

The Siberian Iris



FALL 1998



**OVER IN GLORYLAND (Hollingsworth '93)
Award of Merit Winner 1998**

— THE SIBERIAN IRIS —

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 6

FALL 1998

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**Front Cover: FROSTED CRANBERRY (Miller '91)
Morgan -Wood Medal Winner for 1998**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

One must really love rain and gray skies to live in this part of the country. This is why Siberian irises thrive here. Last winter's mild weather and our warm early spring gave us excellent growth; then the cool wet weather of May gave us an incredible six weeks of bloom! Some irises do better than others in this sort of weather. One that has always stood out in our garden in such weather is **Frosted Cranberry**, so we were very pleased to learn it has won the 1998 Morgan-Wood Medal. Congratulations to Anna Mae Miller for creating such a fine well-deserving iris. Congratulations are also in order to the hybridizers of our two 1998 Award of Merit winners, Bob Hollingworth for **Over in Gloryland** and Louise Bellagamba for **Rill**. I was hoping that 1998 would be the year a Siberian iris would win the Dykes Medal. One of these days...

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, the AIS National Convention in Denver was a real adventure. Not exactly "Siberian" country, but it was good to see Siberian irises growing in some of the gardens. We had two programs rolled into one at our membership meeting. Lorena Reid caught everyone's attention with her new developments with the "40's" and Marky Smith presented a different perspective on the Schafer/Sacks breeding lines. The exciting news from our Board meeting is our acceptance of a convention proposal for 2003. The Canadian Iris Society, the Western New York Iris Society and AIS Region 2 will host our fourth SSI mini-convention in June 2003 in the Burlington Ontario area. I am very proud of the fact that when the SSI originally planned these mini-conventions, we plotted a course of having one every three years and we have been able to maintain this schedule. Now we need to find a site for 2006!

More good news from Denver - the AIS presented Bob Hollingworth with its Hybridizer's Medal for his outstanding achievement in hybridizing Siberian irises. This is indeed a prestigious award and certainly well-earned.

For those of you not overly inclined to pour over financial statements, I'd like to highlight a couple items. Currier McEwen has been donating royalties from the sale of The Siberian Iris to us. Also, Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks have been donating proceeds from the NE Apogon Auction. These monies are the result of hard work and effort on these folks' part and they have been gracious and generous in their giving. Thank you.

Finally, on a sad note, I must mention the passing this summer of Nancy Silverberg, friend and neighbor, iris lover and grower and wife of SSI board member Dave Silverberg. Nancy was a brave multi-talented woman who will be sorely missed.

Tom Abrego

IN MEMORIAM



NANCY SILVERBERG

SIBERIAN IRISES IN MY CONVENTION GARDEN

By **Lynda D. Love** _____

For years I have admired the delicate beauty of Siberian irises. It wasn't until I moved into my current home that I was able to acquire a few Siberians, just to try them out and see how they grew. I started with an old historic one, **Llewellyn** (Cleveland '29) and **Caesar's Brother**.

In time, I acquired a few more, and that probably would have been the end of it were it not for two events that occurred in 1994. The first was a visit to our Region meeting by Bob Hollingworth, who spoke about Siberian irises. The slide he showed us of **Strawberry Fair**, his introduction for that year, was absolutely gorgeous. Then in May, I found myself in iris heaven at the Portland Convention. When I was at the Abrego's, (Chehalem Gardens), I was enthralled and impressed by the sheer variety of beardless irises. And **Strawberry Fair** was even prettier than the slide that I saw.

After the Portland convention, I told the Denver convention planners that I wanted to grow beardless guests for our convention. I needed to see more of these graceful plants and our convention presented a unique opportunity to grow and learn about Siberian irises.

Not very many other people grow Siberians here in Colorado, and it's been four years since I was at the Portland convention. As a result, it has been a while since I have seen Siberians growing to their full potential and I was not as observant as I might have been. For instance, I didn't realize, until this spring when someone pointed it out to me, that the foliage on my Siberian irises was short, that is, below the registered height.

