, or more appropriately, the non-availability of material. Unfortunately, the editor is not simply an editor but a reporter, artist, columnist, typist, etc. This is in reality, a huge commitment on Judy's part, and she will need help and support from each of us. Please cooperate and pitch in to help when asked. Many people have a hidden fear of writing; why not try it and volunteer an article to Judy. She is more than willing to help you improve it. Judy is very enthusiastic about this undertaking and has a number of good and interesting ideas. If she contacts you for help, please try--she is doing her best for you and the SSI.

This item is most difficult, and one must be most careful so as not to offend anyone but to still show concern and try to help solve the problem. I have received letters and telephone calls concerning the size, quantity and quality of siberian rhizomes shipped by some of our hybridizers or introducers. I have been reminded by two of our officers that many of our members are new and have limited experience growing siberians. When the pitiful specimen they received dies, it could create the impression that siberians are difficult to grow, when poor plants are the cause. After considerable thought, I am torn between trying to do something and, on the other hand, it does not seem appropriate for the SSI or its officers to become involved in mediating this matter. However, because of the number of complaints, it will be an item for discussion at the next Board Meeting. My personal recommendation is that if you are not satisfied with the plants you received, and your source does not make it right, "Don't buy any more plants from that source, tell your friends what you received and the treatment you got." On this basis, I would like to hear from people who have purchased siberians this year. Please tell me who you bought from; whether the rhizomes in each start were more or less than 3; if the specimens had good roots, long, white and not dried out; foliage fresh starting new growth or showing evidence of rot and mold; and lastly, something about the size of the rhizomes i.e., telling me you needed a magnifying glass to see it or that you've seen borers burp up bigger pieces doesn't help much, but describing it as the diameter of a lead pencil and two inches long does tell me something. I

would like to hear both good and bad. If you were not satisfied, did you inform your source of the dissatisfaction? Please try to be objective and factual.

Dr. Thomas Tamberg recently wrote that he has a third generation tetracalsibe cross. He is referring to it as Tetracalsibe. It is fertile both ways and can be selfed, or crossed, with 28/56 chromosome tetraploid siberians. He has sent a specimen for me to plant, and I shall be most happy to report on it from time to time.

Best wishes for your cultural success,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Foreman', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Jim Foreman
President

Progress on "THE SIBERIAN IRIS CHECKLIST"

Note: The above name may have changed due to much additional material on Siberian irises that is also being included in it.

Progress has been very slow and no date has as yet been given for printing or release. I have learned that we are waiting for written permission to use several illustrations that are included in the book, from the artist in England. Hopefully this will soon be received. Ed.

SIBERIAN BOARD MEETING

The Siberian Board Meeting was held in the San Jose Room of the Red Lion Hotel in San Jose on April 26, 1986.

First on the agenda was the presentation of the Morgan-Wood Medal by Dave Silverburg. This received a favorable response from all present.

The report on membership shows a gain of 107 members. Forty percent have come as a result of the brochure "Invitation to Join" which has been sent out in several catalogs as well as displayed at shows, meetings, etc. We now have approximately 450 members.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$6686.41.

There are two change in committee chairpersons. Ainee Busse will chair the Publicity Committee. Calvin Helsley will be in charge of slides.

The status of the Encyclopedia or Checklist was discussed. There will be 220 pages in the book. A delay has been experienced because permission to use certain line drawings has not yet been obtained, but this should be forthcoming very soon. After discussion it was decided that 500 copies be printed. A motion to sell the books for \$7.00 each was made by Barney Hobbs and seconded by Ainee Busse. Motion passed.

Report from Presby Memorial Gardens: Several thousand dollars in Siberian Irises have been donated in addition to time and effort by individuals in giving planting instructions. They are asking for more donations of Siberian Irises from hybridizers and Display Garden owners. A motion was made by Harry Keusel that we table this request for one year. This was seconded by Bob Hollingworth and passed.

Carolee Clay reported on *The Siberian Iris*. She stated that materials for the publication should be in by February 15 in order for the Spring issue to be in the mail by the last of April. September 1 would be the last date that material would be accepted for the Fall issue.

