

*The
Siberian
Iris*



Fall 1993



The Miller Garden, Bathed in Sunshine, Awaits its Guests.



Part of the Beautifully Landscaped Ensata Gardens

THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 8

FALL 1993

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PHOTO CREDITS:

Pg. 4 and 27 (top), Chandler Fulton: Pg. 7, Howard Brookins: Pg. 27 (bottom), Bob Gabella: Pg. 28 (bottom R.) John Coble: Pg. 30 (top R.), Anna Mae Miller; Pg. 39, Carol Morgan: Pg. 55 (top), Jan Sacks: Remainder - Bob Hollingworth.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK _____

Once in the "dear dead days beyond recall" when I was young and still thought I might someday amount to something, I took a course in Twentieth Century Drama. One person whose work we studied was Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. I remember a story about Shaw that our professor told us; it might or might not be true.

According to the story, an American actress wrote to Shaw, proposing that they get together for purposes of producing a child. "Just think," she wrote, "how wonderful it would be if the child should inherit your brain and my body!"

In due course Shaw replied, expressing his gratitude for the offer but stating that he must decline. "Consider the possibilities," he wrote. "What a tragedy it would be if the child should inherit your brain and my body!"

I was reminded of this story when I saw the results of a Siberian cross I made a few years ago. I crossed **Moon Silk** and the white dwarf reputed to be *I. sibirica nana alba*, using each as both pod and pollen parents and hoping to get seedlings of dwarf stature with **Moon Silk** form. When the seedlings bloomed, though, every one of them had tall stalks with flowers of the nondescript form of *sibirica nana alba*. The best laid plans.....

Maybe with some sib crosses or back crosses one could eventually get the desired characteristics, but that's another story. It goes without saying that the work of the iris breeder leads to a lot of frustrations. But then, of course there are the anticipation, the expectation, the occasional



**HAL POSES WITH HIS *MOON SILK*
AT THE CONVENTION**

real success that make this activity infinitely more interesting than, say, flipping burgers at McDonald's. Unfortunately for the hybridizer, the financial rewards are generally meager. From a strictly monetary standpoint, he/she would be better off on a per hour basis dishing up the Big Macs.

On a completely different subject, I want to express my thanks to the people responsible for planning and carrying out the staging of the first ever national Siberian Iris Convention in East Lansing this year. It was a huge success, thanks in large part to the workers (with a nod of extreme gratitude to the weather, which brought irises to peak bloom and gave us wonderful conditions for the weekend).

Special appreciation goes to chairman Bob Hollingworth and his committee for the planning; to Jill and Sue Copeland as guest iris chairmen; to the tour garden hosts, Ron and

Anna Mae Miller, Virginia Maynard, Bob Bauer, John Coble, and Bob and Judy Hollingworth (and Judy's work at the Michigan State University garden); to Paul and Carol Morgan for registration; Jim, Jill and Jim Copeland 2nd for the great fish fry; the Hollingworths for the pig roast; Tomas Tamberg of Germany for speaking to the group; Bob Bauer for the convention booklet; Sue Copeland, Gladys Dodger, Angela Morgan and Barbara Wortman, bus captains; Dorothy and Elaine Ferris for the creative iris arrangements at the banquet; Doris Imshaug for the beautiful Ikebana arrangements at the Kellogg Center; Paul Morgan and members of the Tri-County Iris Society who provided shuttle service to and from the airport; all the people who worked the judges' training garden sessions; and the people who attended, coming from all over the U.S., Canada, England, Germany and Japan. And finally, congratulations to the winners of the balloting, presented elsewhere in this issue.

Hal Stahly



WHY ARE THESE FELLOWS SMILING? SEE POLL, PAGE 41

1993 AIS AWARDS FOR SIBERIANS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

		Votes
JEWELLED CROWN	R. HOLLINGWORTH	144
Runners-up		
TEMPER TANTRUM	W. McGARVEY	53
INDY	R. HOLLINGWORTH	46

AWARD OF MERIT

LIBERTY HILLS	A. MILLER	67
SPRINGS BROOK	B. WARBURTON	60
CATHY CHILDERSON	D. JOHNSON	56
REPRISE	B. WARBURTON	51
Runners-up		
PAS-DE-DEUX	R. HOLLINGWORTH	44
SHIRLEY'S CHOICE	C. McEWEN	41
REGENCY BUCK	C. McEWEN	40

HONORABLE MENTION

VICKI ANN	B. WARBURTON	43
DEVIL'S DREAM	M. SCHAFFER/J. SACKS	40

CHAPTER TWO -- JEWELLED CROWN

The Background of the 1993 Morgan-Wood Medal Winner

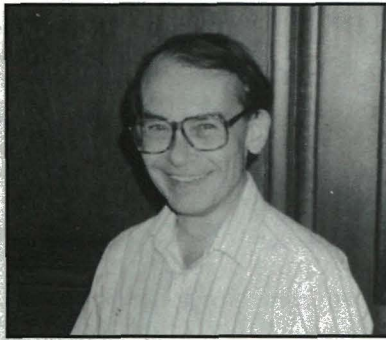
By **Bob Hollingworth** _____

Part of the story behind **Jewelled Crown** (two "I"s please -- there's a British background here) has been told already. Just eleven seedlings down the row from last year's Morgan-Wood Medal winner, **Lady Vanessa**, was a flower that literally stopped me in my tracks on a June morning in 1983. It seemed too good to be true at first sight. What started simply as seedling 82J2A19 eventually was called **Jewelled Crown**. The PBS drama "The Jewel in the Crown" about the British raj in India was attracting attention at the time of registration in 1985. So the name for this brilliantly colored, regal flower emerged without the usual head scratching.

Having sister seedlings win the medal makes it redundant to sing the praises of **Showdown** and **Ruffled Velvet** as the parents of this cross. They were acclaimed in writing about last year's award. Though they are sibs, **Lady Vanessa** and **Jewelled Crown** will never meet genetically. It was a lucky choice that this was one of the crosses I treated with colchicine, and **Jewelled Crown** is an induced tetraploid. We hesitated to introduce it at first because of the possibility that such a conversion may not be permanent due to residual diploid tissues. In fact, unless a converted plant is clearly a sectorial chimera with both tetraploid and diploid sections on the same plant, colchicine-induced tetraploidy has been remarkably stable in my experience. So it has been with **Jewelled Crown**, which has never shown any evidence of reversion to diploidy.

One more piece of special luck is that **Jewelled Crown** is reasonably fertile for a tetraploid, both as a pod and pollen parent (which is not to say that it readily gives scads of seedlings). Looking ahead, I feel confident that it will prove to be a parent of some note in developing tetraploids with

heavy ruffling, full rounded form, strong patterns, and vigor. One child, **Coronation Anthem**, was introduced in 1990. A second, **Strawberry Fair**, lighter red in color, outdoes its parent in bubbles and ruffles and will probably be introduced next year. It too has the "wow" factor in abundance. There are several other seedlings derived from **Jewelled Crown** that will probably work their way into the starting line-up later on. When I first saw **Jewelled Crown I** knew it had the potential to shape the future of a breeding program. So it has turned out, slowed only by the frustrating problems of low fertility that accompany most tetraploids. Whether any of these hard-won progeny will reach the elevated level accorded **Jewelled Crown** remains to be seen -- and, of course, for you to judge.



WHY ARE THESE FELLOWS SMILING?

1. Because the auction is over (p. 39)

or

2. Because their first named Siberian iris came in second in the seedling ballot and third overall (page 41)



Answer: Probably both!

WEED CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR FIELD GROWN HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS: 1990-1992

Bert T. Swanson, Debra L. Newman and James B. Calkins
Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota.

(ED. One problem we all struggle with is incessant weed pressure in our iris beds. The following article may give some help. If you do give some of these herbicides a try, please be careful initially! Your editor does not guarantee the results. This article is a preliminary research report printed by kind permission of Dr. Swanson. Only the data tables involving irises have been included here. If you would like the data on the other perennials used in the study, please contact me. Thanks also to Julius Wadekamper for bringing the work to my attention.)

Introduction

Herbaceous perennial production is a fast growing sector within the sphere of nursery production. In response to increasing demand for herbaceous perennials, production continues to increase. The production of herbaceous perennials generally entails large numbers of plants and small acreages. Even though acreages are generally low, the high plant densities associated with the production of herbaceous perennials make weed control a labor intensive, costly production practice. The use of herbicides for weed control could reduce weed control costs. However, little information regarding the herbicide tolerance of herbaceous perennials is available and very few herbicides are labeled for use in herbaceous perennial production systems. Research which is specific to the needs of perennial growers and enables producers to improve weed control and reduce production costs is needed. The objectives of this study were to determine weed control efficacy, plant phytotoxicity, and cost effectiveness of herbicides and mulches in herbaceous perennial production systems. The study was partially funded by a grant from the Perennial Plant Growers Association.

Methods and Materials

The Teaching, Research and Extension (TRE) Nursery Program at the University of Minnesota dedicated a 150' x 40' nursery plot (Fields 1X-X1) for this research. The plot was planted with sorghum sudangrass during 1990. Fifteen herbicide, two mulch, and two control (cultivated and non-weeded) treatments were selected (Table 1). Each herbicide treatment was applied at two different times: One set of plants was treated prior to emergence and another following emergence of the herbaceous perennials. Twelve herbaceous perennial species (Table 2) were planted in a split-plot experimental design. Each treatment/species/application time combination was replicated three times. Plant materials were donated by local perennial growers: Borbeleta Gardens, Wedge Nursery, and Prairie Restorations.

All but three species were planted in Fall 1990. The *Liatris*, *Paeonia* and *Lilium* were planted in Spring 1991. In November, 1990, the plants were covered with 6-8" of straw mulch; this was removed in May, 1991. In Spring 1991 and 1992, liquid herbicide treatments were applied with a N₂-pressurized back-pack sprayer at a rate of three quarts of water per treatment (209 gal/acre) in three passes, using a four-foot boom with four Teejet #11003 nozzles. Granular herbicides were broadcast. In August 1991 and 1992, grassy and broadleaf weeds were counted and plants were visually rated for injury.