However, bloom stalks were, for the most part, held up above the foliage. I discussed the reasons for the short foliage with several Siberian hybridizers and growers when they came through the garden. The consensus seemed to be that the abnormally warm weather we'd had earlier in May, combined with other weather factors, had stunted the foliage. Over the summer the foliage on most of the Siberians continued to grow in height and the foliage on almost all of the plants is significantly taller than it was for the convention.

Here on the high plains, early spring can sometimes be hard on the irises, with wide temperature changes. I have also found that our winters present challenges for growing Siberian irises because there often isn't enough snow cover or precipitation and the soil becomes very dry. I have had to water my irises, both beardless and bearded, at various points during the winter for the last five years. Fortunately there is no lack of sunshine here, even in the winter, so I rely on the sun to thaw the garden hose on days that are sunny and relatively warm. Still, even watering in winter is sometimes a challenge as there may be long periods with no snow but the temperature isn't warm enough to be able to water.

The beardless convention guests arrived in the late summer and early fall of 1995. The ensuing winter, like many others here lately, was warm and dry (relatively speaking). I watered the irises several times over that winter, but still lost several plants. The other convention gardeners growing beardless irises also reported losses over that first winter.

The winter certainly took a toll on the Tamberg/Niswonger Cal-Sibes. I lost all three of them. In the summer of 1996 one was replaced and it too died over the 1996-1997 winter.

By contrast, **Cascade Velvet** (Halinar, '95) a 40 chromosome species cross, was a hit both with the lay public

and with convention visitors. Many people liked the grassy foliage that bent over, giving the illusion of a clump of grass. The small plum colored flowers with yellow signals, were displayed on many stalks held above the delicate foliage. This delightful little plant bloomed for two out of the three years.

One of my favorite Siberian guests was Borglum's **Lake Keuka** ('94). What a gorgeous ruffled blue! The plant formed a large clump with many bloom stalks and was in peak bloom just in time for the convention. **Lake Keuka** was also voted the fifth most popular iris in the convention guest iris popularity poll. **Seneca Skylites** (R.'93) is another beautiful blue by the same hybridizer that also formed a large clump with many bloom stalks. It has large round falls, upright standards, and isn't as ruffled as **Lake Keuka**.



Lake Keuka in the Love Garden

Louise Bellagamba's **Rill** ('92) was another popular, vigorous blue. The plant produced 14 stalks with no branches and two buds per stalk. The pronounced lighter blue style arms contrasted with the darker blue falls to set **Rill** apart. Her **Patio Rose** ('93), was another one of my favorite guest irises. The flowers are a dark rose, almost a raspberry color, with some violet veining and a small yellow signal. The plant was extremely vigorous, producing a large clump with 21 bloom stalks this year. The stalks had one to two branches and averaged three buds per stalk. **Patio Rose** bloomed all three years it was grown as a guest plant.

I had mixed results with the Hollingworth Siberians. The ones that survived the first winter generally thrived and did well, with the exception of **Band of Angels** ('96), which never bloomed. I have moved a piece of the plant to another area in the hopes that it will now thrive. By contrast, **Blueberry Fair** ('97) was a real show-stopper. The big, fat, ruffled blueberry-colored flowers with white signals are definitely worth a look. The plant produced a decent-sized clump showing 11 stalks with one branch and three buds per stalk. Another Hollingworth plant, **Coronation Anthem** ('90), surprised me all summer long. It began blooming at the end of May, continued to repeat bloom throughout June, and finally quit blooming at the end of July, much to my delight and amazement. The July stalks were down in the foliage, in comparison to the May/June stalks which were held just above the foliage. But in the intense heat at the end of July, just to have a Siberian iris still blooming was a treat.

Anna Mae Miller's pastel Siberian irises were a delight in the garden. **Lilting Laura** ('90), with its lavender-colored flowers, produced a large clump with many stalks, each stalk holding two to four buds. **Cheery Lyn** ('91) was a pretty lilac and pink bitone which also grew well. Her blue-violet,

Liberty Hills ('89) grew into a good-sized, well-blooming clump. **Glow of Happiness** ('94) never did bloom, and I plan to move it to a different location. And finally, although the clump of **Purple Sand** ('91) wasn't very large, the plant did still manage to put up 15 bloom stalks with two buds per stalk.

