

*The
Siberian
Iris*



Fall 1992

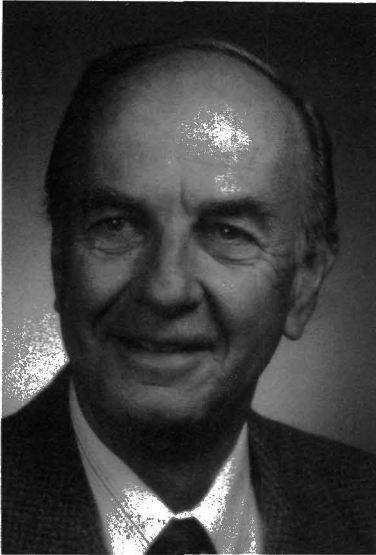
THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 6

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Cover: LADY VANESSA (Hollingworth '86)
Morgan-Wood Medal Winner 1992
Photo: Bob Hollingworth



**FROM
THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK**

The ballots are in and counted, and we have a new Morgan-Wood Medal winner: LADY VANESSA. Congratulations to Bob Hollingworth for this high achievement!

Congratulations also to Carol Warner for winning the Walther Cup with SHAKER'S PRAYER.

The year has been a strange one, apparently, in many parts of the country. Some places had the earliest bloom ever, while here in Michigan things were late. We had an unprecedented hard freeze the night of May 30-31. It did considerable damage to TB's, and even some Siberian stalks froze and never developed. On several clumps we had distorted flowers for the first bloom. Most Siberians, however, performed normally but flowered considerably later than usual. Our very wet and cool summer has produced excellent growth in the plants.

Things are falling into place as plans go forward for the first Siberian convention next spring. The guest gardens are doing well. I saw some of them at bloom time, and in general both growth and bloom were very good. We're looking forward to a great time in East Lansing.

We now have accepted an invitation for the second Siberian convention. Tentative plans are for a meeting in Massachusetts in 1996. Several people have commented that a three year interval seems good.

Interest in Siberians seems to continue to grow. I believe that national meetings

concentrating on our section will further increase the interest. I hope that more AIS judges will get involved in seeing and growing Siberians and that we can get much wider participation in voting the ballot. And here is where we as section members can have an influence. We should push for more widespread and expert judges' training on the Siberian iris. All of us can profit from such instruction and many judges badly need it. As section members we can campaign for more such education in our own regions. Leaving it to national meetings alone means we will have far too little training for many of our judges.

I'm sure summer has been very busy for all of us. It seems hard to catch up on all there is to do. Now with winter coming on, let's all relax a little, enjoy a second "bloom period" by looking again at the pictures from last spring, and generally enjoy the holidays, snow days, and other such things that come our way. May your winter be a good one.

Hal Stahly

ADVERTISING RATES

A source list for Siberians is printed in each spring issue of TSI at a cost of \$5.00 per listing. Please send your check to the editorial office by February 15th.

Other rates:

FULL PAGE COLOR 4" x 7"	\$100.00
(color separation to be provided by advertiser)	
FULL PAGE B&W 4" X 7"	\$50.00
HALF PAGE B&W 4" X 3 1/2 "	\$30.00
1/4TH PAGE B&W 4" X 1 1/2"	\$20.00

**SIBERIAN IRIS CONVENTION
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

June 11-13th 1993

Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan invite you to the first ever Siberian Iris Convention. We are excited about being hosts to Siberian lovers from all over the country and abroad.

HEADQUARTERS:

The Kellogg Center
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1022
Tel. (517) 332-6571

Room rates \$57 + 9% tax (single, double or quad)

REGISTRATION:

Because of space limitations, registration must be restricted to 200 people and will be accepted on a first come basis. Also, we feel the strength of these mini-conventions is in their intimacy and we do not want the guest gardens, some of which are not large, to be overcrowded.

Registration fee: \$85.00 if paid by April 1st.
\$105.00 after April 1st.
postmark

Refunds cannot be guaranteed after May 1st.

The convention will get underway late Friday afternoon and finish up with Sunday lunch. Registration will include a Friday night get together with special program; Saturday bus service to the gardens, including a Jim Copeland "Famous Fish Fry Lunch"; also a Saturday evening banquet; Sunday buffet breakfast at the Kellogg Center and a barbeque lunch on Sunday at one of the guest gardens for those who can stay. Partial registrations will be available, check with the registrars.

Registration checks will be accepted from October 21st (earlier registrations cannot be accepted).

Please send your check to:

Paul and Carol Morgan, Registrars
G1384 Westwood Drive
Flint, Mi 48532-2665

Make checks payable to Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan.

Why not stay a little longer and explore Michigan before or after the convention. "Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice", our state motto, suggests that if you seek a pleasant peninsula look around you. We have 3200 miles of shoreline, more than 11,000 inland lakes, and huge expanses of forest - in fact two very pleasant peninsulas for you to enjoy - come and join us in Michigan in 1993.

Frost damaged stalks of Siberian irises
photographed in a Michigan garden
May 27th 1992 by Larry Harder.



