

# The Siberian Iris



Spring 1997

Property of The Society for Siberian Irises





**Frosted Cranberry (A. M. Miller)**  
**Award of Merit 1996**



**Moon Silk (H. Stahly)**  
**Award of Merit 1996**



**Bauer/Coble Seedling S93E-7**  
**(Shirley Pope sdlg. x Sultan's Ruby sdlg.)**  
**X Ranman (above)**



**Bauer/Coble Seedling S93H-5**  
**(Mesa Pearl x Silver Illusion)**  
**X Ranman (right)**

— THE SIBERIAN IRIS —

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| President's Letter (Bob Hollingworth)   | 2  |
| Ensata x Siberians (John Coble)   | 5  |
| Landscaping With Siberians -<br>A Different Point of View (Matthew Schueler)            | 8  |
| 1996 Siberian Show Winners  | 15 |
| <b>"In Siberspace"</b>  |    |
| E-mail Robin (Ellen Gallagher)  | 16 |
| In Praise of...Annick (Fran Hawk)   | 17 |
| 1996 Registrations and Introductions  | 18 |
| Iris Notes From British Columbia (Doug Murray)  | 25 |
| Spring Versus Fall Planting (Sandra Rawlings)   | 27 |
| New Members (Howard Brookins)   | 29 |
| Distinguished Service Award to The Iris Society of<br>Massachusetts (Barbara Schmieder) | 32 |
| Last Word-Editorial   | 36 |
| Request for Guests for 2000 (Lois Girton)   | 37 |
| Advertising Rates, Slide rental, Publications, etc.                                     | 38 |
| New Check List, Photo Credits   | 39 |
| Commercial Directory  | 40 |
| Siberian Iris Book (ordering information)   | 41 |
| Advertisements  | 42 |
| Officers and Committees`  | 43 |

**Front Cover:**

*Iris wilsonii*, from Curtis's Botanical Magazine, October 1910  
(see text, page 2), Courtesy of the Hunt Institute for Botanical  
Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

**Back Cover:** The Marble Garden, Harvard, Massachusetts

## ***IRIS WILSONII***

### ***China***

*The iris here figured\* was discovered by Mr. E.H. Wilson in Western China on behalf of Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, and the material on which our figure is based was supplied from a plant which flowered with them in July, 1909. Another plant, presented by them to Kew, also flowered simultaneously in the Iris collection, where it has grown freely under conditions suitable for the well-known *I. sibirica*, Linn., which it resembles in habit. It appears to be quite hardy, and promises to prove a useful addition to the list of garden Irises. In 1907 Mr. Wilson rediscovered this plant in Western Hupeh, growing in grasslands near Fang Hsien, at about 7000 feet above sea-level.*

*Curtis's Botanical Magazine, October 1910*

\* See front cover.

## **THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

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True confessions time, first. Some members deserve an apology for delays in receiving responses on new membership, and past TSI's, book orders etc. Howard Brookins, who graciously provides all these services, had a series of computer/printer problems that resulted in some long delays. I believe he is now catching up on the backlog, but if anyone has not received items that he or she believes are due, please contact Howard (with a copy to me) and we will try to set things right at once. We are sorry for the uncertainty and inconvenience.

On the brighter side, since getting back on line, Howard has produced an updated version of the Siberian checklist which he just got back from the printer. It is available from him at the break-even price of \$6.50 (postage included). We will also have it on sale, along with a few more copies of Currier McEwen's new book "The Siberian Iris", at a temptingly reduced price, at the AIS convention in June.

There has been a change in dates for the Siberian Iris Convention in Iowa in 2000. It will now be held the first (rather than second) weekend in June. This decision by the folks in Iowa came about because of a change in plans for other activities in one of their major garden sites. Happily, it resolves a scheduling conflict with the HIPS convention also due to be held the second week of June in New York State. Now those so motivated can attend both.

A group led by Roy Epperson is once again examining the AIS Awards system. I hope we shall see a few changes. As forecast by Your Editor in the Fall 1995 issue of TSI, the current system has produced some anomalies e.g., there are 39 Siberians competing for 4 HMs this year (that will be a dogfight -- there are a lot more than 4 fine ones eligible -- and very few dogs). Meanwhile, a grand total of 4 irises will compete for the 2 Siberian AMs. We have the bottleneck in the wrong place -- it should be easier to get an HM and harder to get an AM. Also, I hope something can be done to better define the relationship between the Species category and the Siberians. At the moment it seems to be up to the hybridizer to decide when something stops being a Species and becomes a Siberian (is this freedom also accorded the folks who breed Japanese irises?). So, we have Species-like Siberians in the Siberian class and quite advanced Siberian hybrids in the Species class. Puzzling.

The Siberian Board meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3rd. Everyone is welcome to come. We try to make it more entertaining than watching "I Love Lucy" reruns in your hotel room.

Judy and I hope to see many of you at the AIS Convention. Our place is not on tour but we live only about 70 miles away. We are currently moving our iris operation to a new site a few miles away with 12 acres of land and an old farmhouse that we bought last year. The move will take a couple more years, but if the confusion of a split location isn't too great and the season is an early one, we would welcome any visitors who would like to join us after the convention. A lot of new seedlings should be in bloom then, but the greatest creation of all should be our first grandchild, due to arrive at the farmhouse the first week of June. Just in time to view the irises. Now that's planning ahead!

Bob Hollingworth

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**American Iris Society Convention -- June 3-7, 1997**

**Siberian Iris Society Board Meeting:  
Tuesday, June 3 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**Siberian Section Meeting :  
Wednesday, June 4 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.**



## ENSATA X SIBERIANS

By John Coble, Michigan \_\_\_\_\_

Got your attention didn't it?! The title refers to Ensata Gardens (Bob Bauer and John Coble) making Siberian crosses! What have we been doing since 1994 when we introduced **Lee's Blue**, **Sprinkles** and **Mesa Pearl**? Our next "big hope" was in a cross of **Mesa Pearl** x **Silver Illusion** (1990). All shades from light gray and pearl to lavender resulted with just a couple of whites. Many were ruffled like Silver Illusion and all had excellent blue-green foliage. Several were kept for evaluation and are still in trial beds to select the best. One that we called a "ruffled **Sprinkles**" was crossed with **Ranman** (Shidara) and gave some very nice multi-petal pink-lavenders. In 1995 the best multi-petal pink (12+ petals) was then crossed with **Cheery Lyn** (Miller), the best pink, and those seedlings will bloom this spring (1997).

The most interesting multi-petal seedlings have come from two of our seedlings that show a signal in the standards and thus have a tendency to double: one is a grandchild of **Temper Tantrum**, the other is out of **Shirley Pope**. These two were crossed with pollen from a Hollingworth seedling out of **Sultan's Ruby** that tended to double. The resulting seedlings were then crossed with Shidara's **Uzushio** and gave some hose-in-hose blooms with up to 27 petals in the first generation. Of course the stamens and styles have gone petaloid! An anther was found on one late bloom, so the next generation will bloom this spring.