In general, the Siberian guests outperformed my expectations. The losses of the first winter were more than offset by the remaining guests' performance. I had been concerned that few Siberians would be in bloom for the convention, but I was pleasantly wrong. Although the plants grew short, almost all of them had at least one flower open, and several were at peak bloom. It was almost as if the plants wanted to be seen by the conventioners, and that's all I could ask.

I'd like to thank the hybridizers for sending their plants to the convention. Without them, the convention would not have been a success, and the beautiful Siberian irises growing in my yard would not have been seen.

It is my hope that more Region 20 members will take a chance and grow Siberian irises as a result of the convention. I hope they too will become hooked by the Siberian's delicate flowers and graceful foliage.

GUEST SIBERIANS AT THE DENVER CONVENTION

By Anna Mae Miller _____

At Long's garden, Dana Borglum's Siberian guests were growing short, but blooming or about to bloom, with lots of stalks. **Seneca Skylites** (R. '93) had round, ruffled blue falls with a darker center, paler wide standards and light style arms.

Seneca Egret Cove (R. '93) was just opening. It had lots of stalks, one branch, and was white with a greenish cast. **Seneca Night Sky** (R. '93) had good contrast between its blue-purple flowers and aqua style arms. His **Lake Keuka** was not blooming up to its potential but maybe it hadn't been planted as long as some of the other Siberians. Bob Hollingworth's plants were growing shorter than they usually do, but **Band of Angels** ('96), a purple with a white edge and **Coronation Anthem** ('90) were blooming above the foliage. **Flutter by Butterfly** ('96) had two bloom stalks on a small plant. My **Purple Sand**, ('90) was a beautiful clump of light lavender with darker purple veins and **Liberty Hills** ('89), was a lovely clump. The pink **Cheery Lyn** ('91), was nice and **Lilting Laura** ('90), its lavender sister showed good growth and bloom. Though there had been some plant loss, the remaining Siberians were growing and blooming well. A new Siberian hybridizer, Jack Norrick had a beautiful plant, **Patty Kay Hall**, ('98). It was a flat shaped, dark purple bloom with white markings and blue style arms.

Lynda Love's city lot has apple trees, lilacs, peonies and clary sages sharing the space with her own collection of 400 irises. It includes historic, median, tall bearded, Siberian and Spuria irises. She had 200 guest irises planted in three long beds by the 120 year old irrigation canal with its bike path and tall cottonwoods growing along it. A long thin lot handled beautifully. Lynda has shared the love of irises with her Mother since the '70's. She has been growing them at this site since 1987. **Lake Keuka** (Borglum '94) was a nice clump, **Seneca Storm Clouds** (R. 1995), was a blue-purple and Bob Hollingworth had **Flutter by Butterfly** ('96), blooming. The flowers are ruffled and three shades of blue. **Blueberry Fair** ('97) another ruffled, flaring tetraploid, was a nice shape and color. Here Sterling Innerst had 10 Siberian guests but only #5, a red violet, and #8, with wine falls and

standards and light blue style arms, had good bloom. I'd like to see these again as we need some better wine reds. Lynda and I met a few years ago. She has some of my Siberians in her garden, and all of the guests were doing well. **Frosted Cranberry** ('91) had two new blooms and more stalks coming. It is a different deep pink with wine veins and probably garnered some votes towards its 1998 Morgan-Wood Medal. **Cheery Lyn** ('91), **Liberty Hills** ('89), **Lilting Laura** ('90) and **Purple Sand** ('91), were all blooming well here.

Dave Miller, the convention chairman, has a lovely perennial garden in Golden, Colorado with a mountain view. Unfortunately, there was frost the night before our visit, but that did not affect the Siberians. Dana Borglum's **Seneca Night Sky** (R. 1993), was growing best here as well as his two whites, **Seneca Cloud Puffs** ('95), and **Seneca Egret Cove** (R. 93). **Seneca Cloud Puffs**, as at Love's garden, appeared to be a sequential bloomer. **Lake Keuka** had a good number of flowers and lots of stalks still to bloom. Bob Hollingworth's **Band of Angels** (1996), was holding its bloom way above the foliage and **Coronation Anthem** had good bloom. My **Aqua Whispers** ('88), and **Lavender Stipples** ('91), would be blooming much later for the family to enjoy at a quieter time.