A letter requesting advertising space was read. Discussion followed. It was decided that it would be feasible to have advertising but that it would be limited to horticultural related products. A motion

was made by Barney Hobbs to have advertising and set the rate at \$50 for a full page, \$30 for a half page, and \$20 for a quarter page. There will be an extra charge for photos (black-and-white and camera-ready). This motion was seconded by Ainee Busse. We are now using a rate of 30 percent overprint in bulletins. This allows for orders and an average of 10 percent waste. Carolee also stated that each committee should have a report in *The Siberian Iris*.

Harry Keusal moved that the Siberian Board advertise Dr. McEwen's book, *Siberian Iris*, in the AIS Bulletin at least once a year, using a quarter-page ad and requesting that it be near the listing of materials gotten from Jamie Heathcock. This was seconded by Ainee Busse and the motion passed.

Jim Foreman reported on the slides. They have been sent out to ten users this year. Jim will transfer the slides to Calvin Helsley as soon as the change is published in TSI.

Annie Mae Miller reported that there are three Robins flying at present. Dr. Bob Hollingworth gave a report on Research. He reported that Treflan is being used instead of colchicine to induce tetraploids. He also reported that Fertilome Evergreen Spray is Cygon. There have been some procedures developed for altering the color of Siberian Irises.

Agnes Waites sent a report on introductions. Thirty varieties were introduced. Four varieties were introduced by overseas hybridizers. Twenty-five new varieties were registered. Sixteen persons registered and/or introduced irises. There has been one name change--City of York to Spirit of York; and one parentage change--Stars by Day (Atoll X Blue Song). The new medal category--THE MORGAN-WOOD--is on the 1986 Judges Ballot.

Meeting adjourned.

SAN JOSE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

After the great Siberian Convention at Indianapolis last year, the San Jose convention was a bit of a disappointment. They had lots of rain early on, but then it dried out completely and only the big commercial garden at Melrose had good bloom. Among the guests I liked Apalossa Blue--a fine light blue from Louise Bellagamba, King of Kings--Steve Varner's impressive white, and Ken Waite's Laughing Brook--a floriferous dark violet blue. Bob Hollingworth's Wizardry which was so impressive last year was equally fine. This is a mid-blue with a lighter edge, with feathered style arms of light blue. It is one of the largest siberians I have ever seen, probably because it is tetraploid.

Over in the commercial beds, Jaybird (Hager '82), a light lavender blue, cobalt blue bitone was an imposing row, and the pale blue Alter Ego made a nice contrast. New to me was Hager's Star Glitter with wide white standards and light yellow falls. I liked its form a little better than its pollen parent-- Butter and Sugar--but the color contrast was not as pronounced. Currier's Ruffled Velvet was living up to its Morgan Award, and the very dark purple Shirley Pope with its clear white signals made an attractive clump.

Publications

Back issues: All back issues will be \$1.50 each if available. Some of the early issues are no longer available. The Judging Standards should be ordered from the A.I.S. Checks for all publications, payable to the Society for Siberian Irises, should accompany all orders. Send to the Publication Office, Mrs. Ruth Wilder, 802 Camellia Road, Anderson, SC 29621 except for SIBERIAN IRISES, by Currier McEwen, which should be ordered from Mr. Julius Wadekampe, 15974 Canby Lane, Route 5 Fairbault, MN 55021. Price for this, by mail, is \$7.00 including postage and handling.



AN INTRODUCTION TO
TO YOUR NEW EDITOR

I will be taking over as editor of *The Siberian Iris* with the Spring 1987 issue, so Jim Foreman asked me to introduce myself to you.

I have had an interest in gardening since I was a small child growing up in England. My grandfather was a professional gardener and, like many English people, had his own home greenhouse. I remember helping him tend the grape vines, and I was fascinated with the development of the grapes. His ultimate goal was to have a bunch of grapes for each grandchild's harvest basket. They were often very small--we got very little hot sun in Yorkshire; but they were a triumph and an exotic contribution to the Harvest Festival.

