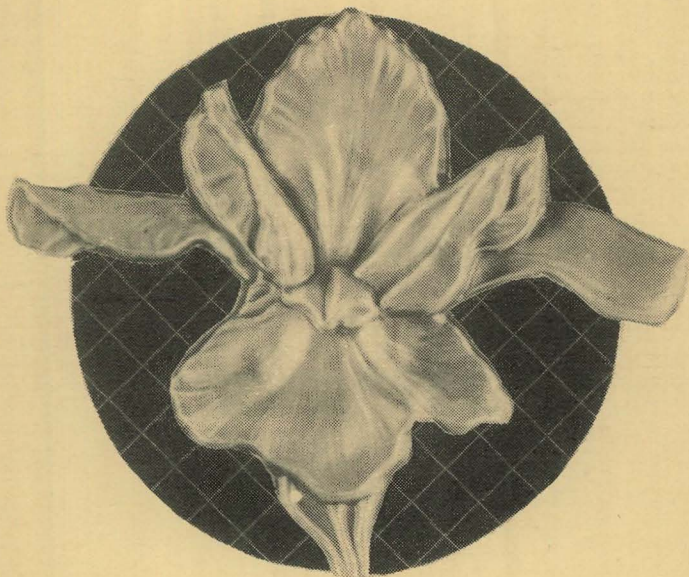


*The
Siberian
Iris*



Volume 6

Number 10

Fall 1989

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 10

FALL 1989

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

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Numbers in parenthesis denote date term expires



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SSI has lost a long time friend, officer, and superb promoter of Siberians. Barney Hobbs became suddenly ill after returning from the JI convention in Washington DC. He spent a month in ITC with a pneumonia type infection and died on July 20th, 1989. He was very active in AIS, SSI, Region 6, the Indiana Daylily and Iris Society, and many others, and we have lost a valued and devoted member. Barney was responsible for the large number of Siberians seen at the AIS Convention in Indianapolis in '85 and really wanted them to be well grown in the convention gardens. It was at his urging that a method was worked out to send Siberians directly to the garden in which they were to grow instead of going first to the guest iris chairman and this has been implemented for the first time this year with the guests for the 1992 convention in Georgia. Barney was to be the next president of SSI - we will miss him.

The SSI Section Meeting was well attended in Memphis and the proposed amendments to the by-laws as printed in TSI, Vol.6, No.8, Fall 1988 were unanimously approved. Thankyou for your support. Shirley Pope presented the judges training session on Siberian Irises and there was much spirited interest.

Most of us were very disappointed with the small amount of bloom on the Siberian guests in Memphis. I have learned from Jim Browne, the convention chairman that the bed by the walk suffered heavy equipment damage when trees had to be removed in the winter after the Siberians were planted and this is why they didn't look and bloom like three year clumps. There were also gopher tunnels causing problems. We can only hope we have better success in the next conventions.

More Siberians are being grown and exhibited in the shows which compete with Tall Bearded since the bloom season is about the same. I encourage you to grow early, mid-season, and late varieties to have a long Siberian bloom season. We grow about 150 named Siberians and 800+ seedlings

and I keep a bloom diary. The 1989 season started out with I. siberica flowering on May 24th, followed by FAIRY DAWN on the 26th. May 27th saw MY LOVE and CHARMING DARLENE opening and by June 2nd there were 12 varieties in bloom. Our peek was reached on June 14th when we had 64 and our bloom continued until July 1, when we had 4. Repeating began on named and seedlings and lasted 22 days of July. So I feel that great progress has been made in extending the bloom time we can expect from Siberians some seasons, and 1989 was a good season after the drought of '88.

I am happy to announce that Hal Stahly of Grand Blanc, Michigan, has graciously agreed to become our 1st Vice President. Hal is well known in iris circles and has held many offices and performed them well. The most important one was as AIS President. I know we are fortunate to have him. He grows Siberians and has been doing some hybridizing.

Lastly, SSI has decided to hold a Siberian Convention in the Lansing - Kalamazoo Michigan area in 1993. The JI conventions have been such fun filled learning experiences that we feel it is time to follow suit. The AIS Convention that year is in an area of the country where Siberians do not do well so it seems a good time to treat ourselves. Bob Hollingworth will be chairman.

I found this poem done in embroidered calligraphy. It says Siberians to me and I'd like to share it with you. It was written by Margaret Atwood.

Then we had irises
rising beautiful and cool
on their tall stalks
like blown glass
like pastel water
momentarily
frozen in a splash;
light blue,
light mauve,
and the darker ones,
velvet and purple.

Wishing you a healthy winter and a wonderful bloom season in 1990.

Anna Mae Miller

1989 SIBERIAN SECTION BOARD MEETING

Ruth Wilder, Secretary

The Board of Directors of the Siberian Iris Society met at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tenn. on April 29th at eight o' clock. Anna Mae Miller presided.

Minutes of the 1988 board meeting were reviewed and approved. Gunther Stark gave the treasurer's report. This report is printed in the Spring 1989 issue of TSI.

Old Businss: The distinguished Service Award for 1988 is to be presented to Harry Kuesel at the section meeting during this convention.

New Business: Judy Hollingworth (Editor of TSI) gave a report. Five hundred and thirty five copies of TSI were sent out in the last mailing, not including the new memberships and renewals which had not been received by the treasurer. She also discussed the possibility of using a color cover on one of the publications during the year with the utilization of the inside cover for an advertisement.

Ainee Busse was thanked for the printing of labels for two issues of TSI and Bob Bauer and John Coble for the use of their bulk mailing permit.

The new check list is available at this conference. Cost is \$4.50 per copy or if purchased along with a copy of the Siberian Iris the cost for both will be \$7.50. Howard Brookins was thanked for his excellent work with the checklist.

In committee chairman reports, the AIS bulletin representatives are President Anna Mae Miller and Editor Judy Hollingworth.

Donations from The North East Apogen Society's auction and from the King County Iris Society were acknowledged. They are listed in the treasurer's report.

Don Koza gave a report on display gardens. He discussed the minimum requirements for maintaining a display garden. There are to be a minimum of forty to fifty Siberian cultivars. The RVP of the region in which the garden is situated should also recommend the display garden.

A report on the publications was given by Ruth Wilder. We need to have a printing of the Invitation to Join brochure. This folder needs to be updated.

Bee Warburton was nominated and unanimously

accepted as the 1989 recipient of The Distinguished Service Award.

We are in need of new slides for our slide file. Each member is encouraged to take slides of new varieties to add to the collection. Howard Brookins will update with descriptions as listed in the new checklist. The slides chairman will be Tom Abrego.

In the Robin report Anna Mae Miller states that there are presently five Robins flying but there have been problems in the past year.

Nominating Committee Report: Tom Abrego, Howard Brookins and Harry Keusel were nominated to serve on the board. Don Koza moved to accept this slate, Gunther Stark seconded. Motion passed.

Bylaws changes as printed in TSI, Fall '89, were discussed and will be voted on by the membership at the Section Meeting.

Bob Hollingworth gave a very informative research report discussing the diagnosis of scorch in Siberians. The University of Iowa has been conducting a study, and Dr. Hollingworth is presently doing some work on this subject and would like plants that seem to be infected with scorch sent to him for study.

Discussion of a possible Siberian Convention to be held in Michigan in 1993 was well received.