The multi-petal seedlings have ranged from 6 to 27 petals, but it is going to take another couple of years of observation to verify consistency of doubling and petal count before any registration. Some of the better seedlings will take even a

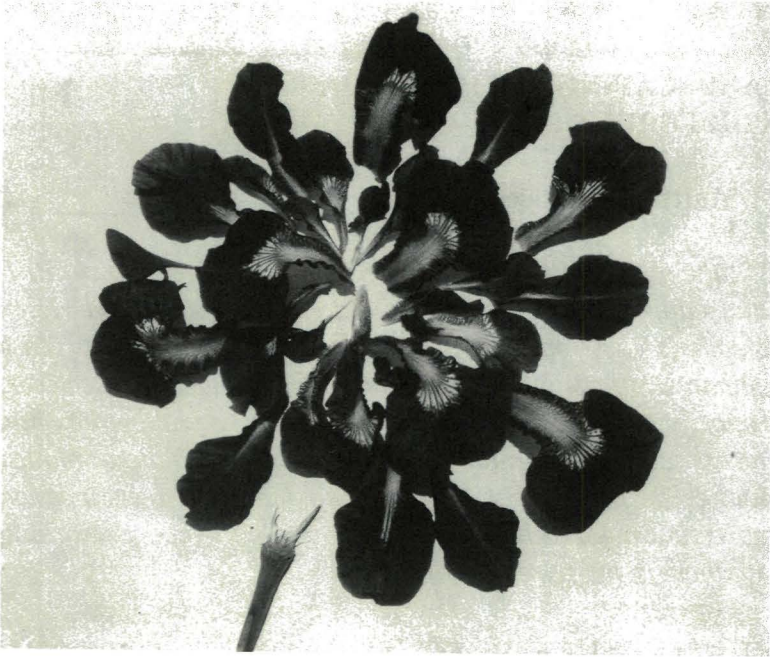


**Bauer/Coble Seedling S93G-2: (Shirley Pope sdlg. x  
Sultan's Ruby sdlg.) X Ranman**

couple more years to repair the mouse (vole) damage they suffered this last winter because we didn't get the foliage cut off in the fall.

Repeat blooms on some *I. typhifolia* seedlings were crossed on to repeat blooms of **Crème Chantilly**, **Springs Brook** and a **Mesa Pearl** seedling. The resulting seedlings all bloom 7-10 days before other Siberians, and all on tall (4 ft) branched stalks. The bloom forms have been in-between the species *typhifolia* and the modern form parent. Some of the seedlings have been producing a few repeat stalks 3-4 weeks after the initial bloom period. Selected seedlings are being observed for late summer foliage habits; *I. typhifolia* tends to grow tall and then sprawl!





### **Exploded view of Seedling S93G-2**

So you haven't seen our names on new introductions for the past few years, but we are working on more: line breeding for more refinements, evaluating "selects", and rebuilding stock of those the mice took away! And of course, the new crosses certainly should give us better seedlings this coming season which will make us throw away the previous "selects" and start propagating all over again!

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## LANDSCAPING WITH SIBERIANS, A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

By **Matthew Schueler**

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*[Matthew Schueler is a partner with his brother in PFF Landscaping, which shares its address with John and Helen Schueler's perennial nursery. The upstate New York company offers landscape design and install services, primarily to residential clients. The young company has had success emphasizing natural materials and native plants. Matthew is not himself an irisarian but first developed an appreciation for Siberians by observing them and working with them in his parents' garden.]*

Barberries, potentillas, yews and junipers are over-used in American landscapes not only because landscapers lack imagination, but because these shrubs are cheap, adaptable and durable. The only member of the iris family that can hope to be as widely useful to the landscaper is the Siberian. It is more tolerant of pH range than most beardless iris, thrives in soil that would rot any bearded iris, and once established, its wiry grass-like roots protect it from drought.

Unfortunately, like all irises east of the Mississippi, Siberians are sometimes attacked by borer. Although I have seen whole clumps destroyed by borer, and flowers are sometimes damaged by verbena bud moth and rose chafer, simple hygiene is enough to negate these problems in the home landscape. This is important because more and more Americans are wary of using chemicals in the gardens.

As an aside: Have other iris fanciers noticed that borers seem to prefer some cultivars over others? If members could compare anecdotal evidence of iris least attacked by borer

perhaps it could lay the groundwork for a more scientific study. Also, are there any organic methods available deserving of more attention? A neighbor of ours seems to have had great success using mothballs--not that they are organic, but safer, I assume, than **Cygon**. I divided her TB's last fall, and they were free from any sign of borer damage; this on a property surrounded by wetlands and across the road from several acres of cultivated iris! The problem of pesticide use should be a matter of concern to this organization since I believe it has, and will increasingly, deter people from growing iris.

There is another factor that keeps irises from being used by landscapers: lack of knowledge about cultivars. Most landscapers can rattle off a list of *Juniperus* cultivars useful in a variety of situations, but ask them about Siberian irises and you will be lucky if one of 10 knows any except **Caesar's Brother**. What is it that makes an iris useful in a landscape? By what criteria should they be judged? When rating a Siberian's usefulness for the landscape, the show bench is a poor arbiter. Fortunately, Carol Warner has developed a rating system that is a great help to landscapers and growers who supply them. I suspect that my occasional disagreement with her ratings on plants, has to do with regional growing conditions.

**First comes vigor.** A plant should grow well in a wide variety of situations, not just optimum ones. It is important to know of cultivars which excel in extremes of shade or alkalinity.

**Second is foliage.** A plant that blooms for two weeks needs to play a useful role for the rest of the growing season: No floppy foliage, an attention to useful variation in leaf color and

absolutely no allowance for spotting and premature yellowing. Is there a possibility for a strong-growing variegated Siberian?

**Lastly comes the flower.** Even here the show bench gives the landscaper short shrift. The recent trend toward breeding for big, flat flowers tends to produce plants that bloom on one plane, and occasionally in the foliage. Cold weather followed by a hot spell accentuates the problem of foliage-smothered flowers. This is a common weather pattern for us in the Northeast. Older cultivars tend to shrug this off, as do newer ones such as **Shaker's Prayer**.

The most common landscape use of Siberians is in mass plantings, and they are perfectly suited for the job. They hold their space well against invading weeds and have the power to draw your eye across a great distance. Landscapers will probably continue to use them in this way, so strong, clear colors will remain their favorites. I still love **Summer Sky**, though it's not a great iris by any of my criteria. It is very active when planted *en masse*. Neither blue nor white, its tint seems to shift with every breeze. This returns me to my earlier criticism of the modern flat flower. Lacking either drooping falls or differing height of flowers, many modern cultivars are oddly static *en masse*. Even though there are more square inches of flower per plant, they somehow lack "oomph".