I helped many relatives with various garden chores--weeding and mowing seem to be favorite jobs for delegating to children--but it wasn't until my husband Bob and I came to Riverside, California in 1961 that I had a piece of garden of my own. There I grew marvelous geraniums! This was a difficult task in England, and I thought I had inherited the family green thumb until I was told they were weeds in California! So I had to seek out further plant material which a person of my illustrious background could take pride in growing. A friend took me to see an "Iris Lady," and I was hooked.

The irises were of course TBs; but over the years my iris tastes have become more refined--perhaps I should say more eclectic as I don't wish to offend anyone. Bob caught a hybridizing bug, the siberian strain, and for a while I managed to hold out as a general gardener, but eventually the hybridizing became a joint enterprise.

Becoming editor of TSI is a new challenge for me, and I hope, with all your help, to grow in the job and maintain the high standards of the past. Many of you have a much greater knowledge of the siberian iris than I do, so as editor I shall be calling on your expertise, without which it will be a very sparse publication. The strength of any society is in its membership, and ours is growing rapidly. So please contribute. The new editorial address is: 1015 Windwood Lane, West Lafayette, Indiana 47906. --Judy Hollingworth.

Judy Hollingworth

From the Archives

CANADIAN IRIS HYBRIDIZERS

SUCCESS WITH SIBERIANS

At about the same time as a number of Canadians were blazing a trail with tall bearded tetraploids two irisarians were working with Siberian iris with even more success. These were Miss Isabella Preston and Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan. Both of these did do some crossing with the tall bearded and might well have been mentioned with "Trail Blazers in Tall Bearded" in a previous article. Around 1930 Miss Preston registered five bearded irises--Canadian Gold, Carling, Dawson, Gwynne and Irving. Canadian Gold was highly thought of by Lady Byng, wife of the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Byng of Vimy. She exhibited it at the Chelsea Show in 1930. However, these were not introduced and played no part in her main claim to fame. Similarly Morgan registered between 1924 and 1931 at least four tall bearded irises--Lorraine Morgan (a pink blend), Montreal (a dark blue blend), Hochelaga (a red blend), and Mount Royal (a dark blue blend). The latter was introduced and widely distributed in Canada, the United States and England. In 1930 it won an A.M. from the Royal Horticultural Society, England, the first Canadian tall bearded to win a major award. It could be obtained at some Canadian Nurseries as late as 1950. While Morgan achieved considerable fame in the tall bearded field his greatest success and fame in iris, as in the case of Miss Preston, came from his work with Siberians to which we now return.

Miss Isabella Preston was born in Lancashire, England in 1831, was educated in a private school in Liverpool, was always interested in gardening and graduated from Swanley Horticultural College in 1906. She and her sister came to Canada in 1912. She was a student for a short time at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph and shortly was engaged as a "labourer" under Professor J. W. Crow who was working with lilies. From these experiments and breeding came the lily "W. C. Creelman" still considered by some to be a great white trumpet lily. In one of her written articles "My Work with Ornamentals" Miss Preston recalls going to a Professor of Botany at Guelph and asking "which is the stigmatic surface on an iris flower."

In 1920 she went to Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, to do breeding work with ornamentals. Presently she put the knowledge about iris breeding to use. At the Central Experimental Farm there was a

fairly good collection of irises, both tall bearded and Siberian. Among the latter were a number of plants of *Iris orientalis* Snow Queen with beautiful white flowers partly hidden in the foliage. She crossed it with the tall *Iris Siberica* Maxima hoping to get a tall plant with flowers similar to those of Snow Queen. All the seedlings had blue flowers. Additional crosses were made, some like the original, some back to Snow Queen and some between the seedlings themselves in an attempt to get the desired white.

Many of these seedlings were named and several introduced between 1923 and 1933--Ottawa, Richelieu, Abitibi, Chaudiere, Gatineau, Kootenay, Madawaska, Mattawin, Nipigon, Pembina, Rideau, China Blue, Kenagami, Nelson (Matane), Pikanock, Rimouski, Skeena. These formed the Canadian River series. Many of them were widely distributed in Canada, the U.S. and Britain. In the late 60s Miss Castle, at Rowan-croft Gardens, carried Abitibi, Kootenay, Mattawa, Nipigon, Gatineau, Rideau. In the 70s Bruce Richardson and his successor, the McMillen's (1976), carried Abitibi, China Blue, Kootenay, Nipigon, Rideau, Rimouski, Skeena, Yukon. This attests to their popularity over almost 40 years.

