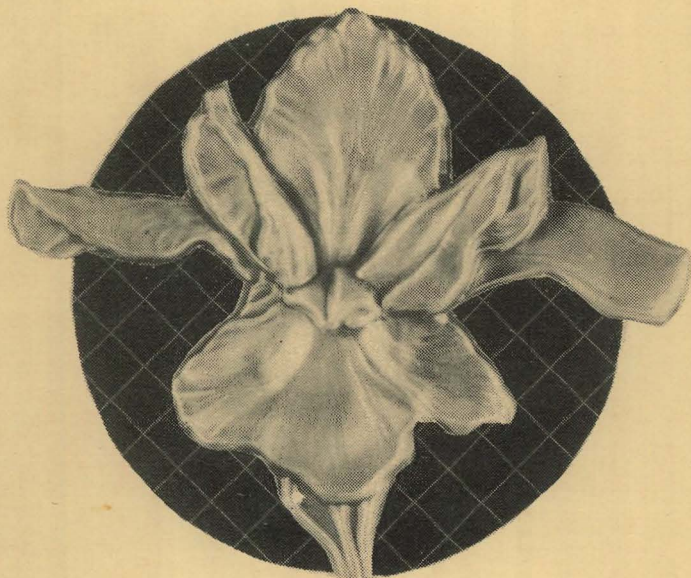


*The
Siberian
Iris*



*Volume 6
Number 8
Fall 1988*

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 8

FALL 1988

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Membership is open to all AIS members in Canada and the United States, and to all iris fanciers elsewhere.

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Numbers in parenthesis denote date term expires

1988 BOARD MEETING OF THE SOCIETY
FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

The Siberian Iris Section Board Meeting was held on May 3, 1988 at the American Iris Society Convention in Oklahoma City, OK., with the following board members present: Anna Mae Miller, Vice President; Barney Hobbs, Second Vice President; Ruth Wilder, Secretary; Ainie Busse, Director; and Gunther Stark, Treasurer. Others present were Don Koza, Display Gardens Chairman, Steve Varner, Past President, and Judy Hollingworth, Editor. Others attending were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Cronin, Mrs. Gunther Stark, Mrs. Steve Varner, Mrs. Onnilee Katz, Mrs. Shirley Pope, and Messrs. Ronald Miller, Dave Silverberg and Howard Brookins.

Anna Mae Miller presided in the absence of James Foreman, President. Minutes of the 1987 meeting were read and approved as read. Treasurer's report was given by Gunther Stark with some additions of Income and Expenditures. The report was published in the Spring, 1988 issue of TSI.

Judy Hollingworth reported on the publication TSI. Some discussion followed regarding the lack of advertising and it was decided that instead of offering full and half page ads, a commercial listing would be printed in the Spring issues of TSI, and included in the next printing of the Siberian brochure. A motion to charge a five (\$5) dollar fee to each commercial supplier listed was made by Ainie Busse and seconded by Barney Hobbs. Motion passed. Ainie Busse is to contact the garden owners as to their preference for listing.

A report on Display Gardens was given by Dr. Koza. An additional garden may be added this year.

There have been several sales of the society's book the "Siberian Iris" this year.

A report of registrations and introductions of Siberian Irises, sent by Agnes Waite, was read by Anna Mae Miller.

A report on publications was given by Ruth Wilder. Some issues are not available.

Nominations for Distinguished Service Award were asked for at this time. Harry Kuesel was nominated by Ruth Wilder with Barney Hobbs seconding the motion. Motion passed.

Anna Mae Miller gave a report as to the status of the robins. There are five flying at present, with 46 members.

No reports were given on slides, research, and AIS bulletin.

Nominating committee report was given by Donald Koza, chairman.

President: Anna Mae Miller
1st Vice President: Bernard E. Hobbs
2nd Vice President: Robert M. Hollingworth
Secretary: Ruth Wilder
Treasurer: Gunther Stark
Director: Shirley Pope
Director: Julius Wadekamper

Dr. Koza moved and Ainie Busse seconded that this slate be accepted. Motion passed.

Ainie Busse gave a report on auctions. As far as we know these have not been held except in the Northeast and Minnesota.

Publicity report was given by Ainie Busse. Various members have written publications, given programs, and taught judges schools on Siberian irises during the year. Many invitations to join SSI have been sent out with positive results.

In new business Ainie Busse was appointed Membership Chairman.

A motion to add the editor of TSI as a director was made by Gunther Stark and seconded by Ruth Wilder. Motion passed.

The check list status was given. A motion by Ainie Busse to use the data as given by Howard Brookins and proof read by Dr. Hollingworth and others to be named, be used as a basis to publish an interim checklist of 100 copies to fill the need for an updated checklist until the Siberian Encyclopedia is ready for publication. This motion was seconded by Barney Hobbs and passed.

The need was discussed to have a Convention Guest Garden Coordinator to send planting instructions and monitor the care of Siberians in the National Convention gardens.

Meeting adjourned

What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back with a hinge in it.

Charles Dudley Warner
"Third Week" My Summer in a Garden (1891)

BEE WARBURTON - TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
OF SIBERIAN HYBRIDIZING

By Jan Sacks

What does a median iris hybridizer do once the medians have bloomed and the pods have set? Bee Warburton's answer was to breed Siberians. At first just a sideline to bearded breeding, Siberians have captured Bee's imagination to the point where today they are the sole object of her hybridizing talents. She began in 1963 with a cross of WHITE SWIRL X ERIC THE RED and discovered that she had to learn color inheritance all over again. Expecting to get reds with the WHITE SWIRL shape she was amazed to find 100 seedlings - all blue. With the exception of STELLAR BLUE ('71) and YOUNG LADY ('82) all of Bee's twenty-six Siberian introductions are descendants of one seedling from this cross.