Mass plantings can be made more energetic by mixing colors. Moving shades of blue and white across a planting gives the effect of sky or water moving. Reds and black purples are dramatic, while a good pink and soft blue or blue-stippled-white in combination can be very restful on the eyes. For this pairing, I recommend **Maggie Smith** and **Super Ego**. These are not perfectly in sync in terms of peak bloom time, but have enough in common for a long display.



Flowering time of a mass planting can be extended by using early and late season Sibbs, but an even better way to make a patch of ground work for you is to include daylilies. Sibbs and hems are perfect companions. The daylilies can be woven through the Sibbs or planted on the outside if you use a weak foliaged Siberian that tends to be knocked down by late summer rains. If you throw in a couple very early orange daylilies, such as 'Orangeman' or *H. middendorffii*, and use a strong purple iris -- **Caesar's Brother**, perhaps -- you are ready for fireworks. It may sound dangerous to the faint of heart, but it's a great combination. After you have agreed to mix some daylilies with your Siberians, fill every square inch with minor bulbs such as scillas, galanthus, and muscari, and you have transformed a patch of ground from two weeks of flowers to two months. Not bad.

In the Smith Garden at the M.A.S.S. Medley, I saw foxgloves had seeded themselves through the iris, and that really got me excited. You can be sure I'll try that combination in a mass planting in the future.

Siberians are great edging plants also. Along a path, their strict upright form can serve as formal a function as a boxwood hedge. Here is a place where the flat forms can be shown off and subtle patterns will be appreciated. Of course perfect foliage is also required. For an old-fashioned feeling, alternate or back Siberians with peonies in your hedge, but stake those peonies, or use single flowered ones that can hold their heads up!

Shorter Siberians can shine in spaces near paths. Use them like SDB's--as pools of vibrant color. I love **Walter** for its rich, saturated blue, but I suspect the borer does, too. You might do better with **Baby Sister**, **Precious Doll** or similar little ones seen at the M.A.S.S. Medley. **Flight of Butterflies**

is a favorite of ours for use in doorway plantings. It is at home with dwarf conifers and heathers and always in scale with the finest alpines. You can find a place for it in the rockery.

The thin, grassy leaves of **Flight of Butterflies** are found on a larger scale in other cultivars and, indeed, Siberians are well suited for use in substitution or combination with ornamental grasses. They are at home in the New American garden: Up and active when *miscanthus* species are still moping under the cold, cold ground; flowering before the larger grasses overwhelm them. I have seen 50 year old clumps of Siberians blooming and thriving at an abandoned flower farm near our home--untended since the onset of World War II. Surely this is a plant that should be the basis of our new low-maintenance gardens!

Last but not least, there is the Siberian as specimen. It is in this realm that we are overjoyed by the myriad subtleties of flower and form. We can overlook many weaknesses in a plant by placing it properly in the border, letting it serve as a perfect foil for other plants, and then letting it fall to the background. If you love the pale yellow of **Butter and Sugar**, use it; just put a strong late summer perennial in front, such as Joe Pye Weed or a grass, to hide its disappointing foliage. We go to great lengths to hide glorious-but-brief poppies; why not the Siberian shade that you can't do without?

Still, a Siberian with good foliage can play a role long after bloom. Pair the yellowing fall foliage of Siberians with the bright reds of hardy geraniums or plumbago (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*). As specimens in the garden, I tend to use plants that make the most of their space and are proven performers for me. The McGarvey cultivars were developed

in our area and, I believe, compare favorably with the newest plants. **Ego**, **Super Ego** and **Maggie Smith** are the plants I most often ask for by name in a garden plan. Bee Warburton's **White Triangles** is formal and clean and serves well as a sort of floral sherbet between contrasts in the garden (though its foliage is a bit weak later on); others will have their own favorites for this purpose. Rebloom, or recurrent or extended bloom is a plus in a specimen plant. **Reprise** has served well in that regard for us. And of course the work hybridizers are doing on branching and increased bud count will contribute.

After seeing **Percheron** looking perfect in every garden in Massachusetts, I'm in a hurry to have enough stock of it for wider use. The rich purple of **Regency Buck** and its incredible texture make me want to use more of it also. The sheer size of **High Standards** warrants its use. Our clump is only two years old; seeing it in the White garden in Maine makes me anxious to see how it performs over time in our own garden. We have **Shaker's Prayer** planted next to the late lilac 'James McFarlane' above a path here at the farm. The combination of colors and height is great; the blooms dance at eye level, seeming to float unattached from the ground.

Interestingly enough, it was a slight Siberian with an old-fashioned look that won the Foster Cup (Best Introduced Guest) at the M.A.S.S. Medley. **Lorena Cronin** has delicate blooms scattered across the height and width of the plant. This gives it the look of a perfectly arranged bouquet in the garden. Perhaps the number of species lovers in the crowd helped this small flowered cultivar win.

What will be the next **Caesar's Brother**? It should be a plant that scores at or near that perfect 5-5-5 on the Warner scale in many regions, and additionally offers some of the flowering

and color advances the hybridizers have been perfecting. I have often thought that the daylily community had a good idea with the Lenington All-American Award. This is given to a cultivar which has been introduced for at least ten years and which receives support from a majority of regions as a good grower. We have found that the Lenington winners do well in our tough Northeast climate - even those originating in the sunny South. To suggest a similar award for Siberians or other irises does not imply a criticism of the medal system; it merely acknowledges a difference in emphasis between the general horticultural world and that of the iris collector and specialist.

It's enjoyable to me to see hybridizers pushing Siberians in such diverse directions as **Lorena Cronin** and **Careless Sally**. The colors and forms I saw at the convention astonished me: true yellows, subtle pastels, blossoms with a Louisiana iris look, many variations in color, form, pattern and foliage--the future is exciting. It is to the credit of SSI that the traditional and modern flower forms continue to be equally acceptable in judging standards. Form *does* follow function; encouraging diversity can only extend the acceptance of the Siberian iris by the general public. I am also happy that some of our best hybridizers are reticent about making introductions. To those who push for accelerated introduction, I say, "Slow down!" Every flower grows on a plant. If we can't grow the plant well, then we can't enjoy its flowers!

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## SIBERIAN SHOW WINNERS FOR 1996

### Exhibition certificates:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Bauer/Coble      | S938-4<br>S93G-12<br>S9E-2  |
| O&L Dickhaut     | S93E-2<br>1374B   |
| Calvin Helsley   | BP-1  |
| Bob Hollingworth | 92J3B20<br>Blueberry Fair   |
| Wilford James    | 93-50   |
| Joan Roberts     | S103-3  |
| Schafer/Sacks    | S89-2-11<br>S91-15-1<br>S91-9-1<br>S92-123-10<br>S90-13-1<br>S92-54-2<br>S90-70-1<br>S92-117-15 |
| John White       | 93B-B4-7<br>93A-B3-1  |
| Steve Varner     | #95012  |

|                   | <b>Best Specimen</b>  | <b>Exhibitor</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Auburn ME         | Snow Prince           | Shirley Pope     |
| Lightfoot VA      | Mabel Coday           | John Weaver      |
| Virginia Beach VA | Snow Queen            | Ginger McHale    |
| Tukwila WA        | Dance Ballerina Dance | Fran Hawk        |
| Burlington ONT    | Indy                  | Dan McMillen     |

## **“IN SIBERSPACE”**

If you want to check out Siberians in color on the internet, try Anderson Gardens. Their web page lists around fifty Siberians with a description and a color photo of each cultivar. You will find them at [HTTP:// www.Andersongardens.com](http://www.Andersongardens.com).