Most of these hybrids were blue; a few, and these less popular, were white or nearly white. The two which won international honour were Ottawa and Gatineau, both the results of the very first cross. Ottawa received an A.M. from the Royal Horticultural Society (England) in 1928, and was, along with Morgan's Caesar, the very first Canadian iris to receive an international honour. Gatineau was slower in being recognized, winning an H.M. from the American Iris Society in 1933 and an A.M. from the Royal Horticultural Society (England) in 1952. It is still recognized as being one of the great Siberians.

Iris was but one of many fields in which Miss Preston worked as a hybridizer with marked success. When she moved to Ottawa in 1920 she continued working with lilies. She was one of the earliest of what later became a veritable army of lily breeders. Starting with Lady Byng, which was exhibited at Chelsea in 1931, at least 20 lilies were registered between 1930 and 1956, these being almost wholly the Asiatic type in their various colours and forms (upfacing, out-ward facing and pendant). These were widely distributed where hardy lilies are grown, from Canada to Chile and New Zealand. Equally fundamental were the hybrid lilacs which bloom later and do well in wetter and colder climates than the French lilacs. Today these are featured as the Preston lilacs or Preston hybrids by many nurseries. Also the hardy Rosybloom Crabapples have won a special place among nurserymen and horticulturists.

Many honours came her way in addition to the ones mentioned earlier for Gatineau. Two gold medals came from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, one for lilies and one for woody plants. From the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, came two prestigious awards--the Veitch Memorial Award and the Lyttel Lily Cup; from the Ontario Horticultural Society the Carter Medal and from the American Iris Society the Hybridizers Medal.

Miss Preston retired in 1947. She had planned to retire to England but found the climate unsuitable and returned to Ontario and settled in Georgetown. Here she developed a beautiful garden featuring lilies and still did some breeding. Her home became a focal point for hybridists and horticulturalists from around the world. Her contact with the iris world was maintained by membership in the Canadian Iris Society. Retirement was enjoyed for 18 years. Death came on the last day of 1965 at age 84.

F. Cleveland Morgan was born in 1882. Educated in England and Switzerland, he was as much at home on the Continent or the British Isles, where he had many friends, as he was in Canada where his family were in commerce. He himself was a director of the firm of Henry Morgan Co., a department store chain with headquarters in Montreal. This organization was taken over later by the Hudson Bay Co. or "The Bay" as it is now called.

He early exhibited an interest in the fine arts and became a recognized authority on them with horticulture included as a worthy part of that field. In him were wedded the man of business and the man of the arts. The Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal owed its inception to him and he was associated with it for 43 years, eight of them as President. Each year he would visit the British Isles and the continent in search of treasures for the Museum and for his garden.

His horticultural interests were wide and varied. At Senneville near Montreal was his home and garden where his rock garden was famous and visited by horticulturists from far and near to see his alpinines.

Iris breeding became a hobby quite early in his life. Mention has already been made of his work with tall bearded. The results with Siberians were even more rewarding. Caesar, his first named Siberian, came from a cross of Nigrescens (an old dark one dating back to 1875) and Blue King (which came from Japan in 1902, collected by Barr). This was registered in 1924. In 1931 Caesar's Brother was registered. Both of these were deep royal blue. Caesar was awarded an A.M. by the Royal Horticultural Society, England in 1928, while Caesar's Brother

received an H.M. from the American Iris Society in 1936. By crossing the above two he obtained Tropic Night, another fine and larger deep blue. Two other Siberians were registered in 1931--Hadrian and Quebec, possibly from the same cross as Tropic Night. These apparently did not have the appeal of his other Siberians.

Morgan was a firm supporter of Iris organizations. He was a life member of both the American and British Iris Societies. He was as generous in providing donations of irises to several Botanic and Test Gardens of the American Iris Society as he was with friends and others interested in horticulture.