A theme which runs through most of Bee's breeding program is the backcrossing of seedlings to a white Siberian - most often WHITE SWIRL. Bee believes that the white parent helps to clarify color and more particularly she felt backcrossing to WHITE SWIRL reinforced its lovely flaring form and good growth habit. "White is, of course the most crucial ingredient in hybridizing. It's hard to figure actually, why it is crucial for form as well as for its color influence, but certainly both SNOW FLURRY and WHITE SWIRL are more famous for their shapes than for their whiteness, which seems to conceal a wealth of recessives available to the breeder."

The one seedling kept from WHITE SWIRL X ERIC THE RED had beautiful aqua styles and Bee immediately backcrossed it to WHITE SWIRL. From this cross came many fine seedlings including DEEP SHADE ('72), SHADOW LAKE ('72), and BLUE SONG ('73). Among the features of this cross were large flowers, wide and ruffled standards (for that time), shading patterns on the falls, aqua styles, styles which were so wide as to cover the signal, and styles which were fringed, feathered, and had curled style crests. "By this time I was hung up on the blues and especially the turquoise styles and given up all thoughts of the reds for many years".

Several of these seedlings were again backcrossed to WHITE SWIRL, and one of these crosses produced ROSACE ('79), a blue-violet Siberian so

wide and ruffled that it had the look of a newly opened rose. Another seedling, one with a lightly shaded spot in the center of the falls, when backcrossed to WHITE SWIRL produced ATOLL ('75). Bee's long-range objective in this cross was to produce a "plicata like" Siberian with a white fall center and a dark rim. Though not a full realization of this goal, ATOLL was quite different from any other Siberian - "A star" as Currier McEwen wrote at the time. It is blue-violet with dappling in the center of the falls, surrounded by a rim of darker blue with a satin smooth finish. The pattern is repeated in the standards and of course it has aqua styles. It has excellent proportions, one branch, good pollen, and sets seed readily. This iris formed the focus of Bee's breeding for the next ten years. She continued to pursue the white center and dark rim but added to her goals producing an ATOLL-type flower in other colors - most particularly red. Bee has not yet succeeded in achieving these goals but in the process has produced several outstanding modern cultivars.

By now it was the late seventies and Bee crossed practically everything in the garden onto ATOLL - both line crosses and out crosses. Two crosses with about 500 seedlings in each gave the most dramatic results. From ATOLL X WING ON WING came so many lovely blue-violets that it was almost impossible to choose any one. They had excellent form, improved adornments (styles and signals) and a few demonstrated a tendency to repeat - a new feature in Bee's seedlings. The ATOLL pattern was not apparent but rather had reversed itself with the darker coloring, veining and shading on the shoulders fanning out from the signal rather than on the outer rim. It seemed an appropriate pattern to highlight the bright green UU signal prevalent in many of these seedlings. Over several years Bee selected four from this cross to introduce: DANCER'S FAN ('84), FINE TUNED ('86), SKY MIRROR ('87), and WINGS AWAY ('84). SKY MIRROR, the last to be introduced was the most outstanding garden performer of them all. In spite of its beauty Bee was disappointed that this cross gave only violet-blues.

ATOLL X RUFFLED VELVET was the second huge cross of this period and in these seedlings Bee felt was her "jackpot". She was amazed at the diversity - in color, form, size and pattern. She was not entirely pleased with them at first. "There were some irises so hideous that I stood aghast ... One

of these horrid flowers stood on four foot stems and the flowers were almost as big as plate-sized Japanese. They had gaudy red-violet standards, heavy blue-violet rings on the falls with coarsely splashed coloring, and aqua style arms that are so pretty with any of the blues, but clashed violently with the red and purple of the petals." Much to Bee's surprise this iris drew great attention from garden visitors - most called it beautiful without reservation, and it was eventually introduced as PERCHERON in 1982. It was a credit to her 78 years that Bee was able to change her mind about this flower. She wondered why dappling should not be acceptable in flowers - "we like tweed, we like dappled sunlight under trees, we like bird feathers and all sorts of dappled things but in our irises we demand the color be evenly spread." She recalled a favorite poem - PIED BEAUTY

Glory be to God for dappled things -
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that
swim;
Fresh fire-coal chestnut-falls; finches wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced - fold, fallow and
plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle trim.
All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Two more dappled seedlings were introduced from this cross - ALL IN STIPPLE ('84) and TWEED ('83) both blue-violet and neither as large as PERCHERON. ALL IN STIPPLE is dappled throughout with darker veining and a darker ATOLL-like rim. The falls are adorned by a lovely white veined blue signal. The styles are lighter and have curled crests. Bee had been breeding and selecting for fancy styles since her earliest crosses though for a while she didn't realize she was doing it. "They are one of the most beautiful flower parts in the flower world." TWEED is simply dappled throughout with an effect of lighter standards than falls. Its form is lovely with a very wide and ruffled shape with none of the recurve of its parents. The styles are extremely ornamental - curled into perfect little pearly florets.