Table 1. Weed control treatments and rates used in 1990-1992 to evaluate weed control options for herbaceous perennial field production systems
(active ingredient/acre = AIA).

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Rates/Description</u>
1. Control- Cultivated	3-5 cultiv./yr
2. Control- Non-weeded
3. Gallery 75WDG (isoxaben) + Surflan 4AS (oryzalin)	3.0 lb AIA
4. Stomp 60WDG (pendimethalin)	4.0 lb AIA
5. Chipped Rubber Tire Mulch	3-4" deep
6. Wood Chip Mulch	4-6" deep
7. Balan 2.5G (benefin)	3.0lb AIA
8. Pennant 5G (metolachor)	3.0lb AIA
9. Snapshot 80DF (oryzalin/isoxaben)	4.0 lb AIA
10. Stomp 3.3EC (pendimethalin)	4.0 lb AIA
11. Ronstar 50WP (oxadiazon)	3.5 lb AIA
12. Modown 4F (bifenox) + Devrinol 75WP/1991 (napropamide)	5.0 & 6.0 lb AIA
Gallery 75WDG (isoxaben)/1992	1.0 lb AIA
13. Goal 1.6EC (oxyfluorfen)	1.5 lb AIA
14. Surflan 4AS (oryzalin)	3.0 lb AIA
15. Rout GS (oxyfluorfen/oryzalin)	2.0/1.0 lb AIA
16. Ronstar 2G (oxadiazon)	3.5 lb AIA
17. Fusilade 2000 (fluazifop)	1.0 lb AIA
18. Poast (sethoxidim)	0.1881b AIA

Table 2. Species used in 1990-1992 to evaluate weed control options for herbaceous perennial field production systems.

1. *Hosta lancifolia*, narrow-leaved Plantain Lily
 2. *Liatris spicata*, Gayfeather
 3. *Hemerocallis* - **After Dark**, After Dark Daylily
 4. *Hemerocallis* - **Young Love**, Young Love Daylily
 5. *Iris sibirica* - **Steve** Siberian iris
 6. *Iris pumila* - **Gypsy Eyes** -
Gypsy Eyes Dwarf Bearded Iris
 7. *Iris* **Singing Angel**
Singing Angel Dwarf Bearded Iris
 8. *Lilium* **Willowood** - Willowood Asiatic Lily
 9. *Paeonia* **Felix Crouse** - **Felix Crouse** Peony
 10. *Phlox maculata* **Omega**
Omega Wild Sweet William Plox
 11. *Schizachyrium scoparius* -Little Blue Stem Grass
 12. *Festuca ovina* var. *glauca* - Blue Fescue
-

Results

All treatments provided improved weed control when compared to the non-weeded control (Figure 1). The wood chip mulch, Rout GS and Snapshot 80DF treatments provided the best weed control, respectively (Figure 1). Although weed control was still better than the control, increased weed populations were observed in the rubber tire mulch treatment over time. Warm season weeds such as the common purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) became more prevalent in the rubber tire mulch treatment, probably because of its black color and associated warmer surface soil temperatures. The wood chip mulch provided good weed control throughout the study.

Reliance on cultivation for weed control in perennials appears to be somewhat detrimental (Figures 2-3a & b). The reduction in plant quality associated with cultivation

may result from damage to shallow root systems and plant storage structures such as rhizomes and fleshy roots often associated with herbaceous perennial species.

Tolerance of herbaceous perennials to pre- and post-emergent herbicides is species specific (Figures 2-3a & b). Time of application (pre-/post-emergence) is important regarding phytotoxicity levels. In this study, the pre-emergence treatments were more phytotoxic than the post-emergence treatments probably because some plants had usually initiated tender succulent growth prior to the time the herbicides could be applied in the spring. For this reason it would probably be better to apply the pre-emergence treatments in the fall after plants have become dormant.

No one herbicide appears to be acceptable for use on all herbaceous perennial species. Although phytotoxicity was species dependent, Goal 1.6EC, Ronstar 50WP, and Rout GS were the most phytotoxic herbicides in the study while Balan 2.5G was the least phytotoxic. The two post-emergent herbicides evaluated, Fusilade and Poast, did not reduce plant quality compared to controls. This result is somewhat surprising since grasses and broadleaf monocots (i.e. *Lilium*) might be expected to be injured.

Research has been initiated in 1992 to further evaluate the herbicide tolerance of herbaceous perennial species. Recommendations based on this research will be available in late 1994.

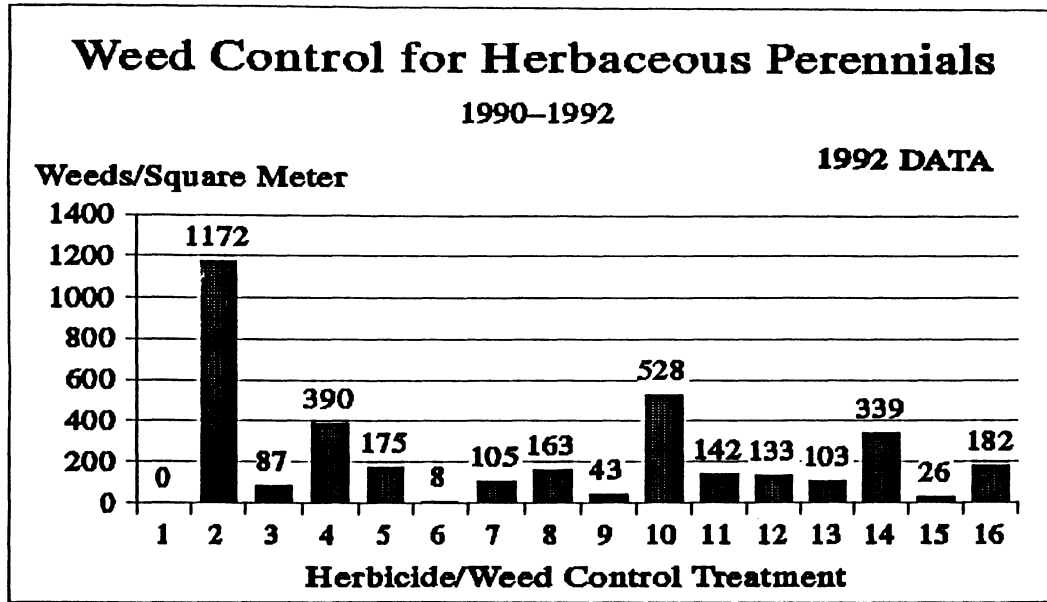


Figure 1. Weed control (weeds/meter²): 1. Cultivated Control, 2. Non-weeded Control, 3. Gallery 75WDG + Surflan 4AS, 4. Stomp 60 WDG, 5. Rubber Tire Chip Mulch, 6. Wood Chip Mulch, 7. Balan 2.5G, 8. Pennant 5G, 9. Snapshot 80DF, 10. Stomp 3.3 EC, 11. Ronstar 50WP, 12. Gallery 75WDG, 13. Goal 1.6 EC, 14. Surflan 4AS, 15. Rout GS, 16. Ronstar 2G.

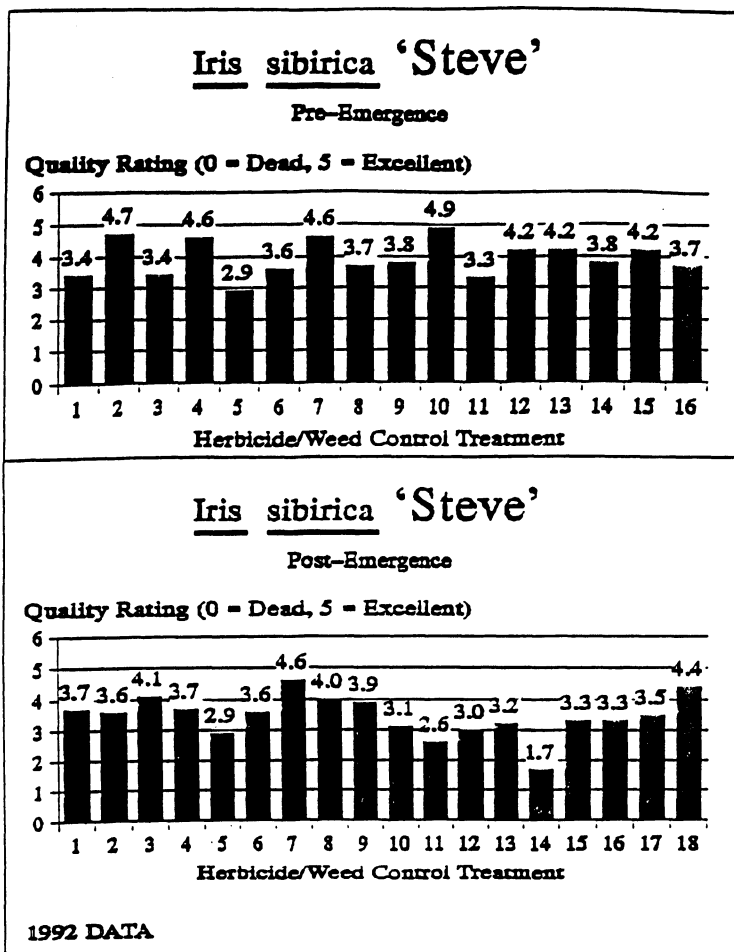
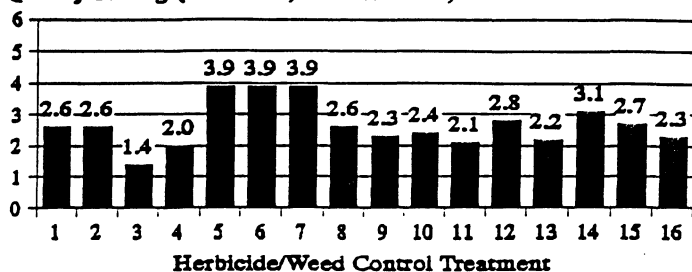


Figure 2a & 2b. Quality ratings for *Iris sibirica* Steve grown under 18 herbicide/weed control strategies (1. Cultivated Control, 2. Non-weeded Control, 3. Gallery 75WDG + Surflan 4AS, 4. Stomp 60WDG, 5. Rubber Tire Chip Mulch, 6. Wood Chip Mulch, 7. Balan 2.5G, 8. Pennant 5G, 9. Snapshot 80DF, 10. Stomp 3.3EC, 11. Ronstar 50WP, 12. Gallery 75WDG, 13. Goal 1.6EC, 14. Surflan 4AS, 15. Rout GS, 16. Ronstar 2G, 17. Fusilade 2000, and 18. Poast) and 2 application times - pre-emergence (figure 2a) and post-emergence (figure 2b).