SEARCHING FOR IRIS PHRAGMITETORUM

By James W. Waddick_____

One of the long term mysteries in the iris world starts with an herbarium sheet labelled I. phragmitetorum. This sheet is the only known record of a plant found in a reed (Phragmites) swamp near Yunnan-fu in Yunnan Province, China in 1925. The iris is at least one and a half feet (46 cm) tall; the leaves are slightly shorter than this and about 1/2" (1.3 cm) wide. The flowers are a rich dark blue and over three inches across. Pale, near white veined areas are seen in the center of the falls. The flowers are born on an unbranched scape. It has never been reported since and no living material has ever been introduced into cultivation.

Although the single existing herbarium specimen is in excellent condition the relationships of this species remains a mystery. It is believed to be a Siberian iris. The Series Sibiricae consists of two distinct groups - the 40 chromosome Sino-Siberian species (six species) found primarily in southwest China and the 28 chromosome Siberians which include I. sibirica, and the closely related I. sanguinea as well as the newly introduced I. typhifolia.

Today Yunnan-fu is known as Kunming City, the capital of Yunnan Province in southwest China. The reed swamps are filled and the city has grown well beyond its borders of 65 years ago. In 1989, I visited southwest China and asked about this species and was met with blank faces. Since then I have corresponded widely to try to locate any news of this elusive species. Why has this large flowered, distinctive species never been brought into cultivation and why is it not even known in Chinese horticulture? The Flora of China Vol.16, No 1, covering the Iridaceae does not mention this species at all. There are some possible conclusions to be drawn.

1. This iris is extinct. It may have been highly adapted to specific swamp conditions and pollution, population pressure and habitat

destruction may have caused its elimination. Its first collection was the last flower.

2. This iris is rare. It may have been affected by all the conditions mentioned above, but is now found in only a few relatively inaccessible locations. It is awaiting rediscovery out there somewhere.

3. This iris is misidentified. There are four other "blue" species of Siberian iris in southwest China and this species may be misidentified repeatedly by naive collectors. It could most possibly be confused with one of two other Siberian species, I. delavayi or I. clarkei. Iris delavayi has angled standards, is quite tall and the scapes are usually branched. I have seen flower stalks reaching over six feet high or as much as four times taller than I. phragmitetorum. Iris clarkei also has angled standards, branched flower scapes and solid flower stems and this character alone makes it difficult to confuse with any other Siberian species. The other two Siberian irises, I. bulleyana and I. chrysographes are very distinctive and really not "blue" enough to be confused with I. phragmitetorum.

However, this species might be confused with another water iris. The most likely species is I. laevigata. Iris laevigata has been recorded only from Yunnan Province and the three most northeasterly provinces of China (Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning). These latter provinces are thousands of miles from Yunnan. This is quite a geographical disparity. I. laevigata may well grow in reed swamps, but has wider leaves and the flower scapes are usually branched.

The status and identity of Iris phragmitetorum remains very fuzzy. I recently obtained some interesting and new information on this species. The plant is listed in "The Register of Seed Plants of Yunnan" (1978, p. 978): "found from 1890 to 3200 meters in the marshland or grassy marshland near the lake. Dian Chi Kunming, Dali". Professor Zheng Jue-min saw a blooming plant of I. phragmitetorum in a small inn at the lakeside resort village of Dian Chi a few kilometers south of Kunming in July of 1987. It had attractive blue flowers and was growing in a pot.

Today it is hard to see the marshland from Kunming as the lake is almost totally enclosed and the marshlands have been cultivated for crops. It

is difficult or impossible to find this iris around Kunming. Dali is a well known spot for botanical collecting, and numerous recent collectors from both East and West have failed to locate, collect or perhaps recognize this iris. At the very least, Professor Zheng's field identification and the Yunnan listing give new hope that the species does still exist.

In the fall of 1990 a seed collection expedition sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society, Royal Botanic Garden (Kew) and the Royal Botanical Garden (Edinburgh) went to Yunnan Province. They returned with more than a dozen accessions of Iris seed including collections from wet areas near Dali and Huadianba. Some of the seed appears to be of species in the series Sibiricae but identification cannot be made until the seeds germinate and the plants bloom. Perhaps Iris phragmitetorum will bloom in the West.

This continuing trail of clues again points to the need for more field work in China. Iris phragmitetorum has always been listed as a 40 chromosome Siberian. The only "fact" that suggests it is a 40 is that it is from south west China where all the other 40's come from, but there are 28's east, west and north of this location too. It may in fact be a 28. When you check the herbarium sheet and try to key it out, you get I. sanguinea. As a 28 chromosome Siberian it has potential to add a whole new gene pool to the hundreds of garden Siberian cultivars. As a relatively southern species it would have the potential to allow Siberians to prosper in more southern and mediterranean climates. We won't really know the chromosome count until we have a plant in hand.

Dr. Zhao Yu-tang, (Professor of Botany , N.E. Normal University, Peoples' Republic of China) has a new graduate student studying the irises of Yunnan and I hope we will have something to tell within the year. I have two seedlings collected in Dali (another I. phragmitetorum site) that just might be the long-sought species! Stay tuned.