Dappling was not all this cross of ATOLL X RUFFLED VELVET had to offer. There were a number of lovely white seedlings but one drew all the attention. GEORGE HENRY ('83), named for Bee's big white and gold cat, has two outstanding features. First, its signal is brown-gold (on RHS chart #22A yellow-orange). It was the closest to orange of any signal Bee had seen at the time and she thought "there is no reason why this color can't be put into the falls of an iris as the paler yellows have been, if we have persistence." The second feature of GEORGE HENRY is its repeat bloom. Two years after its first bloom it threw up 27 repeat stalks - each about 8 inches taller than the first bloom. Many other seedlings from this cross put up substantial repeat bloom that year including PERCHERON. While a whole article might be written about repeat bloom, Bee's thoughts on this have run the gamut. At first she was thrilled by the prospects, then she had second thoughts. The following season the repeat bloom was disappointing and she realised favorable cultural conditions were more important than she had thought. She was also concerned that heavy repeat bloom one year might harm the next year's bloom. It also seems that in some parts of the country there is never any repeat bloom. However, in New England, there do seem to be some Siberians whose repeat bloom is quite reliable every year, and for those cultivars is a noteworthy feature.

The last seedling introduced from the ATOLL X RUFFLED VELVET cross was SILVER ROSE ('85) - the only pink seedling among 500. Bee was particularly proud of this seedling because it was not derived from Dr. McGarvey's pink lines. Its falls are in the orchid pink range but it has pale pink - almost white standards and styles forming the appearance of a star at the top of the flower.

Bee was thrilled with the effect RUFFLED VELVET had on her ATOLL line and she chose three unnamed seedlings to back cross to RUFFLED VELVET. Finally the blues did not predominate - purples, reddish violets, whites with a lot of yellow overtones (Bee believes RUFFLED VELVET is a potential breeder for yellow), beautiful flaring form, incredible substance, a little more two-budism than Bee would like, and all sizes of plants. VISUAL TREAT ('86) was introduced for its metallic reddish purple coloring - covering standards, styles, and falls. It has a bluer violet shading in the center of the falls surrounding a gold tiger-striped signal. The falls are very wide and slightly recurved. Its

sib PURPLE PROSE ('86) puts on the most magnificent show of its silky purple flowers - ruffled and very wide with no visible signal and self-colored style crests. It seems to bloom forever. Though not a repeater, it is a heavy bloomer with many stalks each with two branches and the terminal.

The last introduction from the backcross to RUFFLED VELVET was the white iris BELLISSIMA ('86), "the most beautiful of the Siberians of '82....It is an impeccable round ruffled form with tremendous substance, green signals with deep green rays through them, floret and feathered styles, a perfect shape and crispness that held up four days. When I first saw it, it had a stalk 10 inches tall, with one flower and almost no plant it seemed a dead end, a bloom-out, a despair. Currier agreed that it was the most beautiful white Siberian he had ever seen, and amended that to the best Siberian flower of any color. He advised me to do anything I could do to keep it alive - but imagine, it later put up a stalk of normal height and after blooming the plant started to grow and very soon turned into a normal plant."

Just as Bee was really cooking with her Siberian hybridizing the work for the 1983 national convention took its toll and she began to feel every one of her 78 years. In 1982 Bee's husband Frank (80 himself) told her to make as many crosses as she wanted and he would care for the seedlings ("though HIS line is trees and vegetables and about irises he knows and cares nothing except to indulge ME!"). It was an offer she could not refuse and 33 crosses were lined out in 1983 - 2700 seedlings. Some of these were within her own color lines but "I madly outcrossed for diversification, with BUTTER AND SUGAR, PINK HAZE, POLLY DODGE, PINK SNOWTOP, DEAR DELIGHT...and actually ventured some crosses without any of my own in them...initial crosses for bluer blue, for red, for pinks, for yellows." Not surprisingly the seedlings of most immediate value were all from within her own lines.

MAD MAGENTA ('87) came from PERCHERON X SILVER ROSE. The cross was made to explore for pink and for repeat. The color produced was one Bee had never seen before and the flower was beautifully formed with none of the brashness of PERCHERON. A magenta self - no signal showing - wide and ruffled standards and falls, with fringed and curled style crests. It has shown a tendency to repeat, as have its parents, but as yet no settled pattern. In a number of crosses PERCHERON and SILVER ROSE have demonstrated their value as

parents - both breeding for pink/rose and good form.

SILVER ROSE X GEORGE HENRY was a cross made for repeat bloom and from it REPRISE ('87) was introduced - a dependable repeater. Its other features however, made it a "namer" whether it had repeated or not. Two branches with 6-7 buds, a bright medium violet with darker veining and the curled style crest are highlighted by darker edges. Though GEORGE HENRY'S offspring do not all have repeat bloom it does seem to pass on this feature to some of its children.

Though there were many lovely whites among these 2700 seedlings Bee was extremely disturbed to discover that almost all of them had only two buds. One which had three is WHITE TRIANGLES ('87), a very large flower which reminded Bee of her old friend WHITE SWIRL but with more of everything - wider parts, more flaring, more substance. This came from an ATOLL X RUFFLED VELVET seedling - a violet-blue with good form crossed with DEAR DELIGHT. In fact Bee made a number of crosses involving DEAR DELIGHT with her own introductions and seedlings in search of DEAR DELIGHT'S lovely light blue on a plant with more vigor. So many of these are good that it will take some time to choose the best. Bee also thinks DEAR DELIGHT may breed for the elusive "plicata-like" rim around white falls.

Though there are many more of the 2700 still to evaluate Bee has continued making more crosses (though not as many) and for the moment has narrowed her pursuits a bit. BELLISSIMA is such a beautiful flower Bee decided to work for a similar flower on a taller plant with more buds. She also wanted to draw out the green and believed that, since RUFFLED VELVET bred for yellow, BELLISSIMA would also. She envisioned a non-fading yellow with the BELLISSIMA form. Though BELLISSIMA did not have very good looking pollen, it set seven pods, two on BUTTER AND SUGAR, two on YOUNG LADY and three on WHITE SWIRL. The rabbits did their best to defeat them, but these seedlings finally bloomed well in 1987. One seedling from BUTTER and SUGAR X BELLISSIMA created such a stir it was immediately registered but will not be introduced for a few years. Named ISABELLE for Bee's mother this iris combines the best features of both parents. It has the yellow of BUTTER and SUGAR - not as strong a yellow but clearly yellow - AND the green from BELLISSIMA. If it is possible to imagine it has both darker yellow and green

veining, the styles have a green midrib and the overall effect is of a green heart. The form is very frilled and ruffled, standards as well as falls. Its only apparent fault so far is that it has only two buds.