Iris pumila 'Singing Angel'

Pre-Emergence

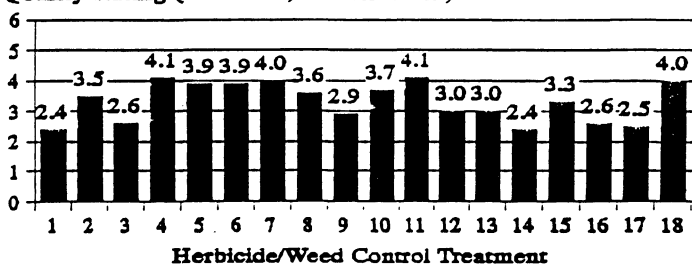
Quality Rating (0 = Dead, 5 = Excellent)



Iris pumila 'Singing Angel'

Post-Emergence

Quality Rating (0 = Dead, 5 = Excellent)



1992 DATA

Figure 3a & 3b. Quality ratings for *Iris pumila* Singing Angel grown under 18 herbicide/weed control strategies (1. Cultivated Control, 2. Non-weeded Control, 3. Gallery 75WDG + Surflan 4AS, 4. Stomp 60WDG, 5. Rubber Tire Chip Mulch, 6. Wood Chip Mulch, 7. Balan 2.5G, 8. Pennant 5G, 9. Snapshot 80DF, 10. Stomp 3.3EC, 11. Ronstar 50WP, 12. Gallery 75WDG, 13. Goal 1.6EC, 14. Surflan 4AS, 15. Rout GS, 16. Ronstar 2G, 17. Fusilade 2000, and 18. Poast) and 2 application times - pre-emergence (figure 3a) and post-emergence (figure 3b).

REQUEST FOR DISPLAY GARDEN INFORMATION _____

The Society would like to update its display garden program, so I am asking for volunteers to list their gardens for such a program. You don't have to have all the "1993" introductions to be included, simply a desire to share a beautiful garden of well grown Siberians irises. These needn't be gardens of nothing but Siberians, as most people are interested in seeing them grown with companion plants. If you have a few nicely grown clumps, and are proud enough to encourage others to start growing Siberians, join the list. A display garden list would then be furnished to new members, giving them the chance to see first hand how to grow Siberians, and how nice they look in full bloom in established clumps.

Currier McEwen would like such a list for the new Siberian iris book, so there is a matter of urgency to put it together before the end of 1993. If you would like to be included in a list sent to new members, and/or in Currier's book, send me your information as soon as possible. List your bloom season dates, approximate number of varieties grown, name, address, and phone number if you wish people to call ahead before visiting. List times of day the garden is open to visitors, and whether you wish to sell or trade with other members. Send the information to your Membership Secretary:

Howard L. Brookins
N75 W14257 North Point Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Phone: (414) 251-5292

If you wish to list those varieties you grow, I'll set up a data base, and share information with those who send in a list. Perhaps there is that certain variety you'd like to see, Eor perhaps trade for, so this can be a general help for all members. I constantly receive letters from people looking for sources for specific cultivars, another reason a list "to share/trade" would be nice.

***SIBERIAN IRIS
CONVENTION
1993***

***IRIS
CONNOISSEURS
OF
MICHIGAN***



***JUNE 11, 12, 13
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN***

Art Work and Cover by John Coble

OUR FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Currier McEwen

The purpose of this article is to sing the praises of our First National Siberian Iris Convention and of the people who made it such a great success.

It was natural for the Society for Japanese Irises to start their own conventions some years ago because the Japanese irises do not bloom in time for the AIS conventions. In contrast, the dates of bloom of the Siberians are so close to those of the Tall Bearded irises that in the early days of SSI, there was little thought of separate Siberian iris conventions. There have been some AIS conventions where the Siberians have performed well and I can think of at least one where the unpredictable weather made the AIS convention practically a Siberian one. In general however, only the earliest Siberians are apt to be seen in bloom, and bloom in those that open in time usually is atypical and scarcely likely to attract the enthusiastic attention of the average viewer. Certainly, there have been thoughts in the past about having a separate Siberian convention but it took the vision and determination of the Michigan contingent to bring it about. Our thanks go to them, and especially to Bob and Judy Hollingworth who were the ring leaders.

Some 200 eager participants began to gather on Friday June 11th at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University campus. An interesting SSI Board meeting was actively attended by many in addition to actual board members. A topic that was left for later study and decision was how best to schedule future conventions to have as little conflict as possible with those of other societies such as SJI and the Median Society.

That evening we gathered for a delightful and delicious reception followed by three featured talks. Dr. Tomas Tamberg from Berlin, Germany, gave an excellent summary of his work as a hybridizer showing beautiful slides, especially of his interspecific hybrids involving Siberian irises. He was followed by Mr. Ho Shidara with a slide

presentation of his hybridizing program featuring especially his Siberian irises with six falls resembling Japanese irises of this type. Mr. Hiroshi Shimizu then gave us an overall summary, also illustrated with excellent slides, of work with Siberian irises in Japan. The presence of Jennifer Hewitt from England in addition to the three guests from Germany and Japan, and several of our Canadian friends gave a distinctly international flavor to all the meetings. Although the three talks ended the formal program, the evening was far from over, for an enthusiastic group remained for discussion and the sharing of personal slides brought by eager hybridizers.

Saturday, June 12th, started with bus rides to the various tour gardens highlighted by one of Jim Copeland's wonderful fish fry lunches. Since the individual gardens are described elsewhere in this issue, I need merely remind our readers of the thrilling displays we enjoyed before returning for a Happy Hour reception and banquet at the Kellogg Center. Julius Wadekamper gave an interesting account of the particular aspects of growing Siberian irises on a large commercial scale and the evening ended with a record breaking auction conducted by that master auctioneer John Coble (see page 39). It was agreed that part of the money raised by the auction would help defray costs of a study sponsored by the AIS Scientific Committee on diseases affecting Siberian as well as other irises. This had been the subject of discussion on Friday evening, during which Dr. David Roberts of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Michigan State University had generously volunteered to search for causative agents in diseased plants sent to his laboratory.

Sunday dawned another exciting day with choices for those with various interests, including a pre-breakfast walk along the Red Cedar river to the Beal Botanic Garden. Then all gathered to spend the greater part of the morning viewing the incredible display of Siberian irises at the Hollingworths'. A delicious Pig Roast made lunch a memorable event and the Convention formally ended. However, many fortunate people whose schedules permitted remained in the Hollingworth gardens for personal

discussion with Judy and Bob and more careful study of their magnificent seedlings.

The convention was in every sense a superlative success which has set a standard for future ones.

GARDEN REPORTS FROM THE SIBERIAN CONVENTION

THE SIBERIAN IRIS CONVENTION GARDENS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE HORTICULTURE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

By Barbara Schmieder

On Saturday, June 12th, I boarded a bus headed for my first garden of the convention - the MSU gardens. From the bus parking area to the iris planting, it was necessary to go through a beautifully landscaped perennial garden so tempting that I found I had to stop and take notes on some of the plant combinations for future reference. An island planting grouped the charming dwarf *Scabiosa columbaria* **Butterfly Blue** with the taller hardy geranium **Johnson's Blue**, chartreuse flowered *Alchemilla mollis*, brilliant red *Heuchera Superba*, all backed by the tall green and white striped *Calamagrostis arundinacea* **Overdam** (feathered reed grass). There was much more to see but I decided to put first things first and find the irises. Three rectangular beds, beautifully maintained by Judy Hollingworth, contained the convention guests and bloom was about as close to peak as you could get - a harbinger of things to come and certainly welcome to all of us.

The first iris I saw was one not yet introduced from Bob Bauer and John Coble named **Sprinkles** - a short, sanded, lilac-pink with pale blue standards and one branch. The xsame sanded pattern was also noted on Anna Mae Miller's taller **Purple Sand** ('91), a light violet self with

darker veining and sanding on the falls.

Bob Hollingworth's un-introduced **That's My Baby** was the first of several dwarf Siberians seen. Many people were admiring the deep maroon very rounded small flower with upright, slightly flaring standards, ruffled stylearms and white signal turning to gold in the throat. The 15" plant will make a useful border for the taller Siberians and everyone will be waiting impatiently for it to be introduced. In the meantime, we can enjoy two of Steve Varner's that have been introduced - **Precious Doll** ('88) and **Little Papoose** ('92). **Precious Doll** is certainly an apt choice of names, for it is *adorable*, with its small flat rounded flower on a very short (8-10") plant. The standards are an orchid pink, falls are lilac and the signal is a large white half-moon. I know that this doesn't match the description in the check list but it is how I remember it! **Little Papoose** is taller - 20" - with a small deep red maroon flower and white signal. **Baby Sister** (McEwen '86) was tantalizing with its dark bud about to open.

A very distinctive flower caught my attention - **Simple Gifts** by Bob Hollingworth. The very tailored wide flower is a pale icy lavender with white stylearms and a dark line down the center of the falls. Anna Mae Miller chose a very descriptive name for her **Frosted Cranberry** ('91), as the white stylearms certainly add frosting to the cranberry falls and interesting red(!) spathes. This plant holds lots of breeding potential. Another different plant, Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer's **Sailor's Fancy** ('91) gives the effect of a blue and white amoena with its pale blue standards and deeper blue falls. With two branches it has plenty of buds and a long season of bloom. **Roaring Jelly** (Schafer/Sacks '92) had only one bloomstalk (moral; don't name your iris after a food item unless you want voles to eat it!) but it only took one to show off its two-tone raspberry jelly color.

