

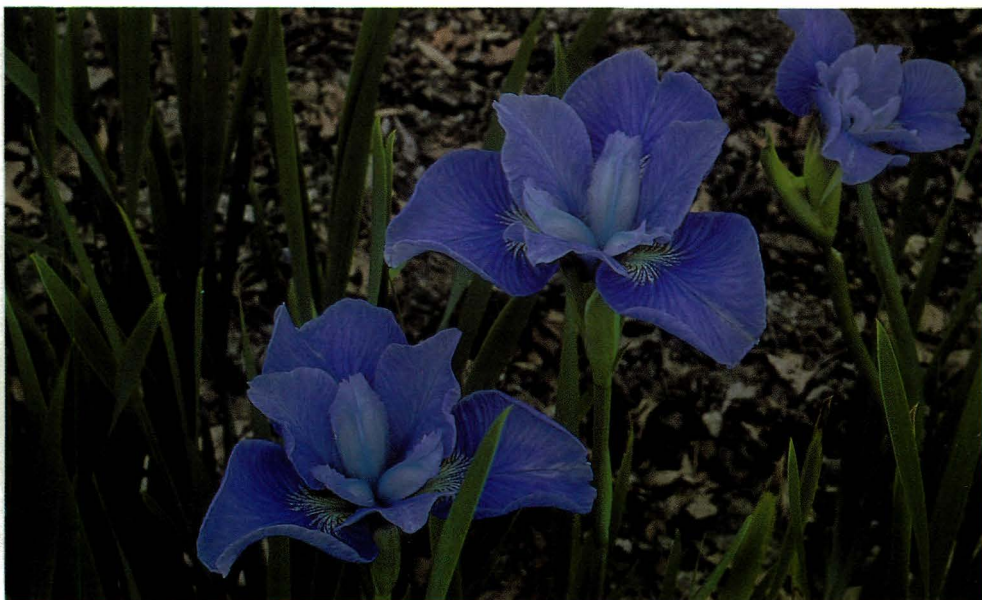
# *The Siberian Iris*



*Fall 1995*



**CONTRAST IN STYLES (Hollingworth) Award of Merit '95**



**Vicki Ann (Warburton) Award of Merit '95**

# THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1

FALL 1995

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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As we (in the more northerly parts of the U.S.) get on with the rueful task of putting the garden to bed for the winter, we can look back on a good year for Siberians and forward with much anticipation to a bumper one next year. Siberians were nicely represented at the AIS Convention in York, though less impressively overall than one might hope from such a favorable growing area. Next year we can look forward to the Second Siberian Iris Convention in Massachusetts with the added bonus of seeing many species iris there too. The Convention is previewed in this issue of TSI. We have not yet had a firm bid for the location of the third convention and I hope before the fall of next year we can get this arranged in order to maintain the continuity of the series in either 2000 or 2001 (somehow those dates seem rather like science fiction, but they will be here soon enough). The sooner we can get this commitment, the sooner we can coordinate with other iris groups, particularly the Japanese Iris Society, to avoid painful conflicts in scheduling.

This year we had the pleasure of seeing Anna Mae Miller receive her just reward of a Morgan Wood Medal for **Aqua Whispers**. Over the years Anna Mae has introduced many fine irises all of them vigorous and with excellent growth habits, building mostly on the very solid base laid by the late Bill McGarvey. It is good to see her work recognized.

With sadness we have to accept the death of Sarah Tiffney. She was a remarkable person who will live in the memory of many of us as an exemplar of curiosity matched with intelligence, of grace and of courage. She is remembered in this issue by her son in a way that all of us might wish to be.

Next spring we should see the publication of Currier McEwen's new book on Siberian Irises. I have seen the



proofs of this and can assure you that it is just as comprehensive and authoritative as one would expect from Currier's wealth of experience and insight. It should be the main source of reference on Siberians for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to urge you to consider joining a Siberian Robin. Dale Hamblin has taken over as chair of the Robin system and has several new participants, but surely, out of a membership over 700, we have more than a handful of people interested in sharing their ideas and experiences of growing and hybridizing Siberians. There is a looseleaf form enclosed with this TSI that makes it easy for you to get in touch with Dale if you would like to join one of these informative and friendly letter circles.

Bob Hollingworth

#### WARNER RATING SYSTEM FOR SIBERIANS \_\_\_\_\_

In the Spring 1995 issue of TSI, Carol Warner unveiled her rating system for Siberians which she used in her catalog this year. She asked for input from members and here are some replies we received. Thanks to Cathy Boyko, Jean-Marc Boileau and Dorothy Fingerhood whose contributions follow:

#### From Cathy Boyko, Dunville, Ontario \_\_\_\_\_

I think the rating system is a super idea. I do hope, however that hybridizers don't pass up worthy plants because they don't have "perfect fives". For myself, I would make use of it to give a more uniform display, grouping "3" growers with other "3" growers for example, since they would all need division later than those rated "5" for vigor. It also gave me solace that someone else finds **King of Kings** a slow increaser, since I was afraid I just grew it poorly. It rates the same as **Augury** on the "Draycott" scale. They both grow about the same for me, but I expected **Augury** to be

less vigorous than the others and so did not worry about it when it was slow. (But I did worry about **King of Kings**.)

One comment on the down-side. I like the rating for foliage and think it is useful to know how fountain-like the foliage is, but to rate it as a 4 or 3 gives the impression that this trait is a flaw when in fact it can be very pleasing. Perhaps SS (super stiff) or VS (very stiff), S (stiff), I (intermediate), F (fountain) and VF (very fountain) would express it more accurately with additional ratings for late season messiness since this is clearly a flaw. For example, VF-1 would be very fountain-like and messy and VF-5 would be fountain-like and keeps its attractive shape all season. I'm sure there are also stiff ones that "lose it" late in the season (SS-1's)!

Anyway it is a great idea. While we are at it, why not a new class of "Median Siberians" since so many fine little ones (e.g. **Little Papoose**) are popping up? It might encourage people to work toward good small ones.

The following were personal communications to Carol:

**From Dorothy Fingerhood, Newfield, New York** \_\_\_\_\_

I want to comment on your Siberian Landscape Rating System. It's an excellent idea, and with the cultivars I've grown, your findings and mine seem closely allied.

I was unhappy to lose **Butter and Sugar** the first season (not a common occurrence); now I see that you rate its vigor as only 2! I agree with the **Anniversary** rating; it is vigorous for me but is going to be replaced because I get tired of looking at that floppy foliage. I would rate **Augury** a bit higher in vigor than 2, and **Shaker's Prayer** a bit higher than 3 in foliage, but I agree with your ratings on **Aqua Whispers**, **Mabel Coday**, **Maggie Smith**, **Sultan's Ruby**, **Super Ego** and **Temper Tantrum**. I would certainly take your rating into account when making my selections.

## Rating Siberians: My Unsolicited Comments!

By Jean-Marc Boileau, Quebec, Canada \_\_\_\_\_

I have found your ratings extremely valuable. Since I have never had a chance to see many of the varieties listed in your catalog, the ratings give a reliable picture of what should be expected from each variety. However, when analyzing Siberians (as well as other types of plants) there are "objective" and "subjective" factors to be considered. Your system has been established in order to assess objective factors (i.e. factors which are measurable and can be observed, although good judgment is still essential) such as plant vigor, foliage, bloom height and branching. I think that the rating system would benefit from the addition of another element - based on "educated taste" - which would focus exclusively on bloom beauty.

For instance, **Jewelled Crown** is rated 4/4/3 and **Over In Gloryland** is rated 5/4/3. Both plants' bloom habits are rated 3, which is average. Since the ratings were determined after careful observation of the plants' performance, I am convinced that 3 is an accurate rating for elements such as bloom height, branching, sequential stalks, etc. Nevertheless, we also know that these two varieties are among the most beautiful Siberians ever, but this does not appear in the ratings.

I would suggest the addition of a fourth rating (subjective type) relating to the beauty or attractiveness of a flower - based on a combination of factors such as form, color, substance, pattern, ruffling, mottling, originality, etc. Of course personal taste would play an important roll in this type of evaluation, but I am convinced that customers would benefit from an expert's opinion. Maybe this rating could simply be a letter (A,B,C,D,E,), where "A" is the best and "E" is the worst. Since the fourth rating relates exclusively to flowers, it would probably be simpler to just put it along with the third one which assesses bloom habit. Under the new system, perhaps **Jewelled Crown** would get a score of 4/4/3A. I think that the addition of a "subjective rating" gives a better appreciation of **Jewelled Crown's** merit.

## POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (OF ZONE 10)

By Michael Zarky \_\_\_\_\_

### Fate

It was love at first sight when my partner Phoebe and I encountered Siberian irises blooming at White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut as we did a little garden-hopping on our way to the Baroque Music Festival in Boston. We'd just purchased some TB's from Schreiners, so irises already held an attraction for us, but here was something perfect for the cottage gardening tradition that I wanted to emulate, even in the Mediterranean climate of Los Angeles where we lived. The subtle differences within their restricted palette seemed endless, and the simple form of the flowers and of the foliage radiated gracefulness. The delicacy of the narrow stalk gave a sense of fragility that the chunkier stems of bearded irises lack. No doubt their association with wetter climates was part of their appeal. We simply had to grow these plants and we ordered some divisions later that summer. Also, the Thompson & Morgan catalog was dazzling me with an array of unusual, oft never heard of flowers, so I obtained some Siberian seeds as well.

Now, TEN years later, I'm still madly frustrated in my desire to grow these beauties for our garden. And I've been sucked into an ever deepening spiral of slave labor to our love for Siberians. In other words, I've become a modest breeder, attempting to develop cultivars that will really flourish, tall, robust and floriferous, in Southern California.