## **THE SIBROB**

**By Ellen Gallagher, Director** \_\_\_\_\_

On March 18, the first electronic mail Robin devoted to Siberian irises hit cyber-space with an initial mailing to 6 hardy souls. The next day we were up to 8 and by week's end, we had 14 members. As of April 16, we are 20, and that seems to be where we will stay for a while.

The genesis of this SIBROB (we named ourselves) began when Libby Cross joined the iris-l on the internet, and since she is the present Director of the AIS paper Robins, she initiated some discussion about Robins in general. One thing led to another, and we found ourselves with the SIBROB.

The composition of this Robin is very diverse in several ways. We decided that we would be open to anyone who wanted to discuss Siberian irises from novices to more seasoned growers. We include AIS Judges, at least three commercial nursery people and some who joined because they want to know more about Siberians in general. We all happen to subscribe to the iris-l, but that is not a requirement.

Geographically, we are international with members from: Moscow, Russia; West Sussex, England; British Columbia, Canada and two from Ontario, Canada. Americans hail from

California to New Hampshire to South Carolina to Minnesota and all points in between.

The topics are free-wheeling and informal and since this is ordering season, there has been a spate of posts about favorite Siberians and "What should I order?" There have been discussions about white Siberians, companion plants, tetraploidy, cultivation in general, etc. We are pretty low-brow in our discussions and we welcome anybody who would like to join us - all you need is an interest in Siberian irises and an E-mail program on a computer.....log in!

Ellen Gallagher      e\_galla@moose.ncia.net

*The above article is the first one that I have received via E-mail. If you have comments, questions, or hopefully, text to submit, I can be found at 72302.1143@compuserve.com*

*ED.*

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## **IN PRAISE OF.....ANNICK** **(A small iris for small places)**

**By Fran Hawk, Washington**\_\_\_\_\_

Gardening on a city sized lot doesn't leave a lot of room to play in. As a result, I've been accused of planting my garden with a shoehorn to get everything in.

**Annick** (McEwen '86) is a dainty but robust grower in dark violet blue with a white signal. At only twelve inches this iris is ideal for planting in my garden. At bloom time it's always covered with a blanket of flowers, even on one year clumps.

I use it and other dwarf Siberians ( i.e. **Baby Sister** and **Precious Doll**) as a front border to my main bed of Siberians.

## 1996 REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

**ANA MERCEDIS** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. UG-4. SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. S. light blue; F. light blue, dark blue veining through slight ivory signal, shoulders light yellow. Parentage unknown.

**BAND OF ANGELS** (Robert Hollingworth, R. 1996). Sdlg. 91Y1A1. SIB (tet.), 31" (79 cm), ML. S. and style arms medium blue violet, reddish tinge; style arms broad, short; F. medium blue-violet, large cream to gold blaze, clear cream marginal band. 84X7B2: (81A3C5: (induced tet 79F1(T): (Dreaming Spires x unknown) x induced tet 78G2(T): (Cambridge x unknown)) x induced tet: (Forrest McCord x 78H3, sib)) X 87Q6B9, Strawberry Fair sib. Windwood Gardens 1996.

**BEAUTIFUL FORTY** (Tomas Tamberg, SIB, R. 1993). Tamberg 1993.

**BERLIN DARK MANTLE** (Tomas Tamberg, R. 1996). SIB (sino-sib), 24" (60 cm), M. Dark violet; large flowers with wide falls, short hafts. Berliner Riesen X dark violet sdlg. from L. Reid seed. Laurie's Garden 1988.

**BERLIN LITTLE BLUE** (Tomas Tamberg, SIB, R. 1993). Tamberg 1993.

**BERLIN PURPLE WINE** (Tomas Tamberg, SIB, R. 1993). Tamberg 1993.

**BERLIN RUFFLES** (Tomas Tamberg, SIB, R. 1993). Tamberg 1993.



**BLACK GARNET** (Lorena Reid, R. 1996). Sdlg. 8S72-2G. SIB (sino-sib), 54-60" (137-152 cm), M. S. dark maroon; style arms near black, deep red center ridge; F. dark maroon, large black signal, single white center line. Enbee Deeaych X Berlin Dark Mantle. Laurie's Garden 1996.

**BLUEBERRY FAIR** (Robert Hollingworth, R. 1996). Sdlg. 92K2B1. SIB (tet.), 32" (81 cm), M. S. light blue violet; style arms broad, short, multi-shaded blue violet to light blue; F. medium blue violet, veined white signal area; ruffled, flared. Coronation Anthem X 82J2C7(T), Jewelled Crown sib.

**BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. FR-C-1. SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. Light blue, F. with ivory tan signal. Flight of Butterflies X unknown.

**CARELESS SALLY** (Marty Schafer/ Janet Sacks, R. 1996). Sdlg. 90-60-6. SIB, 26" (66 cm), M & RE. S. ground pearly white, pale reddish violet shading, blue violet veining; style arms pearly white, red violet wire edge, aqua blue (RHS 107B/C) veining, styles wide, ruffled, curled and held semi-upright; F. washed reddish violet (83C), heavy veining and dappling at shoulders, large signal deep yellow to cream, speckled dark red purple; ruffled. S87-10-1: (Mad Magenta x Percheron) X Sailor's Fancy. Joe Pye Weed 1996.

**CLEETON BUFF** (Jennifer Hewitt, SIB, R. 1983). David Austin Roses 1995.

**DANGER ZONE** (Calvin Helsley, SIB, R. 1990). Helsley 1995.

**DEANNA FAYE** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. UG-2. SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. S. light violet blue, short; F. light violet blue, cream haft markings. Parentage unknown.

**DESLOGE** (Clyde and Anna Hahn, R. 1996). Sdlg. 92-2-C. SIB, 29" (74 cm), EM. S. and F. white; style arms yellow. Parentage unknown. Hahn's Rainbow Iris 1996.

**DESLOGE BEAUTY** (Clyde and Anne Hahn, R. 1996). Sdlg. 92-3-C. SIB, 29" (74 cm), EM. S. and F. purple; style arms white, veined purple. Parentage unknown. Hahn's Rainbow Iris 1996.

**ELISABETH McEWEN** (John White, SIB, R. 1994). Pope's Perennials 1996.

**EMMA DORIS** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. UG-1, SIB, 30" (76 cm). M. S. light lavender; F. deep blue, ivory and tan signal. Parentage unknown.