Well, this is the story of one Siberian breeder as far as it has gone, "...but then life's purest pleasure is planning and making crosses...."

Proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Society
for Siberian Irises

The bylaws of SSI state:

Article X: Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the membership of SSI present in person or by proxy, provided such amendments have been submitted to the membership at least 30 days before the meeting.

Art. IV Section 1, Lines 6-7

Elections shall be held biennially.

Proposed amendment: Elections shall be held annually.

Art. VIII Section 1, Lines 1-7

If there has been no election of officers and board members at an annual or special meeting of SSI the report of the nominating committee containing the list of proposed candidates shall be mailed to the members not later than November 15th of the biennial election years either by letter or by means of a regular publication of SSI.

Proposed amendment: ---the report of the nominating committee containing the list of proposed candidates shall be mailed to the members not later than November 15th of each election year either by letter or by means of a regular publication of SSI.

Art VII Section 3, Lines 4-12

Any business requiring action by the members may also be conducted by mail, either by letter or a regular publication of SSI at the discretion of the board. The procedure for the conduct of such business shall be determined by the board except for procedures described by these bylaws. In any such mail poll a two thirds vote of all returned ballots in favor of the action moved shall have the same effect as though the question had been voted on at a meeting. cont. page 28.

REPORT ON THE 1988 SSI MEMBERS'
FAVORITE 15 POLL

Thanks to everyone who returned their ballots. Several were received from abroad but the number was low from here, leading me to speculate that you were all too busy making sure your Siberians made it through the drought and hadn't time to send in your vote. We'll take a year off in 1989, give your plants time to recover, and try again in '90.

THE FAVORITE 15 FOR 1988

1. RUFFLED VELVET
2. BUTTER AND SUGAR
PINK HAZE
4. SHIRLEY POPE
WINDWOOD SPRING
6. FORREST McCORD
STEVE VARNER
8. INDY
SILVER EDGE
SUPER EGO
WHITE SWIRL
12. ANN DASCH
ANNIVERSARY
AUGURY
LADY VANESSA

These were the highest vote getters of 106 cultivars and 2 species named.

PUBLICATIONS

All back issues are \$1.50 each if available. We no longer have copies of some of the early issues. Judging Standards should be ordered from the AIS. Checks for all publications, payable to the Society for Siberian Irises, should accompany orders. Send to the Publication Office, c/o Mrs. Ruth Wilder, 802, Camellia Rd., Anderson SC 29621.



S.S.I.
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE
AWARD
TO
HARRY B. KUESEL

Harry first became interested in irises in 1951 when he joined AIS. He started hybridizing in the sixties and published a catalogue for Old Brook Gardens in Old

Brookville NY in 1963. He introduced the McGarvey, Warburton and Vaughn Siberians from 1963 to 1976 when he temporarily retired from nursery activities. In 1987 he resumed his hybridizing and again publishes an Old Brook Gardens catalog. He spends his winters in Arizona, but maintains his nursery in Colorado where his son Tim Kuesel assists him in its operation.

He is a past president of the Median Iris Society, Empire State Iris Society, and Regional Vice President for AIS Region 2 (New York), Region 20 (Colorado) and Region 11 (Rocky Mountain States). He also has been Regional Vice President for Region 9 (Rocky Mountain States) of the American Hemerocallis Society and has been 1st Vice President and a director of that organization.

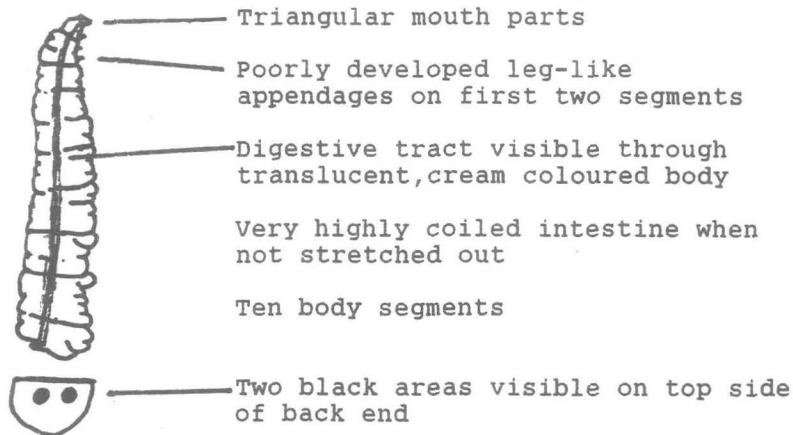
He is a regular contributor to the AIS bulletins and TSI submitting many interesting articles, and has written for the British Iris Society publications.

President of the Siberian Iris Society from 1983-1985, our 25th anniversary year and a member of its Board of Directors for the past nine years he has performed many services for the society. He has always been a positive influence and in his own words " I have always felt each job I took for SSI deserved my earnest and enthusiastic support. Whenever asked, I try to respond promptly with my best input at the time".

Congratulations and our thanks Harry.

ASK THE EXPERT

I have a question which may be of interest to other readers. I have an insect dining on my Siberian bloom. Symptoms include severe damage to reproductive parts (style arms and stamens) and often to standards, (which is accompanied by a lot of fine, sawdust-like frass) and pinholes in the outer fall petals (likely the initial point of entry before the bud opens). The larva then mines its way down into the ovary. Here is a sketch of my little buddy.