Many of the gardens lost 50% of our plants - I don't know whether they didn't get delivered on time or what. BUT lots of good Siberian bloom was available to be seen at the 1998 AIS Convention.

VIRUS ‘SPOTTED’ IN DENVER

By **Bill Smoot** _____

Unusual “spots” were discovered by Carol Warner on a clump of Siberian irises during the garden tours of the Denver National Convention. **Liberty Hills** (Miller 1989), one of the guest irises in Long’s Garden, exhibited this characteristic. It caused quite a stir of interest with the Siberian iris enthusiasts who were on my bus. I got involved when summoned to take close-up pictures with my camera.

The “spots” can be described as small, irregularly shaped areas of very dark blue pigmentation. Several of us remarked that they resembled undissolved color pigments in paint. The spots were only on the flowers. The leaves and branches were normal. The anomaly was equally present on mature flowers as on unopened buds. We could not distinguish any particular pattern or arrangement of the spots.

Someone asked if this condition could be contagious. That was enough to cause everyone to abandon the surrounded clump of **Liberty Hills** and begin examining the adjacent seedlings in detail! Planted close by were several seedlings hybridized by Sterling Innerst. These clumps were immediately surrounded and closely scrutinized. Finding no evidence of “spotting” here, the group methodically examined the rest of the seedlings in a manner that would have made Sherlock Holmes envious! **Liberty Hills** was the only clump in the garden found to have the spots.

What did Carol find? Is this the iris equivalent of ebola? I don’t know! I ran into Bob Hollingworth later that evening and told him of the discovery. He was aware of the finding

and agreed that the damage was probably viral. What are the implications of this of this find? I don't know! I leave that part to Bob or others with more expertise to tell you. No one could recollect seeing this before in Siberians. I can tell you that the guest Siberians were probably the most closely examined of all the guest irises present at the Denver Convention.



Siberian Flower showing evidence of viral damage

AN SSI WEB PAGE

By Jim Wilson

Now on the web and approved by the board members of the Society for Siberian Irises is the beginning of a web page, <http://w3.one.net/~wilsonjh/ssi.htm>

The page contains information about the society, a list of officers, membership information, and a listing of the commercial directory as it appears in *The Siberian Iris*, in addition to a list of top award winners.

My current goal is to collect good pictures of both plants and flowers of as many Morgan Award and Morgan-Wood Medal winners as I can, and a very good start was provided by Bob and Judy Hollingworth. Concentrating on these has the advantages of showing the public some of our most acclaimed examples as well as avoiding any bias the page might show to those irises which are still eligible for awards. More contributions are welcome. Digital ones are easiest for us all, but I will be happy to scan prints or slides if the donor trusts the mail and can allow me a few days. Winter is an excellent time to browse through the photo library and enjoy the plants while the ones outside are resting, and resting us.

There is lots more that we could do with the page, and I think the board will be receptive to our suggestions as we collect and propose them. For example, we could provide links to other pages on the web with significant content on Siberians, we could mention our listserv, and graphics can always be improved. Please feel free to send all contributions and suggestions to wilsonjh@one.net.

Scott Aitken has included a link to the page from the AIS page. I hope that all of our members will enjoy it and take part in its further development.

HINTS FOR NEW GROWERS

By Kathy Marble, Harvard MA. Zone 5_____

Subject: Cutting foliage

Question: We've had frost, but the Siberians' foliage is still beautiful. Is now the time to cut it back?

Answer: I wait until the foliage is yellowed by a hard freeze, and then cut it down to an inch or so. I then get rid of the foliage (disguised in plastic bags, since they don't want yard wastes at our "dump"). Some years I have added the foliage to our burn pile which is torched in March – just don't add it to the compost. The theory is that all moths (e.g. the iris borer) will be killed by a hard frost and any eggs laid on the foliage will either be removed elsewhere or destroyed by the burning. By removing the foliage the eggs are removed and therefore a large part of next year's problems can be avoided.