(This article was first printed in SIGNA and has been updated for TSI.)

1991 AIS AWARDS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

LADY VANESSA (R. Hollingworth) 114 VOTES

Runners-up

TEMPER TANTRUM (W. McGarvey) 55
LAUGHING BROOK (K. Waite) 48

AWARD OF MERIT

AQUA WHISPERS (A. Miller) 77
SULTAN'S RUBY (R. Hollingworth) 64
HIGH STANDARDS (R. Hollingworth) 51
WIZARDRY (R. Hollingworth) 51

Runners-up

PINK SPARKLE (B. Hager) 41
SHIRLEY'S CHOICE (C. McEwen) 34
BEDFORD LASS (K. Waite) 32
DEMURE ILLINI (S. Varner) 31
BELLISSIMA (B. Warburton) 31

HONORABLE MENTION

SHAKER'S PRAYER (C. Warner) 110
WINDWOOD SERENADE (R. Hollingworth) 50
CORONATION ANTHEM (R. Hollingworth) 43
LINDA MARY (J. Cooper) 28
SNOW PRINCE (S. Tiffany) 28
TIFFANY LASS (C. McEwen) 23
ILLINI RUBY (S. Varner) 20
PRAIRIE IN BLOOM (G. Gaddie) 20
RIKUGI SAKURA (H. Shidara/Hager) 19
ARBEE (J. Wood) 17
GULL'S WING (McGarvey/Wadekamper) 16
SKY MIRROR (B. Warburton) 15

WALTHER CUP

SHAKER'S PRAYER

(C. Warner)

110 VOTES

N.B. BUTTERMAKER'S BRIDE (A. Cronin '91), which won an EC during the 1991 show season, was listed in the January 1992 AIS bulletin as a TB. It is in fact a Siberian.

THE BACKGROUND OF LADY VANESSA (HOLLINGWORTH '86) MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1991

By Bob Hollingworth_____

I am not a tidy person, but I try to keep good records of iris activities. The cross that led to LADY VANESSA was made on a June 4th, 1980 -- Currier McEwen's RUFFLED VELVET x Steve Varner's SHOWDOWN. As Sir Isaac Newton wrote in the very much more significant context of his scientific achievements, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". So first I have to thank Currier and Steve for providing two such outstanding parents to work with.

On June 12th, 1982, a fine, cool day, seedling 82J2B8 was numbered and described on first flowering -- "old rose coloring with a clear, limited white blaze, feathered style arms, flaring, ruffled falls, quite wide. 1 branch, 30 in. A finished, sophisticated flower; introducible". This was prescient, but not too much of a surprise. The cross was made to develop superior red-shade Siberians with flaring, ruffled form and clear signals. The parents were chosen because they had most of these characteristics. RUFFLED VELVET is, of course, purple, but one of its parents (POLLY DODGE) is red, and this should give 50% reds when crossed with a red iris such as SHOWDOWN. What was surprising was the overall extraordinary quality of the irises in this cross. I called it my "jewel box". Inside was

every shade of red, blue and purple with many striking white and gold blazes and lovely forms. Virtually every plant was sturdy and well-branched with strong foliage.

Seedling 82J2B8 was named LADY VANESSA in 1985. Originally we wanted to call it simply Vanessa. This was a name we had picked out for girl child but we have all boys and Vanessa would have been a hard name to live with. Of course, it turned out that Vanessa as an iris name had already been taken. Almost every name you can think of has been taken. Being short on ideas and long on frustration at losing every name we wanted that year, we stuck the "Lady" in front, which elevated Vanessa to a rank she could never have achieved in human form.

Of the 78 seedlings grown up from this cross, probably more than half could have been chosen for introduction even by the most discriminating irisarian. Three have been: LADY VANESSA, SULTAN'S RUBY and JEWELLED CROWN. Probably more should have been. I still have a couple lined out for further consideration. Several others that never got named have proved to be good parents and in many ways have been the foundation for our current breeding program. It was lucky that many of these seedlings were treated with colchicine and several very fine induced tetraploids were produced.

Sadly, perhaps, LADY VANESSA is not among the irises from this group that have produced exciting progeny. A variety of crosses using Lady V. have given some very nice irises, but nothing so clearly better than the parents that it merited introduction. Perhaps that means we can't improve on her, but I retain hope and Lady V. seedlings are still growing in the seedling patch. In particular, the clear bitone coloring is a tempting goal for further development.

Why these two parents should combine to produce such an explosion of quality, I don't know. But I do know it doesn't happen often. Never again for me in hundreds of crosses. Perhaps that's fortunate. Selecting introductions from this group of seedlings was no easy job and was always grounds for argument. But LADY VANESSA stood out from the crowd -- not the boldest or the brightest, but with a personality and drawing power, and, yes, sophistication all her own. So, in an unexpected way, Judy and I are proud parents and we appreciate your recognition of this member of our extended family.