### Subtropical Symptoms

Despite sporadic success with a very few varieties, the



other local iris lovers and I, who grow Siberian cultivars find most varieties are erratic in their growth, often hard to establish or prone to root rot in a moist winter. Perhaps the most significant frustration is very short bloom stalks, with flowers not uncommonly coming right at ground level [see Photo A]. There are a few "old reliables" - the most universal being the ancient **Caesar's Brother** - that don't do badly for most of us (**Sparkling Rose** and **Jaybird**, also come to mind), but even they rarely reach registered height. I did have some modest success with a few irises from that first order, most notably **Pansy Purple**, but none were really vigorous. In fact, I didn't have satisfactory growth with **Caesar's Brother** until I obtained a division from a locally-grown clump.

Plants that are weak usually exhibit a very poor root system with dark watery roots (few and short). But even the many cultivars that continue to grow from year to year have never exhibited strong systems, none ever as long, thick, white and robust as on plants newly received from elsewhere. Wet winters especially seem to take their toll - the heavy dense soil promotes rot, a big problem amongst avocado growers here, for instance. Particularly at a time when the irises are not inclined toward growth and yet all the environmental factors usually accompanying dormancy are not fully in force, the overly moist soil is deadly. I believe, despite all that is said about Siberians loving moisture, that they can have too much, and I have heard this same observation from someone living in Illinois.

Also, plants here almost never exhibit tall, erect foliage, neither cultivars that grow erectly elsewhere, nor seedlings, even those with tall flower stalks. There is always some drooping of the leaves. There are a few exceptions amongst the seedlings [most notably out of **Smooth Seas**].

### A Ray of Hope

But what gradually developed great significance was the performance of several of the seedlings that grew out of those T&M seeds (see Photo B). They grew tall, clumped thickly and produced flower stalks close to 3 feet in height. I didn't realize this foreshadowed a future avocation.



**PHOTO A:  
Cambridge  
BLOOMING AT  
NEAR GROUND  
LEVEL.**

**PHOTO B:  
(below)  
SHOWING  
IMPROVED  
HABITS ON  
SEEDLINGS**



## More Travels

I can't remember who suggested that Phoebe and I try to meet with Bee Warburton. It must have been in 1987 on another visit to Massachusetts when she very graciously received us, strangers, for a tour around her garden and referred us to Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks. We subsequently visited their lovely garden, and also that of Elaine and Chan Fulton to whom Marty directed us. We were in temporary Siberian heaven, even though bloom season was not yet in full glory, and we continued to order more plants to heighten our frustration at home in Los Angeles.

Marty suggested we try some seeds. He sent some from **Reprise x Springs Brook** which I germinated and planted out. I obtained some beautiful flowers; I can't explain why there weren't any especially vigorous growers. But the next year (1991) we had to move from our rented West Los Angeles home! We searched for a community where we could afford some space - after one subtracted the house, 2-car garage and space for the existing fruit trees and a vegetable garden, a one-eighth acre lot hadn't given much room for our garden desires.

And so we ended up in Moorpark, which lies about 50 miles west-north-west of LA's center, at the edge of what is left of agricultural land. While we are well inland, the sea breeze is funneled along a river plain, cleaning our air and also moderating our summer temperatures; and our nighttime temperatures are cool (in winter we always have frost at the bottom of our heavily sloped property, although not at the top since the killer frosts of 1991). This is quite similar to our previous location, where to many people's surprise we also encountered frost - our neighborhood was situated in a low area where the cold air settled at night. But don't forget that cool overnight lows are easily mitigated by our warm days, often into the 70s. A winter day without a few hours in the mid-50s is quite rare. Last winter I monitored soil temperature, which must be the critical factor during the dormant period, and it usually fluctuated in the 50s.

But our soil and water conditions have changed dramatically - Ventura County's water averages 8.3 pH, while in Los Angeles proper we had enjoyed a far more neutral condition. And late June was not a wonderful time for moving large clumps of Siberians. I'd actually made some crosses and planted seeds - those poor plants sat in flats for several years until I could make a nice bed for them (there were many projects of higher priority, such as fruit and vegetable growing). At last, thanks to my neighbor's loan of his empty front lot, I have a good sized area for growing out seedlings and can give some preliminary observations.

### First Report

The most salient result is that I have had quite a large percentage of seedlings throw good-sized stalks, if not quite up to the heights in the gorgeous display put on in Portland last year. Their vigor and performance far out-strips that of any of the dozens of cultivars I grow. In addition, almost every seedling that I discard has had a vigorous and dense run of roots. This leads me to think that there must be much more than genetic elements involved - many seedlings don't seem extremely upset with their growing conditions, while almost all imported cultivars are.

In July some seedlings continued to bloom, or were just throwing their first stalks! Quite weird, but I'm grateful for the odd patch of color. I wonder whether these plants are just struggling so hard to grow in rather dense soil that they simply live life in the slow lane. Certainly I will need many more years to puzzle this out! But some are definitely showing a distinct "rebloom" period about 6-8 weeks after their first performance.

I've also experimented with two dozen *Iris typhifolia* from seeds kindly supplied by Jim Waddick. These are far less successful, as many predicted. Now two years old, the growth is meager and the narrow leaves sometimes fall over from their own weight. I had just two flower stalks the first spring, and only one this time, and when it came at the end of May (long after our normal season), I thought that

bizarre - but when a third bud, hidden low on that SAME stalk, bloomed in late July...!

### Cultural Practices

Let me interject one relevant fact - I am firm in using organic methods (although I confess to an occasional sprinkling of snail bait amongst the Siberians as the leaves are first emerging and being chewed back faster than they can grow), so perhaps I don't even have the success of my neighbors, who will resort to boosting along plants with those miracle drugs like superphosphate.

Mulching seems an excellent technique, especially in these perennial beds, keeping the soil surface moist and cooler. It helps also to diminish the cost of irrigation. As I was digging up clumps to transplant during our sometimes overcast June weather, I noticed a very high density of earthworms working to keep some channels of air open in the soil. If only my tree-trimmer would bring more chips!

I usually rake the mulch off temporarily in late winter as the new foliage is emerging. This gives an opportunity to work cottonseed meal into the soil, and without the mulch I find it easier to keep an eye on slug and snail damage.

We all seem to have difficulty establishing newly purchased plants. One technique to which I have resorted has been to plant new arrivals in pots with commercial potting soil. I have often had good success with this. I can keep the pots in the shade, especially if some exceptionally hot weather arrives. For spring shipped plants, this has worked well, but sometimes botrytis has attacked early on. Otherwise these plants usually don't wither away. If a plant is unhappy, I have occasionally saved it by digging it up and replanting it in potting soil.

### On to the Future

I am ready for an interesting experiment now that a few clumps are good-size and have shown reasonable vigor for

two years. I would like to distribute some divisions to several growers in the northern climates, not simply to monitor their performance there, but I should like to see how they would grow, returned here after several years in a colder winter, when planted side by side with divisions that had not been exiled. If they survive moving to their more natural climate and begin to adjust to it, will they then return here and sulk like other imported cultivars?

Many people have been helpful with advice and encouragement, but especially I want to thank those who have freely supplied seeds and even plants - Jim Waddick, Ellen & Tom Abrego, Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks, Anna Mae Miller, Judy & Bob Hollingworth, Steve Varner, Peggy Carpenter, and Dale Hamblin. I'm grateful for the in-depth interchange of knowledge in the robins, and I would be happy to hear from readers with experience growing Siberians in other mild-winter areas.

Michael can be reached at 10963 Citrus Drive, Moorpark, CA 93021 or by e-mail at zarky<liebig@usc.edu>.

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## **LUTHER BURBANK AWARD FOR CURRIER McEWEN**

The American Horticultural Society honored ten outstanding members of the horticultural community at its Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 22-24th 1995.

One of this year's winners was our own Currier McEwen of South Harpswell, Maine. He received the Society's Luther Burbank Award to recognize extraordinary achievement in the field of plant breeding. Currier has demonstrated this excellence in his lifelong work in hybridizing irises and daylilies.

Congratulations Currier from all of us.



## SIBERIANS AT YORK

By Carol Warner

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The AIS Convention at York, Pennsylvania had perfect weather, peak bloom and should have been a great opportunity to see some fine Siberians. My job of writing up the Siberians for TSI seemed like it would be a breeze; for two days I managed to see only about ten varieties in bloom. For some strange reason Siberian bloom was running late. In Sterling Innerst's garden I saw S 85L-1 by Bauer/Coble which opens like a rosebud to reveal a ruffled flaring lavender-purple flower with lighter style arms and standards. T888/11 by McEwen was a gorgeous lavender with a white edge, white standards and excellent form. Sterling's diploid seedlings were beginning to bloom but his tetraploids weren't out yet. His specimen of **Rill** (Bellagamba R. 1991) showed terrific color contrast between the blue falls and near white standards which I had not noticed in my plants. Good bloom was found on **Smooth Seas** (Tolman '78), **Dance Ballerina Dance** (Varner '83), **Shaker's Prayer** (Warner '90), **Over In Gloryland** (Hollingsworth '93) and **Lorena Cronin** (Cronin R.'91).

The garden of Terry and Susan Marquart offered a chance to see a beautiful specimen of **Lee's Blue** (Bauer/Coble '94). The falls are very wide, buds open in a wrapped fashion and the plant seemed vigorous with good foliage habits. **Mesa Pearl** (Bauer/Coble '94) was just in bud but had nice spathe color. **Patio Rose** ('93) by Louise Bellagamba was new to me. The mauve color had a blue blush and was quite interesting.