* *The reference to eating was a problem we had with a vole infestation in the MSU guest beds which turned a potentially great display into just a very good one. ED.*

The best clump I saw, and other people agreed was Hollingworth's glorious **Coronation Anthem** ('90), a very ruffled mid-blue tetraploid with paler style arms brushed orchid and a big white signal. All the stalks were held above the foliage, showing the flowers to their best advantage. Other Hollingworth irises I liked (actually there aren't any I don't like!) were **Sweet Surrender** ('92), a medium wine red with white blaze, **Jewelled Crown** ('87), this year's runaway Morgan-Wood winner and **Lady Vanessa** last year's runaway Morgan-Wood winner.

Currier McEwen, the dean of Siberian hybridizers and the first to convert them to tetraploids, was well represented with seedling T₆87/76 (8) - a cream with wide flaring form, gold on the hafts that bleeds over almost the entire fall area, a gold edge on the falls, and seven buds distributed between a terminal and two branches. His **Hubbard**, introduced in 1982, is still a top wine red with a white signal.

I liked the fairly short compact plant of Hal Stahly's **Moon Silk** ('91) with its white standards and cream falls with gold signal spreading out onto them in a ray pattern. Behind it was blooming the much taller, stately **Bridal Jig** (Schafer/Sacks '93) with a similar gold pattern on white falls. And behind **Bridal Jig** was their even taller stunning dark purple seedling S86-8-2, with small white signal and a silver edge on its falls, popular enough with convention attendees to win the best seedling award.

Probably the best yellow seen was Marlene Ahlburg's **Welfenschatz**, with palest lemon standards and deep yellow falls. The form isn't exciting but is certainly acceptable and the yellow seemed to be color-fast, an important step forward in yellow breeding.

Two of the darkest irises seen were **War March** and **Wings of Night** ('91) by Calvin Helsley. **War March**, not yet introduced, is a very smooth deep wine red with flat dull-colored (as opposed to shiny) standards and a small white signal. **Wings of Night** is a more ruffled and flaring wine red and has almost black style arms. Another one of

Calvin's that I noticed was **Misty Memories**, an unusual ruffled smoky blue-violet blend with lighter edge on falls and a gilded gold signal.

There were many other irises that I liked - Bee Warburton's **Springs Brook** ('88), a tall blended or washed blue-violet with wonderful sculptured falls creating an unforgettable profile in the garden. Jim Copeland's



**THE INIMITABLE BARBARA SCHMIEDER (CENTER)
EVALUATES THE GUEST PLANTINGS AT
THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY GARDEN.**

seedling ** 88-23, a small grape colored flower with large, ruffled palest blue stylearms (I had to rely on a slide for this description, as the whistle had blown and I had no time to

*(** 88-23. Due to a labeling error at MSU, this iris was incorrectly marked. It should have read 88-15. It was correctly identified in the other gardens - Ensata and Millers ED.)*

write); Ken Waite's **Laughing Brook** ('84) - tall, dark, violet purple with white signal, still classy; Dale Johnson's **Queen's Gambit** ('88), with its interesting network of veining white over purple on the falls; and to illustrate that Siberian people respect all forms, Katharine Steele's seedling S88-326, a *sibirica grandis* type with very tall stalks and excellent branching. As I left to go back to the bus, I looked back on a sea of color and wished that the garden writers who insist that Siberian irises come only in white and purple could have seen this sight!

Now on to highlights of the other gardens. The next one we visited was Ensata gardens, home of John Coble and Bob Bauer. This was probably the most beautifully landscaped of the five gardens, with many hostas, dwarf conifers, and spectacular clematis on a trellis-bench (see inside front cover). There was so much to see - the Japanese garden the stained glass of John and Bob, the lovely old farm house and not enough time to take it all in.

A few of the highlights.... a great clump of Hollingworth's **Sultan's Ruby** ('88) was the first iris I noted in this garden. Many of Region One's irises shone here. Bee Warburton's **Springs Brook** ('88), **Reprise** ('87), **Percheron** ('82) and **Bellissima** ('86) and Currier McEwen's **Creme Chantilly** ('81) in particular. In the Japanese garden I saw Jean Witt's **Asian Alliance** ('90), a *versicolor/laevigata* cross with nice yellow-green foliage and rose-magenta blooms. There were blue and white *Laevigatas* in bloom and the Warburton **Versicolor Whodunit** ('87). After lunch we had ten minutes before the buses loaded and a couple more guests I was able to enjoy were the exotic *Versicolor* hybrid **Mysterious Monique** (Knoepnadel '92) and a pinkish *Versicolor* seedling of Sarah Tiffney's (T83-HC X HC).

It was time to go on to Anna Mae Miller's garden, where our first view was of a sea of Siberian irises beyond the split-rail fence. On closer inspection, I singled out Hollingworth's **Shall We Dance** ('92), a blue-violet bitone, very attractive from a distance and close up. His **Lady Vanessa** and **Sultan's Ruby** continued to show their outstanding qualities - vigor and distinctiveness - here as in

all the gardens. Shirley Pope (McEwen '79) can hold its own with any of the newer varieties - it can make my top ten list any day. Bee Warburton's **Percheron** ('82) and **Silver Rose** ('85) were blooming well, with **Percheron** a little shorter than it grows in New England but still looking good. Steve Varner's two little ones, **Little Papoose** and **Precious Doll**, were again doing well. Anna Mae's perennials were enjoyed by many, especially her outstanding peony collection.

From the Miller garden we went to the last garden of the day, Virginia Maynard's. Many of the same irises were doing well here. There were great clumps of **Shaker's Prayer** (Warner '90), **Illini Dame** (Varner '88) a lavender-pink tetraploid and **Mabel Coday** (Helsley '85), a long time favorite of mine, which we found out from Calvin should be pronounced "Cody" as in "Wild Bill". One of Dale Johnson's seedlings, S907 caught my attention because of its unusual coloring - a silvery-blue overlay on an orchid pink. I was very impressed with Hollingworth's 1993 introduction **Over In Gloryland**, a gorgeous ruffled deep purple-blue with a gold signal. I wasn't the only one - not only did this beautiful new iris win the award for best named Siberian at the Convention, but Keith McNames of Detroit bid \$110.00 in order to get the one division auctioned that night.

On Sunday morning, after a very good breakfast buffet, we boarded buses for the Hollingworth garden, where we were greeted by a great sea of **Over in Gloryland** lined out for sale. (Of course we were also greeted very cordially by Bob and Judy!) In addition to the ones already mentioned in the other gardens, was Art Cronin's iris **Lorena Cronin**, scheduled for release in 1995. It is quite beautiful and different, with small, species-like dark blue flowers and a big white fall pattern. Some of Dr. Tamberg's irises were also planted here and I especially liked **Berlin Ruffles** (unintroduced) a nicely ruffled dark blue tetraploid with a silver edge. What everyone was most interested in, though, were the Hollingworth seedlings, and with red yarn that Bob gave people to mark their favorites, the seedling patch was soon covered in yarn. Particular interest was generated

by a row of blue tetraploid seedlings with white signals spreading down to near the edges of the falls, giving the effect of a plicata. Keep an eye open for this series which is numbered 93J3, I can just imagine this pattern in many different colors!

After too little time to look, we were divided into four groups for judges' training led by Tom Abrego, Shirley Pope, Marky Smith and myself. In one hour we had to cover the major elements of garden judging Siberians and then put them to use in the seedling patch.

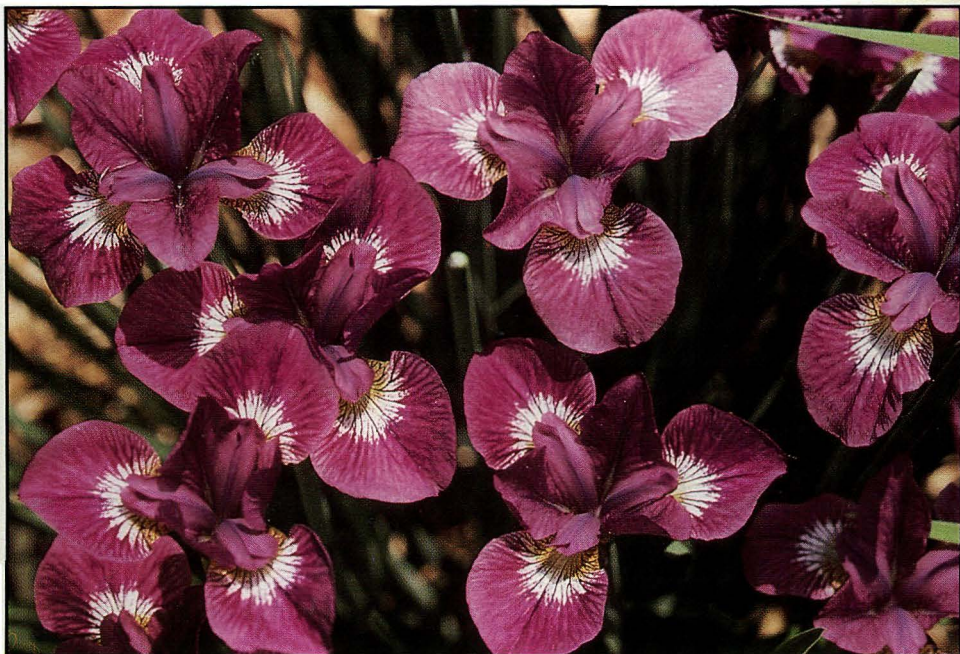
We wound up this perfectly wonderful convention with a pig roast in the backyard and a table full of desserts that looked like a color spread for Bon Apetit magazine! And I won't tell you about Bob and Judy's house because if you didn't go to the convention, you're probably crying in your beer by now and I don't want to make this more painful. Just remember - we're having the next one in Massachusetts in 1996 - make sure you don't get left out of it!