In the early years of the American Iris Society, Morgan and Miss Preston provided much of the interest in the field of Siberians. After 1950 interest in the United States increased and today there are several hybridizers introducing one or more varieties each year. Recognizing this increased interest, a special award was created to honour the finest or most popular Siberian iris of the year. This award also honoured F. Cleveland Morgan and was called the Morgan award. In 1951 the winner was Tycoon originated by Mrs. F. Cleveland, who can so easily be mixed up with F. Cleveland Morgan. In 1952 the winner was Caesar's Brother and in 1954 it was Tropic Night, which is some evidence of the quality of Morgan's introductions in the 1930s. These seem to have been the only awards made in the 50s. Since 1960, however, the number of good Siberians from American hybridizers have increased and almost every year sees a new Morgan Award.

While the Preston and Morgan Siberians are now getting pretty old, many are still in catalogs. Of even greater interest is the number of top notch recent introductions which carry the blood line of one or more of the Preston or Morgan iris. Below is a list of Morgan winners since 1962. Following each in parenthesis is (C.B.), (G), or (W.S.) to indicate that Caesar's Brother, Gatineau or White Swirl is a parent or grandparent of the irises listed. White Swirl was originated by Cassabeer who rarely hand pollinated, but White Swirl is considered by the experts to be a child of Gatineau. (U) indicates parentage unknown.

1962	White Swirl (Cassabeer 1957)	G?
1963	Snow Crest (Gage 1932)	
1964	Tealwood (Varner 1959)	(CB x CB)
1965	Violet Flare (Cassabeer 1959)	(U)
1966	Cool Spring (Kellogg 1939)	(U)
1967	Blue Brilliant (Cassabeer 1959)	(U)
1968	Pirouette (Cassabeer 1963)	(U)
1969	Velvet Night (Edwards 1959)	(U)
1970	Dewfull (McGarvey 1967)	(S.S. x sdg: G x CB)

- 1971 Super Ego (McGarvey 1966) (W.S. x sgd:
G x C.B.)
- 1973 Swank (Hager 1969) (W.S. x sgd: G x ?)
- 1974 Grand Junction (McCord 1969)
- 1975 Halcyon Seas (McCord 1972)
- 1976 Orville Fay (McEwan 1969) second
generation tetraploid
- 1977 Vi Luihn (DuBose 1973) Tuthannoch x Swank
(W.S. x sgd: G x C.B.)
- English Dykes--Cambridge (Brummett 1964)
W.S. x G) 1971

Cambridge was added to the list because its award, the English Dykes Medal, was considered on a par with the Morgan Award. Seventeen award winners are listed. In five cases all parents are unknown. Of the twelve remaining, one or more of White Swirl, Gatineau or Caesar's Brother appear as a parent or grandparent in eight of the award winners, or in about 66 2/3 percent of the cases.

In the list of 12 Siberians winning the H.M. award in 1977, from which some future Morgan winners will likely come, are eight iris which through Ego, Super Ego, White Swirl and Tealwood carry the blood of Gatineau or Caesar's Brother. The crosses made by Isabella Preston and Cleveland Morgan away back in the late 20s and early 30s are still bearing fruit and producing awards many years after the death of these two irisarians. Morgan died in 1962 and Isabella Preston in 1965.

In the plant breeder's world, at least, the "good that men do lives after them."

--Murray Smith
C.I.S. Historian

FOCUS ON SIBERIAN IRISES--EAST TO WEST, NORTH TO SOUTH

The SSI has been enjoying a high profile among the perennial trade this past year. The SSI membership brochure, "An Invitation to Join," was included in the registration packets of the 600 people attending the Perennial Plant Association Symposium held in Columbus, Ohio from July 7 through 11. There was a concerted effort to include brochures from all the major perennial plant societies in the PPA packets. The American Iris Society donated a copy of their 1986 iris calendar for the packets. Positive responses were heard from registrants about the promotional thrust of the iris groups. As a courtesy to the perennial plant societies, the PPA had a double booth at the Trade Fair where they sold publications from the respective societies. The book, *Siberian Irises*, by Currier McEwen, enjoyed brisk sales. The AIS publications were also displayed for sale.