The body is about 1cm long when the flower is just unfurling. It is more rounded in appearance when not extended. Other than flower damage, the plants appear healthy and vigorous, with no chewed leaves. This is more prevalent on my later Siberians than on the early ones. I live in a deciduous woodland, in case it may be a habitat specific pest. I have sprayed with Cygon 2E in hopes that this will cure the problem (I have been less systematic with it on my Siberians than on my TB's since Sibs are so "pest free" - ha ha!). Well I hope you can help, I love my Siberians and hate all this "junk" on their simple beauty.

Cathy Boyko, Dunnville Ontario, Canada.

P.S. I have a large wild population of I. versicolor three quarters of a mile away. A source of bugs?

Dear Cathy:

The voracious "buddy" you so carefully observed and described is almost certainly the larval stage of a fly named Orthochaeta dissimilis. In its adult phase it looks somewhat like a housefly and has no common name, but was unofficially christened the Iris Bud Fly by Sarah Tiffney (TSI Vol.4 No.8 Fall 1978).

After chewing up the bud the larva migrates to the spathe where it pupates, so if you do not get it in the bud then shortly after bloom season pick and destroy all the pods you do not want, cutting them several inches below the spathes to be sure you get all the pupae. You should then burn them to make sure they cannot overwinter on a refuse pile.

Spraying with Cygon as you suggest is in my opinion the best way to attack them at the larval stage.

This does not seem to be a common pest; I have not seen it myself. It has been identified in Illinois, Virginia, Connecticut and Ohio, and another source gives its distribution as Minnesota to Central Quebec and south to Illinois and Virginia. As Sarah observed, all these areas have wild irises, so the stand of Versicolors may well be providing the breeding ground for your winged visitors.

Bob Hollingworth, Irisarian and
Director, Pesticide Research Center
Michigan State University

Cathy would like to hear from any members who have also had a problem with this particular pest. You can write to her, or c/o the editor.

If you have a question on topics Siberian, we will try to find an expert to answer it for you.

Ed.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

This account of seedlings from years ago was kindly sent by Roy Davidson who thought it might be inspirational to some of today's members of the pollen-daubing and serious breeder persuasion. Roy also has color photographs of G.B. and NIGHT FELL.

Gleanings from Species and Native Robin #7: (1970)

Leona Mahood; 11250 First St., Seattle, Wash.
98177 (now deceased).

Working with the siberica species is ever more interesting. Probably the mere fact that we know so little about them tickles the imagination and prompts my curiosity. It does seem that quite a bit of work is being done with the garden varieties. It is vexing that often those which seem to offer the most promise for breeding are not-identifiable or are seedlings of unknown origin.

One such (apparently a siberica hybrid) is identified for garden purposes as G.B.¹ I have seen no other siberica like it, except its own seedlings. It is a big one, 4-4 1/2 ft; a pastel with yellow standards and pale blue falls. Selfed, it produced similarly colored things, some with the blue replaced with lavender.

But when it was crossed with the purple-black NIGHT FELL² all save one of the many seedlings were purple; the one exception was much like G.B. but colors were dirty and form poor. It must be a recessive; and on that theory I selfed it. Only a few of the resultant seedlings have flowered. One a tricolor; blue, white and violet. The best of the lot so far is done up in gay sunset colors. The standards and styles are solid mulberry rose. That is easy, but try to describe the falls. The bright yellow signal is surrounded by mulberry-rose suffused with yellow, or is it the other way round? Anyway the effect is like yellow sunlight glinting through a rosy cloud, and deeper rose reticulations only heighten this effect. I only hope it will have good colors when it is grown up.

¹ G.B. - grown from seed sent by Grace Babb in robin "seed-box" seems surely to have descended from I. delavaya.

² NIGHT FELL reg.1969 is probably a derivative of I. dykesii X ? The plant appeared in potting soil from Roy Davidson and it was presumed a Thompson & Morgan seed of I. dykesii had been spilled.

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

What a strange growing season we had in 1988!! It began 2-3 weeks early; driest year on record, hottest too! A seed grown I. sibirica collected in Oslo, Norway began blooming on May 14th and finished June 3rd having bloomed with the SDB'S, IB'S, TB'S as well as with the marvellous native dogwoods. Early Siberians began blooming May 18th-23rd with peak bloom June 10th-16th and the season finishing about June 25th with MY LOVE repeating and PERCHERON continuing on a long season. Then after July 1st there were others that produced repeat bloom. That's six weeks plus of Siberian iris bloom.

Looking over the byelaws of SSI, some inconsistencies were found and so at the SSI annual meeting in Oklahoma City, as Vice President conducting the meeting, I appointed Barney Hobbs and Judy Hollingworth as co-chairpersons to revise them. The proposed changes are printed on page 11 of this issue and will be voted on at the 1989 annual meeting at the AIS convention in Memphis.

The Board meeting will be held on April 29th at 5 or 6pm and the Section Meeting on May 2nd, at 7pm. Barney Hobbs is planning a panel discussion for the Section Meeting to answer your questions on hybridizing, culture, varieties, etc. Please send any questions or ideas to Barney.

The past few years the Siberian guest irises have not always been grown well at the conventions. It was felt that a liason between SSI and guest gardens could improve the culture by advising, and providing necessary information. David Silverberg agreed to chair it.

If either I or any of the Officers or Directors can be of help to you please write or phone with your requests or suggestions.

Hope your irises winter well and provide you with much beauty.

Anna Mae Miller

AI S CONVENTION
SOONER
STATE
'88
OKLA CITY

THE MERINE COLE GARDEN
New Castle, Oklahoma.