Program for the Siberian Section Meeting will be a round table discussion on Siberians.

Meeting adjourned at nine twenty.

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR SOCIETY

The Society for Siberian Irises came into being approximately 30 years ago spurred on by a couple of articles written by Peg Edwards and Wes and Sarah Tiffney in the July and October 1959 bulletins of the American Iris Society.

From an organizational group of twenty three (listed in TSI Vol.1, No. 1), we have grown to almost six hundred members. These twenty three pioneers are listed below. The twelve whose names are marked by an asterisk are still members of AIS, although we were sorry to hear from Lyn Westmeyer that her mother Eleanor, had died recently in a tragic accident.

- Mr. Fred Cassebeer
- * Mr. Sid Dubose
- Mrs. Edwin (Margaret) Dunbar
- * Mrs. H.L. (Peg) Edwards
- Mrs. C.L. (Ida May) Ezell
- * Miss Hazel Grapes
- Mrs. Robert (Peg Burke) Grey
- * Mr. Ben Hager
- * Mrs M.R. (Mildred) Johnson
- Dr. William McGarvey
- * Mrs. W.B.(Virginia) Melnick
- Mrs. O.C. (Lillian) Moon
- L.R. Partch
- Mr. Allan L. Randall
- * Dr. D.L. Reath
- Mrs. Foster Spofford
- Mr. Wesley N. Tiffney
- * Mrs. W.L. (Sarah) Tiffney
- * Mrs. Carlton (Irene) Van de Water
- * Mrs. F.W. (Bee) Warburton
- * Mrs. Troy Westmeyer
- * Mrs. John (Charlotte) Withers

Some of these good people agreed to share with us their remembrances of the start of our society and what the future may hold for us.

SIBERIAN SOCIETY BEGINNINGS

By Sarah C. Tiffney

In 1958 Peggy Edwards contacted me about an article she had promised to write for the American Iris Society Bulletin about Siberian irises. I

sent her all the botanical and garden information I had, as did other people, and in the ensuing correspondence we rather encouraged each other in the idea of starting a Siberian Society. There had been a suggestion some years earlier by Geddes Douglas in the AIS bulletin but apparently nothing came of it.

Peggy's excellent article appeared in the July 1959 Bulletin; In October 1959 Wesley and I had a more specific article about Siberians in New England. The bulletins also carried invitations for persons interested in forming a society to contact Peg or me, to which there was an enthusiastic response. After a twenty year period in which introductions were scarce, interest in the Siberians was rising. There were two new Siberian robins in flight and another was planned, and the members of the robins formed a willing group of volunteers for such an organization.

"The Society for Siberian Irises" was accepted as a section of AIS at the Portland meeting in May, 1960, with Peggy Edwards as president, Sarah Tiffney as vice-president, Charlotte Withers as secretary and Bill McGarvey as treasurer; directors were Peggy Burke Grey, Bee Warburton and Ben Hager. Mildred Johnson, Eleanor Westmeyer, Irene Van de Water, Dorothy Spofford and others were committee chairmen.

The first issue of the magazine "The Siberian Iris", came out in May 1961, with Peg Edwards as editor, with the assistance of Charlotte Withers and later Mildred Johnson who both worked very hard on the production side as well as contributing articles. It contained the President's welcome letter, a list of awards to Siberians, a description of species by Irene Van de Water, sources for Siberians, public and private gardens with displays of them, a membership list containing forty members, three honorary members and one foreign correspondent, and a check list made by Leona Moon with additions by Eleanor Westmeyer and Sarah Tiffney. The second issue of the magazine contained 28 additional members, making 68 regular members for the first year.

Thereafter the magazine came out regularly twice a year with the enthusiastic contributions and encouragement of the people named above and many others. After a few years I withdrew from an active role in the management of the society, Charlotte Withers became president, and other people filled various offices over time, but Peg Edwards as the long-time editor of the magazine,

was the main influence in keeping SSI running.

I think that the formation of the society had a very stimulating effect on the growing and breeding of Siberian irises. In the 20's and 30's a fair number of these irises were introduced by Perry, Cleveland, Preston and other breeders, but in the 40's and 50's the number of introductions declined. There was a group in the early 50's by Scheffy, but generally there was not much happening. The appearance of the society and its magazine sparked new interest and activity, led by Bill McGarvey, Bee warburton, Steve Varner and most especially by Currier McEwen, whose contributions in breeding and equally in publications and organization have been enormous. In recent years many other breeders have become active, and the Sibiricae are now a group with widespread recognition and exciting potential. It is wonderful to have been a part of it.

REMINISCENCES OF SIBERIAN IRISES

By Dr. Irene Van de Water

My love affair with irises started in the 1920's at which time my mother grew a row of fine tall PRINCESS BEATRICE down the garden path. But my growing and appreciation of Siberians started in the 1950's.

At the first get-together of the friends of the Siberians, the only person I distinctly remember was Peg Edwards. The meeting was held in the lower part of New York and New Jersey, and as a result I soon made friends with Bill Peck, Fred Cassebeer, the K. Smith's, Joe Gatty and Barbara Walther. Barbara was the "guardian angel" of the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Montclair, NJ., but I nicknamed her "The Dragon Lady". Later when we became fast friends, I told her of this name and she was tickled pink.

In Volume 1, No. 1 of TSI, published in 1961, Peg Edwards led the way to our popular future. In preparation for my first article, I remember many hours in the Bronx Botanical Garden Library, finding rare books and reading about the Series Sibiricae. One result was that I wrote to Dr. Lawrence of the Cornell Arboretum urging him to contribute an article on the classification of the Family Iridaceas and to have it published in the SSI bulletin.

The person with whom I had the best rapport was

Fred Cassebeer of West Nyak. My husband and I used to visit him every time his Siberians were in bloom. There I saw for the first time two beautiful clumps of EGO and SUPER EGO, which Fred praised highly. His garden, on the shore of a large reservoir, was a perfect setting for his Siberians. Molly Price was a friend I met there when she was trying to make some unusual crosses. The last time I visited Cassebeer he was in a wheelchair and he told me to look over a long row of his Siberian seedlings and label those that I thought worth saving and that I was to come back at the proper time to dig them for myself. This was the last time I saw him. He told me that when he died he wanted his WHITE SWIRL to be planted on his grave.

About this time Barbara Walther asked me to look over all the Siberians being grown in the Presby Iris Garden and label them with their correct names. However, I had to decline since I was teaching Biology and Botany at the SUNY college at New Paltz and could not spend the time necessary to visit the extensive gardens of many Siberian hybridizers and growers during blooming time.

One of my contributions to the modern Siberians was called FORE. It was a seedling of ERIC THE RED X TUNKHANNOCK - a fine dark red and it had petals in fours. It was lost to me and posterity when we moved from New Paltz to Oregon.

I hate to finish on a sour note but I must add my observations on the disease called "scorch" or I would hate myself if I didn't. During my travels I always looked for any sick plants, especially those with scorch. The first scorched iris I saw was in a small garden in New Paltz, NY., then a great many plants in Nashville, Tennessee at the convention, then Texas and finally in Mitchell, Oregon. Oh yes - there was in Hungary an aster with the virus disease called "aster yellows". This plant was seized and "scorched" by fire by the border guards when I tried to bring it to the USA!