The Atlantic Perennial Plant Association, an associate group of 140 members to the national PPA, invited me to speak on perennials following the National American Hemerocallis Society Convention held in Georgia in June. The title of the presentation was "Four Loves." One of those four loves was Siberian Irises. Each of the Atlanta group received the SSI promotional brochure, "An Invitation to Join." The slide program showed how Siberian irises could be used in the landscape, included closeups of the color variations in the Siberian irises, touched on the species versus the cultivars, and briefly described the introduction of tetraploidy into the Siberians.

The Pennsylvania State University, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Flowers Growers and the United States Department of Agriculture, held a convention at Penn State, University Park, PA, from June 29 through July 1. As a program speaker at this convention, I was provided a fine opportunity to distribute the SSI brochure "An Invitation to Join." The profile of the group was regional with about 200 attending. The people in this particular geographical area are just beginning to be aware of the impact of perennials in the gardening market in the U.S. They were pleased to learn that there were beardless irises, specifically the Siberian irises, which were wonderful landscape plants for their area.

Siberian irises were front and center in North Dakota, too. The North Dakota Nursery Association held its annual convention in mid-February in Fargo, ND. The title of my presentation was, "Hardy Peren-

nials for the North." Here again, members were pleased to learn about the hardiness of the Siberian iris in Zones 2 and 3; they were introduced to the beauty of the Siberian iris for the landscape, both in mass plantings or as a specimen; and they were educated about the broad range of colors that are available in the trade. The 250 registrants received a handout entitled, "Siberian Irises for the Landscape," a copy of which was printed in the AIS Bulletin in July 1985. They also received a copy of the SSI brochure "An Invitation to Join."

The members of the Wright County Chapter of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society invited me to teach them about "The Many Faces of Iris" at their monthly meeting in June. My slide program included an introduction to Siberian irises and the use of them in the landscape. The 50 people attending each received a copy of the SSI promotional brochure. The book *Siberian Irises* was displayed for sale, and a copy was placed in the Wright County Chapter library.

The Garden Writers' Association of America (GWAA) held their Mid-American Convention in St. Louis, MO the first week in April. The theme of the convention was perennials. The booth at the Trade Fair that promoted the Perennial Plant Association and displayed advertising for Busse Gardens offered the SSI brochure as a handout to the GWAA members who browsed through the Fair. A framed copy of the Siberian iris print that is being sold through Region 8 of the AIS was displayed at the booth. Another original floral print that included Siberian irises was tacked to the velcro-backed upright display board. A projector with a carousel of perennial slides was at the booth, and those who stopped could view these, which included a wealth of Siberian iris slides.

The Perennial Plant Association sponsored an informational packet for the GWAA in February 1986 that included feature articles on 10 different perennials. As a member of the GWAA and a board member of the PPA, I was asked to write one of these articles. I chose to write on Siberian irises. It was rewarding to learn that garden writers throughout the U.S. used the article for their gardening columns. A copy of a column about Siberian irises that appeared in a newspaper in central Ohio was given to me personally by someone who traveled to Minnesota to see what the author was talking about. He had not known about Siberian irises until he read about them in this gardening column. The garden writer had credited me with most of the content and given my address in Minnesota. This Ohio reader had relatives living in the Minneapolis area, so in June he decided to visit them and to come to visit our garden to see what Siberian irises looked like. He will now be growing several new Siberians in his garden this fall.

With the exposure that is being given to the Siberian irises through the perennial trade, through gardening columns, in slide programs at horticultural societies, and through the SSI brochure "An Invitation to Join," we look for continued interest in this loveliest of plants.

--Ainie Busse, Chairperson, SSI Publicity Committee



SLIDE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Calvin Helsley is the SSI Slide Chairman, and has been in this position for the better part of a year. Since the Spring issue of TSI was late, very few people knew that he is the Slide Chairman. Slides were not forwarded to Mr. Helsley as a matter of convenience to anyone wanting to use them, and the old Slide Chairman continued to loan the slides.

Slides have been loaned 9 times since May 1986. Approximately 50 copies of the "Invitation to Join" brochure were sent with the slides each time the slides were borrowed. Although statistics are not available, the number of application blanks cut out of the brochure are noticeable and numerous in the new member applications being processed. There is also correlation in all but one instance to the geographic area where the slides were used. My conclusion would be that sending the brochures with the slides is a good idea and should be continued.