1992 AWARD OF MERIT
WINNERS



AQUA WHISPERS
(Miller '88)

Photo:
A. M. Miller



SULTAN'S RUBY
(Hollingworth '88)

Photo:
R. M. Hollingworth



HIGH STANDARDS (Hollingworth '87)

Photo: By the hybridizer



WIZARDRY (Hollingworth '85)

Photo: By the hybridizer

GUEST SIBERIANS FOR THE 1993 CONVENTION

THE MAYNARD GARDEN

By Virginia Maynard_____

Even with the strange weather we've had this spring that caused such unusual behavior in the irises in general, the guest Siberians produced an abundance of bloom unusual on two year plants.

Especially impressive were Warburton's ARV 82-UN5, a beautiful ruffled white; S8901 from Dale Johnson, a very nice large mid-blue; Bauer/Coble's S86-A4, a ruffly wine. Art Cronin sent BUTTERMAKER (R. 1990), a white with yellow hafts and streaks down the center of the falls. I'm eager to see his BUTTERMAKER'S BRIDE (R. 1992). I thought all of Anna Mae Miller's were remarkable. CHEERY LYN ('91) was a tall rose-lilac with lighter petal edges that bloomed a long time. Hollingworth's JEWELLED CROWN ('87) was my number one choice on the Siberian popularity poll this year and so I was pleased to have some of Bob's seedlings as guests. One of note was 87Q6C5 a very ruffled wine tetraploid.

Siberian branching wasn't good this year, even on mature plants, and some varieties produced short stalks. Next year will be perfect!

THE MILLER GARDEN

By Anna Mae Miller_____

We have planted about 132 guest irises in an area bordering a path. These irises arrived from August to late October 1991 and a few stragglers came in the spring of 1992. Most arrived in very good shape and there were from one to eight fans per division. This year was the first opportunity

to see typical bloom on most plants.

Unfortunately we had a late frost after the bloom stalks were 6+'' tall and the early varieties, especially, were very damaged with distorted flowers and stalks only 10'' tall when they should have been over 30''. I believe that the frosted foliage cells then give entry to diseases. Some plants overcome this while others may die due to excessive damage. These watery oval patches on the leaves usually spread and when hot weather comes they turn brown and drop at the base of the plant. This same damage is seen on Hemerocallis leaves as yellow streaks, and on Lillium they dry from the base up. After our late frost we had a very long, cool season.

I would like to mention a few of the plants that seemed outstanding and I may have overlooked others just as good in the press of caring for a large garden, Japanese Iris Convention planning and a few of life's pressing duties.

Bauer-Coble: Their S86 A-4 made a nice clump (a blooming fool). It is blue-purple with a white eye and bloomed from June 2nd-18th, but the frost caused it to bloom short. S85 L-1 was a very early bloomer, a lavender-pink with a white edge.

Jim Copeland's 88-102 is a good pink amoena with wide falls and very white standards. Also 88-23 is a good pink without any lavender cast.

Calvin Helsley had three sister seedlings named and they were nice clumps and real color improvements. WINGS OF NIGHT ('91) is a very deep velvety red-black with the haft lightly marked white. The falls are a bit narrow, but with color like this they can be forgiven. WAR MARCH ('91) is a red-violet with white haft. Another parentage gave DRAMATIC PRELUDE ('92), a RUFFLED VELVET child with large, ruffled, velvety almost black falls with gold haft and eye area. The standards and style arms are lighter purple-blue. One fan grew to ten fans with two bloom stalks and very glaucous foliage - it looks tetraploid. A few years ago Calvin told me he might not continue hybridizing Siberians - I'm glad he changed his mind.

Dale Johnson's S 904 was a midseason bloomer - a large purple with yellow hafts and lighter style arms. The spathe is purplish-red. A nice plant with glaucous foliage.

Marlene Ahlburg (Germany) has a large yellow amoena, blooming at midseason and named WELFENPRINZESSIN (R. 1990).

Uwe Knoepnadel's MYSTERIOUS MONIQUE (introduced by Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer in 1992) is a Versicolor with deep velvety violet falls, large white eye, and reddish-violet standards and white style arms. A striking and long blooming flower.

Bee Warburton also has a couple of nice Versicolors; CANDY STRIPER ('91), white with red-violet veins and PARTY LINE ('88) with red-violet falls and white style arms. Her Siberian SPRINGS BROOK ('88) is a large, pearly blue-violet with darker blue-violet blending onto the falls. It repeats and is a favorite of many.

McEwen T7 87(68)3 is a large velvety deep purple with a white edge and small gold eye. Wow!

Schafer/Sacks ROARING JELLY ('92) is a winner! Mid season, a large flower with round, full falls a different wine color - dappled raspberry-maroon with a lighter edge - and light lavender standards and style arms matching the edge. I'm anxious to see an established clump of this one.

Hal Stahly's MOON SILK ('91) is a full light yellow and a good clump.

Steve Varner sent miniatures, named varieties and seedlings and there are several noteworthy irises here. PRECIOUS DOLL ('88), a miniature is a charmer. GREEN EYED QUEEN ('92) is wine with a green haft area - a nice color combination. Seedling 3133 is a very dark wine with veins and 5071 is a dappled and flat form.

With good luck in picking the correct date our first convention appears to promise many new colors and sizes of Siberians for people to see.