**FLUTTER BY BUTTERFLY** (Robert Hollingworth, R. 1996). Sdlg. 90K1A19. SIB, 32" (81 cm), EM. S. light blue; style arms very light blue, feathered; F. clear medium light blue, small white signal; ruffled. 86K6A1: (83M2A34: (Steve Varner x (Super Ego x Anniversary)) x Kennabee) X 85C3A2: (83M3B8: (Pink Haze x Fairy Dawn) x 80X1C2: (Super Ego x Anniversary)). Windwood Gardens 1996.

**FREDDIE** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. UG-6. SIB, 28" (71 cm), L. Deep purple self; F. with cream signal, slight haft venation. Parentage unknown.

**HAL** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. UG-5. SIB, 29" (74 cm), M. Pansy violet self, minimal F. signal with few tan haft markings. Parentage unknown.

**HARPSWELL SNOW** (Currier McEwen, SIB, R. 1995). Eartheart Gardens 1996.

**HARPSWELL'S PRINCESS KAREN** (Currier McEwen R. 1996). Sdlg. T(7)85/97(4). SIB (tet.), 36" (90 cm), ML. S. gentian blue (RHS 94D) ground veined deeper (94A) giving overall effect of bluebird blue (94B); style arms blue bird blue aging lighter (94C): F. very dark blue (darker than 94A, paling with age to 94A), green (148D) signal. Regency Buck X T(8)82/114: (Adj x Dear Dianne).

**ILLINI ROSE** (D. Steve Varner, R. 1996). Sdlg. 7120. SIB, 28" (71 cm), ML. S. short, deep grape rose; style arms with aqua midrib; F. deep grape rose, no visible signal. King of Kings X Limeheart.

**KEVIN JOSEPH** (Clyde & Anna Hahn, R. 1996). Sdlg. 94-6-C. SIB, 29" (74 cm), EM. S. white, tinted purple; style arms white; F. purple, tinted maroon red wine. Parentage unknown. Hahn's Rainbow Iris 1996.

**LADY WALPOLE** (Marty Schafer/ Janet Sacks, R. 1996). Sdlg. S90-62-4. SIB, 32" (81 cm), EM. S. light blue violet (RHS 91B/C), edged lighter, dark center wash; style arms light blue violet, blue midrib; F. light blue violet, darker (90A/B) veining and wash intensifying at shoulders and around small dark-veined white signal; lightly ruffled. S88-7-1: (Lady Vanessa x Springs Brook) X S86-12-2: (Springs Brook x Warburton ARV82-4: ((Atoll x Ruffled Velvet) x Ruffled Velvet)). Joe Pye Weed 1996.

**LANGTHORNS PINK**(P. & D. Cannon, by Jennifer Hewitt, R. 1996). SIB, 31" (78 cm), EM. Small-flowered light lavender pink (RHS 87D), F. with cream edge and creamy yellow signal. Parentage unknown. Langthorns Plantery prior to 1987.

**LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER** (Sarah Tiffney, SIB, R. 1995). Pope's Perennials 1996.

**LORENA CRONIN** (Art Cronin, SIB, R. 1991). Ensata Gardens 1996.

**LOU ANNE** (Ruth Wilder, SIB, R. 1995). Quail Hill Gardens 1996.

**MARY LOUISE MICHIE** (Anna Mae Miller), SIB, R. 1995). Ensata Gardens 1996.

**MAURICE POPE** (John White, SIB, R, 1993). Pope's Perennials 1996.

**MAYNARD E. HARP** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. AHB-2. SIB, 33" (84 cm), M. Violet red self, F. with white signal and deep yellow hafts. Parentage unknown.

**MAYWOOD HERITAGE** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. FY-R-1. SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. Deep purple, slight ivory signal pattern; S. very erect. Parentage unknown.

**MICHELLE RENEE STEVENS** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. UG-3. SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. Soft pinkish blue, F. with small ivory signal, few lemon haft marks. Parentage unknown.

**MISTY MEMORIES** (Calvin Helsley, SIB, R. 1990). Helsley 1996.

**OTEPOPO HONEY** (Gwenda Harris, R. 1996). SIB, 43" (110 cm), M & RE. S. white; style arms pale yellow; F. pale yellow deepening to yellow hafts faintly marked brown. Parentage unknown; seed from New Zealand Iris Society. Otepopo Garden Nursery 1996/97.

**PERFECT VISION** (Cy Bartlett, R. 1996). Sdlg. HHBR 2. SIB (tet.), 34" (86 cm), M. S. medium blue; style arms

turquoise blue; F. dark medium blue; lightly waved. Harpswell Happiness X Berlin Ruffles.

**PIQUANT FANCY** (Lorena Reid, R. 1996). Sdlg. 8S54-1B3. SIB (sino-sib), 60-66" (152-168 cm), M. S. white, dark purple center with lines fanning ut to near edge; style arms dark purple, light tips and slightly pinkish light center ridge; F. pale yellow to white, large gold signal bisected by multiple dark purple dashed lines which pale outside signal; dark purple triangle at lower end of F. Enbee Deeaych X yellow I. delavayi hybrid #1. Laurie's Garden 1996.

**PRUSSIAN BLUE** (Tomas Tamberg, SIB, R. 1993). Tamberg 1993.

**RASPBERRY RAINBOW** (Chandler Fulton, SIB, R. 1995). Pope's Perennials 1996.

**RETTA ELIZABETH** (J. Owings Rebert, R. 1996). Sdlg. AHB-1. SIB, 30" (76 cm), M. S. light red: F. fuchsia pink, gold hafts, signal white. Parentage unknown.

**ROISIN** (Jennifer Hewitt, R. 1996) Sdlg. P8414/16. SIB, 36" (91 cm), M. S. pale lavender pink (RHS 76C) flushed deeper (77C), upright, edges crimped; style arms off-white speckled lavender; F. lavender pink (84A), signal of few small white lines, semi-flared. Pink Haze X Lavender Bounty.

**ROSSELLINE** (Jennifer Hewitt, R. 1996). Sdlg. P 8619/9. SIB, 26" (62 cm), ML. S. medium violet pink (RHS 82B/84A), flared; style arms light blue violet pink; F. rich red violet (82A/78A), white signal veined violet, arched; slight sweet fragrance. P 796: (Dreaming Yellow x MA 2/2: (Sparkling Rose x Polly Dodge)) X Pink Haze.

**RUFFLES** (Clarence Mahan, SIB, R. 1995). The Iris Pond 1996.

**SHADOWED EYES** (Calvin Helsley, SIB, R. 1992). Helsley 1995.

**SMUDGER'S GIFT** (T. Burge by Ian Smith, R. 1996). Sdlg. T101/86. SIB, (tet.), 26" (66 cm), ML. S. light blue, faint mauve influence; F. light blue, faint violet influence, white signal veined light blue; lightly ruffled. T31/84: (Dear Dianne x Happy Event) X T34/84: (Dear Dianne x Happy Event).