The visit to the Griffe garden on my third day of touring finally gave a great chance to see Siberians. Long rows of some of the old favorites were in full bloom. **Little White**, **Perry's Pygmy**, **Sparkle**, **Blue Burn**, **Frosty Rim**, **Ruffled Velvet**, **Maggie Lee**, **Steve Varner**, **Super Ego**, **Star Glitter**,

**Savoir Faire and Pink Snowtop** competed nicely with the newer **Sailor's Fancy, Windwood Serenade, Coronation Anthem, Devil's Dream, Mad Magenta and Laughing Brook**. None of these were Siberian guests, but I spent so much time looking at the Griffé Siberian collection that I never ventured into the guest planting area for the bearded irises.

None of the guest Siberians managed to receive any top convention awards this time and only two made it into my personal vote for the 15 favorite guest plants - **Lee's Blue and Rill**. We've been spoiled at some of the recent conventions with the amount of Siberian bloom. Next year the Siberians will shine in their own convention in Massachusetts.

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## **GLOBAL GLEANINGS**

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The British Iris Society has authorized the awarding of a Dykes Medal every second year for a New Zealand bred iris. This year, the first time it was awarded, the recipient was a Siberian iris, **Emma Ripeka** bred by Frances Love. **Emma Ripeka**, registered with the American Iris Society in 1990, is 32" tall with mid-blue standards, sky blue style arms and deep blue falls. It won the Begg Shield\* in 1989 and since that time has been grown in a number of gardens around New Zealand, as well as being assessed in the New Zealand Iris Society's test gardens. Our congratulations to Mrs. Love.

*(\*The Begg Shield is awarded for the best New Zealand raised iris seen in a Convention garden)*

The following notes are from Berney Baughem, editor of the British Iris Society Year Book-----

The British Iris Society's Seed Distribution has proved to be a good source for members wishing to try something new. Back in 1990 I received quite a big packet of mixed Sibirica seed, so much that I decided to sow the seed in two

20 ft. rows. We have an iris plot which was originally a vegetable patch (no longer required now that our children have married and had their own children) consisting of a well worked loam, with a chalk sub-soil at 15-18" depth. Until this point I had only grown on Sibericas supplied as plants, and this was my first try at growing from seed.

The germination rate was very good and produced a wide range of seedlings. Among these appeared a wine-red which bloomed in 1992, albeit just two flowers. In 1993 it grew well and had three terminal flowers and two on a branch and was accepted for trial at Wisley\*. Three plants were supplied for the trial of which one showed this year to be slightly different. I have to put this down to the belief that of course it must be another seedling but it is still wine-red. This will mean that at the end of the three year trial at Wisley the plant will need to re-enter the trials in 1996. However, this was not all. In the two rows there appeared some dwarf plants. One is barely 4" tall, four are 10-12" and another 14". I disregarded the height thinking they were still to attain a taller stature, but this year all flowered with the exception of the 4" variety. Of the four I put before the Joint Iris Committee, one of the 12" ones was selected for trial at Wisley. It is a white with yellow haft markings and though not the best of shapes, looks quite interesting. The other three were rejected, being judged disproportionate in size of flower to foliage and having their bud placement too low.

The source of the seed was never established. As we get seed from all over the world, it was not recorded where this particular package came from.

\* *The Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley,*

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## **THROW AWAY YOUR COLCHICINE: LET MOTHER NATURE DO THE WORK**

**By Bob Hollingworth** \_\_\_\_\_

Seedling 93L5A14 flowered for the first time this year. It was a pleasant light lavender bicolor scattered with darker color veins and flecks, a good, full flaring form, nice ruffling and branching -- but certainly not a showstopper. Why then bother to mention it here? One reason only; this seedling is unique in my experience in being a spontaneously-produced tetraploid. Clearly 93L5A14 is tetraploid; the flower substance is unusually strong and typically tetraploid in its features, the pollen is of tetraploid rather than diploid size, and crosses made with known tetraploids this year have produced seeds with 93L5A14 as both a pod and a pollen parent, although obviously we haven't had a chance to observe any progeny yet.

The other 30 or so sibling seedlings in this cross are typically diploid in character and, where crosses were made



have set seed with other diploids. Both the parents of 93L5A14 are diploid, and this is not a cross that was treated with colchicine to induce tetraploidy. One last possibility remains - that this seedling belongs to another cross (either from tetraploid parents or colchicine-treated seedlings) and was misplaced on transplanting the seedlings from their

initial flats. I must confess that such things have happened

in the past in our garden. However, this is quite unlikely in the case of 93L5A14. None of the potentially tetraploid crosses transplanted in this group of seedlings should have given light lilac flowers (and none did), and the cross leading to 93L5A14 should and did have several other seedlings with similar light lavender colors (although being diploid). Seedling 93L5A14 also looks in flower size and form and plant habit very like its diploid siblings, allowing for the usual changes that tetraploid induces. It "belongs" in this batch of siblings and nowhere else.

So, although one can't be absolutely sure, it does seem highly likely that this seedling is a natural tetraploid. Such an event is quite unusual, but short of amazing. Although not reported in the Siberian irises before, (as far as I am aware), natural tetraploids occur in many plant species, including some of the bearded irises. What appears to be a natural tetraploid Japanese iris (**Pink Mystery**) has been described by Currier McEwen (*The Review*, 27(1): 25-29). Natural tetraploidy presumably can arise if there is a failure in the reduction of chromosome number at one of the cell divisions in the meristem. This must have occurred at an early division in the embryo with 93L5A14, since the plant seems to be fully tetraploid and not a chimera with mixed diploid and tetraploid parts. Although this event is not unprecedented in the world of irises, it does seem worthwhile recording it's happening in the Siberians. I wonder if anyone else has seen this?

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#### COMMENT FROM THE FAVORITE 15 BALLOTS \_\_\_\_\_

The charming, unique **Fairy Fingers** won Best in Section at the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society May show at the U.S. Capital Botanic Garden. The Willot's **Fairy Fingers** was a big hit - many people wanted to know where they could buy it.

Clarence and Suky Mahan

## FAVORITE 15 SIBERIAN IRISES

	Votes	Position in '92 poll
1. Jewelled Crown	33	2
2. Lady Vanessa	30	1
3. Pink Haze	25	3
4. Shirley Pope	22	3
5. Ruffled Velvet	21	4
6. Aqua Whispers	18	9
Over In Gloryland	18	new
Roaring Jelly	18	new
7. Esther C.D.M	17	8
Mabel Coday	17	7
Super Ego	17	11
Temper Tantrum	18	5
8. Coronation Anthem	15	new
Shaker's Prayer	15	9
9. Sultan's Ruby	14	6
10. Springs Brook	13	8
11. King of Kings	12	4
Reprise	12	8
Snow Prince	12	12
Strawberry Fair	12	new
12. Butter and Sugar	11	3
Liberty Hills	11	11
13. Caesar's Brother	10	15
Hubbard	10	new
Indy	10	11
Lake Keuka	10	new
Linda Mary	10	new
Regency Buck	10	10
14. Cheery Lyn	9	new
Gull's Wing	9	new
High Standards	9	10
White Swirl	9	7
Windwood Spring	9	13
15. Isabelle	8	new
Jaybird	8	15
Mad Magenta	8	new
Steve Varner	8	10
White Triangles	8	new



## FIFTEEN FAVORITE SIBERIANS

By Lynn Stoll \_\_\_\_\_

Whether it's iris or daylily season, it seems that about every third garden visitor feels compelled to ask, "which one is your favorite?" I look out over the sea of color in front of me and sigh. One favorite? Impossible question! Fifteen favorites, as Judy Hollingworth framed the question? Still hard, but possible. My choices are based on overall performance in my own garden. I'm just as concerned with vigor, proportion, clump habit, length of bloom time, and distinctiveness as I am with beautiful individual flowers. All of the beauties listed here have been distinctive, good growers over several years in my garden, stunning in a mature clump and with the added bonus of beautifully formed flowers. Some fine newer varieties (surely future favorites) have not been listed, because I don't feel I've observed them growing long enough to evaluate them properly. Because **KITA-NO-SEIZA** is not yet available I've added it as an extra and picked a total of sixteen. You'll notice that they're listed in alphabetical order; ranking them would again imply that one could choose a single favorite!

**CHEERY LYN** (Miller 1991; HM '95) is my personal favorite of Anna Mae's fine lavender pinks (and no, not just because of the name!). To my eye, its floriferousness, grace and proportion in a clump, rivals or even surpasses that of **AQUA WHISPERS**, the 1995 Morgan-Wood Medal winner.

**CORONATION ANTHEM** (Hollingworth 1990: AM '94) is a gorgeous large, very ruffled mid to deep blue tetraploid with a creamy yellow blaze that fades to white. It's an extremely vigorous grower and a profuse bloomer that has displayed a consistent tendency to rebloom into July in our garden. This year I also saw it reblooming in Scott and Cindy Johnson's Minnesota garden in mid-July for the regional daylily tour, where it was attracting a lot of

attention. It was the first **JEWELLED CROWN** seedling to be introduced. (If I were really pressured to name *one* favorite, **CORONATION ANTHEM** would certainly be somewhere near the top of the list!)

**DEMURE ILLINI** (Varner 1985: HM '92) is a nice grape-red with a large white signal; like most of the others listed here, it is a good grower, very floriferous, and especially attractive in a large clump.

**GULL'S WING** (McGarvey 1989: HM '92) is a fine tall white with excellent flower form; it's a season-extender, blooming very late in the season. It's also extremely vigorous, quickly forming an imposing clump. However, I'm disturbed by Julius Wadekamper's observation (TSI, Spring '95) that **GULL'S WING** and **ESTHER C.D.M.** may be the same iris. I think this is an important question that should be resolved; surely the Society for Siberian Irises must have a molecular biologist or two among its membership who could address this issue by running a couple of DNA blots? This is a fine Siberian, but if it's really **ESTHER C.D.M.**, let's call it by its real name. If not, let's remove this cloud of doubt, which will certainly stand in the way of its winning any higher awards it may deserve.