THE HOLLINGWORTH AND MSU GARDENS

By Bob Hollingworth _____

The many guests in our garden and at Michigan State University had a good year although the cool, damp weather tested their ability to withstand disease, particularly botrytis, and a few fell by the wayside. It is obvious that we have many talented hybridizers, but I was particularly impressed by the new irises from Calvin Helsley and Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks. The plants mentioned below are among those that caught my attention in 1992 -- but there were many others and I only have 3 pages to work with! The comments are mostly based on growth and flowering habits in 1992 (the second year of growth) and may not be typical of the performance of the plants at other times and places.

WELFENPRINZESSIN (Ahlberg '90) is a light yellow amoena with excellent growth habits and floriferousness. Marlene Ahlberg sent several other yellow amoenas, some with stronger contrast, but this one combined the best qualities. It also rebloomed quite copiously in both gardens. WELFENSCHATZ, a deeper yellow amoena, also was notable in color and form, but had no branching.

Bauer-Coble S85B1. This has become a great favorite of mine. The pale pink coloring diffuses out from the haft area with deeper veining. The rim of the falls and the standards are near white. With an exquisite full, rounded form, branching and good vigor, I believe this iris has the potential to go a long way. Bauer-Coble S85C2 also is an attention-getter. Large, clear mid-blue flowers, somewhat mottled and with a strong cream blaze. Lovely, full, ruffled flowers on a strong plant but not branched.

Copeland 15. Although there were relatively few flower stalks on this vigorous plant, the flowers were among the most striking of any. The falls are a complex mixture of red and blue shades, the standards are pure red and very short as are the style arms which are light blue and frilled. This gives a central bouquet of contrasting colors set against complementary falls. No branch this year.

Fulton 76T-5. This shows a bright and arresting combination of colors. A light grape self with a strong yellow-gold diffuse signal that spreads over half the falls. The foliage was a bit unruly, but the seedling had an extremely long period of bloom.

MISTY MEMORIES (Helsley '90). Purple falls with a lighter edge, bluer style arms and standards set off by a gold blaze and throat. No branch but a fine clump effect. WINGS OF NIGHT (Helsley '91). What a fine name! The color is a unique red-black that had me coming back to look again repeatedly. The form may be a bit narrow but this is an iris that won't be confused with any other. DRAMATIC PRELUDE (Helsley '92). An exciting, large, ruffled flower in deep purple with velvet texture and a dashed old-gold signal area. Growing a bit short and not branched. Both the flower and foliage had a tetraploid appearance but the parentage is diploid.

Hewitt P8414-6. Small lavender amoena flowers of excellent form on tall stems with lots of branching and strong upright foliage. Jennifer's P-8619-9 was also noted with grape falls and blue style arms. Johnson S-907. An unusually complicated mixture of blue and grape-red, strongly veined blue. Standards and style arms are purer red. A bit narrow in the falls but very floriferous with one branch.

Miller 85-49-4. The entire flower is dotted and veined mid-lavender against a lighter background. One branch, with the excellent growth and flowering habits found in so many of Anna Mae's seedlings. Miller 85-20-15. A very nicely formed lavender that shades lighter to the edges. Standards are a lighter shade and style arms white. Ruffled and flaring, sturdy and tall, 1-2 branches.

HARPSWELL VELVET (McEwen '91). An intense blue-purple self with little blaze and an attractive small white rim travels around the falls. Perhaps a bit too narrow to be ideal but very eye-catching. McEwen T8 87/76(8). Currier sent several yellow amoena tetraploids which have been a difficult class for improvement. Some plants need a further year to show their potential, but this one was striking in 1992. The yellow color is relatively light, but is outlined by a deeper yellow rim on the falls. The form is excellent, ruffled and full. One branch.

DEVIL'S DREAM (Schafer-Sacks '91). A glowing mid-red self with pinkish overtones that lacks any signal area, this always catches the eye. Lots of large flowers of excellent form. ROARING JELLY (Schafer-Sacks '92). The name which, like Devil's Dream comes from a fiddle tune, is as distinctive as the flowers of this outstanding iris. A red bitone with an attractive mottling and shading of colors. Tall and vigorous, this one looks like a winner.

Schafer-Sacks S86-8-2. A dramatic rich purple self with a small white blaze. Pleasing height, fullness and ruffling and a velvety texture. Good branching and vigorous growth with a fine clump effect.

MOON SILK (Stahly '91). This beautifully formed light yellow amoena fades slowly to a creamy color. Floriferous and well-branched, it develops a fine clump effect.

Steele 861-172-30. A light lavender self with good fullness. No branch this year and relatively short at 21". Some tendency to a bitone effects with darker falls. A refined iris.

GREEN-EYED QUEEN (Varner '91). A distinctive, large, eye-catching flower. Light grape background with a strong flash of darker, bluer coloring in mid-fall. The falls are lightly ruffled and semi-pendant. No signal area but a strongly expressed greenish throat with the UU form that gives the flower its name. PRECIOUS ILLINI (Varner '88). Excellent vigor and floriferousness. Mid-blue with strongly mottled or dappled parts. Dotted white signal with a yellow throat. Down-turning falls. Clearly a Varner iris in both form and patterning and one of his best. ILLINI STARDUST (Varner '89). Shorter growing with petite flowers in a delicate light blue. This is set off by a creamy blaze. The parts are relatively narrow but quite acceptable. One branch. Varner 3189. This was attractive flowering at 18". A bright wine red self with strongly developed clean white signal. Pert and perky with 1 branch.