**SPINNING SONG** (Robert Hollingworth, R. 1996). Sdlg. 88V3B3. SIB, 34" (86 cm), EM. S. red violet; style arms lighter red violet, feathered; F. deep red violet, small white blaze bordered blue; lightly ruffled. 85D4A2: (81D2A37: ((White Swirl x Polly Dodge) x (Polly Dodge x Anniversary)) x Sultan's Ruby) X 85G2A3: (81F3A10: ((Starsteps x New Wine) x (Polly Dodge x Anniversary)) x Lady Vanessa).

**VIDTINKY NOCHI** (Oleg Amekhin, R. 1996). SPEC-X (sibtosa), 39" (100 cm), VE. Blue violet. *I. sibirica* X *I. setosa*.

**WHERE EAGLES DARE** (Calvin Helsley, SIB, R. 1993). Helsley 1995.

### **CORRECTIONS FROM THE 1995 AIS R AND I'S:**

**PLISSEE** (Tomas Tamberg, SIB, R. 1995). Correction of spelling from **PLISSE**.

*Siberian registrations were extracted from the American Iris Society's 1996 Registrations and Introductions, compiled by Keith Keppel, Registrar-Recorder.*



## IRIS NOTES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

By **Doug Murray**\_\_\_\_\_

Our perennial rain forest garden is located in USDA Zone 7 and has yearly rainfall between 60 and 100 inches. It has a short frost season and so produces irises and irids from late February to mid-October. Reticulatas and David Sindt's tiny three-inch pumila hybrids start the show, vesper iris (*P. dichotoma*) and Sisyrinchiums usually end it. Our family of 40 Siberians fills the time gap between 20 distinct clumps of *I. setosa* and various forms of the 40 chromosome Sino-Siberians. The *I. setosa*'s, from 8-38" tall and from white to dark purple bloom with species such as *I. gracilipes*, *I. ruthenica*, *I. cretensis*, *I. oxypetala* and an increasing group of *I. lactea*. Next in sequence are our Siberian hybrids and *I. sanguinea* Kamayama which bloom with the tall bearded irises. Siberians thrive in our climate but need to be fertilized quite heavily due to the leaching effect from our heavy rainfall. Some of our favorites include **Adj, Butter and Sugar, Regency Buck, Forrest McCord, Jewelled Crown, Ruffled Velvet and Percheron. Illini Charm, Illini Flirt and Vi Luihn** are probably the most consistent bloomers.

Most beardless irises thrive in our damp climate, and the Sino-Siberians are no exception. *I. forrestii*, cultivars **Rainbow Island** and **Puget Polka**, calisibe **Golden Waves** and many seedlings from Jean Witt's "mixed 40's" follow the Siberians. Perhaps the best of my seedlings is a reverse Chrysographes which is a clear brilliant gold with almost black hafts. The five major 40 chromosome species cross so easily that it's nearly impossible to grow a true species and the best hope is probably obtaining seed from China. Seedlings which will bloom this spring include five clumps of Sibtosia from

Tamberg seed and dwarf Siberians from McEwen seed. *I. typhifolia* has bloomed very late for me so far, with the last of the Japanese irises.

With luck, other Siberian related groups will join the crowd next year. Calsibes are normally sterile, but I obtained two small batches of tetraploid calsiibe seed. They could be the start of a unique group with features quite uncommon to our present varieties, including hardiness. Also from Dr. Waddick's rare iris study center and the British Iris Society seed exchange, seed had arrived from Southern Russia from a white species Siberian and other Russian species. These could provide another Siberian form and possibly another bloom period.

All beardless irises, including Louisiana's and Japanese are trouble free here, with no major pests or diseases. To achieve continuous bloom over such a long period our flower beds are layered 3-4 plants deep and planted tightly. Bearded irises are about one third of our total of 400 clumps but need regular spraying for leaf spot, planted as they are in such wet and tight conditions. They are an increasingly used specimen rather than mass planting, as are arils and most Spurias. One example of our mass planting is *I. reticulata* and *I. danfordiae* planted tightly between clumps of Japanese irises, as they finish blooming before the JI's start to grow. Siberian clumps are often massed with peonies, lilies and oriental poppies, Setosas with daylilies and perennial geraniums. Many of the species share space with evergreen alliums and heath-heather clumps and bloom almost year round, even under the snow.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in this form of gardening. I'm always willing to trade or buy any

unusual irises still missing here. *I. lacustris* and *I. verna* come to mind - they're among my failures.

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## **SPRING VERSUS FALL PLANTING**

**By Sandra Rawlings, Ohio** \_\_\_\_\_

I have only been growing Siberians since 1993, so I'm certainly no expert. In fact I joined a Siberian robin in 1996 so that I could pick the brains of more experienced growers. The subject that I would like to bring up is spring versus fall planting of Siberians.

I bought my first Siberians from Ensata Gardens, who shipped both Siberians and Japanese in June 1993. I followed their instructions to mulch and keep the plants watered during the summer and all the plants did well. My three year clumps look great.

As my interest in Siberians increased, I started ordering from other growers in order to get the varieties I wanted. In 1994, the ones I got from Ensata were again planted in June and did very well, but those acquired from another source in late August struggled through their first year and were not strong enough to get through the winter of 1995-96. The same story is true for those planted in the fall of 1995.

For whatever reason, we've had numerous periods of abnormal weather in recent years (I'm not sure what normal is anymore). The problems appear to extend almost everywhere - it's too dry in the southwest, too wet in the Midwest, too

cold yesterday and too hot today! If certain gardening practices are marginal for some areas, it seems reasonable that a round or two of unexpected, extreme weather may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Many growers do not offer spring shipping and I have discussed the matter with a couple of them. One felt that it would be an almost impossible task due to their heavy wet clay soil, another cited the limited resources of a small operation in providing two shipping seasons, as well as having limited stock so early in the season, all of which I can appreciate.

Last year, I planted as early in August as growers would ship, but I'm not sure this was a good idea. I mulched and kept them watered, but it was very hot and most seemed to go dormant very quickly (at least I hope that's all they did). I'll find out in a few weeks if I've done more harm than good. I suspect that unless one can plant by mid-June, it would be better to wait until late August or early September in this part of Ohio.

I am planning orders for 1997 to be shipped in late April, May-June and late August. I'll keep actual records (not just recall), and forward the results. If a few other members would do the same, the results could be compared and perhaps a better determination made regarding the best time to plant Siberians in northern areas.

I do think controlled tests would be useful to determine if spring versus fall planting really does make that much of a difference. As previously stated, I am a novice, so my observations are not based on any long-term experience. I'm just hoping to glean information from those who do have the

knowledge, and I would be happy to participate in any tests deemed worthy.