**HELICOPTER** (Shidara 1988: HM '90) is a vigorous, distinctive blue violet which is another consistent top favorite in our garden. Like the pink **RIKUGI SAKURA** by the same hybridizer, **HELICOPTER** has the flat, six-fall form commonly associated with Japanese irises. (I have always found it particularly interesting that this Japanese hybridizer selected among his Siberians a form that looks so much like a Japanese iris!) Both Shidara introductions are very free-blooming and extremely vigorous growers, forming large, dramatic clumps in 2-3 years.

**HELIOTROPE BOUQUET** (Hollingsworth 1986; AM 1990) is probably the most distinctive clump in the garden, in terms of color. Garden visitors usually spot it from about 50 feet away say, "Ooh, what's **that** over there?" It's an intense mauve violet color that positively *glows* in a clump. A closer look reveals a blue influence to the well-formed,

flaring flowers. It's been a consistent performer in our garden for many years, and it's a top personal favorite. It's one of the earliest Siberians to bloom in our garden, and an established clump has a long bloom season.

**ISABELLE** (Warburton 1989) is a pale yellow amoena which for me has proven the best grower of this color class. The pale yellow to cream flowers in the clump are nicely set off by contrasting bright yellow buds; with good proportion and many bloom stalks, the clump effect is particularly pleasing. It rebloomed in our garden in 1994.

**JEWELLED CROWN** (Hollingworth 1987; Morgan Wood Medal, 1993) is a stunning large, flared deep wine-red tetraploid with a circular gold blaze. In our garden, it tends to bloom a little too far down in the foliage for my taste, but it's a vigorous grower, and the flower is just out of this world. It's proving to be an important parent, consistently passing heavy ruffling, full rounded form, strong patterns, and vigor to offspring like **CORONATION ANTHEM** and **STRAWBERRY FAIR**.

**KITA-NO-SEIZA** (Shidara; not introduced) is like a secret treasure -- a treasure that I'm describing here in the hope of prompting someone to introduce it and make it widely available to Siberian lovers. I loved this as a guest plant at the Michigan Siberian convention, and felt very fortunate to get a little piece of it in the auction at the convention. Those three little fans planted in the fall of 1993 have increased to 18 in two years; it bloomed some the first year after planting, and was truly impressive this second year. Like



**HELICOPTER** and **RIKUGI SAKURA** by the same hybridizer, **KITA-NO-SEIZA** has the six-fall "Japanese" form with no standards. It's glistening deep blue-violet flowers are a full 4" in diameter, with a terminal plus two branches, usually four buds. Even three or four of these open at once makes an impressive display; I can only imagine what a large, mature clump will look like in a few years! I very much hope that someone will introduce this fine cultivar in this country in the near future.

**LADY VANESSA** (Hollingsworth, 1986; Morgan-Wood Medal, 1992) is a lovely ruffled wine-red bitone, with light wine red standards and medium wine red falls. It, too, is a vigorous grower and gives a beautiful two-tone effect in a clump. A diploid, **LADY VANESSA** is a top favorite with garden visitors, year after year.

**MABEL CODAY** (Helsley 1985; Morgan-Wood Medal Winner, 1991; pronounced "CO-dy" by the hybridizer) is a beautiful ruffled medium blue. Its clarity of color and good growth habit make it a perennial garden favorite.

**OVER IN GLORYLAND** (Hollingsworth 1993) was Bob's only 1993 introduction. We had the privilege of growing this wonderful Tet as a guest iris for several years before it was introduced, so that I feel I can evaluate it properly even though it's relatively new. Those of you who attended the 1993 National Siberian Convention in Michigan will remember it as a large clump of a round, ruffled, velvety dark blue-purple with a striking light gold blaze. At that convention, **OVER IN GLORYLAND** was voted the Favorite Guest Iris and favorite Iris Seen on Tour, both by a wide margin. Perhaps even more impressive, it garnered the most votes for HC of any iris (including TBs) in both 1991 and 1992.

**PERCHERON** (Warburton 1982; HM '84) is a huge ruffled blue-purple, veined and dappled. It's a very heavy bloomer, and its huge flowers give it a very "busy," crowded effect, at least to my eye, when it's at peak bloom. Still, it's a solid mass of color, and it's been one of the most popular Siberians with garden visitors for several years.

**RIKUGI SAKURA** (Shidara, 1988; HM '92) is a flat pink, with the six-fall form commonly associated with Japanese irises. Like **HELICOPTER**, it is exceptionally vigorous and an increaser, forming a stunning clump. Garden visitors always love pink Siberians, and the novel form of **RIKUGI SAKURA** always makes it a real favorite.

**ROARING JELLY** (Schafer/Sacks 1992; HM '95) is described by the hybridizers as a "raspberry jelly color." It's grown well, has an appealing flower -- and it rebloomed fairly heavily for us this year until early July.

**SPRINGS BROOK** (Warburton 1988; AM '93) is a pearly blue-violet with darker shoulders. In our garden, it has been a consistent repeat bloomer, often continuing from late May till mid - or late July. While the later bloom never matches the main flowering in May, on a large clump there are always 4-8 flowers in bloom at any one time -- enough to make an impact in the garden. It's certainly a striking blue companion plant for the early daylilies! **SPRING'S BROOK** is the pollen parent of **ROARING JELLY**, and both have (**ATOLL** x **RUFFLED VELVET**) as pod parents. **PERCHERON** is another (**ATOLL** x **RUFFLED VELVET**) offspring; however, I've never seen **PERCHERON** rebloom.

Runners-up include:

**HIGH STANDARDS** (Hollingworth 1987; runner-up, Morgan-Wood Medal '95) at 44" is an extraordinarily tall tetraploid. Because of its proportion, it has a very pleasing clump effect, with large purple flowers on tall stalks. Steve Varner has introduced a number of excellent deep wine reds which I like very much. **ILLINI CROWN** (1985; HM '88) is a good grower and a fine clump-maker; **ILLINI RUBY** (HM '92) and **ILLINI GLORY** (HM '91) have been some less vigorous growers, but have a smaller signal and a richer, more intense color. **PAS DE DEUX** (Hollingworth 1988; AM '94) is a charming light yellow amoena. It's very similar to **ISABELLE** (in fact, it's very hard to choose between **PAS DE DEUX** and **ISABELLE** when one is talking about "favorites"). In our garden, **PAS DE DEUX** is a little

shorter than **ISABELLE** and perhaps a little less yellow. Both have fine ruffled forms, both give a lovely clump effect, with their yellow buds and cream and yellow/white bitone blooms, and both are more vigorous growers than the better known **BUTTER- AND SUGAR. WINDWOOD SPRING** (Hollingworth 1985; runner-up to medal winner **MABEL CODAY** in 1991) is a charming light blue, very ruffled and flared, with large feathery style arms and a prominent white blaze.

All of these varieties have been good all-around performers in our garden for a period of several years, at least. I'm sure that in a few years, I'll have some new favorites among the more recent introductions, as soon as I've had a little more time to evaluate them. Meanwhile, I enthusiastically recommend this year's favorites to any lover of Siberian irises who may have overlooked some of them!

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

**Compiled By Howard Brookins** \_\_\_\_\_

We are delighted to welcome our new members:

**ESTHER H ACKERMAN**  
PO BOX 120  
ASHTON MD 20861

**RITA S ADKINS**  
PO BOX 7  
FRENCHBURG  
KY 40322

**JONATHAN L ARNOW**  
57 HOMEFAIR DR  
FAIRFIELD CT 06430

**JOANNE P BAKER**  
125 DALES WAY DR  
PASADENA MD 21122

**BERNEY BAUGHEN**  
COPPER BEECHES  
NORTH END LN DOWN  
ORPINGTON KENT BR6 7HG  
UNITED KINGDOM

**JOHN L BILSKI**  
9127 WEDGEWOOD DR  
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS  
IL 62208-1056



GEORGE C BUSH  
1739 MEMORY LA EXTD  
YORK PA 17402

SANDRA J CABRASER  
11780 SAN PABLO #310  
EL CERRITO CA 94530

DEAN O & DENISE E COLE  
21C GREAT FALLS RD  
GORHAM ME 04038

CAROL C DAWSON  
4435 GOLF VIEW AVE  
CORVALLIS OR 97333

MARTHA EDWARDS  
741 WAGNER ST  
WATER VALLEY MS 38965

EDITH FLEISCHMANN  
204 W VISTA DR  
HENDERSONVILLE  
NC 28739

EVA MARIE GLOR  
RI BOX 400  
TUNAS MO 95764-9801

JESSICA U GOTHIE  
7242 SINDALL RD  
BALTIMORE MD 21234

JANICE & CHARLOTTE HANEY  
3 PUTNAM RD  
STILLWATER NY 12170

ERNIE/ANN M HENSEN  
6401 CEDAR ROAD  
IUKA IL 62849

CHAROLETTE M HOLTE  
5815 W FILLMORE DR  
WEST ALLIS WI 53219-2221

LUCY HUFF  
PO BOX 383  
GWYNEDD VALLEY  
PA 19437

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3716 HARTLAND RD  
GASPORT NY 14067

KATHY KEITH  
4708 TREE SHADOW PL  
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