There are other reasons to cut back foliage at this time: it's an easier job in the fall than in the spring (when it will be a wet, soggy mess). More importantly, if you leave it uncut over the winter, it provides nesting places for nasty voles and mice!

IN PRAISE OF.....SHALL WE DANCE

By **Judy Hollingworth**_____

I realize that it is not quite proper to praise one's own offspring, but **Shall We Dance** (Hollingworth, '92) has always been a favorite of mine, and its recognition this year by Region Four, has emboldened me to throw off my English reserve, so here goes!

Shall We Dance is a tetraploid, blue-violet bitone. It has no blaze, but its lime green throat gives added interest to the flower. With one branch and sometimes three buds in the terminal, it is a vigorous grower and soon forms a graceful clump.

In Region Four's Newscast AIS, Fall 1998, writing about their 1998 Spring Regional, Lois Rose says: "*Near the Japanese arch (at Draycott Gardens) I found a group of Siberians blooming their hearts out: Lee's Blue, Mesa Pearl, and Early Giant, the latter being aptly named. Then, to rival any of these, just up the hill I encountered the Siberian Shall We Dance, the hands down winner of the bloom and vigor award, and deservedly, on Saturday evening, the B.Y. Morrison Award (for best out of region iris).*"

Shall We Dance has never previously won an award. It did, however, make the 1996 Favorite 15 Siberians list (TSI, Fall '97, p. 23). Bob describes it in our list as "too well-bred to be brazen". Perhaps Region Four has helped removed the veil and exposed its beauty.



**Region Four Youth Chairman and SSI Member
Dennis Pearson Inspects a Clump of Shall We Dance
in Carol Warner's Garden**

THE SSI DISPLAY GARDEN LIST TO BE REVISED

By Bill Smoot_____

Two major goals of the Society for Siberian Irises are to promote the popularity, and encourage the growing of Siberian irises. One way to help accomplish these goals is through the Siberian Iris Display Garden Program.

This program provides a listing of public and private gardens available for visiting when Siberian irises are in bloom. In private gardens the owner is usually available to answer general questions concerning the growth and culture of Siberian irises, introduce visitors to SSI, distribute SSI brochures, and provide a source list for purchasing quality Siberian irises.

Our current listing of Display Gardens has become obsolete and is in the process of being revised. It is to the benefit of SSI that our new list include as many gardens as possible and have participants in many geographic locations. Some SSI members in the past have been hesitant to participate in our Display Garden Program because they thought participants needed to be growing hundreds of Siberian Irises, or they needed to be an Siberian iris expert. This is not true! While we certainly welcome those types of individuals and gardens those are certainly NOT requirements!

So, what type of people and gardens are we looking for to participate in the Siberian Iris Display Garden Program? If you can answer *yes* to the following questions, then you can consider yourself and your garden viable candidates:

- Do you grow one or more Siberian irises well?
- Do you mind telling others the secrets of your success in growing Siberian irises?
- Are you willing to open your garden to strangers and show them your Siberian irises?
- Are you enthusiastic about growing Siberian irises?
- Are you willing to complete a questionnaire each year so that we can evaluate our program?
- Do you become excited when Siberian irises start to bloom?

If you answered *yes* to all of the above questions then you are an ideal candidate for our Display Garden Program. You should complete the information below and send it to me so that you can be included on our list.

Display Gardeners previously on the list who wish to remain so need to update and verify their information. New sections added are "Bloom Time" and "E-Mail". Send the information via letter, postcard, or e-mail. I hope that all of you will consider becoming part of this program. A revised list will be published in an upcoming issue of "The Siberian Iris".

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

AIS REGION: _____ E-MAIL: _____

BLOOM PERIOD: _____

E-Mail: BillSmoot@msn.com
Mail to: Bill Smoot
213 Derby Road
Portsmouth, VA 23702