However the point of all this is that Siberians too can become scorched here in Mitchell, Oregon. I had two plants EGO and SUPER EGO growing cheek by jowl. SUPER EGO got yellow and sickly one fall and then next spring it was totally scorched and dead, but EGO remained healthy. These diseases are usually carried by insects - so cherchez les insects!

FROM BEE WARBURTON

This photograph of me was taken in 1974 in the I. sibirica preserve, in W. Germany. Strangely, I never saw a white flower in these huge fields of wild sibiricae about the Bodensee (which was Lake Constance in my youth).



The white background is of course essential for the production of yellow flowers. BELLISSIMA (Warburton '83) has yellow and green adornments very delicately traced at its shoulders and has bred yellow as well as shapely flowers - what of trying to make its flowers green!

Another quality which is worth developing further is the tendency for a plant to put up a second series of stalks immediately following the first series. These generally tend to be on shorter stalks and more or less confined to the center of the clump which does not make them very ornamental in the garden. However we can work to improve this second flowering.

We have made enormous strides in the development of Siberians - who knows what the family can be if it is purposefully grown for another 50 years?

FROM CHARLOTTE WITHERS

At the time the Society for Siberian Irises started my husband and I were living in North Dakota. We lived on farmland with soil enriched

from feeder cattle and I had a 2 1/2 acre garden. The nucleus of my Siberian garden came from a Dutch man in Michigan. He was too old to look after them and the labels had been lost. I bought 100 large, unnamed starts from him. I was able to name some of them - HELEN ASTOR for one was easy because of its distinctive color. Ben Hager named another 10 or more when he stopped by one time.

Of course early on I got to know Bill McGarvey. I typed up the Siberian Judging Standards for him and he sent me his irises to grow - EGO, SUPER EGO, DEWFUL and EARTHSHINE to name a few. He and Currier McEwen were both in New York at that time.

I also corresponded with a man in South Australia, a lady associated with Kew Gardens, and of course Maurice Kitton who lived in England, worked with Sibiricae species, and was the society's first foreign correspondent.

Now that I am living in Florida my iris growing activities have been severely curtailed, but I have been secretary-treasurer of our local Iris Society for the past 10 years.

When we first moved here in the 1960's my husband was alive and we had a 20x50' bed out front. We had dirt brought in because the ground here is sand on a coral base. I recently celebrated my 80th birthday and I am only growing a very few irises and because of the climate that is an uphill battle. I don't think they like our climate! - neither the hot weather nor the hot rains. Sometimes I have to wear a hat to protect myself from the scalding drops of rain. I do have two clumps of Siberians which seem to be acclimated, one is from seed from LIGHTS OF PARIS and the other a deep purple, un-named smaller Siberian. This was "Florida seed" given to me by Pat Erwin. He used to live by a creek in Kissimmee which was a beautiful setting for the irises.

FROM BEN HAGER

We at Melrose Gardens, were very much in favor of, and excited by the organization of the branch societies in the late 1950's and early 1960's for the "other than Tall Bearded, irises". When Peggy Edwards campaigned for a Society for Siberian Irises we were all for it and joined immediately. This society and the others, fulfilled our expectations completely. They actually put these other irises 'on the map' so to speak.

Being a fairly new and small business at the time, we were quite impressed when Peggy Edwards

asked us to introduce her first Siberian iris which we did in 1962. Although our catalog that year was not a complete effort (we were recovering from a move from Modesto to Stockton), it did get VELVET NIGHT (P. Edwards '62) on the market where it became famous and later won the MORGAN AWARD in 1969, the first major award to be given to an introduction from Melrose Gardens.

Due to these organizations, the AIS is now an all-types iris society. The bulletins regularly contain articles covering many species of the genus which was not the case before these special sections were formed, and it seems that most members now grow more of these different irises along with their TB's. Many growers even specialize in them!

We have always grown every type of iris we could get our hands on, and also listed all of them that we could grow successfully. So Melrose Gardens is very appreciative and owes a great deal to the societies for specialty irises. Thank you all, and especially in this case, The Society for Siberian Irises.

ROBIN NOTES

Remarks to a member who uses coffee grounds in his Siberian planting:

"One of the growth factors for your famous (infamous) Siberian is the coffee grounds you are adding. Coffee contains a mild acid and it is being leached out with each watering and rainfall. It seems as though it may be maintaining just the right pH. When soil pH gets down into the 4.5-5.0 range you start tying up vital soil minerals which then are not available to your plants. The same is true in the 7.5-8.5 pH range".

"I'll add my 2 cents worth about cutting down Siberian foliage in the fall - esp. where there is heavy freeze and snow. First it removes the possible nesting spots for field mice, moles etc. and secondly it permits the ground around the inside of the clump to freeze uniformly which is better for the plant".

David Silverberg

1989 AIS MEMPHIS CONVENTION GARDEN NOTES

BY Tom Abrego

THE MILLER GARDEN

Travelling to the home of Lucille and Raymond Miller we drove on Elvis Presley Boulevard past Graceland Mansion and the adjoining tourist facilities. The Miller's home sits on a corner lot, affording maximum public exposure to their many formal iris beds. Our convention booklet listed 10 Siberian guests in the Miller garden, and since this was our first stop on our first day, we were quite anxious to see how Siberians grow in Memphis. After touring all of the guest and resident display beds, we had yet to see our Siberians, although we did see a number of fine bearded irises.

After a rather lengthy pause at the well-stocked refreshment tables we traipsed through the garden again looking for Siberians. Finally, while walking on a small paved path on the shady side of the home, we noticed guest stakes with familiar names. Unfortunately they seemed to be marking daffodils. On closer inspection we found that indeed the 10 Siberians from Hollingworth, Miller, Varner and Waite had been planted over a bed of daffodils. The daffodil foliage was still up and for the most part, the Siberians weren't. Had it not been for the guest stakes, we would never have found the Siberian planting. A rather disappointing experience for Siberian lovers, but a nice garden just the same.

THE BUSH GARDEN

Peg and Elwood Bush's garden was one of several we saw in Memphis that made us wonder what life could have been like before power riding lawn mowers. They must have had a acre of lawn (as did all of their neighbors)! The focus of the Bush garden was a man-made stream bisecting the enormous front yard. This small stream, no more than 2 feet across, was lined with granule coated rolled roofing. Although our convention book listed only four Siberian guests (two Varner seedlings, DANCE BALLERINA DANCE, and Waite's SERENADE IN BLUE) we felt the presence of a stream as a very significant good omen in our search for well grown Siberians. After extensive roaming of the property we finally had to ask for directions to the Siberian guests. Locating them near the lower end of the stream, we

realized that while the roofing certainly was an ingenious method of allowing the stream water to be efficiently recirculated, it did not allow the surrounding soil to benefit from the exposure to the moisture. In our initial efforts to locate the guest Siberians we had walked right past them several times. Not until we began to carefully read the guest stakes were we able to locate the guests.

On the more positive side, in our walks around the property we did enjoy a number of fine irises and in fact we discovered a bed of resident Siberians. Although some were mislabelled, they seemed to be relatively well grown and appeared to have been established for several years. We felt this discovery was encouraging for the Siberian lover.