THE MAYNARD GARDEN

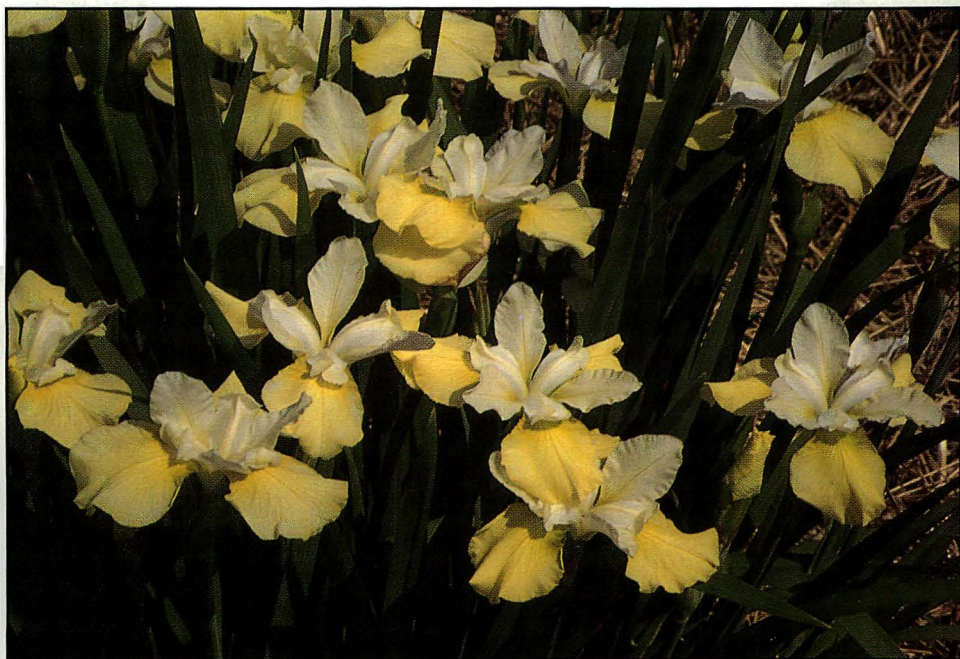
By Julius Wadekamper _____

On arriving at our first tour garden, the Maynards', I knew this was to be an outstanding convention - as indeed it turned out to be. Siberian irises were in glorious bloom.

It was here that I discovered that there were two serious Siberian hybridizers of whom I was not aware, namely Bob Bauer and John Coble. Along with their seedlings I was particularly impressed with Lee's Blue, a ruffled medium blue with a large white blaze, and Sprinkles a lavender-pink (with, of course, sprinkles of a deeper shade) both registered in 1993 but not yet introduced.



Little Papoose (Varner '93)



Welfenschatz (Ahlburg)



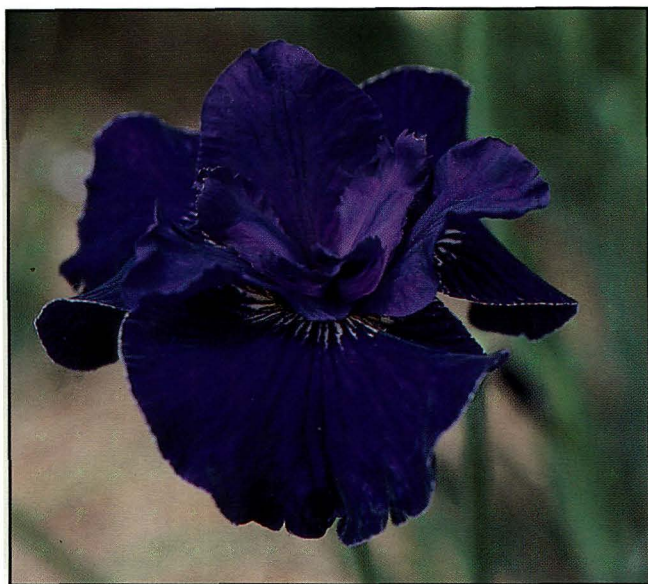
Over in Gloryland (Hollingsworth '93)



Moon Silk (Stahly '91)



Lee's Blue (Bauer/Coble R.'93)



Schafer/Sacks seedling S86-8-2



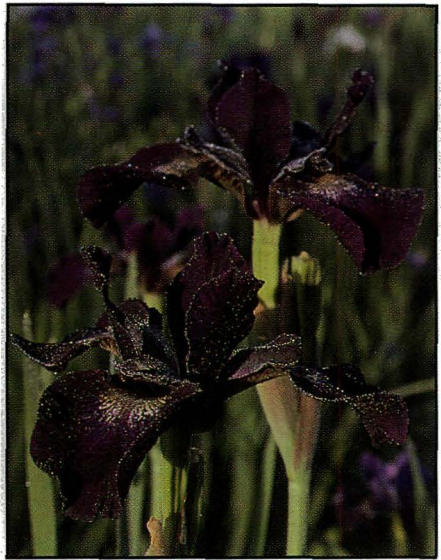
Shall We Dance (H'worth '92)



Cheery Lyn (Miller '91)



Ranman (Shidara)



Wings of Night (Helsley '91)
Spangled With Dew



Rain at the Hollingworth's the Day After the Convention

Rill, a 1991 introduction of Louise Bellagamba was impressive. It is a medium blue-violet with a small white ray pattern and strongly contrasting light blue-white stylearms. I wrote it down as a Siberian to acquire. This impression was confirmed as we went from garden to garden and I was happy to know that Louise had contributed it to the auction where I bought it.

Joan Cooper's **Linda Mary** put on a good show throughout the convention gardens. Some of Dale Johnson's seedlings were impressive - his **Snowy Mountain** now ranks as my favorite white Siberian iris.

Blue Reverie (McEwen '85), a light violet-blue tetraploid with darker veining, started its climb to fame for me here in the small Maynard garden. While McGarvey's **Temper Tantrum** was spectacular - a rich wine red. I was disappointed to see that **Billy Mac** (McGarvey '89) was not yet open. Most people have not seen this deep blue iris with deeper blue veins. However **Cheery Lyn**, Anna Mae Miller's soft lavender pink quickly became a favorite and another one that I was able to buy at the auction. **Bee Warburton's Springs Brook** has always been a favorite and it was beautiful here at Maynards' and in the other convention gardens.

The peonies, poppies and lupines were an added attraction to this beautiful farm home setting and the little delicious cupcakes served with coffee set the pace for a convention that turned out to be one of the finest of all iris conventions I ever attended.

ENSATA GARDENS

By Melody Wilhoit _____

Every time we visit Ensata Gardens, the beautiful country estate run by John Coble and Bob Bauer, we are amazed at the changes. The garden is near Galesburg, Michigan and is

located in farming country. The landscaped area behind the turn-of-the-century brick farm house is a delight with the dwarf conifers, Japanese irises, rock-scaped lily ponds, dry stream beds, and a wonderful area just to meditate. The large hosta collection was elegant and lush. Two huge clematis, one pink and the other blue, climbed a redwood trellis beside a serene fish pond and resting area near the commercial plantings of mostly Japanese irises (see photo - inside front cover). Also in this area were rowed-out Siberians and a small planting of Spurias. At the entrance to the commercial planting was a sweet, tiny, yellow mini-daylily **Barney's Baby**. We must have this one as we miss Barney (Hobbs) so much.

The huge Victorian brick home is always inviting with the homey rocking chairs on the porch. The stained-glass art which John and Bob craft is museum quality and blends well with all of their antiques. The ultra-modern newly remodeled kitchen has a gorgeous stained glass piece in the ceiling.

Lunch was served here in Ensata Gardens picnic-style and was a wonderful fish fry expertly done by Jim Copeland. All the trimmings were there for us to enjoy along with huge fresh strawberries.

Jerry and I love trees so we were very impressed by a beautiful variegated maple (*Acer platanoides*). Someone told us later that this tree is quite common in the nurseries locally. We weren't lucky enough to find a nursery open on our way home to purchase one.

What we were here for though was to view the Siberian irises and they couldn't have been in more peak bloom. **Sultan's Ruby** (Hollingworth '88) and **All in Stipple** (Warburton '84) were really showing off. 88-15 (Copeland) was a rosy magenta with very ruffled stylearms of violet with aqua centers and a blue signal. S86-19-1 (Schafer/Sacks) was a large mottled rosy-lavender with light blue stylearms and their S86-8-2 was a very tall deep purple edged in a tiny rim of white. **Springs Brook** (Warburton '88) dazzled us in mottled blue with light blue

stylearms. 87Q4B6 (Hollingworth) was a large medium blue reminiscent of **Coronation Anthem**. I didn't think any Siberian could outdo **Coronation Anthem** but this flower was even larger. We have won best Siberian with **Coronation Anthem** the last three years at our local iris show. **Uzushi** and **Haresugata** (Shidara) were all falls forms done in pink-lavender. **Ranman** (Shidara) was a mottled light pink with too many petals to count some have counted as many as twenty four). All of these Japanese-bred Siberians were rather short in this garden. Other Siberians that were excellent were: **Shirley's Choice** (McEwen '87) a nice white with gold hafts and feathered stylearms, **Regency Buck** (McEwen '85) a large, gorgeous tetraploid of deep purple, **Lady Of Quality** (McEwen '82) a large medium blue tetraploid, **Devil's Dream** (Schafer/Sacks '90) a very velvety maroon, **Isabelle** (Warburton '89) white standards infused yellow with yellow falls, and **Creme Chantilly** (McEwen '81) a large starchy white. A versicolor cultivar, **Mysterious Monique** (Knoepnadel '91), was a super velvety wine-maroon. It really had carrying power and personality. We have had this variety for many years prior to its introduction by this German hybridizer. It was a real hit at this first ever Siberian Convention.

All of those involved in planning this convention should be quite proud as this was a wonderful affair. Peak bloom and glorious weather blessed the almost 200 conventioners. This was one of the most enjoyable conventions we have attended. We bought our share of plants at the auction and these will be a reminder of our wonderful time in East Lansing. Thanks again!