ROBERT E KONTAK  
207 HINSDALE RD  
CAMILLUS NY 13031

C. J/KITTY LACK  
718 W 67TH ST  
TULSA OK 74132

NIAGARA PARKS BOTANICAL GDN  
MR TOM LAVIOLETTE  
PO BOX 150 NIAGARA FALLS  
ONTARIO L2E 6T2  
CANADA

DAVID LEIDER  
601 N ELMHURST RD  
PROSPECT HEIGHTS  
IL 60070

CHAR MUTSCHLER  
280 ALICE AVE S  
SALEM OR 97302

DENNIS C PEARSON  
8201 HARBORWOOD PL  
SUFFOLK VA 23463

RUTH PORTER  
14724 S AR HWY 170  
WEST FORK AR 72774

DICK PRYOR  
1061 FREEMONT ST  
COLUSA CA 95932

M/M W F REINKE  
3223 GUM FLAT RD  
R-1 BOX 136-H  
BELLS TN 38006

LAUREL RICHARDSON  
654 PHAETON PL  
INDIANAPOLIS  
IN 46227

GUY E ROBBINS  
120 VANCLEAVE RD  
MARTIN TN 38237

CINDY RUST  
PO BOX 98  
VILLA RIDGE  
MO 63089

LIBBY M SCOTT  
591 LUDIE BROWN RD  
CHINQUAPIN NC 28521

DAVID E SHANNON  
R-1 BOX 116  
AMBOY MN 56010

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825 MCPHERSON RD R#2  
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76141 ROAD 428  
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MS JAN V SORENSEN  
1009 ASH ST  
ST CHARLES IL 60174

MS LORETTA J STEINMET  
203 GWEN LA  
TRENTON NJ 45067

SANDRA STONE  
3097 DIEHL RD  
CINCINNATI OH 45211

SANDRA E SWANSON  
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MRS KAREN S THOMPSON  
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SALT LAKE CITY UT 84108

MR GEORGE TRUETT  
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GARBERVILLE CA 95542

JOHNSON'S NURSERY  
MR DAVID TUBINIS  
11753 E MAIN ST  
EAST AURORA NY 14052

MRS ALTHEA M VIGRASS  
RI WOOL MILL RD  
GLENVILLE PA 17329

ROSEMARY WALLBANK  
208 SUNSET DR  
SALT SPRING ISLE  
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Sharon Hayes Whitney  
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136 CLIFTON AVE  
DOWNSVIEW ONTARIO M3H 4L5  
CANADA

Andrew & Kay Younger  
510 GRAND PRE  
KALAMAZOO  
MI 49006-2904

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**M.A.S.S. (Mad About Species And Siberians) MEDLEY**  
**June 14, 15, 16, 1996**

Mark the dates of June 14-16, 1996 on your calendar, as those are the dates for M.A.S.S. MEDLEY in Westford, Massachusetts. Sponsored by the Iris Society of Massachusetts (ISM), the convention will feature five gardens with guest plants and a special one without guest plants. This will be the second Siberian convention and the first species one, so you'll have a chance to see not only the newest Siberians but perhaps the lesser known species that bloom at the same time.

Among the events planned is a species-Siberian show Friday afternoon and night in the beautiful sky-lighted

lobby of the convention hotel, the Westford Regency. We encourage all attendees to bring species and Siberians for the horticultural division and arrangements for the design division. You will be able to get credit for one hour of judges' training on species after the show has been judged. The judges will walk you through the show and explain how they arrived at their decisions. A copy of the show schedule will be sent with your registration packet. The day will end with a Welcome Banquet at the hotel and a slide program.

On Saturday morning, the first garden visited will be that of Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks, convention registrar and chairperson, respectively. This is our master planting with 160 Siberian guests and 82 species guests. Because of the substantial number of seedlings in this garden, one hour of garden judging Siberians will be offered to those who want it. The afternoon will be spent in the more rural central part of the state at the gardens of Steve Smith and Darrell Probst. A box lunch will be served at Steve's with the caterer having been given a rousing thumbs up after the Region 1 preview tour this past June. Dinner will be in a big tent adjacent to the hotel. You'll be treated to the hotel speciality, a shrimp boil. The buffet will feature shrimp, clams and mussels in the shell for the seafood addicts and barbecued chicken for non-seafood lovers - all very messy and fun!

Sunday morning's gardens will be those of Chandler and Elaine Lai Fulton and Barbara and David Schmieder, near the hotel. A bonus garden, that of ISM treasurer Kathy Marble will be visited at some point during the convention. Kathy has a wonderful eye for design both on the show bench and in the garden and many ideas can be gleaned from her artistic combination of plants. The convention will end back at the hotel with an Awards Luncheon.

We hope that you will stay for a few extra days to see other gardens and many unique New England sights, -the Old North Bridge, Fruitlands Museum, the Freedom Trail etc. Information on gardens to visit and sights to see will be available. There will be other things happening at the convention that we haven't finalized yet -you'll just have to

come and find out! See you in Westford in June, 1996!

**REGISTRATION DETAILS:** The registration fee for the convention is \$90 (after April 15, 1996 it will be \$110). This fee includes busses for two days of tours, dinner Friday and Saturday, continental breakfast Saturday and Sunday, lunch Saturday and the Awards Luncheon on Sunday. Make registration checks payable to ISM (Iris Society of Massachusetts) and send them to our Registrar:

Marty Schafer  
337 Acton St.,  
Carlisle  
MA 01741  
1-508-371-0173

The registration for this convention will be limited to 200 so register early! Please let Marty know how you will be traveling so that we can arrange transportation from the airport or send you maps to find the hotel by car...

The hotel headquarters is the Westford Regency  
219 Littleton Rd.  
Westford, MA 01186  
1-508-692-8200 or  
1-800-543-7801

When you call to make your reservation state that you are with the **Iris Convention** to receive our special rate. Rooms are \$72 for single or double, \$80 for triple and \$82 for quad; all subject to 9.7% tax. Reservations must be made by May 17, 1996 to receive this rate and be guaranteed a room. The hotel would appreciate reservations being made as early as possible.

## .....THE GARDENS

**By Ada Godfrey**

Conventions have more than guest irises to interest visitors. There are old well-established irises, always good to see, like old friends, there are companion plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials, and what really sparks extra interest are the seedling patches. Who can forget those great seas of seedlings in the gardens of Michigan! The owners of

all the gardens on the MASS MEDLEY tour are not only expert gardeners with flair, but also hybridizers (or at least budding hybridizers).

The Schafer/Sacks garden is great to visit at any time of the year. Jan and Marty grow nearly everything from seed, so there are great drifts instead of the more conservative plantings. I coveted the glorious Hellebores in March, grown from fresh seed, the only way to do it. Their magnificent rock garden covers the whole hill on which they are situated with paths leading in all directions, some up to quiet grassy areas with beds and borders filled with species irises and perennials. Others leading down through plantings of older classic Siberians with great clumps of peonies, penstemmons and other wonderful perennials. I'm sure that bus captains will have a tough job tearing people away from this garden. Watch out for Schafer/Sacks introductions such as **Roaring Jelly** -a great favorite of mine - it's probably yours too, especially if you've ever seen a great clump of it flowering at Japanese iris time as though it were first bloom.

A small town-garden, the Fulton's is not new to the convention circuit. It was a hit of the Median Muster in 1989 and you will be charmed by its clean, classical lines, with tall trees casting high shade, grassy paths, ferns and hostas, and Siberians of all shapes and sizes. This is a lovely, peaceful garden. Behind the house are mostly wildflowers, with a large pond in the background. Their seedlings include 28 and 40 chromosome Siberians and a few blue Japanese. Shirley Pope of Pope's Perennials will introduce their first Siberian cultivar in 1996.

Steve and Marcia Smith's garden is one of those secret gardens, well off the beaten track. Nobody would guess what is hidden back here: lovely spacious grounds with a fully fledged pond supplied by a stream, "encouraged" by Steve to run more briskly through the garden. It's fun too, strolling beside the stream, watching the frogs leap from the banks into the water, then drift by straddle-legged. An elegant planting of **I. pseudacorus** beside the pond is magnificent.



Darrell and Karen Probst are both expert gardeners, having trained at Longwood Gardens. Karen's vegetable and dried flower garden stands next to the most elegant chicken coop ever built. Darrell's primary focus is collecting and hybridizing all types of plants. Among his current interests are Pardancandas (not too far removed from irises), Epimediums, Tricyrtis and Astilbes. He is also a garden designer and you will see in this garden the early development of what will be a very special place.

And of course, no convention in New England would be complete without Barbara and David Schmieder's lovely garden. There are many rare plants in this garden, which was inspired by the Henry Clay Garden in Kentucky, through which Barbara used to walk in college days. New beds, prepared for the guest plants, blend into the older meandering paths. The hosta collection is impressive, and look out for the tree peony Gaugin. Species irises such as Versicolors, Missouriensis and many forms of Gracilipes flourish in the sunny favor of Barbara and David's care. A PCN, bred by Dick Kiyomoto of Connecticut, grows and blooms beautifully here in historic Concord, Massachusetts! The full significance -to those of you who grow them with ease -is that PCN's do not grow easily in New England, it's an almost impossible task.

Siberians and species to watch out for in these gardens: enormous clumps of *I. sanguinea Kamayama*, white Gracilipes nestled under trees, Sarah Tiffney's most recent registration **Little Blue Sparkler**, Hatsu-Ho - the pod and pollen-fertile cross between a JA x Pseudacorus, Bob Hollingworth's **Sultan's Ruby**, gorgeous as ever, **Between the Lines**, a dainty blue and white Versicolor of Schafer/Sacks, **Sprinkles**, Bauer/Coble's pale lavender-pink Siberian with undulating falls, Schafer/Sacks' S90-60-8 a pale lavender-blue Siberian with broad falls and with style arms and standards which are a froth of frills, **MarJan**, Harry Bishop's beautiful maroon Versicolor, Hollingworth's 91A2B13, the deepest yellow amoena whose blossoms stayed open for four days this year, John White's **Neat Trick**, Jennifer Hewitt's black-stemmed Virginia De Luxe, Gordonville Cream and Gordonville White, two

*I. pseudocorus* from Dave Niswonger, and to bring a smile to your eyes, that truly beautiful old Siberian **Summer Sky**.