THE KETCHUM MEMORIAL IRIS GARDEN

The Ketchum Memorial Iris Garden in the Memphis Botanic Garden was the showpiece of this convention. It was evident that a great deal of planning and volunteer effort was given to make such an impressive display. The walk from the parking lot to the iris garden, at least a 100 yards, was lined on one side with a stunning display of tall bearded irises in full bloom...one of the most effective public uses of irises we have seen. This walk passed through a large arbor, then split and circled the large iris garden. It immediately became obvious that Siberian irises played a major role in this garden's design, as Siberian guests lined the outer edges of the paths as they left the arbor. Additionally, a number of non-guest Siberians were planted immediately around the arbor.

It is difficult to describe exactly what we saw, some Siberians were large and apparently healthy; some were small and puny; and we saw some stakes where there were no plants at all. With possibly one exception, we did not see a large healthy plant in bloom, although we did see several rather puny specimens tempting our imagination and teasing us with a flower or two.

These plantings acted as magnets to Siberian enthusiasts, and a number of theories were exchanged to attempt to explain just what had caused such poor growth on these plants (see President's letter pg.3). Close inspection revealed that whatever the cause, it was not due to lack of loving attention. It is also our opinion that while we were disappointed in what we saw

there this spring, we felt that for the most part the Siberians looked like they would eventually pull through. We feel that within a year or too they will overcome whatever is troubling them and then there will truly be a spectacular display of Siberian irises.

To one side of a path leading from the arbor were about 12 Hollingworth introductions and seedlings. HIGH STANDARDS showed extreme vigor and appeared as healthy and vigorous as we have seen it in other gardens. We saw neither blooms nor buds on it. Both INDY and LADY VANESSA shared their charming blooms with us, but each plant was so puny that no real judgement could be rendered. Seven of Dale Johnson's introductions were also in this planting, with only IT'S DELIGHTFUL displaying any real vigor, but no bloom. About a dozen Varner introductions and seedlings were also in this planting. KING OF KINGS was a very fine clump as was PRECIOUS DOLL, although neither was in bloom. DEMURE ILLINI offered us a peak at its reddish floret, but on such a wimpy plant.... Waite's BEDFORD LASS displayed a nicely sized clump but no bloom.

To one side of the path leading from the opposite side of the arbor was a large planting of McEwen introductions. At the far end of this planting was a very nice clump of LAVENDER BOUNTY in full and glorious bloom! Finally we had a chance to see a Siberian looking good (there eventually would be others in other tour gardens). This clump did not display the outstanding vigor we expect from it at home, and its flowers appeared quite a bit bluer than we had ever seen them. Just the same, here was a chance for those not familiar with Siberians to get some exposure to one. There must have been 30-40 blooms on this clump!

We found that we had spent at least 3/4 of our allotted time in this garden just on these two beds. Out of general respect for the rest of the iris world, we thought we should make a cursory examination of the rest of the garden. We were quite surprised to find another small planting of Siberians at the far side of the garden. This planting featured introductions of Anna Mae Miller and Harry Foster. To our delight all of these irises were alive and in relative good health. All of Foster's irises showed vitality, though unfortunately none had any blooms. This was most disappointing as we were anxious to see some of his work and had not previously had an opportunity to do so. Miller's ALMOST A MELODY

displayed a bud and CHARMING DARLENE did have one bloom, even if it was down in the foliage.

The last moments of our visit at Ketchum were spent near the lemonade pitcher in the comforting shade of the arbor. We really hope the guest irises will be allowed to remain at Ketchum, as they represent an excellent selection of modern Siberian irises in a public garden clearly committed to furthering interest in irises.

THE CHURCH GARDEN

David Silverberg

A friendly handshake from Mr. Church, a warm hug from Mrs. Church and young ladies in antebellum costumes, what better way to be greeted at an iris garden!

The Siberians in the Church garden were grown better than the Siberians in any other garden on tour. Some seemed to be on the short side but after going to the checklist when I got back home I found that all were growing within their proper range.

CAESAR'S BROTHER (Morgan '32) was doing very well in a small clump. Steve Varner's LETITIA ('74) showed excellent growth, with dark blue standards and purplish falls. PERIWINKLE (Cleveland '26) looked extremely good proving that older Siberians can hold their own with the best of the newer ones. The most outstanding Siberian in this garden was Varner's seedling #4074 showing 20 or more bloom stalks, all in excellent condition. The foliage was wide and looked to be very healthy. Looking extremely good with wide falls and a nicely formed flower was Joan Cooper's seedling D16, registered in 1988 as LINDA MARY but not yet introduced. A pale red-violet with extremely interesting style arms that had an almost sky blue mid-rib. Varner's DEMURE ILLINI ('85) was looking well in a red wine color with a white sunburst pattern on the falls, similar to that of SHOWDOWN (Varner '76). In the back of the bed growing under a climbing rose was ILLINI CHARM (Varner '75) in a small sized clump but with at least a dozen or more bloom stalks.

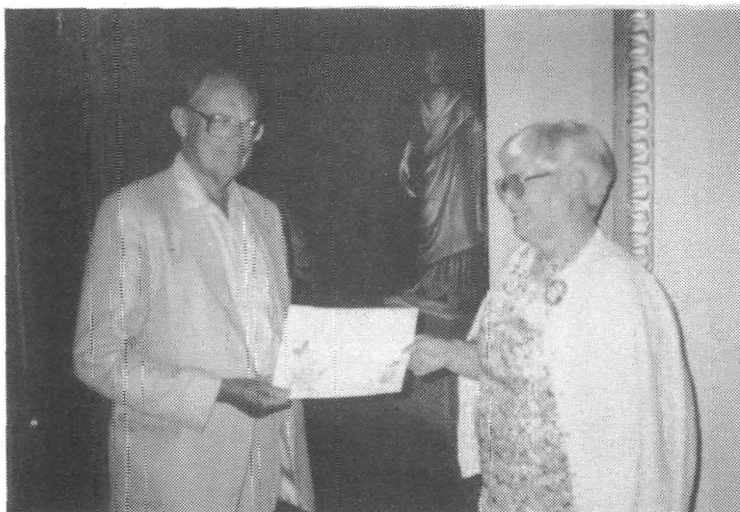
The soil in the bed was a good loamy-type clay, very friable and it broke up nicely even though it was quite moist. On a final humorous note, the bed was marked with a sign showing an iceberg and



Shirley Pope (Maine), Cathy Boyko (Canada)
Bob Hollingworth (Michigan) and Ellen and Tom
Abrego (Oregon) meet up in the Ketchum Garden.



Currier and Elisabeth McEwen waiting for the tour
bus outside The Peabody Hotel.
Photos: Judy Hollingworth



**Anna Mae Miller presents Distinguished Service Award for 1988 to Harry Kuesel.
Photo: Howard Brookins**



**Photo:
Judy
Hollingworth**

**Siberian mavens pondering over clumps of CAESAR, and CAESAR'S BROTHER or was it Caesar's twin?
(from L to R. The Abrego's, Bob Hollingworth, Howard Brookins and Don Koza)**

standing on the iceberg was a SIBERIAN Husky.