Multi-Petaled Siberians from Japan. Two kinds of unusual Siberians were sent from Japan by Mr. Ho Shidara. KOKU (light blue-violet) and RANMAN (lavender-pink) have many petals including petaloids (over 20 sometimes). These lack a well-defined form and to me were mainly interesting as curiosities, but several 6-petal types in which the three standards have a fall pattern had both novelty and strong garden value. KITA-NO-SEIZA has mid to dark blue falls with a prominent white signal area. NAGARABOSHI is a bright blue-purple with a white blaze and gold-brown haft. HARESUGATA is a lavender-pink self with a brown-gold haft. The falls in each case have strong substance and are held almost horizontally. The haft colorings are particularly prominent with this flower pattern. There is room for discussion over this form, but it offers an attractive and novel alternative to the typical Siberian pattern. Come and see for yourself!

FAVORITE 15 BALLOT RESULTS, 1992

Compiled by Dorothy Hamilton _____

The ballots are tallied, there were 83 people voting with members from Great Britain, Canada and 27 U.S. states participating. The states with the largest representation were Michigan and Maine, closely followed by New York and Virginia and then California, Indiana and Illinois. There was a vote for 251 varieties. The oldest iris receiving votes was Eric The Red (1943), the newest, Roaring Jelly (1992). Here is the listing. The number in parenthesis denotes position in last poll.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>1990 POLL</u>
1.	Lady Vanessa	37	(1)
2.	Jewelled Crown	36	(3)
3.	Butter and Sugar	33	(4)
	Pink Haze	33	(5)
	Shirley Pope	33	(2)
4.	King of Kings	24	(6)
	Ruffled Velvet	24	(5)
5.	Temper Tantrum	22	(7)
6.	Sultan's Ruby	21	(10)
7.	Mabel Coday	19	(13)
	White Swirl	19	(12)
8.	Esther CDM	18	(13)
	Reprise	18	(new)
	Springs Brook	18	(new)
9.	Aqua Whispers	17	(new)
	Shakers Prayer	17	(new)
10.	Dance Ballerina Dance	16	(12)
	High Standards	16	(new)
	Regency Buck	16	(12)
	Steve Varner	16	(13)
11.	Indy	15	(9)
	Jamaican Velvet	15	(9)
	Liberty Hills	15	(new)
	Super Ego	15	(13)
12.	Percheron	13	(14)
	Snow Prince	13	(new)

13.	Heliotrope Bouquet	11	(8)
	Tiffany Lass	11	(new)
	Windwood Spring	11	(8)
14.	Pas De Deux	10	(9)
	Swank	10	(new)
15.	Anniversary	9	(new)
	Augury	9	(new)
	Caesar's Brother	9	(new)
	Cathy Childerson	9	(new)
	Harpwell Happiness	9	(7)
	Jaybird	9	(11)
	Summer Sky	9	(new)
	Tealwood	9	(new)

Some comments from the ballots:

"Sibirica Schwan may be unfamiliar to most people - it is Foerster 1931 - a small white iris with very fine foliage. It has been much admired in the perennial garden this year. The best clump though was SHIRLEY POPE. It is a shame it never got the Morgan-Wood, as it is such a wonderful plant. The faded blooms close in such a way that if you somehow haven't had time to groom the plant it never looks messy (as many of them do!). DEVIL'S DREAM is a great red - a very intense color. This has probably been the best year ever for us for Siberian bloom."

Mr. and Mrs. David Schmieder
Concord, MA.

"On June 28th, KING OF KINGS is still blooming and looking great -at least two weeks from start. LINDA MARY bloomed from June 1st till last week, June 20th."

Anon.

"UBER DEN WOLKEN (Tamberg) has not been registered yet so is not included, but would be high on this list otherwise - a beautiful light blue."

Jennifer Hewitt, Great Britain.

LYDIA WINTER and ROANOKE'S CHOICE went on and on this year - I don't know where they hide all those buds - neither is a repeater....."

Anon.

If I could grow just one Sib. it would have to be CAESAR'S BROTHER - it truly is an iris for everyone. TEMPER TANTRUM pulled many visitors this year. The pure color of FATTANEH ditto. A two year clump of BLUE BURN which backed a pink peony was spectacular. For sheer exuberance I have to recommend SPARKLE even though it may take dynamite to deal with the huge two year clump at the bottom of the garden....."

Mike Lowe

"You will be interested to know I won queen of the show with SULTAN'S RUBY, in Palmdale, California. It won against a very fine stem of the aril hybrid STEP ASIDE."

Mary Duvall

"My favorite this year is WALTER (Helen Savage '81). Its smooth periwinkle blue is well displayed on beautiful flaring flowers."

Verna Laurin, Canada.