By John Coble

Convention goers were pleased with the time Merine had spent with culturing the guest irises and her own landscape plantings. Upon entering the garden, we were immediately aware that Merine was using a wide variety of perennials in both sun and shade, and all were doing beautifully. Included in her patio plantings were all varieties of irises, bearded and beardless.

When we reached the guest beds her excellent garden culture continued. The 9 a.m. sun was rising above the first opening blooms atop a healthy clump of SWIRLING LAVENDER (A.M. Miller '84). It's sunrise-lavender color enhanced the beautiful wine-red and rose bitone of LADY VANESSA (R.M. Hollingworth '86), proudly displaying its one dozen blooms above the foliage.

Most all attendees with cameras were photographing this very popular pair of Siberians in the Oklahoma plains. We were appreciative of Merine's time, TLC (including plenty of water) given the guest irises.

N.B. There were more well grown clumps but they were several days from bloom.

THE SKRAPKA GARDEN

By Anna Mae Miller

Betty and A.J. Skrapka are avid horticulturalists and have a tree nursery which extends along the driveway, as well as having many lovely trees planted around the yard and the five acre site they live on. A lovely gazebo was the area for refreshments and there was a nice pool with appropriate landscaping. Near the gazebo the Siberian guests were planted and growing very well, but only two were flowering. Bob Hollingworth's wine red seedling 82H3A5 was in peak bloom and at good height and many Siberian lovers gathered around taking pictures of it, and INDY (Hollingworth 85) was in full bloom also but not as tall as it should be.

When we got back to the bus looking through the window we could see the Hollingworth seedling and INDY blooming in all their glory.

SIBERIAN IRISES AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL BRANCH, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

By Tony and Dorothy Willot

We made four visits to this master planting, three times on the bus tours and once on our own. The first time there on the bus, we didn't even see the Siberian beds. They were at the side of the conservatory, but we were directed through the conservatory to the main bearded iris beds. Because we didn't have time to photograph all the irises we wanted to, during the tour, we returned to the garden immediately after getting off the bus. The garden was only about a mile or two from the convention headquarters. As we parked on the side of the conservatory and started to walk back to the bearded irises, we discovered the Siberians, medians and species planted together in long beds. The beds were slightly sunken to retain water, but at the time the ground was cracking for lack of water. This was an open and windy location. Most of the Siberians were surviving, but not thriving. In spite of the conditions, some Siberians were blooming well, although on short stems.

MAGGIE LEE (L. Belllagamba '78) Round petaled,
full red-violet self; delicate ray pattern.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN (L. Bellagamba '84) Red-violet self; blue halo around yellow blaze on falls; just opening on last day of tours.

CHARMING DARLENE (A.M. Miller '84) Ruffled light blue with lighter blue styles; inconspicuous gold hafts; semi-flaring standards; one branch.

WINDWOOD SPRING (R.M. Hollingworth '85) Crisp, full blue self; semi-flaring; large yellow signal area on falls fades to cream; ruffled style crests.

INDY (R.M. Hollingworth '85) Full red-violet self; semi-flaring standards; lighter red-violet styles; inconspicuous signal on falls.

MABEL CODAY (C. Helsley '85) round-petaled violet self including styles; cupped standards; white signal area ray pattern on falls.

SPIRIT OF YORK (G.C. Bush '85) Dark violet falls; slightly lighter cupped standards and styles; yellow-green signal on falls.

HELIOTROPE BOUQUET (R.M. Hollingworth '86) light to medium red-violet self; round falls; wide cupped standards; styles slightly lighter with ruffled tips; blue flush extends out from green-yellow signal on falls.

LADY VANESSA (R.M. Hollingworth '86) Round, glowing deep red-violet falls; light red-violet standards and styles; prominent white ray pattern on falls; most impressive clump in the garden.

Hollingworth 82F3C18 - Bright, full red-violet falls with violet-blue halo around ray pattern that is white at outer edge, yellow-green in throat; light red-violet standards are semi-flared; lighter red-violet styles have turquoise stripe in center.

Hollingworth 82F3A10 - Round, bright, full red-violet falls have blue halo around ray pattern which blends from white at edge to yellow in the throat; cupped standards are a shade lighter; styles are light red-violet with ruffled crests.

The following varieties were growing and had buds to open later; APPALOOSA BLUE (L. Bellagamba '84), LAUGHING BROOK (K. Waite '84), CATHY CHILDERSON (D. Johnson '88), IT'S DELIGHTFUL (D. Johnson

'88), Anna Mae Miller seedlings 80.3.49, 80.3.7. (AQUA WISPERS) and 80.14.2, and Robert Hollingworth seedling 82 D3C2 (High Standards).
Alive but no buds were: HARBOR MIST (K. Waite '83), Ken Waite seedling W5-73-1B, Fattaneh (A. M. Miller '83), SWIRLING LAVENDER (A.M. Miller '84), Anna Mae Miller seedlings 78-11-6 (ALMOST A MELODY) and 78-11-2, BEDFORD LASS (K. Waite '85), SILVER ILLUSION (D. Johnson '87), CHRISTMAS WISH (L. Bellagamba '79), DANCER'S FAN (B. Warburton '84), BELLISSIMA (B. Warburton '86), SILVER ROSE (B. Warburton '85) and Robert Hollingworth seedlings 82D2C26 and 82H3A5.

Not among the living were: WIZARDRY (R. Hollingworth '85), TRI-BLUE (D. Johnson '88), ALMA (G. Bush '86), BISHOP'S PAWN (D. Johnson '87), QUEEN'S GAMBIT (D. Johnson '88), SNOWY MOUNTAIN (D. Johnson '88), and PURPLE PROSE (B. Warburton '86).