Mr. Helsley's address is listed with the Committee Chairman, so I will not repeat it here. The cost of using the slides is \$7. for non-SSI members, or \$5 for SSI members. Slides will be sent to arrive about a week before your reservation date and should be returned insured for \$100 the next postal workday after use.

TSI ACCEPTING ADVERTISING

The Siberian bulletin will be accepting horticulturally related advertising with its Spring bulletin.

Acceptance of submitted advertising will be at discretion of the editor.

All advertising submitted must be camera-ready (black-and-white only!). If original art is to be returned, a self-addressed, stamped envelope of proper size must be enclosed with ad. The rates are as follows:

Full page ad 4½" x 7½"	\$50.00
Half page ad 4½" x 3½"	\$30.00
Quarter page ad 4½" x 1 3/4".....	\$20.00

If you have any questions about advertising, please contact the editor before sending any art!

Note: Any photos to be used in ads should be shot at 75-line screen.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Please check your mailing label for a date. The date on your mailing label is the date your membership expires. If you have already renewed please ignore it, as there is probably a gap in the passing along of the information. Thank you. Ed.

GET SET FOR A BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION

Dear RVP & Interested Beardless Irisarians. . .

THE AIS CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS treated visitors to a wealth of beardless irises for viewing. Many of us who attended would love to have the opportunity to buy some of the treasures we saw. The BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION is an ideal way to fulfill the wishes of this writer and many of those attending. The BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION serves a twofold purpose. It gives interested AIS members the opportunity to buy beardless irises that are not readily available in their Region; and, it provides an avenue through which the sections can earn monies on a regional level. Besides, it's a lot of fun!!

THE UPPER MIDWEST AND THE EAST have had annual BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTIONS for several years and they have been very successful. The monies that are generated through the BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION are sent to their respective sections. For example, the monies received for species iris go to SIGNA, for Japanese iris to SJI, for Spurias to SIS, for the Louisianas to LISA, and for Siberians to SSI.

THE MECHANICS FOR CONDUCTING a BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION are very simple. Appoint a person to represent each beardless section and he/she will do the contacting of those people growing the iris. They need not contact only hybridizers, but those within the region who grow the iris. The names of donated plants are given to the BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION chairperson who compiles a bid list. A copy of the bid list is sent to all AIS people you think will be interested as well as to the local membership. The donor can send the plant to the chairperson, or send a card with the name of the beardless iris with the understanding they will send the plant direct to the successful bidder at the appropriate time.

TABLE SALES are a delight to those attending the auction. They also draw the general public who are curious about planting beardless iris, but feel insecure about spending large sums of money on only one plant. Occasionally, there are little "treasures" for table sales that are a fun departure from all the green iris plants. The goal is to help the beardless sections in any way you can.

Helpful hints follow this letter. In the Summer 1980 issue of the AIS Bulletin, an article titled "Upper Midwest Beardless Iris Auction Set to Bloom" may be of help. It gives a history of the genesis of the BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION and other helpful information.

We hope you will actively participate in a BEARDLESS IRIS AUCTION in your Region. If you have any questions, please write or call.

Iri-sincerely,

Ainie Busse
Auction Chairperson
Society for Siberian Irises
635 East 7th Street
R 2, Box 13
Cokato, Minnesota 55321

Editor's Corner



As I close out my two years as editor with this issue of TSI, I wish to stress the importance of supporting your new editor, Judy Hollingworth with, articles, information, reports and anything else that pertains to Siberian irises that you would like to see on these pages, show dates, beardless iris sales etc. etc. We are always looking for material and can always edit and rewrite if requested to do so.

Another concern that I have is that of finding the balance of Morgan Award slides that I listed in the Spring 1986 TSI bulletin. I have as yet not received any of them and am questioning whether to proceed with the project. Again I ask, anyone who has a good slide of those listed to loan it to me until a four color separation can be made of it and it will be returned.

Carolee

American Iris Society
Siberian Iris Section
1360 W. Michaels Rd.
Tipp City, OH 45371-2028

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