"In Maine we find the Siberians the hardiest of all irises. Despite two winters with little snow cover and lots of ice in the iris beds, our Siberians flourished. We grow over 100 varieties and welcome visitors."

John and Evelyn White, Auburn, Maine.

IRIS SANGUINEA DONN

IN JAPAN

By AKIRA HORINAKA

In 1973, I wrote about the Siberian irises in TSI (reprinted TSI Spring 1992). Iris ensata is familiarly known all over the world as the 'Japanese Iris' but in our country there are seven irises growing wild. These are: I. ensata, I. gracilipes, I. japonica, I. laevigata, I. rossii, I. sanguinea, and I. setosa. I. japonica is considered to have come from China. Compared with the other irises, I. laevigata is the oldest one which has been known from the 8th century.

I. sanguinea was first drawn in a 12th or 13th century picture. The discovery of this flower was late because it grows in mountainous pastures.

We have the following varieties: Shiro-Ayame (var. albiflora Makino) - I saw the most beautiful flower of this type at Heian Shrine in Kyoto, and the dwarf type (var. pumila Mak.). In the nursery catalogue, the dwarf type is listed as San-zun-Ayame (San-zun means "about 10cm" in Japanese). It is violet and white. A few years ago I got Komoro-Ayame from a nursery, which was a miniature, and Momoiro-Ayame from Akita prefecture; its color is lavender pink with the typical I. sanguinea shape. Buchizaki-Ayame was obtained from the late Dr. Tomino. It has fine purple flowers on some stems and purple and white on others. It may be a chimera. Dr. Tomino also discovered Sujiiri-Ayame whose flower is white with violet lines. Kuruma-Ayame (var. stella Mak.) is a six-fall type. Recently Ho Shidara introduced cultivars of sanguinea and is crossing them with cultivars of Siberian irises raised by U.S. breeders.

I did grow many Siberians developed by U.S. breeders but most were lost during my four garden changes. This is regrettable as they were all very impressive and the beauty of these flowers remains in my mind. Amongst the cultivars that I grew and would like to replace are : Mr. Cassebeer's WHITE SWIRL, Dr. McGarvey's SUPER EGO and PINK HAZE, Dr. McEwen's BUTTER AND SUGAR and some of Mr. Varner's deepest wine reds, Mrs. Warburton's cultivars and Mrs. Witt's 40 chromosomes.

Finally, I hope that all iris lovers will have good seasons year to year.

Mr. Horinaka is President of the Iris Society of Japan and the author of the beautiful book on I. laevigata.

Ed.

NEW MEMBERS

We are again delighted to welcome our new members.

Anderson Dorothy F., 1016 Maplewood Dr., Columbia,
MO 65203
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92506
Bergland Ann A., 15024 Allison Rd., Monkton, MD
21111
Blandy M/M Glen, 260 Colwyn Ter., West Chester, PA
19380-1153
Blaxland Kim, 509 County Line Rd., Radnor, PA 19087
O'Fallon Iris Society c/o Roy Bohrer, 1 Summer Ct.,
O'Fallon, MO 63366
Brown Bennett Ray, R-3, Box 17, Grinnell, IA
50112
Bush Rose Ann, 351 W County Rd. B, Rosaville, MN
55113
Caddell Bill, R-7, Box 60A, Frankfort, IN 46041
Cers James, 7309 Queen Ann S., Minneapolis, MN
55423-2862
Clark Jacqueline, Red Village Rd., Lyndonville, VT
05851
Cline Ann, 2311 Torquay, Royal Oak, MI 48073
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43230
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K7M 2N5, Canada
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Faycock Vince, 550 E. Birner Ave., Hazelton, PA
18201
Finnila Molly, 106 Stoneridge Rd., Chesnee, SC
29323
Flaten David L., 5201 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN
55417
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75252
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 Lidingo, Sweden
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 McNierney Edward, 54 Pleasant St., Groton, MA 01450
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 97301
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Wussow Mary J., 1101 W. 2nd St., Hastings, MN 55033

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Bob Hollingworth_____

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, 1993 to December 31, 1995.

Directors: Howard Brookins
David Silverberg
Marcia Smith

The bylaws require that these nominations be sent to all voting members of SSI 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.

SSI BOARD MEETING

By Ruth Wilder, Secretary_____

The Board of Directors of the Siberian Iris Society met at the Waverley Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on April 28th 1992 with Hal Stahly presiding.

Attending were: Hal Stahly, Tom Abrego, Shirley Pope, Dave Silverberg, Steve Varner, Anna Mae Miller, Currier McEwen, Howard Brookins and Ruth Wilder. Visitors included Avis Varner, Jim Foreman, Ron Miller, Jim Murrain, Jim Waddick, Sheldon Butt and Barbara Schmieder.

The minutes of the 1991 board meeting were approved as published in the Fall 1991 TSI.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The treasurer's report was approved as printed in the Spring 1992 TSI.

"INVITATION TO JOIN" BROCHURES - Anna Mae Miller reported that we still have an ample supply.

HISTORIAN - Steve Varner reported that he had received nothing to add to the historical data.