THE MARTHELLA SHOEMAKE GARDEN



CHARMING DARLENE (A.M.Miller, 1984)
Photo: Anna Mae Miller

This garden was a delight, chock full of colorful flowers, bright red poppies, huge clumps

of peonies, a landscaped pond, and an arbor covered with wistaria which was just finishing blooming. Surely the wistaria was a harbinger of the success awaiting this tour garden, as it was planted fifteen years ago, and this was its first year of bloom.

As far as the guest Siberians were concerned our visit was about one week too soon. There were several very nice clumps with buds including George Bush's SPIRIT OF YORK, Bob Hollingworth's JEWELLED CROWN, and Ken Waite's BEDFORD LASS (Ken had some excellent clumps in several gardens, and not a bloom open - frustrating for us, and I'm xsure for him).

The only cultivar in bloom was CHARMING DARLENE (A.M. Miller '84) with 34 bloom stalks, but only two of its attractive light blue flowers open for our early morning visit. But a warm day encouraged more to open for later visitors and Marthella declared it her favorite.

WHAT'S NEW IN SIBERIANS?



PRECIOUS DOLL
(Varner '87)

A new dwarf sib. one of the few, it grows 12-14" and has novel coloring, lavender standards, aqua styles, and lilac falls with a creamy-white blaze.

1988 AIS AWARDS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

117 votes: PINK HAZE (W. McGarvey)

runners-up

85 CHILLED WINE (B. Hager)
58 ANN DASCH (S. Varner)

AWARD OF MERIT

60 votes: KING OF KINGS (S. Varner)
51 CREME CHANTILLY (C. McEwen)
38 DANCING NANOU (A. Miller)
38 LAUGHING BROOK (K. Waite)

runners-up

34 LAVENDER BOUNTY (C. McEwen)
31 FORREST MCCORD (R. Hollingworth)
31 SAIL-PLANE (J. Ennenga)

HONORABLE MENTION

91 votes: LADY VANESSA (R. Hollingworth)
64 HELIOTROPE BOUQUET (R. Hollingworth)
43 TEMPER TANTRUM (W. McGarvey)
42 INDY (R. Hollingworth)
32 ILLINI CROWN (S. Varner)
18 BELLISSIMA (B. Warburton)
15 GOLDEN CRIMPING (C. McEwen)

The following report was sent to us by Emma Hobbs,
Chairman, Exhibitions Committee, AIS:

Exhibition Certificates awarded this year were:

Briscoe, Harley	81-52-B
	84-29F
	81-18B
Clarke, Douglas	85-1
Gristwood, John & Lillian	A-88-1
Hollingworth, Robert	85B2C15
McEwen, Currier	TPR2PW 69-68
	FOURFOLD MYSTERY

Miller, Anna Mae	85-20-24
Schaefer, Marty/ Sachs, Jan	S86-13-1
Steele Katherine	861-12370
Tremmel, Eugene	84-1
Wood, John	W-101-71

The Best Specimen Award was given to three Siberians. Two of these were in the Youth Divisions of the shows. Dale Johnson was given the award in the Florrisant, Missouri show with BISHOP'S PAWN. WINDWOOD SPRING won in the Youth Division at Urbana, Illinois, exhibited by Jason Wilhoit. The Tulsa, Oklahoma show's Youth Division Best Specimen was awarded to RUFFLED VELVET which was exhibited by Angie McLane. Nice to know that the young people are growing and showing the Siberians.....as well as taking top awards with them.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for office in The Society for Siberian Irises. If approved the term of office would be from January I, 1989 through December 31, 1991.

President: Anna Mae Miller (automatic succession)
 1st V.P. Bernard E. Hobbs
 2nd V.P. Robert M. Hollingworth
 Secretary: Ruth Wilder
 Treas. Gunther Stark
 Directors Shirley Pope: Julius Wadekamper

The bylaws require that these nominations be sent to all voting members by Nov. 15th. If no additional nominations have been made within four weeks, that is by Dec. 13th, the slate is to be considered elected.

Additional nominations may be made, in writing, signed by at least eight members "acting in concert", that is all signing the same nominating petition, and sent to the chairman of the nominating committee not later than Dec 13th together with a letter of consent from each candidate. In this case the elections committee shall prepare a ballot including all nominations, and designating those made by the nominating committee. The ballot shall be mailed to all voting members not later than Jan.15th with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots must be returned to the elections committee not later than Feb.1.



THE BACKGROUND OF PINK HAZE

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL
WINNER 1987

By Harry B. Kuesel

As the introducer of many of the McGarvey Siberians, your editor has asked me to give you the background of the latest Morgan-Wood Medal, winner, PINK HAZE.

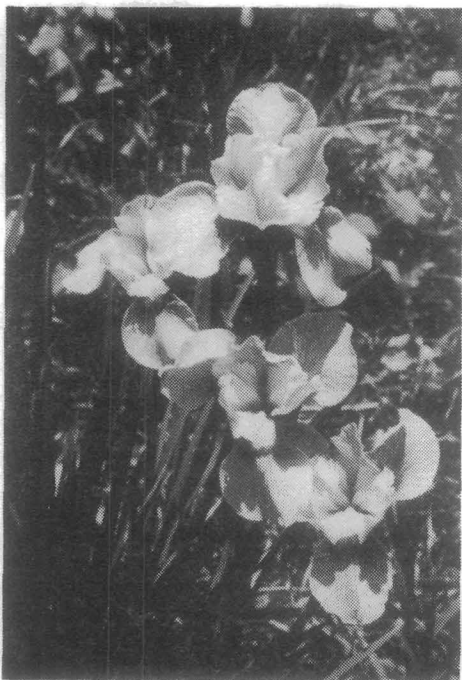
Bill McGarvey started work on breeding Siberians shortly after the 1958 AIS convention in Syracuse when he served as Convention Chairman and RVP of AIS Region 2. He was always very interested in genetics and found that diploid Siberians were an ideal plant to test the theories of Mendelian inheritance. He deduced that crossing a good white plant with a good red would eventually give him a group of seedlings of which some might be pink. From ROYAL ENSIGN he developed his Inroy strain P-1 which was the lightest of his ROYAL ENSIGN X ROYAL ENSIGN seedlings. He crossed that with a 1963 seedling 63-2-2-2 which was a white from WHITE SWIRL X another ROYAL ENSIGN seedling, and got several seedlings with a distinctly different pink hue.