CONVENTION NOTES

Marjorie Jansen

Siberian guest plants at Ketchum Gardens were attractively planted along a curving sidewalk, making them easy to view. Unfortunately most plants were growing short and bloom was sparse. Among the guest plants showing bloom were LAVENDER BOUNTY (McEwen '82) pinkish lavender with slightly paler standards, CHARMING DARLENE (Miller '84) a delightfully ruffled pale blue creation with a white signal and one open bloom, LADY VANESSA (Hollingworth '86) wine red falls topped by pale wine red standards, nicely ruffled and stylearms set off with blue midribs. The falls feature white signals attractively overlaid with wine-red veins. LADY VANESSA had one open blossom on a short plant. Hollingworth 82K4C6 had several buds showing color, but no open blooms. A small clump of INDY (Hollingworth '85) was sporting two open blooms and one nearly open. This is a wide-petalled, deep wine-red with blue veins across the falls. The style arms are paler with blue midribs.

In addition to the guest plants, SNOW BOUNTY (McEwen '73), white with a yellow signal and SKY WINGS (Peck '71) light blue were each displaying one open bloom.

Providing striking contrast to the disappointing performance of the guest Siberians were three tall, robust Siberian clumps found in the Ketchum perennial trial garden. Two were labelled "CAESAR'S PROMISE". The third was unlabelled, but appeared to be the same plant as the other two. These plants were thriving and had several dark, velvety purple flowers similar to the blooms of CAESAR and CAESAR'S BROTHER. The 1989 Siberian checklist does not list a CAESAR'S PROMISE.

Shaded by tall trees, the spacious Hudson garden featured neat beds of well-tended irises for our enjoyment. While bloom was abundant in the bearded beds, it was sadly lacking in the Siberian plantings. None of the guest Siberians were blooming. However, BLUE PENNANT (McEwen '71) dark violet-blue, NAVY BRASS (McEwen '74) navy blue with a bright yellow signal blaze and STAR STEPS (Hager '74) white with a small yellow signal, each had one open bloom. CAESAR (Morgan '24) deep velvety

blooms.

Extensively planted with an abundance of exotic and diverse plants, the Browne garden was a horticultural paradise. Among the Siberian guest plants blooming here were Varner 5055 pale lavender with almost white standards and snowy style arms, DANCE BALLERINA DANCE (Varner '83) a pinkish - lavender amoena. Hollingworth F3A10 had one bud almost open, hinting at a wine-red hue. Other non-guest Siberians with one or two open blooms were AUGURY (McGarvey '73) pinkish-lavender, VI LUIHN (DuBose '74) violet-blue self, SPARKLING ROSE (Hager '68) rosy-mauve with a veined signal, PURPLE TEAL (Briscoe '78) medium purple with a small signal, BORBELETA (Wadekamper '79) a slightly lighter purple. FRIENDLY WELCOME (Varner '78) medium blue self, JORETTA (Carlson '64) dak blue, and SHOWDOWN (Varner '76) wine- red with a white signal.

ROBIN NOTES

By Dorothy Hamilton

I approached my people to evaluate their Siberians. I did not receive one criticism of the Siberian iris per se but to a man the criticisms were directed to the lack of there being a standard to be followed by those handling and shipping.

I understood their dismay at receiving almost rootless transplants which were no more than wisps.

The Siberian that was most frequently mentioned as being almost perfect in all respects was RUFFLED VELVET. I have its peer in CREME CHANTILLY.

Someone stated that the BLUE PENNANT fans were small but the bloom was excellent. I found that CLEVE DODGE and POLLY DODGE did not survive a severe winter.

Of the McGarvey irises SUPER EGO and TEMPER TANTRUM established easily, but AUGURY and PINK HAZE took three years to establish well.

As for color, all Siberians were considered pleasingly colorful. The only one that I would fault for color is MRS. ROWE. I used to say you should call her Jonah (after the whale spewed him up). I relegated my clump to my daughter's garden where the color improved. I read where Currier spoke of MRS. ROWE as a very respectable iris.

Once established the Siberian iris seems to be the sturdiest perennial in the garden.



THE BACKGROUND
OF
DANCE BALLERINA
DANCE
(Varner '82)

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL
WINNER 1989

BY D. STEVE VARNER

DANCE BALLERINA DANCE is a tetraploid Siberian, 32" tall with early to late mid-season bloom. One branch and terminal give four and five blooms with good time lag. It is the first tetraploid "pink amoena" introduced (1983), and received the most votes for HM (77) in 1985, and the most votes for AM in 1987. With almost flared, ruffled full lavender-pink falls and a lighter band of pink at the edges; Wide, pinkish near white standards and styles it was suggestive of a dancer's attire, and so the name. It is a tremendous parent, the flowers and plant are durable and leaves stay archingly erect.



Photo: by
Anna Mae
Miller

In 1985, I planted some open pollinated seeds given to me by Currier McEwen and designated T4 72/10 X bee. T4 72/10 is out of T3 70/89 (FOURFOLD WHITE X T1 65/71 (PIROUETTE x unknown). They did not germinate, and few if any know of my painstaking care of the seedbed for eight years

before I germinated all four seedlings. DANCE BALLERINA DANCE germinated in 1979 and bloomed for the first time in 1980, ILLINI DAME did not bloom until 1985. The four seedlings were one purple and three near amoenas. DANCE BALLERINA DANCE selfed produced VALLEY OF DELIGHT (probably a 1991 introduction), crossed with ILLINI FLIRT it produced amoenas, 4074 ('90 planned introduction) and 5055, which received HC's in 1989. It might be of interest that a sib to 5055 is white, the only non-amoena offspring in my breeding for pink amoenas. ROBIN ('89) is a pink and purple blended bicolor with a blue wash on the falls below the signal area, and comes from the purple sib to DANCE BALLERINA DANCE X DANCE BALLERINA DANCE. This year ILLINI DAME gave the best performance of all my pink amoena's.



S.S.I.
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD
TO
BEE WARBURTON

IN PRAISE OF
BEE

by
Currier
McEwen

Photo by:
Lee Welsh

How right that
Bee Warburton
has received our
Society's Dist-
inguished Service
Award. Certainly
a most fortunate

happening for the world of Siberian irises was Bee's decision to spread out a bit from the medians and take take on the Siberians as well. Not, let me hurry to say, that Bee's interests are limited

to these two groups, for her active mind is ready to take on all sorts of irises - as well as just about everything else!

Bee became interested in breeding irises in the early '40s and brought to it her quick, enquiring mind, her boundless energy and a basic understanding of genetics. In the years since then she has received about every honor that regional, national and international iris societies can award including innumerable top awards for individual cultivars. Her awards are far too many to list but it must be noted that she has received both the Hybridizer's Medal of the American Iris Society and the equivalent award of the British Iris Society, the Foster Memorial Plaque.

Putting aside her achievements in hybridizing - as though one could put them aside! - she has served the iris world in other dedicated ways in administrative roles and in writing. The latter includes many articles in the AIS Bulletin, the Medianite, The Siberian Iris, and foreign journals, and of course, her monumental contribution in The World of Irises. She has served also in editorial capacities with the Medianite, Region One Bulletin, and the AIS Bulletin.

As regards our Society for Siberian Irises, Bee was not only a founding member but was one of those who encouraged Peg Edwards in launching it. She made important contributions as director from 1961 to 1982 and as a vice president in 1982 - 85. For those of us who have been able to attend the N.E. Apogen Society auctions Bee's role in helping Kevin Vaughn start this annual event, strikes an especially happy note. All the early auctions were at the Warburton home in Westborough, Massachusetts, and everyone enjoyed the fun of seeing friends, acquiring plants and eating Frank Warburton's corn. For all in the Society for Siberian Irises the money raised at those auctions made possible important undertakings that otherwise would have gone undone.