..... **THE GUESTS**

**By Marty Schafer**

Last June I was in the enviable position of being able to fall out of bed and see just what is going on in the world of Siberians - the latest creations of established and novice hybridizers from Terry Aitken to John Wood. Just about every conceivable feature of Siberian irises was displayed by the convention guests. There were diploids and tetraploids, tall plants and short, large flowers and small, decorative styles, signals, and rims, patterns and blends, and all of the usual Siberian colors as well as a few more. Teasing of things to come there were also hybrids of Siberians with other iris species.

"Charming" is usually applied to species irises because the describer wants to say something nice about a plant he or she feels can't compare to the lush show put on by modern varieties. "Charming" does not apply to the species and near species guests in this Siberian convention. Try "fascinating" for Jennifer Hewitt's dainty and diminutive blue *I. sibirica* and "glorious" for Sarah Tiffney's **Snow Prince** (1990), with its tall slender stems and perfect small cream-white flowers. Or try "knock your socks off beautiful" for Art Cronin's **Lorena Cronin** (R. 1992) whose pattern of clean white and dark purple broke my heart every time I saw it. Modern hybrids have pretty small/large shoes to fill if they hope to carry on the tradition of these beautiful examples of species.

As was true of the guests in Michigan in 1993, color still seems to be the main focus of hybridizers. Reds were very well represented in our convention beds. Chan Fulton's seedling 7GT-5 was the light end of the red range with a large light yellow signal and blue flash on the falls. This will be introduced in 1996 as **Raspberry Rainbow**. Helsley's **Wings of Night** (1991) was the most extreme representative

of the dark side of red, it was almost black. In between the extremes were flowers that were pretty dark, often decorated by blue flashes. Bauer-Coble, whose work on pinks was well demonstrated in Michigan, sent a deep wine red seedling, S89N-2, with the most intense blue areas below almost non-existent signals. This year the flowers were large and wide and the stems short. I liked it. Steve Varner's "Illini Rose" (unregistered) was similar in color pattern, but a shade lighter. Its flowers, though, are among the widest I've ever seen with the falls overlapping at the shoulders. It was also the last Siberian to put up a repeat stalk in my garden this year. Jerry Wilhoit also sent a couple of red seedlings. W-2 had smallish, medium red flowers with no signal on the tallest stalks in the garden. It and another red, **Elinor Hewitt** (Hewitt R. 1992), were the most vigorous plants in the garden, each producing increase and stalks in abundance. They should produce fine shows next year.

Dr. McGarvey demonstrated many years ago that pink flowered Siberians are related to reds. But the pinks in this convention are much more refined than in his day with better, clearer colors and more diversity of color. Pinks are separating into three types: close to true pink, lavender pink and lavender pink with purple speckles. Anna Mae Miller's **Cheery Lyn** (1991) and Katherine Steele's **Legacy of Love** (1995) are good examples of pink becoming cleaner and more refined. It's a delight to see them in clumps in the garden. **Pleasures of May** (Schafer/Sacks 1995) looks quite pink in the garden, but on close examination it is a smooth lavender pink with white standards and styles. Jim Copeland's 88-12 is also lavender pink but the standards are flushed with color and the falls have wide pale, almost white, edges. Stahly 93-34, **At The Ballet** (Helsley r.1993), **Sprinkles** (Bauer-Coble 1994) and Schafer/Sacks S88-12-2 are a shade bluer but light enough to be called pink. The color is quiet and subtle. They are all thoroughly sprinkled with fine purple dots. (Some of the older pinks like **Pink Haze** (McGarvey 1980) have some of this speckling but it is incomplete and distractingly random.) These plants had very wide attractive flowers and bloomed for an exceptionally long time.

I was surprised by the lack of hybridizing interest in yellow. There were very few examples of yellow in the convention beds. Bob Hollingworth's 91A2B13 was the best with deep yellow falls that didn't fade in the worst summer heat. The styles and standards were light yellow as well, pointing to the day when Siberians will have full yellow selfs. The flowers were smaller than many yellows, the shape was lovely, compact and wide, and the substance was sturdy. It was stunning. Stahly's 93-15 was a very pale yellow with lots of lovely small ruffles on all flower parts. Schafer/Sacks S90-31-1 and S90-31-3 pointed out the delicious frustration of hybridizing yellow Siberians. S90-31-1 was a deep saturated yellow and S90-31-3 was much lighter. However, the latter was an exquisitely formed flower with good branching and plant habits and the former was just a good flower with troublesome plant habits.

There were also very few white Siberian among the convention guests. Have hybridizers lost interest in them? Tomas Tamberg's *Viel Schnee* (R.1990) was a big flower with upright standards and flaring falls and was a clean, clear white. The hafts glowed bright yellow but there was no signal. It was a tetraploid with thick substance and large sweeping ruffles. Stahly's 93-26 was creamy white, a large flower with good substance, flaring standards and arching ruffled falls. Anna Mae Miller's *Slightly Envious* (1995) opened pale yellow and turned quickly white. It repeat bloomed heavily in 1995 - a complete surprise to the hybridizer.

There were many blues, blue-violets and purples. Hollingworth 9OK1A17 was delightful. It's a blue-violet bitone/near amoena on the light side though not as pale as *Simple Gifts* (Hollingworth 1994). The falls were gently arching with very satisfying proportions of width and height. Ruffling was small and understated, the signals were white. The vigor was good and the bloom stalks were plentiful. It was a picture of cool, classic restraint. A similar color of blue was Briscoe's seedling 81-17-C, but where the Hollingworth flower had smooth even color, the Briscoe seedling was veined and dappled with dark and light areas, creating a bright and lively looking flower. The

shape of the flower reinforced the feeling. Flaring unruffled falls with slightly uneven curled up edges gave the flower an informal, energetic look.

There were two unusual types of dappling among the blues. The first was Currier McEwen's T887/175, a tetraploid blue-violet with very little signal and greenish hafts. The standards and falls were brushed with medium veining in a swirling pattern. Between the veins were areas of dark and light colors, leaving the impression of a sure, deft hand over canvas. Unique is hardly strong enough to describe the pattern in John White's **Neat Trick** (R. 1994) - violet with irregular splashes of pure white on standards and falls similar to Ensminger's famous border bearded **Batik**. I'll be interested to see this in a clump and I wonder if John has any seedlings that show this pattern's further development.

The bluest Siberian was Schafer/Sacks S90-13-1. It had white spotting on the falls which were softened by a thin white rim. The form was somewhat narrow, but the color approached medium true blue. Two of Helsley's blue violets were particularly noteworthy - **Festival Prelude** (1992) and **Carmen Jeanne** (R. 1993). **Festival Prelude** was in the medium color range but had a dappled central area in the fall surrounded by a dark solid rim. The stems were tall and strong and it bloomed just after the very earliest Siberians like **Lavender Light** (McEwen 1974) and **Pleasures of May**. This was one of my favorite guest irises. **Carmen Jeanne** was dark, the blue counterpart of **Wings of Night**. It was a wonderful, handsome color and the plant was sturdy and strong, too. Another strong dark flower was Hollingworth's 91YIA1, but this one had a yellow signal and bright yellow wire-like edge on the falls. It was slightly redder than **Carmen Jeanne** and very good looking. Also with wire edges - white this time - were **Wall St. Blues** (1995) from Terry Aitken and Silberkante (R.1993) from Tomas Tamberg. Both were huge flowered tetraploids.

In addition to the various kinds of rims already mentioned, there were other kinds of decoration. In style arms there were contrasting colors. Louise Bellagamba's

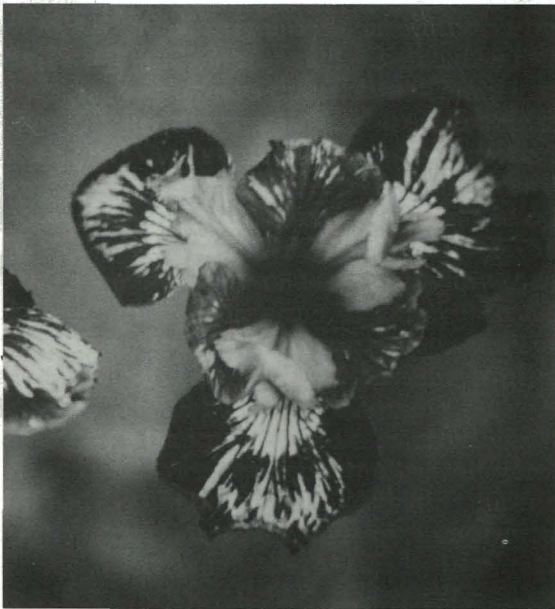
**Rill** (1992) and Jim Copeland's **Fisherman's Morning** had white or near white styles over colored falls. In the case of **Rill** the styles were white over blue-violet, a striking contrast. These styles were neat and trim with no frills. In the case of **Fisherman's Morning**, the styles were a blend of colors with the near white dominating to contrast subtly with the falls and standards which were an indescribable blend of red, blue and white. This was a special iris, with excellent shape and substance. Style arms are also showing up in new positions and new shapes as demonstrated by Schafer/Sacks seedlings numbered with the prefix S90-60 (of which there were several in the convention). These were the first generation of seedlings of "Upright Styles" reported in TSI Spring '93. Their style arms were much enlarged with extra folds, feathers and ruffles, often bearing two or more colors contrasting with the petals. The other feature was that instead of being held horizontally, the styles of these were held nearly vertical. The enlargement of the styles and their tendency to multiple colors give them an importance nearly equaling the standards and falls.