From this line he named one PINK HAZE, and another one PINK SNOWTOP. It is interesting to note that the reddest of the seedlings from this same cross was named TEMPER TANTRUM.

As soon as he had about six plants of PINK HAZE he sent two of them to me, and two to the Guest Iris Chairman two years hence. So AUGURY which came from a later cross of TEMPER TANTRUM X 68-64-315 inroy super WL-BR-1 (another seedling in his pink line) was his first pink introduction in 1973. His second pink introduction was ROANOKE'S CHOICE in 1975, also a later seedling, which won the most votes for HC in 1974, after being seen at the Roanoke Convention.

It was at the AIS Convention in Michigan in 1976 at Jill and Jim Copeland's garden that PINK HAZE was finally discovered by AIS. But we still

did not have enough stock to introduced it. At the Huntsville Convention in 1979 it was again a hit, and was finally introduced in 1980.



From then on it quickly got its HM and won the Morgan award in 1984 and the Morgan-Wood Medal in 1988.

Bill passed on to the eternal garden in 1985, and the medal will be given to his wife Elsie B. McGarvey. PINK HAZE was one of Bill's crowning achievements.

PINK HAZE
(McGarvey, 1980)

Photo: Bob Hollingworth

SIBERIAN IRISES Postpaid \$7.00



By Currier McEwen; illustrated with color plates, drawings and monochrome; includes glossary of terms; prepared with help from committee of advisors and contributors from The Society for Siberian Irises. Proceeds from sale of books will be used to support the work of SSI.

Send order to: Julius Wadekamper, 15974 Canby Avenue, Route 5, Faribault, MN 55021. Make check payable to Society for Siberian Irises.



the last word

We have been underwhelmed by our offer of advertising space in TSI and decided that this is because we are in direct competition with the AIS bulletins which reach the same clientele. Now we have a better idea! We are compiling a Siberian Sources Directory, and for the very reasonable sum of \$5 we will list your sale garden or nursery in our spring issue. For the same low price this directory will also be included in the next printing of the Siberian brochure, now there's a deal! Send your listing (name and address only) and the \$5 to our treasurer Gunther Stark.

We heard from Jennifer Hewitt of the death of Marjorie Brummitt early in 1988. Marjorie, as most of you know, was a very successful English hybridizer of Siberian irises. Two of her best were ANNIVERSARY (1965), and CAMBRIDGE (1964) which won the British Dykes Medal. She had a profound influence on the genus *Sibirica*, and will be sorely missed.

MOLES - THE FINAL CHAPTER

We are all familiar with the sayings - a pride of lions, a host of angels, a school of fish, well for moles en masse, the correct collective noun is a "labor" of moles. Whether this is because they labor so diligently at digging tunnels, or my interpretation that they are such a labor to eradicate, their end is in sight in our garden.

Bob, while visiting with members of Region 18 this spring was apprised of a study done at Iowa State University using a variety of brand name mole traps. The Nash choker-loop trap, made in Vicksburg, MI. caught four moles for every one caught by the other brands.

As soon as he got home he headed for the store, bought one of them and promptly set it. Wonder of wonders, a couple of days later he ran in from the garden triumphantly bearing one dead, furry pest. Since this early success, another two traps have been purchased and we have had no more molestations in the iris patch. Case closed?

Well almost! I can't resist sharing two clippings on the subject.

BREAKING THE MOLE - Moles are so destructive of carefully and expensively tended lawns that no mole death in my view can be too painful or prolonged. I suggest that when, by whatever means the little beasts are apprehended they then be buried alive.

Richard Comben
London

From the "Spectator" London, Oct. 6. 1984

PESKY MOLE WINS IN VENDETTA WITH VEXED RESIDENT DOWSBY FEN, England, (UPI) - Oscar Ejiamike had all he could take with the mole tunneling under the lawn of his country cottage. Poison the varmint he decided.

Because moles are nocturnal animals, Ejiamike waited until dark and switched on the headlights of his Jaguar so he could find the mole hole. But the car stalled and he had to start it again.

In the process he knocked the car into reverse; it lurched and smashed into his cottage. The crash shattered the fuel tank, the gas caught fire, Ejiamike's car and cottage burned.

"I was lucky to get out alive" he said.

"I have never set eyes on a mole but this one is driving me insane. I still want to see that mole dead. I will pour a ton of concrete over the lawn and forget it."

Cont. from page 11....Proposed amendments in bylaws

Art.VII Section 3

Proposed amendment: Lines 9-12 In any such mail poll a simple majority of all returned ballots in favor of the action moved shall have the same effect as though the question had been voted on at a meeting.

SSI members present at the Siberian Section Meeting at the AIS Convention meeting in Memphis on May 2nd 1989, will be asked to vote on the proposed amendments. If you are unable to attend, proxy votes received by me by April 1st 1989 will be counted.

Anna Mae Miller

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