Bee Warburton is held in honor and admiration by iris devotees throughout the world. By those fortunate ones who know her personally she is also loved. We in the Society for Siberian Irises are proud that she is one of us and are grateful for her gifts of friendship and service.

DOES SOIL PH CHANGE THE COLOR OF SIBERIANS?

Bob Hollingworth

The observation that gives rise to this little bit of speculation occurred several years ago when we lined out several pieces of PINK HAZE in a new bed. On wandering through this new patch when it was bloom season I was literally stopped in my tracks by the purest pink color I have seen in a Siberian -- the lined out PINK HAZES. Direct comparison with flowers from the same plant but grown elsewhere showed that indeed the ones in the new bed were a clearer pink compared to the more lavender pink of the plant in its other spot. This was repeated the next year too. Although the difference was less clear, it also seemed that starts of our wine-red LADY VANESSA were "redder" on this new ground. It was only recently that a possible cause of this struck me. The soil in our "pink" bed was rather high (pH 7.5-7.8) compared to the "lavender-pink" bed which was very peaty (pH about 5.5). It is well known that some hydrangea flowers will turn from pink to blue as the soil pH is lowered because under acidic conditions soil aluminum is taken up and changes the color of the flower pigments. Could something like this be happening with these Siberians? Anthocyanin pigments themselves change color with pH, although I do not know whether soil pH can affect the internal pH of the flower cell very much. Several times I have been heard comments in gardens such as "I have DANCE BALLERINA DANCE but it is much pinker for me than this plant" -- soil pH again? If we want clearer pink Siberians should we lime the soil (within limits!!). Anyone out there with a view on all of this?

1988 AIS AWARDS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

84 votes: DANCE BALLERINA DANCE (S. Varner)

runners-up

82 CHILLED WINE (B. Hager)

51 SHIRLEY POPE (C. McEwen)

AWARD OF MERIT

66 MABEL CODAY (C. Helsley)

59 JAMAICAN VELVET (W. McGarvey)

55 WINDWOOD SPRING (R. Hollingworth)

runners-up

35 BEDFORD LASS (K. Waite)

34 FORREST McCORD (R. Hollingworth)

34 PINK SPARKLE (B. Hager)

HONORABLE MENTION

64 votes: SILVER ILLUSION (D. Johnson)

59 JEWELLED CROWN (R. Hollingworth)

28 BISHOP'S PAWN (D. Johnson)

26 SHIRLEY'S CHOICE (C. McEwen)

22 ALICE MAE COX (H. Briscoe)

20 HIGH STANDARDS (R. Hollingworth)

18 REGENCY BUCK (C. McEwen)

18 SPIRIT OF YORK (G. Bush)

17 BLUE REVERIE (C. McEwen)

16 DREAMING ORANGE (C. McEwen)

REPEAT BLOOM IN SIBERIAN IRISES

By Howard Brookins

Having such a great love for irises in general, and beardless irises in particular, I added some repeat blooming Siberians to my collection in the spring of 1988, hoping to enjoy a longer bloom season in the garden. Then when finishing the Siberian Iris Check List, I corresponded with Siberian experts around the country, most of whom chilled my thoughts of expecting repeat bloom on Siberians. The general viewpoint was they wouldn't repeat in my cold Wisconsin climate but only under more favorable growing conditions. As with rebloom in the bearded category, everyone passes on the picture of dark gloom. "It ain't gonna work!"

To this, I say "Try it, you'll like it!"

I am a firm believer in the old theory "nothing ventured, nothing gained." Also, I believe a little tender loving care goes a long way towards success in the garden. To aid me in this direction, I installed a drip irrigation system in my raised perennial beds this spring, passing the line just behind the row of repeat blooming Siberians. I also spray my Siberians with Miracid to counteract the high lime content of my well water, and apply a small amount of 10 10 10 granulated fertilizer containing 11% sulfur, early in the spring. Results: LAVENDER BOUNTY bloomed late May, early June, and put up 7 repeat stalks in late June through mid July. Also repeating were MY LOVE, and WELCOME RETURN. All had been in only one year, so I can't wait until they become established clumps.

Another surprise in my bed was rebloom on an established clump of I. pseudacorus. Like everyone else, I planted it and forgot it, feeding with the Siberians and watering with the same drip irrigation system. In the five years it's been there, it has faithfully bloomed along with the TB's, as it did this year. Then on July 9th, I began to think it was sure having a long bloom season this year, and closer observation showed there were two new bloom stalks among the many stalks with heavy seed pods.

Again, the answer is TLC. Food, WATER! and full sun.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I finished reading Eckard Berlin's article on I. typhifolia in TSI, Spring '89 and found it very interesting.

I received seeds of this iris from Dr. Zhao in 1988 and they are now up 20" and follow the description listed in the journal. The foliage is extremely narrow, and they are growing like weeds.

Since I have grown and hybridised Ensatae, Sibiricae, and Sanguinea species for over 15 years, I cannot see any problems for I. typhifolia here in the Little Rock district.

Dr. Rodionenko has sent me 23 different Russian Iris seeds, among them is I. sanguinea form angustifolia which according to his letter to me is similar in habit to I. typhifolia. As we say in an unknown tongue; es frént mich sehr.

Bob fabel-Ward
Little Rock, Arkansas

Communication from Brian Clough to Anna Mae Miller

Regarding the Siberians you brought for our sales; We potted them up immediately after the meeting, and for your information we have found that six inch pots are necessary for Siberians to grow well. We had a few four inch pots and the irises did poorly. They looked rather small in such large plastic pots but they grew leaves normally and quickly unlike the ones in the four inch pots. Where the irises grew well we had little trouble selling them.

(The Siberians were dug in very early spring, when barely showing green and were 3 to 5 fan divisions)

BEST OF THE DECADE

By David Silverberg

Since being given this assignment, I have been searching the check lists, my slide files and my memory (no little feat at my age) in an effort to come up with the ten best Siberians of the 80's. My choices are made on the impact the iris made on me when I first saw it and subsequent reinforcement based upon performance in my garden. I am not going to list them in any special order - only as they came to mind and as I recorded them in my notes.

SILVER ILLUSION - (Johnson '87) There was an almost unanimous opinion when this variety was first seen at the Indianapolis Convention under its seedling number S222, that it would be one to contend with in the future. The color is unlike any other seen before or since. Up close you can see the separate colors, but step back a few feet and the sunlight will create a true silver illusion.

MABEL CODAY - (Helsley '85) While this variety does not have an outstanding distinguishing color, it does have two other plus factors in its favor. I was fortunate in having been permitted to guest this iris prior to its introduction and from the three fans received in mid-October of 1984 it increased to 35 fans by the spring of 1986. Fantastic growth for an iris that received only one small application of fertilizer and was growing under poor soil conditions. Secondly is its fragrance! I know of no other Siberian that has a fragrance. The fragrance is there, although I have found it to be somewhat elusive.

DANCE BALLERINA DANCE - (Varner '82) The closest that Siberian hybridizers have gotten to pink (pink amoena), a major milestone.