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

**Compiled by Howard Brookins**\_\_\_\_\_

We are delighted to welcome to the following new members:

Andersons, Maris 4115 Cresta Ave, Santa Barbara,  
CA 93110

Anthony, Alan C. 120 Miller Ave, Meriden, CT 06450

Boardman, Daniel J. 2812 Hiltonwood Rd, Baldwinsville,  
NY 13027

Boysen, Rae Iowa Arboretum, 1875 Peach Ave, Madrid,  
IA 50156

Carson, Louise 5037 NW 24<sup>th</sup> Pl, Oklahoma City, OK 73127

Chambellan, Nancy P.O. Box 309, Hope, NJ 07844

Cothron, Annette 1060 Taylor Branch Ln, Dixon Springs,  
TN 37057

Delk, Loretta M. 13221 Mountain Pl, Anchorage, AK 99516

Doffek, Linda 5547 Jacqueline Dr, West Bend, WI 53095

Eigenman, Darrell/Diane 4711 Victoria Ave, Freemont,  
CA 94538

Eisel, Mervin C. 5625 County Rd. 2 SW, Fort Ripley,  
MN 56449

Elliott, Susan A. 3500 Overlook Ln NW, Washington,  
DC 20016

Gajeski, Teri Connelly Landscaping, 34925 Chester Rd Avon  
OH 44011

Glanzberg, Alvin 162B Heritage Hills, Somers, NY 10589

Greer, Dennis W. 5800 Stacey St, Bakersfield, CA 93313  
Harris, Chad 12 Marble Rd, Wahougal, WA 98671  
Hucke, William J. 6761 Briarcliff Rd, Fort Meyers, FL 33912  
Hudson, Jay/Terri The Iris Gallery, 33450 Little Valley Rd,  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
Hughes, Nyla 139 Parsons, Webster Groves, MO 63119  
Jansen, Gerald 319 N Mill Rd, Pierce, NE 68767  
Jellum, Karen PO Box 1000, Chinook, MT 59523  
Jessop, Edward/Marianne 34619 S Bernard Dr, Tracy,  
CA 95376  
Keisling, Ray 12119 A Highway, Liberty, MO 64068  
Lehman, William L./Linda Greystone, 6450 Delp Rd,  
Muscoda, WI 53573  
Lewis, Dianne A. 9321 Congdon Blvd, Duluth, MN 55804  
Love, Lynda 4900 E Dartmouth Ave, Denver, CO 80222  
Mackie, Stacie 6 Warren Ct, Selburne, MA 01370  
Matoon, Mary Liz 1601 Orchard Ave, Moscow, ID 83843  
Merrill, J. Wayne 1708 McAlester St, Columbia, MO 65201  
Millhorn, Jane Unger 4308 Rhoric Rd, Athens, OH 45701  
Mitchell, George 1071 Alessandrini Ave, New Milford,  
NJ 07646  
Mosser, Donald R. 592 Kershaw Dr, North Augusta,  
SC 29841  
Neff, Carolyn 4607 Yale Ave NW, Canton, OH 44709  
Newbury, Penny A. 85 Bricktop Rd, Windham Center,  
CT 06280  
Painter, Keith H. 3209 W. Fairview Pl, Denver, CO 80211  
Parenton, Edward J. 1069 Tyler St, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Pockling, Irwin L./ Nancy D. 609 Harrington St, Carlinville,  
IL 62626  
Rigby, Colin/Teresa 18341 Paulson SW, Rochester,  
WA 98579  
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Robin, Sherri 2011 Crystal Shore Dr, Austin, TX 78728  
Sanborn, Earl L. PO Box 1628, Drowille, WA 98844



Stallings, Tricia PO Box 2405, Brewster, MA 02631  
Stout, Florence E, 150 N Main St, Lombard, IL 6011488  
Stremel, John 368 Dawson Dr, Santa Clara, CA 95051  
Toft, Mary 312 Portwind, Ballwin, MO 63021  
Walz, Clancy 13381 SW Haverhill Rd, Augusta, KS 67010  
Webb, Daniel G. 1654 Oxtail Way, Rockford, IL 61107  
Gilissen, M/M W. Hublau, St Op Borgloon 37 A 3830,  
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Corush, Jody 34 Eisenhower, Cres Nepean, Ontario K2J 3Z8  
Canada  
Hollinshead, Christopher Erin Mills Iris Garden,  
3070 Windwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario L5N 2K3 Canada  
Salter, Frederick 5245 176th St, Surrey, British Columbia  
V3S 4E9 Canada  
Pauls, Henry 49575 Elk View Rd, Chilliwac, British Columbia  
V4Z 1E8 Canada  
Horinaka, Akira Dide-Cho 9-31, Nishinomiya 662, Japan  
Brian R. Harris, 4 Durham St, Waimate, South Canterbury  
New Zealand

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## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO THE IRIS SOCIETY OF MASSACHUCETTS**

**By Barbara Schmieder** \_\_\_\_\_

The awarding of the distinguished service award to The Iris Society of Massachusetts (ISM) has its genesis in the Northeast Apogen Auction. This event has a long history, going back to either 1971 or 1972 and continuing every year up to the present. It was conceived by then youth member Kevin Vaughn of Athol, Massachusetts, with the enthusiastic support of Bee Warburton, who offered to host the auction at her house. The format has remained basically the same over the years - a program in the morning (often slides of new introductions which would be auctioned in the afternoon), lunch, sales table (older irises offered at bargain prices), then the auction. During the early years, it was just called "The Auction", as Massachusetts was the only area to hold one specifically to benefit The Siberian Iris Society. ISM wasn't founded until 1981, but the people who were chiefly responsible for making the auction possible ( Kevin Vaughn, Bee Warburton, Bobbie Whitehouse, Sarah Tiffney, etc.) all became members of ISM. From then on ISM ran the auction, although people came to it from other regions, (mainly Regions 2 and 19) and also contributed irises. When Minnesota held its first auction to benefit SSI in 1977 at Julius Wadekamper's, the Massachusetts auction needed a new name since it was no longer "The Auction" and so it became The Northeast Apogen Auction. The proceeds from sales were always divided among the various beardless sections according to the amount of money realized on that particular class of iris. In the early days, most of the irises were donated by Bee Warburton, and the two doctors, McEwen and McGarvey (I didn't attend my first until 1981, so if I've slighted anyone I apologize). From 1984 to the present, the

auction has been run by Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks and increasingly most of the donations have come from them. Two years in a row (1983 and 1984) at the request of Currier McEwen, most of the money from the auction, regardless of the type of iris sold, went to SSI to help pay off their debt to the AIS Foundation (\$6500 had been borrowed to help print the first Siberian iris book). By my calculations, over \$10,000 has been contributed to SSI over the years from this auction.

Peg Edwards was editor of TSI at the time the auction was started and always had something to say about it in her column - "Back Talk". In the Spring 1976 issue, she made note of the fact that the membership dues barely covered the cost of printing and the only other funds available to the society for such things as research, printing a check list, etc. were from the auction.