PUBLICATIONS - Ruth Wilder will provide an updated list of available publications in the fall issue of TSI.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - The committee for nominations for Distinguished Service Award did not submit a report. There will be no award this year.

MEMBERSHIP - A motion was made by Howard Brookins to have Siberian Society membership dues sent to the membership chairman rather than the treasurer. The motion was seconded by Shirley Pope and carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - The committee presented the following slate of officers;

Directors: Howard Brookins
 David Silverberg
 Marcia Smith

Anna Mae Miller moved that the nominations be accepted by acclamation since there were no other nominations. Shirley Pope seconded - motion passed.

SLIDES - Tom Abrego reported that the section has two good sets of slides available for rent.

SIBERIAN CONVENTION '93 - Bob Hollingworth has the plans for the convention well in hand. The number attending may have to be limited due to limitation on banquet facilities and the size of some of the gardens. A number of attendees from abroad are expected.

OTHER BUSINESS - Barbara Schmieder presented an invitation to hold a second SSI convention in the Massachusetts area. A motion was made by Shirley Pope, seconded by Dave Silverberg that the invitation be accepted. Motion passed. The date for this convention would be Spring 1996.

A new Siberian book is in the process of being written under the leadership of Currier McEwen. Much discussion took place on this matter.

Howard Brookins volunteered to fill the vacant position of Display Garden chair. This offer was accepted.

SSI SECTION MEETING REPORT

By Anna Mae Miller _____

The Society for Siberian Irises Section meeting was held on April 29th 1992 in Atlanta with Steve Varner as the featured speaker.

Steve began by describing his college education which was in Agriculture (livestock) followed by a Master's degree in nutrition. He has an acre of flowers with a soil pH around 6.5. He reviewed his 32 years of hybridizing Siberians beginning with TEALWOOD ('60) which is still being used in hybridizing. He judges his flowers from a distance to determine if they have good color and carrying power. Good foliage, he feels is important as many landscape architects are using Siberians in plantings and the foliage needs to stay erect throughout the growing season. Dr. McGarvey once said "foliage stands erect even after being frozen". Steve said to him, "no Bill, not even yours does". Grace and charm are other desirable traits, keeping in mind the original graceful look of the species. He explained that hybridizing consists of concentration of blood (as in livestock) and stressed the importance of keeping good records.

When making crosses, Steve told how he cuts the standards and falls off an unopened flower and applies pollen with his thumbnail. He feels it is not necessary to bag after pollinating. Pods are collected after they turn brown. The seeds are shucked out and placed in a ziplock bag with a few drops of water and stored in the refrigerator. Transplanting is his most difficult time.

Patience is needed. From the cross that gave the tetraploid pinks it took seven years for all the seeds to germinate, leading to DANCE BALLERINA DANCE in 1983, ILLINI FLIRT in '84 and ILLINI DAME in '88.

Steve has some miniatures that are good for the front of flower plantings. LITTLE PAPOOSE ('92), a

deep red-grape with white signals and PRECIOUS DOLL (88) were noteworthy.

The Varner introductions have several forms and most of the available colors. He still gets color breaks as in GREEN EYED QUEEN ('91) a two toned orchid grape with deeper veins and a green bar on the haft. He has won 2 Morgan-Wood Medals, 2 Morgan Awards, and many AM's and HM's for his irises. His SHOWDOWN* is a breeder's iris. He particularly mentioned KING OF KINGS ('83), a good white, KISMET ('80) a deep purple-red with a small white signal, and many seedlings he is watching for later introduction.

* SHOWDOWN is a parent of the last two Morgan-Wood medal winners, MABEL CODAY and LADY VANESSA.

Ed.

LAST WORD

What a splendid job Dorothy Hamilton did in compiling our ballot for '92. Thanks to her, and all who participated (approx. 15% of the membership). A special thank you to those members who added such interesting comments. We'll do it again in '94!

The Siberian guest planting for '93 is generating much interest at the Horticulture Demonstration Gardens at Michigan State University (MSU). Many people have stopped to ask questions while we were there weeding and I overheard someone leading a guided tour telling everyone that the irises had been "simply spectacular".

We have seen lots of new and interesting colors and color combinations but we all seem to have problems describing colors. As Virginia Maynard said; " I find iris colors confusing! Something I called blue for years, I learn is violet after all. You'd think these hybridizers would have had the same crayola crayons that I had". And speaking of crayolas - there is to be a flower bed in the children's garden at MSU planted with crayola plants i.e. fuschias (as in fuchsia pink) and goldenrod as the yellow crayon is labelled in your crayon box. A neat idea don't you think?

THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

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Slides: Mr. Thomas Abrego (as above)

Editor: Judith M. Hollingworth (as above)

Membership is open to all AIS members in the United States and Canada, and to all iris fanciers elsewhere. Send your dues to the Membership Secretary, Howard Brookins at N75 W 14257 North point Drive, menomonee falls, WI 53051.

Dues are:

Single Annual	\$ 5.00
Family Annual	\$ 6.00
Single Triennial	\$ 13.50
Family Triennial	\$ 15.00
Single Life	\$100.00
Family Life	\$120.00

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