THE MILLER GARDEN

By Howard Brookins



ANNA MAE ENJOYING THE VISITORS TO HER GARDEN

When our bus pulled up in front of the Miller garden all we could see was a vast sea of color. The road is higher than the flower beds, and gave a beautiful overview of large clumps of red, white and blue, with a smattering of pinks, yellows, and violets. It was obvious this was **THE** day, that one day of the year when the Siberians are at their absolute peak of bloom. Many of the established clumps had over 100 flowers in bloom, and the foliage very upright and dark green; each plant was standing at attention for everyone to see.

Mixed in with the Siberians were beautiful peonies, some of the tallest I've ever seen, and poppies, and many foxgloves of assorted colors. Ron and Anna Mae have many types of evergreens around their two plus acres of garden, along with some specimen weeping trees, so the overall view was simply lovely.

The guests were all so well grown, that I can't say anything stood out above the rest, as all were plants one would give one's eye teeth to have in one's own garden. I have visited the Miller in prior years, and the one thing absent from their garden this year was the damage they usually receive from acid rain from the Gary, Indiana steel mills. Usually they have whites and light colored blooms with small holes from the acid rain, but even the wind cooperated for the First Siberian Iris Convention, and all the blooms were photographically perfect.

Anna Mae's newer introductions were excellent here as they were in the other display gardens. I especially loved her **Aqua Whispers** and **Liberty Hills**, doing their usual nice thing, but was even more impressed with her **Cheery Lyn** with its lilac standards with blue lines over falls of deep pink, also veined blue and highlighted with a white edge and green eye. Another outstanding plant I hadn't seen before was her 1991 introduction **Frosted Cranberry**. I love it when a hybridizer names something that puts a picture in your mind, and then when you see the plant, you know it is what you are looking for. **Frosted Cranberry** has red-violet standards with aqua veins over darker red falls and red spathes. It is a noteworthy improvement over **Pink Haze**, which is involved in its parentage.

One thing for sure. I won't wait for the next Siberian Convention in Michigan to visit this garden again!



CALVIN HELSLEY AND LOUIS AXEMAN, WITH ANNA MAE IN THE BACKGROUND, ENJOYING THE MILLER GARDEN

THE HOLLINGWORTH GARDEN

By Tom Abrego _____

The guest irises in the Hollingworth garden illustrate all that is new and exciting with Siberian iris today, celebrating the diversity of our favorite flower with a distinctly international flavor.

That good progress is being made in the advancement of the pink color class was much in evidence. **Cheery Lyn** (Miller '91) displays excellent vigor with its moderately sized flaring flowers giving a lavender-pink bitone effect. **Illini Dame** (Varner '88), robust in plant habit, stem and

flower form, appears to be a stronger version of its sib, **Dance Ballerina Dance**. **Aqua Whispers** (Miller '88) combines great vigor, good branching and flaring pink-lavender flowers. Other notable guests in this pink-lavender color class include 88-12 (Copeland), a violet-lavender bitone with narrow blue-green foliage which forms a most attractive clump; P8414/6 (Hewitt), a floriferous and vigorous lavender-pink; and **Lilting Laura** (Miller '90) a vigorous pale violet.

S84-I-1 (Bauer/Coble) is of particular interest because of its pale silvery violet color. Its rounded and flared flowers are presented on branched stems in vigorous clumps. It's easy to understand the hybridizer's enthusiasm for **Haresugata** (Shidara). This medium-sized flower's petals lay completely open, as in a 6-petaled Japanese iris, and are a very pinkish lavender color.

Yellow amoenas were well represented by two tetraploids: T₅ 87/9(10) and T₆ 87/43(4) (McEwen). If awards were given for size alone, the latter iris would certainly win as it was easily the largest guest clump in the garden. T₅ 87/9(10) has more moderate growth, but much better flower form. The brightest yellow color seen in the guest garden belonged to the diploid amoena **Welfenschatz** (Ahlburg).

The smaller irises made very positive impressions: **Lorena Cronin** (Cronin R. '91) and **Sassy Kouma** (McEwen '93). **Lorena Cronin** is a compact clump of about 24" in height Its 3" flowers have deep violet-blue standards and white falls with a very distinctive plicata-like stitching. **Sassy Kouma** is indeed small, as the moderately vigorous clump measured about 15" tall. It's a white with deep yellow at the shoulders, giving a near-amoen impression.

Lee's Blue (Bauer-Coble R. '93) stood out as one of the more vigorous guests in the garden. Its round petals are medium blue-violet. **Wings of Night** (Helsley '91) has the blackest red-purple we've seen on a Siberian iris (excluding the 40's). **Linda Mary** (Cooper '90), a medium wine with an inviting blue wash, grew into a beautiful clump. **Harpwell**

Velvet (McEwen '91) demonstrated the size and vigor we have come to expect from McEwen tetraploids. Its deep bluish purple petals boast a luscious velvety texture and are delicately rimmed with fine silver. **Sailor's Fancy** (Schafer/Sacks '91) is an outstanding bright medium blue bitone. Its robust clump was covered with impeccably formed flowers and caught one's immediate attention from anywhere in the garden.

It was great to see some Siberians other than the typical "garden" varieties. **Butterfly Mode** (Reid '91) and **Enbee Deeaych** (Reid '89), both 40 chromosome hybrids from Oregon, were growing well. Both had bloom stems in evidence, so garden visitors a week or two later would be able to see these in bloom. **Pausbach Sibtosia** (Tamberg) formed a clump over 36" in height with impressive vigor. Its pale blue-violet flowers have a rounded form, different from other sibtosias we've seen, well matching the German translation of pausbach - chubby cheeks.

One day seemed too short a time to spend in the Hollingworth garden. All these guest irises, so well-grown and displayed, plus thousands of seedlings and other Siberians to view in this clean, well-organized garden! Gracious hosts, good company, and the smell of the pig roastit was a visit to remember.



**A "HUDDLE OF HYBRIDIZERS"
IN THE HOLLINGWORTH GARDEN**

Left to right: Steve Varner, Bob Hollingworth,
Tomas Tamberg, Jennifer Hewitt, Currier McEwen and
Marty Schafer

BEWITCHING AUCTION

By John Coble _____

We are not just talking about a **Devil's Dream** in the **Moon Silk** light of a **Mystic Lagoon**. We are talking about an iris auction that went beyond midnight into **Misty Memories!** As unsuspecting guests turned into pumpkins, their bidding arms flailed as **Temper Tantrums** in **Butterfly Mode** at a tired auctioneer who became a **Silver Illusion** hawking in **Aqua Whispers!**

We watched **Fairy Fingers** match **Welfenprinz** and **Lady Vanessa** with **Sprinkles of Purple Sand** into a **Bridal Jig Over in Gloryland**. Oh, it's all a dream (**Almost a Melody**) now, but at the time we didn't think we had a **Shaker's Prayer** the auction would end --a **Sweet Surrender!**

Probably the largest iris auction in history, we sold some 620+ divisions of 94 cultivars in three hours before a crowd of 190 attenders with 80 active bidders. The prices paid ranged from \$5.00 to \$110.00 and the **Simple Gifts** totaled \$7600. After auction (shipping) expenses are covered, The Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan will donate the auction proceeds to the Society for Siberian Irises.

We learned much from this auction experience and will pass on our recommendations about bidder signs and recording methods if someone wants to try this again. Our largest stumbling block was trying to auction up to 10 divisions to 80 bidders; our local club auctions are so much easier with two divisions for maybe 20 bidders in a small room. In many cases we were faced with what to do with three-year old clumps of iris; in many cases three huge, three-year old clumps!

And the auctioning was the easy part. The Iris Connoisseurs appreciates and thanks the hybridizers who donated their guest plants. Also members who donated hundreds of hours in digging iris clumps from five gardens, then dividing, washing, wrapping, boxing and shipping the 600+ plants to buyers as well as the guest plants back to hybridizers. We have "had" fun, yet! And thank you for attending the convention. We are all **Standing Tall** that we had a **Heliotrope Bouquet** of peak bloom for you to view. **It's (been) Delightful.**

(Ed: Faced with the formidable task of sorting out which bidder got which irises and from which of the five gardens they should be dug, providing bidding forms and a master list from which we could dig and ship, Bob Bauer declared that "his brain hurt").

**SSI POPULARITY POLL, 1ST SIBERIAN CONVENTION,
JUNE 11-13TH, 1993**

Submitted by Anna Mae Miller _____

112 Ballots counted

FAVORITE INTRODUCED GUEST IRIS: (one vote)

Over In Gloryland	Hollingworth	24
Jewelled Crown	Hollingworth	14
Little Papoose	Varner	5
Cheery Lyn	Miller	5
Coronation Anthem	Hollingworth	4
Blue Reverie	McEwen	4

**FAVORITE GUEST SEEDLING: (one vote)
(numbered or named seedling - may be registered)**

S86-8-2	Schafer-Sacks	20
Lee's Blue	Bauer-Coble	9
Simple Gifts	Hollingworth	6
Welfenschatz	Ahlburg	5

**FAVORITE SIBERIAN IRISES SEEN ON TOUR:
(ten votes)**

Over In Gloryland	Hollingworth	62
Jewelled Crown	Hollingworth	41
Lee's Blue	Bauer-Coble	40
Coronation Anthem	Hollingworth	38
Moon Silk	Stahly	32
Little Papoose	Varner	32
Sprinkles	Bauer-Coble	32
Welfenschatz	Ahlburg	27
Cheery Lyn	Miller	26
Roaring Jelly	Schafer-Sacks	25
Simple Gifts	Hollingworth	25
Shall We Dance	Hollingworth	25
Mabel Coday	Helsley	23
Frosted Cranberry	Miller	21
Reprise	Warburton	21

Springs Brook	Warburton	21
Wings of Night	Helsley	20
Aqua Whispers	Miller	19
Bridal Jig	Schafer-Sacks	18
Lady Vanessa	Hollingworth	18
Harpwell Velvet	McEwen	17
Illini Dame	Varner	16
Sailor's Fancy	Schafer-Sacks	16
Rill	Bellagamba	15
Blue Reverie	McEwen	14
Hubbard	McEwen	12
Laughing Brook	Waite	12
Purple Sand	Miller	12
That's My Baby	Hollingworth	12
Magenta Moment	Helsley	11
Mystic Lagoon	Willott	11
Temper Tantrum	McGarvey	11
Lorena Cronin	Cronin	10
Sassy Kooma	McEwen	10
Shaker's Prayer	Warner	10

(ED: These are the top vote-getters. If you would like a list of all irises receiving votes please contact me.)