When Judy first asked me to write this article, I realized that I knew next to nothing about the early days of the auction, so I wrote to the founder, now Dr. Kevin Vaughn with the Southern Weed Science Laboratory in Stoneville, Mississippi, and a noted plant breeder. To quote from Kevin's letter:

"I'm especially glad that ISM is getting an award (from SSI), as we really put considerable money into that society. They were nearly broke for a few years! The monies allowed the publication of the first check list that Peg Edwards had compiled plus an upgrade in the quality of the publication.

The original idea of the auction was mine but without Bee it would never have come to fruition. At that time, the Region One auction was held in the last week of July, certainly not an ideal time to dig Siberians and Japanese, although a few of us brought plants anyway, just so that something would be offered. Anyway, in lamenting about this, I suggested to Bee

that it might be time to have an “apogen only” auction. She immediately thought it was a great idea. Even then, the interest in “other than TB’s had blossomed. In 1967, when I joined AIS, there weren’t but a handful of growers that even had a Siberian in their yard! The idea of having a program too was Polly Bishop’s. Even at the bearded auction there were many fine irises that weren’t bid on because no one knew them, so she suggested that a slide show prior to the auction would stimulate interest (and bidding) on the new ones.

The first auction was really exciting, although Bee and I had doubts right up until the day that it would actually happen. For the first auction, Harry Keusel, Bill McGarvey, Eleanor Westmeyer and Currier McEwen, among a lot of others were in attendance. Currier, Bill, and Eleanor all showed slides and Sarah Tiffney sent a paper on her first synthesis of the results of crossing various colors of Siberians (this was later published in a special issue of *The Siberian Iris* on hybridizing). After slides, lunch and the auction were held under a grove of apple trees at the side of Bee and Frank’s house. Seemingly, there was always a cool breeze there, even on the hottest days! Harry Keusel was our auctioneer and because this first auction had fewer people in attendance than subsequent ones, the prices were especially good. I went home with all the new McGarvey and McEwen Siberians!

It pleases me no end that something I had a hand in starting is alive and well. If only I was in a place less hostile to the survival of Siberians so that I could grow the irises that were my first love. I still keep trying and even ordered a plant of Spofford’s **Mandy Morse** this year, as I remember the sight of this plant in a four foot wide clump at my folk’s place. It had over 100 stalks.”

Following are some excerpts of highlights of various auctions, as reported either in TSI or from my own memories:

- 1974: Dr. McEwen showed us slides from his expedition to Europe and the sight of masses and fields of Siberians growing in the wild was very impressive.” Peg Edwards, TSI Fall 1974.
- 1976: Sarah Tiffney identified the pesky fly (*Orthochaeta dissimilis*) whose larva is responsible for eating the styles and stamens of Siberian irises before the buds open. She displayed several examples preserved in alcohol. Bee Warburton, not to be outdone, had a container of iris weevils and verbena bud moths found in seed pods -all this before lunch! This was the first auction missed by Kevin Vaughn, as he had already left for Texas A and M.
- 1977: The slide program included slides from Dr. Rodionenko of examples of *I. sibirica* and *I. sanguinea* in the wild in the USSR, Germany and Hungary.
- 1981: My first auction, at Bobbie Whitehouse’s, with attendance about 23. High bidding was between Alice Kelly, who at that time lived in Denver, and myself. She got **Augury** for \$21 and I got **Butter and Sugar** for \$17. A few years later she moved to San Diego and sent her entire Siberian iris collection (including **Augury**) to us for the auction.
- 1982: My highest bid was for **Earthshine** (\$18), which I still grow and love.
- 1983: The year of the Boston AIS Convention, and the attendance doubled. **Ann Dasch** was given to every attendee as a door prize (Steve Varner had left it for us from the convention).
- 1984: Sarah Tiffney presented a slide program on apogon species. **Harbor Mist** brought the highest bid at \$29.

The interest in Siberian irises has mushroomed over the years, culminating for us in a glorious Siberian/species iris

convention in Massachusetts in 1996. Who knows if this would ever have come about without the stimulus of the Apogen Auction.

## **LAST WORD**

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Barbara Schmieder - what a great person - has volunteered to count our favorite 15 ballots. Considering all the jobs she performs for SSI, the Median Society, AIS, her region and her local club, I think she should be given a superior member award! She was presented with the Heart of ISM award at MASS. Medley, which shows the locals know what a treasure they have.

It's dangerous for an editor to criticize another publication. The readers of her own publication may feel released from any compunction about pointing out mistakes in it! But I can't resist this one. I was browsing the garden section of our local bookstore and found a book on perennials of the Midwest. As always, I checked the index and was pleased to find a reference to Siberians and a picture! When checking the page, I found, to my dismay, a glorious picture of Super Ego and the caption and text referring to it and Ego as "Eagle" and "Super Eagle". Heaven help the gardener who tries to find these cultivars in commerce!

As you will have noted, we now have a "Siberspace" feature. Bob is responsible for the name - should he wish to take credit for it!

Thanks, as always to all our contributors.

Judy

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### **THIRD SIBERIAN IRIS CONVENTION, IOWA, 2000**

**The Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society** will sponsor the **Third Siberian Iris Convention** in eastern and central Iowa in early June of the year 2000. Five private and two public gardens will be on tour. The master planting will be located at the Iowa Arboretum where the Morgan and Morgan-Wood Medal winners are already on permanent display. During Spring and Fall of 1997 we invite hybridizers to send guest plants, both Siberian and species irises, for the convention displays in these gardens.

Before sending guest irises, please contact the 2000 Guest Iris Chairperson with the following information about each plant: cultivar name or seedling number, number of divisions to be sent, height, bloom color and approximate bloom season. The latter is important in that the gardens in eastern Iowa tend to have earlier bloom times than those in the Ames area, and we will locate your plants accordingly. Cultural information on species irises would also be appreciated.

All guest plants should be sent to the chairperson who will distribute them to the tour garden owners. As far as possible, please send plants during either April 1-May 20 or August 1 - September 1, 1997. The chairperson is : **Lois Girton, 2519 Hoover Ave. Ames, Iowa 50010-4453.** Phone: 515 -233-0841. E-mail L- Girton @ molebio. iastate.edu.

The Convention Committee and tour garden owners will follow the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. Official guest status will apply only to those plants that are received according to the above procedure. Thank you for your assistance in making this another wonderful convention.

## 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:

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*Slides suitable for a club program are available at \$5.00 per rental from:*

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*Some back issues of TSI are available at \$2.50 per copy from:*

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Menomonee Falls WI 53051*

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## **SIBERIAN CHECK LIST**

*The check list is again available, updated to include Siberian registrations through 1996.*

To order: please send a check for \$6.50 per copy  
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If you are interested in receiving the check list on computer disc, contact Howard at the above address or by phone at 414 251-5292 or by fax at 414 251-8298

### **PHOTO CREDITS**

John Coble: Bottom left and right -inside front cover  
Page 6 (b/w from a color slide)  
Page 7 (b/w from a color slide)

Bob Hollingworth: Top right -inside front cover  
back cover

Anna Mae Miller: Top left - inside front cover

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