1998 AIS AWARDS FOR SIBERIANS

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL

Frosted Cranberry (A.M. Miller) 68

Runners Up

Contrast In Styles (R.M. Hollingworth) 56

Windwood Serenade (R.M. Hollingworth) 56

AWARD OF MERIT

Over in Gloryland (R.M. Hollingworth) 214

Rill (L. Bellagamba) 91

Runners Up

Cheery Lyn (A.M. Miller) 68

Harpwell Snowburst (C. McEwen) 67

HONORABLE MENTION

Trim the Velvet (M. Schafer/J. Sacks) 64

Lee's Blue (R. Bauer/J. Coble) 47

Sprinkles (R. Bauer/J. Coble) 47

Patio Rose (L. Bellagamba) 46

THE BACKGROUND OF FROSTED CRANBERRY MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL WINNER FOR 1998

By Anna Mae Miller

Frosted Cranberry (85.41.4) began its development in the spring of 1978 when a chance wine seedling was seen and admired amongst my seedlings. I numbered it 78.5. At that time, I was growing **Snow Queen** (Barr, 1900), **Kingfisher Blue** (Wallace & Alexander, '24), **Periwinkle** and **Tycoon** (Cleveland, '26), **Caesar's Brother** (Morgan, '31), **Mountain Lake** (Gersdorff '33), **Towanda Redflare** (Scheffy, '49), **Mandy Morse** (Spofford '62), and **Bickley Cape** (Kitton '63). There were, perhaps a few more most with unknown parentages, but all prior to **White Swirl** (Cassebeer, '57).

78.5 was a deeper red than any of the available ones, which were light to medium rosy reds, certainly not as dark as this one. I also noted that it was a wide flower.

I was lucky to get Bill McGarvey's **Pink Haze** and **Temper Tantrum**, after the 1976 AIS National Convention in Michigan, when we chose new Siberian irises to grow and appreciate. **Pink Haze** is not my idea of pink, but it is a pink-lavender shade and as such, it was natural that I would use it in my hybridizing efforts to get a true pink. I set a pod on **Pink Haze** using pollen from the nice, wide, wine seedling and got 67 seeds. Most of the subsequent plants had wine flowers and red spathes that I found attractive and thought could be developed into a positive feature. My sketchy notes say there were a few whites. WHY didn't I make a cross using one of these recessive whites? I did choose a wine seedling (78.16.5) and again used **Pink Haze** pollen. For the third generation I selected a pink seedling with red spathes, numbered it 80.9.3, selfed it, and got four seedlings. All were pink with red spathes, but one was a deeper pink and was veined with wine

to give a much deeper appearance. This was numbered 85.41.4. The falls were RHS 78B/77A with darker veins; the standards RHS 80C with aqua veins, the style arms were white. Bob Hollingworth visited the garden, saw it in bloom and encouraged me to introduce it. I chose the name Frosted Cranberry because it reminded me of frozen cranberries.

Cooler weather than we experience most seasons in Michigan gives a definitely darker pink to the flowers than described

THE GAME OF THE NAME

By **Judy Hollingworth** _____

Iris names are endlessly fascinating. Often, they tell us as much about the hybridizer as about the plant. Many hybridizers groan each time they have to tackle the job of selecting a new name. Thumbing through registration books can be discouraging when you discover that even your most original idea isn't original after all, and that, in fact, someone thought of it in the 1920's! However, on less stressful occasions, the checklists can be an absorbing, and inexpensive pastime.

How much does the name of an iris affect its success? Would the famous Siberian **White Swirl** have been as popular had it kept its original name of "Frank Stubbs"? Probably, but with all due respect to Mr. Stubbs, it would be hard to deny the improvement.

I have also been told that invoking the name of the devil is a recipe for failure (this piece of iris lore has been proved false however, with the success of **Devil's Dream**). Conversely

then, **King of Kings** should be a Dykes medal winner (it did win the Morgan Wood Medal)!

The American Iris Society does have rules regarding names. One rule states that no name can have more than three words. Irisarians are a creative bunch – note Sterling Innerst’s dodging of the edict with **Warmed Bythe Sun** or asking you supply the extra words in **Pure As The**. Did Bill McGarvey get away with something when he named his beautiful white Siberian after his wife **Esther C. D. M.**?

The problem of choosing a name can be simplified by adding a handle (i.e. Steve Varner’s “Illini”, Currier McEwen’s “Harpswell”, and our own “Windwood”). This does give one an almost limitless supply of names but should perhaps, be done sparingly, as it takes a strong mind to keep them all straight.