Signals are also taking on new importance as decorative features - no longer messy and distracting aspects of the flower to be ignored or minimized. Now everything goes - no signals, small signals, big signals and strange signals. Bob Hollingworth led the way when he brought out the sunburst signals. **Coronation Anthem** (1990) and **Over In Gloryland** (1993) are famous for their good qualities and attractive signals. **Lake Keuka** (Borglum 1994), also famous since its performance at Portland in 1994, had a bold blue blaze on the falls where the signal ought to be. Is this a new signal pattern? It's something to think about and explore. Hal Stahly's 0-34-A, also had a blue blaze however this seedling was totally different from **Lake Keuka**. It was hauntingly similar to *I. sibirica* in form and substance and might be dismissed for those reasons, but the color pattern was strong and interesting. We will get to see how it looks in an established clump next year.

In the Species Convention beds there were many irises to interest Siberian enthusiasts - 40 chromosome Siberians, Cal-sibs, Sibcolors, Sibtosas including tetraploids, and one

Chrytosa. In addition there were a lot of non-Siberian species, including a large selection of beautiful and varied *I. pseudacorus* and *pseudacorus* hybrids, *Spurias*, *Laevigatas*, *Versicolors*, and more interspecies hybrids than you have probably imagined possible.

I hope you can come and enjoy the wealth of irises we have gathered and grown for your pleasure.



**NEAT TRICK (White R. 1993)**

## IN MEMORIAM - SARAH MARGARET COUSINS TIFFNEY

August 14, 1910 - August 8th, 1995

Sarah Tiffney died peacefully in the early hours of Tuesday, August 8th, 1995 in Norwood Massachusetts. She will be remembered as a scientist, a breeder of irises, a friend, a mother to far more than her own two sons, and always as a voice of reason whether in the smaller matters of daily life or in philosophies of poetry, beauty and the scientific method.

She spent last winter at the home of her younger son, Bruce, in California. Shortly after her return home to Massachusetts, the nodes of an already established and metastasized cancer were discovered in her lungs. With her usual ruthless rationality, she opted for no extreme treatments and set about putting her affairs in order.

Sarah loved New England as few natives who are simply born there. She was born and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, attending Atlanta Girls' High School, where as a senior, she won one of four nationwide scholarships established by Radcliffe College in celebration of its 50th anniversary. Sarah graduated from Radcliffe *summa cum laude* and entered Harvard University, where she completed research for a Ph.D. on fungal pathogens of the human skin. She accepted her doctoral hood in the same graduating group as her husband Wesley Newell Tiffney. They were married after they obtained positions at the American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts. where they jointly comprised most of the science faculty, with Sarah covering the laboratories until the birth of their first son.

When they moved to Sharon, Massachusetts in 1946, Sarah returned to her childhood interest in the breeding of irises, especially Siberians, with an emphasis on clarity of hue and the simplicity of classic form. This work continued through the rest of her life. She was an authority on Versicolors and



wrote on the subject for The World of Iris. About three weeks prior to her death she was both startled and delighted to learn that her Siberian **Snow Prince** had earned an Award of Merit from the American Iris Society.

Her marriage was so rich that losing her husband in 1983 was the hardest blow she ever suffered. She and Wesley offered Wesley's students something more akin to a second home than a teacher-student relationship and many of them continued in close contact with Sarah up to her death. Eclectic in her tastes, she never feared to learn anything new, nor learned to "act her age". Her most recent camping trip, at age 82, was to the eastern Sierra and northeastern California. She enjoyed such diverse interests as experiments in natural dyes, deriving mathematical solutions, the structure of poetry, dress design, geological processes, flower arranging and all the multifarious challenges of making the things of our mechanical world do her bidding. She spent her life observing, reading, working, experimenting and being curious; all with spirit, all gallantly and all well.

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#### COMMENT FROM THE FAVORITE 15 BALLOTS \_\_\_\_\_

**Reprise** bloomed from 6/13/95 continuously to 7/28/95! This was through a heat wave and very dry weather. What a beautiful and dependable Siberian.

Anon.

In a year of quite high TB losses the Siberians not only survived but performed quite well. **Aqua Whispers** (Miller '88) put up 23 stalks. **Lady Vanessa** (Hollingworth '86) only put up seven stalks but was in bloom for three weeks. **Variation in Blue** (McEwen '83) bloomed much shorter than its listed 38" but had 22 stalks.

After a winter of extreme temperature fluctuations and little constant snow cover, the Siberians survived, grew and put on an impressive display. The only good thing about high TB losses is that there is now more room for Siberians.

Jerry Bowers, MT

## 1995 AIS AWARDS FOR SIBERIANS

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### MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

AQUA WHISPERS	A.M. MILLER	Votes 79
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#### Runners-up

HIGH STANDARDS	R.M. HOLLINGWORTH	61
CATHY CHILDERSON	D. JOHNSON	28

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### AWARD OF MERIT

CONTRAST IN STYLES	R.M. HOLLINGWORTH	69
SNOW PRINCE	S. TIFFNEY	54
VICKI ANN	B. WARBURTON	48

#### Runners-up

LINDA MARY	J.COOPER	47
WHITE TRIANGLES	B. WARBURTON	47
DEVIL'S DREAM	SCHAFFER/SACKS	46

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### HONORABLE MENTION

ROARING JELLY	SCHAFFER/SACKS	92
HARPSWELL VELVET	C. MCEWEN	50
CHEERY LYN	A.M. MILLER	38

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## THE BACKGROUND OF AQUA WHISPERS - MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1995

By Anna Mae Miller \_\_\_\_\_

### Aqua Whispers Came Into My Life!

**Aqua Whispers** came into my life in June 1983, the result of a lucky circumstance. I happened to be in the group admiring **Pink Haze** at the AIS Convention in Michigan in 1976 when Dr. McGarvey, who had an eyesight problem, did not recognize it and told Jill Copeland that she could do what she wanted with the plant. Being generous as Jill is, she gave the few of us there a piece of it. I had just begun hybridizing Siberians and so when it set a few bee pods, I planted them. Out of one of these pods from **Pink Haze** came 78 wine-red seedlings, some velvety with white and yellow colored signals and red spathes. 78.20.47 which had a bluish cast, was crossed with **Temper Tantrum** (a wine red sister seedling of **Pink Haze**) hoping to intensify the blue haze. I got 110 seeds and transplanted 71 plants and from these **Aqua Whispers** was selected. I have descriptions on 8 whites, 14 wine-reds, 3 pinks and 2 lavenders from this cross. What happened to the rest? Well there are still half a dozen gracing our garden with their beauty.

**Aqua Whispers** is not an easy color to describe. I looked through the convention write-ups and found "pinkish-lavender, pinky-lavender, soft orchid rose, a cool pink-lavender". Its name comes from the aqua lines in the styles; I have been curious to find out what parent has genes for this trait. Really none of the "pink" Siberians meet my definition of pink. The RHS color charts do not have pink; it is more on the lavender side.

**Aqua Whispers** started its winning ways in 1986 when it got an EC at the Grand Rapids (MI) Iris Society Show. It has been visiting AIS conventions and Regionals since 1988

and received some nice compliments and accolades. In 1990 it won an HM with 18 votes. It tied with **Liberty Hills** for 2nd runner-up for the Franklin Cook Cup at the AIS Convention in Washington D.C. in 1991 and won Best Clump on Region Six Garden Tour, tied with **Dorothea K. Williamson**, that same year. It was awarded an AM in 1992 with 77 votes and was 1st runner-up for the Morgan-Wood Medal in 1994. This year it was the winner with 78 votes. Thank you.

Some of **Aqua Whispers'** offspring are doing well: crossed with **Lavender Bounty** it has given **Lilting Laura** ('90) a lavender, and **Cheery Lyn** ('91, HM '95) which is two shades of pink. It has also been crossed with other pinks and definitely gives good progeny and crossed with **Esther C.D.M.**, some that are still being evaluated.

My Siberian seedlings and named introductions have been visiting AIS conventions since 1985. We've had some years when they were grown extremely well and some when they were grown poorly, but thankfully we do have the opportunity for them to be seen. As a result many irisarians have fallen in love with Siberians, using them to provide an extended bloom season and for different kinds of sites. Siberian irises are very versatile and can transform a quiet garden scene into one resembling a many-colored fluttering of butterflies.

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## MINUTES OF THE SSI BOARD MEETING

By Ada Godfrey \_\_\_\_\_



Board members present were: Bob Hollingworth, Shirley Pope, Jim Holmes, Dave Silverberg, Marky Smith, Hal Stahly and Ada Godfrey.

The president welcomed members to the board meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as printed in the Fall '94 issue of TSI.

Barbara Schmieder reported on the Siberian and Species Convention to be held in Massachusetts. Dates are Friday June 14, Saturday June 15 and

Sunday June 16, 1996. Convention headquarters will be the Westford Regency Hotel, with rooms at \$72 plus tax (see page 29 for further details). Bill Godfrey is planning to make a video of this year's preview tour for any local groups wanting a preview of the convention gardens. More information will be in the fall issues of AIS, SSI and Signa bulletins.

### Committee reports:

**Treasurer:** Jim Holmes gave the treasurer's report which was accepted as read.

**Membership:** There are presently over 700 members. Ten years ago there were 375. The president suggested a goal of 1000 members by the year 2000.

**Robins:** There are only two robins going, one directed by

Anna Mae Miller and the other by Dorothy Hamilton. Dale Hamblin, Robin Chairman, would like to get more going.

**Nominating Committee:** There are three positions to fill on the board. Names will be published in the fall issue of TSI for the approval of the membership.

**Editor:** The aim is to put more color in TSI and one way is to have color advertisements. They are rather expensive at \$100 for a page of color plus approx. \$100 for a color separation. It was moved and approved to waive the \$100 to place the advertisement.

**Liaison Committee:** Dave Silverberg recommended dissolving the Liaison Committee because it does not serve a purpose. He said convention guests should go directly to the gardens rather than going through the registrar. They would get to the gardens quicker and be less likely to dry out. Motion made to dissolve the committee was approved.