KING OF KINGS - (Varner '82) The best formed white Siberian since WHITE SWIRL, but on a larger scale. In fact WHITE SWIRL is in its background.

PERCHERON - (Warburton '82) This one has great personality and I fell in love with it at first sight. While others may discount the veining and stippling, these were the very factors that made it

attractive to me. In addition it has great form and excellent substance.

HUBBARD - (McEwen '82) Suffice it to say that this is the finest red Siberian available today.

TEMPER TANTRUM - (McGarvey '86) This must be mentioned because of its outstanding color and growth characteristics. It is an absolute weed for me. I really don't know if it should be included since it was registered in 1969 but not introduced until '86, although I suspect it was widely distributed prior to introduction.

REGENCY BUCK - (McEwen '85) When I saw this iris in my garden this spring my first reaction was to utter a most polite expletive. I stood and admired it for a full five minutes checking it from all angles. Never have I seen a Siberian with such full, rich depth of color. The form here too, is exceptional.

JEWELLED CROWN - (Hollingworth '87) burst on the iris scene at the Indy convention in '85 and created an excitement not witnessed in the iris world in years. SILVER ILLUSION created a hum, but JEWELLED CROWN came on with a ROAR!! The great wine-red color, sunburst blaze and exquisite ruffling makes this an absolute must have.

You will note that I have made no mention of breeding characteristics. That is simply because I have not done enough hybridizing with Siberians to know those which will make the best parents.

!!!!!!!REMINDER!!!!!!!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

REPORT ON THE SECTION MEETING OF
THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

Harry B. Kuesel

The Section Meeting for SSI was convened in the Forrest Room at the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee at 7pm on May 2nd, 1989. Over 100 hundred people were in attendance.

President Anna Mae Miller welcomed everyone and reported on the highlights of the Board Meeting which was held the evening of April 29th. She introduced all the Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs present.

She reported that the Board of Directors had voted to honor Bee Warburton with the SSI distinguished Service Award for 1989, 1st V.P. Barney Hobbs commenting that Bee had already received all the AIS and Median awards available, but this one was one of those rare ones she hadn't won yet.

Howard Brookins described the new Siberian Iris Checklist - 1989 edition which lists 900 different Siberians from 1700 to 1989. This was available at the meeting for \$4.50 and combined with Currier McEwen's famous monograph "Siberian Irises" for a special convention price of \$7.00. Needless to say there was an almost instant sellout.

Harry Kuesel was called to the podium to receive his SSI Distinguished Service Award, voted for 1988, but not presented until this time. Harry was delighted with this splendid document.

Bob Hollingworth was asked to report on plans for a Siberian iris convention to be held in Michigan in 1993. This idea was enthusiastically received and should be a great event to look forward to.

Bob also described the new research project he is handling for the society on the disease Scorch which has been reported as having affected some Siberian irises. He asked that anyone who had such plants send them to him at Michigan State University.

Barney Hobbs was then called upon to present the program.

Part one consisted of an excellent slide show by President Miller. Prominent Siberian hybridizers were featured, with slides of their best introductions since the 60's. Steve Varner also showed a selection of his recent introductions.

The second part included an informal panel discussion with questions taken from the floor.

There were many questions and at the conclusion,

Barney asked for a show of hands and it was unanimous that a similar program be scheduled for the convention next year.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members

Allen Julie, Rt.7 Box 382-C, Sparta, TN 38583
Aldridge Donna, 7503 W. 54th Ter. Overland Park, Ks 66202
Bigwood Betty M. Bradgate Farm, 300 Chestnut St. Wilmington, MA 01887
Boro Marilyn, 2133 Yosemite Dr. Milpitas, CA 95035
Boucher Philip, 45 River St. Rehobeth MA 02769
Butler Diane, 2 Chadwick Cir Andover MA 01810
Cattanach Dora, 8 Brassey Av. Rosanna Victoria 3084 Australia
Copeland James/Jill, 34165 CR 652, Mattawan MI 49071
Conway June R. 1672 Deer Run Rd. Catawba SC 29704
Cox Margaret, 10933 S. Olive Trail, Plymouth, IN 46563
Cushenbery's The, 2167 South 57th St. Milwaukee WI 53219
Cuthbert Ed RD.1 Box 33A, Nineveh, NY 13813
D.O.H. Flower Shop, 7404 Lamar Ave S. Cottage Grove MN 55016
Dunbar Charles H. PO Box 1738 Mendocino CA 95460
Dunkley Robert, 2435 Middle Rd. Columbia Falls MT 59912
Eldridge Beth, 468 E. Boundry Dr. West salem WI 54669
Farmer Shirley, 1121 hollgy Av. Dayton OH 45410
Feasel Georgia C. 27 Pasedena Dr. Rochester NY. 14606
Fieldstone Gdns. Inc. Steven D. Jones 620 Quaker Ln. Vassalboro ME 04989
Figge Barbara Jean, 6805 Kentucky Ct. NE. Albuquerque, NM 87116
Gaffney Sharon L. 10210 S.E. 196th, Renton, WA 98055
The Greater Kansas City Iris Society, Nancy L. Watson, 838 South 102 Edwardsville, KS 66111
Gristwood M/M James 605 Lock St. Phoenix NY 13135
Griffie Harold L/Gayle Box 315 Biglerville PA 17307

Helmick Walter, 9715 Blacksoil Ln. Peoria IL 61615
Hempel Mrs. David, 6500 74 1/2 Av. N. Minneapolis
MN 55428
Henley Mrs. Oren 104 N. Huttig Independence MO
64053
Hesketh John D. 1003 Sunrise Cir. Mahomet IL 61853
Hirsbrunner Liselotte, 139 North Maple Av.
Bloomingdale IL 60108
Hirschler Dianne, 2976 Garrilee Dr. San Bernadino
CA 92404
Horvath Roberta L. 2717 Belmont Av. Ardmore PA
19003
Hunter Ross W. 1524 Locust Cir. SE. Huntsville AL
35801
Illingworth Robert, RR7 Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada
P7C 5V5
James Mike, 1065 Boston Mills Rd. Peninsula OH 44264
Jaren, HCR #4, Box 183, Gainsville, MO 65655
Javornik Anne, 1427 Morningside Dr. Fostoria OH
44830
Johnson Scott/Cindy 7310 Zanzibar Ln. N. Maple
Grove MN 55369
Joseph Eleanor, 1165 Ringwood Av. Haskell NJ 07420
Kabler Charlotte J., 631 Magnolia Rd. NE, Roanoke
VA 24019
Knoblauch Ed, 1019 Moore El Paso Tx 79902
Knopick William/Martha 4N 738 Crane Rd. St. Charles
IL 60175
Langston Billy, Rt. 4 Box 575 Toccoa GA 30577
Lee Gloria, 1697 Bartram Way, El Cajon CA 92019
Lin, Mdm Jin Zhen Hangzhou Botanical Gdn.
Hangzhou, Zhejiang Prov. China
Loop Robert J. Box 1815 Kalispell MT 59903
Lowe Trudy 302 Crescent Av. Jackson TN 38301
Lu, Mr Bo Shanghai Botanical Gdns. Long Wu Lu
Shanghai China
Lucas Mrs. C.P. Box 437, East Norwich NY 11940
Magin F. Paul 111, 2351 W. Williamsburg Cir. West
Jordan UT 84088
Maltman Elwood A. 206 Milltown Rd. Willmington DE
19808
Marsh Connell/Barbara, 10800 West Fletcher Av. RR 4
Lincoln NE 68524
Maynard Virginia, 9562 Vermontville, Dimondale MI
48821
Meadowlark Gdns. 1624 Beulah Dr. Vienna VA 22182
McLean John, 2003 Whitesboro St. Utica NY 13502
Mellott Lee C. 6255 Drew Dr. Virginia Beach VA
23464
Miller Lynda S. 3167 E. US 224 Ossian IN 46777
Morrissey Gail E. PO Box 2067 New Port Richey FL
34656