This fun little ditty describes our northern weather so perfectly, particularly in November, that I thought I would share it.

Oh what a blamed uncertain thing .
This pesky weather is;
It blew and sned and then it thew
And now, by jing, it's friz.

Philander Johnson

SIBERIAN IRISES AT THE IOWA ARBORETUM

(Excerpts from an article in the *Iowa Arboretum News*).

NEW SIBERIAN IRISES AT THE ARBORETUM

By Lois Girton _____

When I first started growing Siberians in my own Ames garden, I looked for examples in nearby public gardens and was disappointed to find few cultivars on exhibit. Now that some of my own plants have become established, I want to share these by plantings at the Arboretum. We have decided to develop a special garden for Siberian irises featuring the cultivars which have been judged of particular merit. The American Iris Society awarded the *Morgan Award* to Siberians from 1951-1984. It was replaced by the *Morgan-Wood Medal* in 1986 and is given annually to the highest ranking cultivar. To be eligible for the Medal a cultivar must first receive an Honorable Mention and then an Award of Merit. The winner must be adaptable over a large area of the country so the award winning varieties are excellent choices for beginners.

An assembly of the Morgan and Morgan-Wood winners will allow assessment of what features were available, and thought most attractive in a given year and comparisons between introductions over a period of almost sixty years. A total of 31 cultivars have received these two awards since 1951. The oldest cultivar is **Caesar's Brother** (Morgan 1931) which won in 1953. The 1992 winner was **Lady Vanessa**, registered by Bob Hollingworth in 1986. **White Swirl** (Cassebeer, 1957) is considered the first Siberian with modern form and **Orville Fay** (McEwen 1969) was the first tetraploid to win the award. Award winners exhibit the full range of colors, heights, and flower sizes available in the Siberians today. Because of the time between hybridization and eligibility for the Morgan-Wood Award the very latest cultivars showing new patterns and colors will not, of course be represented. However, the winners will be more readily available at reasonable prices than are the newest introductions.

The Siberian iris garden will be located east of the herb garden and will include a variety of annuals for all-season interest. The white standards and yellow falls of **Butter and Sugar**, (McEwen 1976) will be prominently featured. The irises have been donated by *Busse Gardens* and *Borbeleta Gardens* in Minnesota as well as by individuals. There will be room for yearly additions as new awards are given. They are expected to produce a good show by June of 1994 and we hope that they will increase your interest in, and knowledge of, a garden-worthy plant.

Various members of the Society for Siberian Irises have been very helpful in locating the Morgan Award winners for the Arboretum. Interestingly, I have not been made aware of any other such "historical" collection of Siberians so our planting may represent a "first". I hope to verify this and to view the latest introductions at the first national Siberian iris convention in Michigan this June!

(Lois Girton is on staff at Iowa State University and is current President of the Ames Garden Club.)

MINUTES OF THE SSI BOARD MEETING

The board of directors of the SSI met Friday, June 11th, 1993, at the Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. The meeting, held in conjunction with the Siberian Iris Convention, was necessary because there was not a quorum in attendance at the AIS convention in Fort Worth.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in TSI. Gunther Stark gave the treasurer's report, which was approved. It is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Copies of the new "Invitation to Join" were distributed, and all present were invited to take a supply for distribution and use. Persons wanting copies may request them of the

membership secretary, secretary or president.

The board approved regular mailing of TSI to all AIS officers, directors and RVP's.

Membership secretary Howard Brookins raised the question of sending the previous issue of TSI to persons who are late in renewing their membership and miss an issue. After discussion, it was voted to discontinue the practice of sending the free issue. Howard will send notice to persons late in renewing, advising them that they will need to remit postage cost in addition to membership dues if they want the missed issue.

The membership secretary also submitted a draft of a letter of welcome to be sent to new members. The board approved and directed that hereafter all new members receive the letter in acknowledgement of their joining SSI.

Treasurer Gunther Stark reported that it is necessary that he give up the position of treasurer. He indicated that he was not resigning immediately, but that he would do so as soon as a replacement could be found. President Hal Stahly asked Bob Hollingworth as chairman of the nominating committee to seek a person for the job. Gunther was thanked for his long and faithful service in the position.

Nancy Szmuriga, RVP of Region 19, had asked SSI to consider the question of who is responsible for providing the Morgan-Wood Medal after the present supply is gone. The medal has thus far been handled by Region 19, the group that provided the impetus for its origin. After discussion, the board voted that the medal in future be the responsibility of SSI.

Bob Hollingworth reported that expenses of the Siberian convention were essentially met by the amount of registration money taken in. The Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan, sponsors of the convention, had agreed that any income in excess of expenses would go to SSI. Bob noted that the auction of guest plants which had been donated

might produce substantial income, and he suggested that the amount remaining after expenses be used for two things; the cost of including more color plates in the fall issue of TSI, the remainder to go to the research project in Siberian iris disease. The board approved this use of the money.

Currier McEwen reported briefly on progress on the new Siberian iris book. The meeting was then adjourned.

Hal Stahly for Ruth Wilder, Secretary

LAST WORD

As your editor, I would like to take the liberty of using this space for some personal reminiscences of two special gentlemen of our Siberian world.

The first one is the Barney mentioned in Melody's article on page 32; the late Barney Hobbs of Westfield, Indiana. He was a great supporter of Siberian irises and First Vice President of the Society at the time of his death. He was always full of ideas to promote Siberians. I remember him planning to set up cold frames to bring Siberians into early bloom for the 1985 AIS Convention in Indianapolis. Fortunately, the weather cooperated; and that year many people saw beautifully grown Siberians for the first time. I got a phone call from him the day after his return from the Japanese Iris Convention in 1988. He was excited about Dianna Nicholl's garden and the superb condition of her Japanese irises and insisted that we should get more of our Siberian seedlings out to her for the Washington D.C. National AIS Convention. This was prescient, if you remember how great the Siberians were at that convention. The next day he was hospitalized due to an illness from which he never recovered. Even more to the point, Barney was the first person I remember mentioning the idea of a Siberian Convention. When we were living in Indiana he

sowed the seeds of the idea, at least for Bob and me, which came to fruition this spring in East Lansing. Wouldn't he have had a ball at the Convention! We all miss him.

The second gentleman is Harry Foster. To my regret, I never met Harry. We were hoping that he would be at the convention, but illness prevented him from registering. Harry provided me with my first article for TSI. I wrote off with my request to the U.K. and very soon the article arrived. We picked up our mail on the way to a Purdue football game, and I spent the first quarter excitedly reading Harry's lyrical and enthusiastic article. Unfortunately, Harry died this April. We will have an article covering his too-short hybridizing activities and contributions to the British Iris Society in the Spring '94 issue of TSI. Some of his named Siberian irises will be guests at the next Siberian convention in Massachusetts, so we will be able to know a little about Harry through his irises.

On a brighter note, I hope you all saw Anna Mae Miller's admirable article on Siberians in *Fine Gardening* magazine. It was very informative and another step towards our goal of having Siberians even more widely accepted in perennial gardening circles. It has also generated quite a bit of interest in the Society.

Finally, I would like to add my two cents worth on the Convention. It was thrilling to have a couple of hundred Siberian enthusiasts together! People were excited and many deals, trades and promises of further communication were made. Joan Cooper sorted out the confused species planting at the Beal Botanic Garden, and the sight of Currier McEwen at 92 years old, still evaluating seedlings and collecting pollen for future crosses when most of his juniors had already sought shade from the afternoon sun, was an inspiration to us all. Roll on 1996!

TREASURER'S REPORT 1993

(covering 18 months - 3 issues of TSI)

Submitted by Gunther Stark _____

On hand, checking account 3493.07

INCOME

Dues	4387.64	
Miscellaneous sales	54.00	
Advertizing revenue	485.00	
Interest	718.16	
Slide rental	45.00	
Books sold	179.00	
Check lists & books sold at national	149.25	
Check lists	72.25	
Slide rental	45.00	
 Total Income		6135.30
		<u>9628.37</u>

EXPENSES

Printing, Spring '92	1263.00	
Printing, Fall '92	1238.00	
Printing, Spring '93	1492.00	
Printing, pamphlets	400.03	
Photographic, 3 issues	647.87	
Deposit box rental	12.00	
Memb. Sec. expenses	200.02	
 Total Expenses		5252.92
Membership Secretary on hand		3520.28
Treasurer on hand		855.17
		<u>9628.37</u>
 On Deposit (CDs)		9000.00

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who have put our total membership over the 650 mark! Thanks to all of you. The geographical distribution is also noteworthy, with new members from 31 U.S. states, our neighbor Canada and four foreign countries - England, Germany, Japan and Poland.