**General Business:** The president stated that the conflict between the Japanese and Siberian and Species conventions should not have happened and will not happen again. Terry Aitken is the new convention liaison chairman and he will make a serious effort to keep them to one a year. There is no Siberian convention scheduled after the 1996 one, but convention planners should consult him.

Clarification has been sought with regard to the disposition of profit made from SSI convention sales and auctions. Is money is expected to be returned to the society from profit made? The president said there is no obligation to do that but making a donation to SSI for a specific purpose is fine. The general feeling by the board was to continue to support SSI by donations from money made at conventions as has been done in the past.

**Morgan-Wood Medal:** There are four medals left and more need to be struck. Betty Wood will pick up some of the cost and SSI the rest. Estimates will be sought to have another 25 struck. One will be to replace the president's first medal which was misspelled.

Judges Handbook Revision: At shows, judges who are depended upon to be knowledgeable often know little about Siberians. Other sections are being very specific about judging criteria. Revisions are needed in a couple of directions, the point system, for instance. The president will ask Tom Abrego to form a committee.

An inventory will be taken of "Invitations to Join SSI" and more will be made up as necessary.

The board agreed that back issues of TSI should be copied and approved the cost of \$500.

The next SSI board meeting will be in Massachusetts in June 1996, and not at the AIS National Convention in California.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

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### COMMENT FROM THE FAVORITE 15 BALLOTS

**Contrast In Styles** and **Lady Vanessa** are the best growing and blooming Siberians here.

Paul Black, OK

Some favorites:

**Blue Reverie** - beautiful, best soft blue with large flowers.

**Tiffany Lass** - exceptional.

**Golden Edge** - favorite, dark velvety blue with golden edge.

**Fourfold White** - exceptional, largest flowers 5-6".

**Bernard McLaughlin** - nice, ruffled and best feathered standards and styles!!

**Mesa Pearl** - very nice new soft lavender, darker at center around signal and a nice sheen.

**Reprise** - first flower 6/7 last flower 6/25

**Ever Again** first flower 6/5 last flower 6/25

Daniel Thruman, Region 8

## TREASURER'S REPORT - By James Holmes

### BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31st 1994

#### Assets

##### Bank Accounts

Checking	\$3,395.08	
Savings	4,075.22	\$7,470.30

#### Investments

U.S. Treasury Note 6% due 6/30/96	\$5,000.00	
U.S. Treasury Note 6 1/4% due 8/31/96	5,000.00	\$10,000.00
		\$17,470.30

#### Liabilities, Reserves, Surpluses

Reserve for Iris Research and Special Projects*	\$ 4,200.00
Surplus available for general purposes	\$13,270.30

Total \$17,470.30

\* Represents donation from Iris Connoisseurs of Michigan from surplus of the 1993 Siberian Iris Convention for research on iris disease and for color plates.

### INCOME STATEMENT

Year Ended 12-31-94

#### Income

Ads	\$110.00	
Interest Income	250.97	
Membership Income	3,620.50	
Slide rentals, book sale	52.00	
Donation from '93 Convention	4,200.00	
Total Income		\$8,233.47

#### Expenses

Membership sec. expenses	\$199.72	
TSI printing -Spring '94	\$1,852.05	
Fall-'94	\$2,172.83	4,024.88
Bank charges	21.86	
Total Expenses		4,246.46



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Tom Abrego\_\_\_\_\_

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 1996 to December 31, 1998.

Directors:       Howard Brookins  
                  Kathleen Guest  
                  David Silverberg

The bylaws require that these nominations be sent to all voting members of SSI by November 15, 1995. Publication in TSI fulfills this requirement. If no additional nominations have been made within four weeks, that is by December 13, 1995 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 December 13th together with a letter of consent from each candidate. In this event, 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 no later than January 15, 1996 with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots must be returned to the Elections Committee not later than February 1, 1996.

## LAST WORD

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The eloquent tribute to Sarah Tiffney by her son Bruce hardly needs further comment. I promised Sarah that I would print her obituary as submitted, as she planned to verify all the facts, and so I hesitate to say anything further. Two points though, are worthy of note; Sarah was a founding member of SSI and she shared a wealth of information through the Robins, personal communication and articles printed in TSI over the years. During my tenure alone from 1987 to the present she has written at least four times, most recently in the Spring 1995 issue. Read it again, it was her farewell! I sent her articles submitted by other authors which she reviewed, giving me the benefit of her knowledge promptly and without fanfare. She will be sorely missed.

Now to my soap box! Does anyone like the new AIS awards system? I think it has one major flaw: I have always felt that an HM was awarded to a hybridizer as encouragement for a good iris and in fact, if an iris received 15 votes it was awarded an HM. Serious weeding out took place at the AM and medal level. But this does not happen with the new system.

The big change in the Awards system occurred in 1993. As the table below shows, this radically decreased the number of HMs awarded to Siberians. Now only 10% of those eligible can win each year. It certainly was reasonable to reduce the number of HMs, but the restriction to 10% means that quite a few valuable irises will not receive this initial award e.g. of the thirty irises eligible this year, at least ten have drawn special favorable mention in the articles of this issue of TSI. However, things are just the reverse at the AM level. Again, the new awards system provides for 10% of HMs to receive AMs, with a minimum number of two AMs awarded annually. Irises with the HM enter the AM pool after two years and are eligible for three

further years. So, as the large number of HMs prior to 1993 lose eligibility, the AM pool decreases rapidly from 22 in 1991 to perhaps as few as 4 in 1997. Since at least two AMs are given, this means the chances of getting an AM could be as high as 50% in 1997 and probably there will be 10 or fewer eligible Siberians in the AM pool in all future years. I would not like to lose our two AMs, but I think a better system would be for about 20% of eligible irises to receive the HM (or, preferably, give HMs to all eligible irises that get, say, 20 votes from judges) -- thus doing more justice to the many good introductions each year and increasing the pool to be judged for the AM.

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	<u>Year</u>	<u>HMs</u>	<u>In AM Pool</u>	<u>AM Pool Size</u> (approx.)
Old				
System	1991	12	1993/4/5	22
	1992	12	1994/5/6	29
New				
System	1993	2	1995/6/7	33
	1994	2	1996/7/8	34
	1995	3	1997/8/9	30
	1996	4	1998/9/0	11
	1997	?	1999/0/1	4-6

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**PHOTO CREDITS**

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- Bob Hollingworth: Front Cover; inside front cover-top; p. 16.
- Judy Hollingworth: P. 43.
- Marty Schafer: Inside front cover-bottom, inside back cover; back cover.
- Lynn Stoll: P. 22 (from a color print)
- John White: P. 37 (from a color slide)
- Michael Zarky: P. 8 (from color slides)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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All back issues of TSI are \$2.50 each if available. We no longer have copies of some of the early issues. Judging standards should be ordered from AIS. Checks made payable to The Society For Siberian Irises, should accompany orders. Send to the Publications Office c/o Howard L. Brookins, N75 W14257 North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

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## **SLIDES AND VIDEO**

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Two sets of slides suitable for a club program are available from Tom Abrego, 19105 N.E. Trunk Rd., Dundee, OR 97115. Tom also has a video tape of the Friday evening meeting at the 1993 Siberian Convention which includes the talks and slide presentations of Dr. Tomas Tamberg and Mr. Ho Shidara. This is also available for interested individuals and clubs.

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### **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 the Society for Siberian Irises, to the editorial office at 124 Sherwood Rd. East, Williamston, MI 48895 by February 15th.

Other rates:

FULL PAGE COLOR 4" x 7" .....	\$00.00
(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

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**THE SOCIETY FOR**

**SIBERIAN IRISES**

**OFFICERS**

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- President: Dr. Robert M. Hollingworth (1997)  
124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895
- 1st V.P.: Mr. Thomas Abrego (1997)  
19105 N. E. Trunk Rd., Dundee, OR 97115
- 2nd V.P.: Mrs. Shirley Pope (1997)  
39 Highland Ave., Gorham, ME 04038
- Secretary: Mrs. Ada Godfrey  
9 Bradford Ave., Foxborough, MA 02035
- Treasurer: Mr. James P. Holmes  
2 Deer Hill Rd., Chester, NJ 07930

**DIRECTORS**

---

- Dr. Harold L. Stahly (ex officio)  
8343 Manchester Dr. Grand Blanc, MI 48439
- Dr. Robert Bauer (1997)  
9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053
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North Point Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
- Mr. Martin Schafer (1997)  
337 Acton St., Carlisle, MA 01741
- Mr. David Silverberg (1995)  
P.O. Box 1046, Mount Angel, OR 97362
- Mrs. Marcia Smith (1995)  
1014 Crest Acres Place, Yakima, WA 98908
- Mrs. Judith M. Hollingworth (Editor)  
124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895

Numbers in parenthesis denote the date term expires

## COMMITTEES

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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.	Thomas Abrego (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
Registrations and Awards:	Mr. Howard Brookins (as above)
Research:	Robert M. Hollingworth (as above)
Robins:	Mr. Dale Hamblin, 152 Idlewild, Mundelein, IL 60060
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

The Siberian Iris is published twice yearly by the Society for Siberian Irises, a section of the American Iris Society. The editorial office is at 124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895. Deadlines for copy are February 15th and September 1st, but earlier receipt is appreciated. Reprinting is by permission of the author and editor with due acknowledgement.

**Snow Prince (Tiffney) Award of Merit '95**



**Back Cover: Pink Haze in the Schafer/Sacks 1996  
Convention Garden. Impressive!**

If you or your group would like a further look at the Siberian introductions, seedlings and the gardens which will be on tour at the **M.A.S.S. MEDLEY** in June 1996 (see p. 29 for registration information) it is now available. Send \$5.00 (check made out to I.S.M.) to Marty Schafer at 337 Acton St., Carlisle, MA 01741 for slides or a videotape - your choice and indicate the date you would like the program.