Munroe Dorothy S. 221 W. Taylor Rd. Selah, WA 98942
Nordlund Susan M. 48 W. 7th St. We Jamestown NY
14701
O'Connor George L. 844 Mathews Av. Charleston WV
25302
O' Shea Carl M. RD4 Box 461 Reservoir Rd. Clinton
NY 13323
Peek Elaine Box 1013 Edson, Alberta Canada T0E 0P0
Peirce Jerry/Janie PO Box 520 Russellville AR 72801
Pierce Mary L. 242 Oneida St. Fulton NY 13069
Porterfield Mrs. Gary Rt.2 Box 728 Bonne Terre MO
63628
Randall Caryll 524 Windsor Gate Rd. Virginia Beach
VA 23452
Randall John Rt 2 Box 23B Glenwood IA 51534
Robertson Ellen, 88 Essex Av. Glen Ridge NJ 07028
Robinson W. PO Box 819, Rotorua, New Zealand
Rubino Mrs. Art Rt. 4 Box 62A Santa Fe NM 7192
Schick Rosemarie 3420 Brookview Rd. Philadelphia PA
19154
Smith Jane, Box 115, Belmont MI 49306
Southern California Iris Society
Taylor Athol/Karolina, Rt. 1 Box 498 Evans Ln. Mt.
Washington KY 40047
Thrumen Daniel, 2411 White Oak Tr. Oregon WI 53575
Wade Van/Shirley, Rt.3 Gatton Rocks Rd. Bellville
OH 44813
Werner Klaus, Darmstadter Str 40 6101 Modautal 1 W.
Germany
Westmeyer Kevin S. 209 S. Canton Rd. Akron OH 44312
Weyhbrauch Jennifer RD.3 Box 207D, E Mile Strip Rd.
Canastota NY 13032
Wines Ruby Rt.3 Box 213 Hendersonville NC 28739
Wirz Alfred T. 40 McKinley Av. Buffalo NY 14217
Woolsey Kathy R. 157 Dunnemann Av. Charleston Sc
29403
Xie, Mr. Hang, Biology Dept. N.E. Normal University
Chang Chun, Jilin Prov. China
Yales Michael 11505 S. Stoney Creek Rd. Carleton MI
48117
Yang, Prof. Jun Liang, Botany Dept. Sichuan
Agricultural University, Ya-an, Sichuan Prov. China
Yen, Prof. Chi, Tritaceae Research Inst. Sichuan
Ag. University, Xing-fu Xiang, Guan Xian Co.
Sichuan Prov. China
Yunger Andrew 510 Grand Pre, Kalamazoo MI 49007
Zarkey Michael 8932 Gibson St. Los Angeles CA 90034
Zhao, Prof. Yu-Tang, Biology Dept. N.E. Normal
Univ. Chang Chun, Jilin Prov. China



THE LAST WORD

One of the pleasures of gardening is being closely in touch with nature. This brings its joys - witnessing a marvellous sunset which might have been missed had you not been working in your flower bed; the early morning dew outlining the intricacies of a cobweb. It also brings its sorrows.

Some years we battle disease or drought, things of which the non-gardener has little awareness. This year it has been plagues. A plague of mosquitoes whose eggs lay dormant during drought years such as 1988, so that they can hatch with renewed vigor in years like this one when rain has been plentiful. The mosquitoes are just tolerable but our nemesis has been the slug. Slugs everywhere - slugs chewing on hosta leaves slugs so thick that they are weighing down a foot long amaryllis leaf, but most unforgivable, slugs on the Siberians.

They are revolting, slimy creatures, emerging from their dank hiding places at dusk to begin their climb up the foliage for dinner. If they were content with the leaves perhaps we could co-exist, but, and for a hybridizer totally unacceptable, their tastes are more perverse. It appears that their favorite delicacy is Siberian pollen. There they are in the early morning indulgently dining on the anthers.

We gardeners do share our misery. Clarence Mahan wrote from Virginia that his idea of heaven would be Siberian and Japanese irises and not a single slug. My mother used to take our boys round her garden in England when they were younger, sprinkling salt on those nasty slugs. It was effective, but not for five acres! Slug bait is impractical over a large area because of its expense; beer traps placed near our more valuable plants only provided Happy Hour for the local racoons. If anyone has a practical solution for

ridding a large garden of slugs, I'm listening.

The positive side of this problem is that the good rains and moderate summer temperatures which encouraged the proliferation of the slugs and mosquitoes, have helped produce Siberian foliage five or more feet high. I included the above photograph in place of the usual Last Word heading, to show how wonderful Siberian foliage looks on a happy plant.

Another positive is the status of the battle between the Hollingworths and the moles. This year's score is Hollingworth's 4 - Moles 0 although the mole team has successfully torn up the playing surface more than once.

Recommended reading from our members:

Harry Kuesel wrote to let us know of a delightful article in the Oct/Nov issue of Modern Maturity magazine featuring our own Currier McEwen, and Art Cronin recommends the Nov/Dec issue of Fine Gardening as containing the definitive article on moles!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

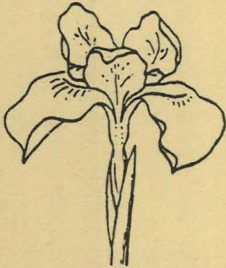
The nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for office in The Society for Siberian Irises. If approved the term of office would be from January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1993.

Directors: Mr. Thomas Abrego
Mr. Howard Brookins
Mr. Harry Kuesel

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

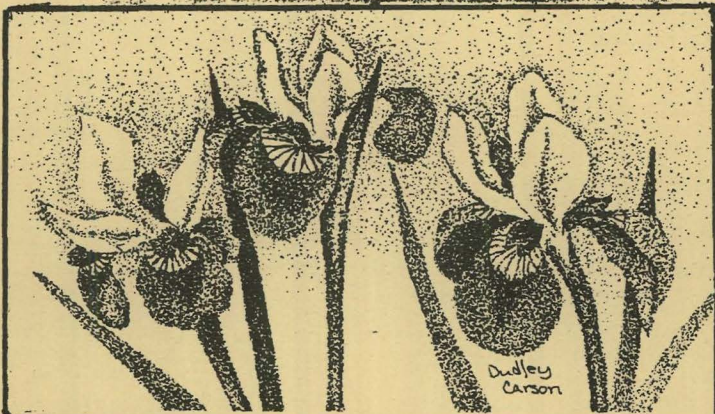
Additional nominations may be made in writing, signed by at least eight members "acting in concert", that is all signing the same nominating petition, and sent to the chairman of the nominating committee not later than Dec 13th together with a letter of consent from each candidate. In this case the elections 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.

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