Addington E.A., PO Box 3521, Lubbock, TX 79452-3521

Atwell, Dennis, Hackman's House, Worcester Rd., Nr. Stourbridge, Worcester DY9 0EP, England

Balog, Jaqueline, 4 Buttersworth Bogs Rd., Vincentown, NJ 08088

Barker, Judith A., 1200 Limberlost La., Gladwyne, PA 19035

Bernard, Mike, 1079 Bird Ave., San Jose, CA 95125

Betts, Mary, Snow Brook Gardens, RFD Box 2030, Cambridge, ME 04923

Bowers, Jerry C., 201 Parkside Ct., Lolo, MT 59847

Braksein, Udo, Suedwall 80, 47798 Krefeld, Germany

Brown, Mary E., 416 N. Chapelgate La., Baltimore, MD 21229

Burgess, Sharon, 9701 W. River Valley Rd., Yorktown, IN 47396-9773

Byous, R. Lee, PO Box 5, Sunnyside, GA 30284-0005

Carroll, Dorothy L., 984 Apple La., Canon City, CO 81212

Church, Mrs. E.C., 185 Hwy. 194, Rossville, TN 38088

Conklin, Charles/Elizabeth, 91 Duncan Ln., Springfield, PA 19064-1601

Croall, Dorothy E., 242 Nowell Rd., Bangor, ME 04401

Daugherty, Olen J., 5572 Amethyst Ave., Alta Loma, CA 91737

Egli, Barbara J., PO Box 770, Maple Grove, MN 55369

Erickson, Mr. Lora Dade, 4036 Trinity Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Evans, Daniel V., 590 E. Ridge Rd., Richmond, KY 40475

Fairhead, Gloria, 533 Corbin Pkwy., Annapolis, MD 21401

Falconer, Irene S., HCR 66, Box 2564, Solon Springs, WI 54873

Fell, Lynne M., 6005 Meadowood Dr., Madison, WI 53711
Ferris, Richard/Dorothy, PO Box 253, Mason, MI 48854-1253
Fingerhood, Dorothy, 1093 Trumbell Corners Rd., Newfield, NY 14867
Fischer, Laura C., 347 Summit Ridge Cir., Nashville, TN 37215
Francis, Susan H., 132 Upland Rd., Concord, MA 01742
Heschke Gardens, 11503 77th St. S., Hastings, MN 55033
Gibbons, Michael G., 9680 Marie Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45241-1214
Gray, Dr. Barry M., 1805 Shades Crest Rd., Birmingham, AL 35216
Gullo, Viola, 38 Brooktree Dr., Penfield, NY 14526
Henne, Ronald/Leslie, 105 Birchwood Knolls, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3611
Hoecker, Nona, 1512 Shirlee, Ponca City, OK 74604
Huge, Richard H. & Dr. I. Bruce Hornstein, 3819 Beatty Rd., Monkton, MD 21111
Hosford, Alice, 2560 Deerfield Rd., Riverswood, IL 60015
Hughes, Howard/Kim, 210 Parkway, Lapeer, MI 48446
Iwane, David Masao, 2207 E. Olive St., Seattle, WA 98122
J & L Bluebonnet Plantation, Rt 2, Box 564-B, Hempstead, TX 77445
Johnson, Denyse J., 16515 E. 36th St., Independence, MO 64055
Keener, William D. Jr., 3919 Perrin Central Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78217
Kisacky, Joyce, 75 Jolen Dr., Binghamton, NY 11222
Koetting, Victoria, 10609 Land Tree Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-9779
Komarnicki, Lech, Raszynska 3 M.6, 02-026 Warsaw, Poland
Kumor, Dr. Karen M., 5 Shepherds Trl., Madison, CT 06443
Kurtz, Clyde W., 7015 Hillside Dr., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
Lael, Larry E., 17813 Moon Rd. SW., Rochester, WA 98579
Loving, Jack/Evelyn, Rt. 1, Box 405, King George, VA 22485

Lowry, Don/Donna J., 9660 Ridge Rd. W., Brockport, NY
14420
Lundmark, George V., 10449 Ogden, Northglenn, CO
80233-4261
McCoy, Jean, 2708 Ranier Ave., Springfield, IL 62704-
6505
McCullough, Macey, 502 Brighton Pl., Nashville, TN 37205
Meyers, Gary, 1 Mount Pleasant Rd., Brandon, VT 05733
Mull, M/M William L., 7112 Fox's Lair Ct., Norfolk, VA
23518
Mundy, Philip, 549 Paint Fork Rd., Barnardsville, NC
28709
Nelson, Roger, 6219 Topaz St. NE., Brooks, OR 97305
Newton, Mr. J.L., Rt. 1, Box 118, Franklinton, NC 27525
Olson, Eric, 5481 164th Ave., West Olive, MI 49460
Outcalt, Deborah, Rt 1, Box CW-20, Spencer, IN 47460
Preston, E.H., 822 Krosno Blvd., Pickering, Ontario L1W
1G8, Canada
Reath, Dr. D.L., Box 251, Vulcan, MI 49892
Reed, Harry E. Jr., HC 60, Box 66, Strasburg, VA 22657
Rice Creek Gardens Inc., 1315 66th Ave NE., Minneapolis,
MN 55432
River Valley Iris Society, 302 East 18th St., Russelville, AR
72801-7220
Schmidt, Joan L., 127 Dahlia St., Johnston, PA 15905
Schriber, Alice P., PO Box 165, Woodbury, GA 30293
Schuman, Henry/Mary, 2636 Torrey Ave., Ann Arbor, MI
48108
Shimizu, Hiroshi, 3-6-21 Aihara S agamihara-Shi,
Kanagawa-Ken, 229, Japan
Shinners, Kathleen, 238 Pleasant St., Tewksbury, MA 01876
Shute, Carol, PO Box 68, Gilmanston, NH 03237-0068
Snyder, Helen L., 2511 Harding Ave., Muskegon, MI 49441
Stromei, Joseph, 9485 Sunland Blvd., Sun Valley, CA
91352-1658
Sullivan, Nicholas, 5031 Bonnahill Dr., Hermitage, TN
37076
Torizuka, M/M Tom, 11 Pickering St., Toronto, Ontario
M4E 3J5, Canada
Trammell, Estelle M., 2202 Lee Ct., Fortuna, CA 95540
Vargas, Suzanne M., 8485 Old Chanel Trail, Montague, MI
49437

Walker, Lynda A., 6206 Cooper Rd., Lansing, MI 48911
Walkup, Kenneth R., 1109 E. State St., Ithaca, NY 14850
Welsch, Steven/Marilyn, 227 Black Point Rd., Scarborough,
ME 04074

West Bay Iris Society, c/o Jane Trayer, 25690 La Lanne
Court, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

Wile, Cindy, 406 Ashland, Detroit, MI 48215

Woodward, M/M Michael, 620 Parkland Cr. SE.,
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Wright, Mitchel, 113 Blue Grass Dr., Franklin, TN 37064

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, made payable to SSI, to the editorial office at 124 Sherwood Rd. East, Williamston, MI 48895 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 CHECKLIST

A LISTING OF 900 SIBERIANS FROM 1700-1990

Postpaid: \$5.25 USA, \$5.75 Foreign

\$10.00 Foreign airmail (US Dollars)

Order from: HOWARD L. BROOKINS

N75 W14257 NORTH POINT DRIVE

MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53051

Make checks payable to: Society for Siberian Irises

REQUEST FOR SIBERIAN GUEST IRISES FOR 1996

The Iris Society of Massachusetts (ISM) will host the Second Siberian Iris Convention in eastern and central Massachusetts in 1996. We are now requesting guest Siberian and species irises for one master planting and four additional gardens. Following Michigan's successful strategy for the 1993 Siberian convention, we plan to handle guest plants by the following method:

1. Before shipping, hybridizers wishing to send official guest plants are to notify the 1996 Guest Iris Chairman - Barbara Schmieder, 566 Old Rd. to NAC, Concord, MA 01742.
2. Notification should be sent by April 1st, 1994 and include the name or seedling number of cultivars to be gusted, the number of starts of each cultivar, and the approximate season of bloom.
3. The Guest Iris Chairman will then notify each hybridizer where to send their guests. When multiple starts of a cultivar are to be sent, hybridizers will be given the address of several gardens in order to maximize the chances of good bloom for the convention. With this direct mailing system we hope to minimize any losses and get the irises off to a good start.
4. Guests will be accepted from April 1st to May 15th and August 1st to September 1st, 1994.
5. Hybridizers from abroad will be notified of one address only for shipping irises. This is in order to minimize the cost of phytosanitary certificates and mailing.

The 1996 convention committee and tour garden owners will follow the statement of the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. Official guest status will apply only to those plants which are mailed to the tour gardens by the above procedure, and whose plant information was sent by the hybridizer to the Guest Iris Chairman.

1993 AWARD OF MERIT WINNERS



Left:
LIBERTY HILLS
(Miller '89)

Below:
CATHY CHILDERSON
(Johnson '88)





REPRISE (Warburton '87)



SPRINGS BROOK (Warburton '88)

THE SOCIETY FOR

SIBERIAN IRISES

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8343 Manchester Dr., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
- 1st V.P. Dr. Robert M. Hollingworth (1994)
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- 2nd V.P. Mr. Thomas Abrego (1994)
19105 N. E. Trunk Rd., Dundee, OR 97115
- Secretary: Mrs. Ruth Wilder
802 Camellia Rd., Anderson, SC 29621
- Treasurer: Mr. Gunther Stark
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North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
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- Mr. Martin Schafer (1994)
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- Mrs. Judith M. Hollingworth (Editor)
124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895

Numbers in parenthesis denote the date term expires

COMMITTEES

Convention Liaison:	Mr. David Silverberg (as above)
Display Gardens:	Mr. Howard Brookins (as above)
Historian:	Mr. D. Steve Varner, R.R.3, Box 5, Monticello, IL 61856
Judging Standards:	Mr. Julius Wadekamper, 15980 Canby Ave., Faribault, MN 55021
Membership:	Mr. Howard Brookins (as above)
Nominating Comm.	Robert M.Hollingworth (as above) Mr. David Silverberg (as above) Mr. Bud Maltman, 206 Milltown Rd., Wilmington, DE 19808
Publicity:	Mrs. Ainie Busse, Rt. 2, Box 2388, Cokato, MN 55321
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Research:	Robert M. Hollingworth (as above)
Robins:	Vacant
Slides:	Mr. Thomas Abrego (as above)
Editor:	Judith M. Hollingworth (as above)

SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES:

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 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. Phone: (414) 251-5292.

Dues are:

Single Annual	\$ 5.00	Family Annual	\$ 6.00
Single Triennial	\$ 13.00	Family Triennial	\$ 15.00
Single Life	\$100.00	Family Life	\$120.00

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Back Cover: The indefatigable Currier McEwen, glassine envelope in hand, collects pollen in a Convention garden.