Naming irises after people is popular –it’s a nice way to honor someone (if they don’t object to their fertility being discussed in public or maybe being characterized as having poor standards). Again, this should perhaps be used only occasionally. It is difficult to associate an iris with a person (no descriptions or color keys to aid the memory). It can also be embarrassing! I made a fool of myself several years ago by enquiring if **Iris Bonsack** was a species that I’d never heard of. It is, in fact, a lady’s name! Currier changed forever Siberian hybridizers’ way of expressing open crosses when he named a Siberian after Bee Warburton (**Bee** (McEwen, ’76)). Until then an accepted way of expressing such a cross was, for example, **White Swirl x bee**. Now that would be confusing.

But perhaps names based on appearance can go too far; consider **Open Vee Bleeder**, **Delicate White Almost** or the infamous **Baboon’s Bottom**.

Some hybridizers feel they cannot improve on a plant's garden designation (perhaps they have searched too long in the check lists). Lorena Reid labeled one of her 40 chromosome Siberian seedlings NBDH (newer, broader, *delavayi* hybrid). When she registered the iris in 1988 she just put the letters into words, **Enbee Deeaych**. A TB introduced by Knocke in 1971 and named **Kiss** was seedling number K155, or so I've been told.

There are many categories from which to select names. Libations are popular; **Aperitif**, **Apple Jack**, **Dry Martini**, **Cabernet** and **Chilled Wine**. Gourmet dishes: **Crepe Suzette**, **Floating Island**, **Crème Chantilly**. Other flowers have been used (presumably needed when iris terms fail); **Pansy Purple**, **Giant Clematis**. Names that describe behavior: **Good Nature**, **Good Manners**, and a few that I won't attempt to analyze—**Careless Love**, **Street Walker** and **Deep Throat**.

Some of our Siberian iris hybridizers have their own specific name categories. Anna Mae Miller has named many of her introductions after friends with the addition of an appropriate adjective (e.g. *Lilting Laura*, *Cheery Lyn*). Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks have taken many of their distinctive names from fiddle tunes (**Roaring Jelly**, **Trim the Velvet**, **Lady Walpole** and others).

Selections may come as revelations. Was Mr. Austin dozing in his comfy chair, replete with Thanksgiving turkey when he saw his favorite seedling dancing in the **Thanksgiving Firelight**?

On a personal note, our choice of the name **Wizardry** was chosen for one of our first tetraploid introductions as descriptive of the magic of manipulating genes (although our

sons felt that it was named for their computer action game). Bob was trained as an entomologist and we had always planned to name a daughter Vanessa, which is a species of butterfly. Since we produced two sons our daughter had to be an iris – but yes, the name had been taken and so she became **Lady Vanessa**.

So, when you've finished reading your Christmas gift books and there is nothing worth watching on television, take out your registration books and try the "game of the name". It only takes one person to play it, but you'll soon find yourself wanting to share your discoveries.

*(This article was written for an AIS Region Six Newsletter, and contains some non-Siberian names. If you have wondered about the origins of any **Siberian** iris name, not mentioned here, drop me a line and I will research it for you. Please write if you would like to share a name origin. ED.)*

NEW MEMBERS

Compiled by Howard Brookins _____

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who have joined us between 3/30/98 and 9/30/98:

Bailey, Ardeth, 202 Carolina Dr., Carter Lake, IA 51510

Brantley, Bill, 1933 Village Square Cir, Raleigh NC 27610

Brill, Sylvia, 244 W 4th St. #4-D, New York, NY 10014

Groff, M/M Glenn & Kathryn, 5962 W. Farm Rd. 94, Springfield, MO 65803

Hager, R. Dennis, 373 Cypress St. P.O. Box 390, Millington, MD 21651

Hart, John M. 4324 N. Washington St. Spokane WA 99205

Hawel, Janice L. 2303 Stonybrook Ct. Lagrange KY 40031

Hemje, Eunice A. 1010 W. 7th, Hastings NE 68901

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Kilde, Robert D. 14917 469th Ave. Twin Brooks SD 57269
Krischan, M/M Tom & Donna, Krischan Computer Services, S78
W22750 Terrace Dr. Big Bend WI 53103
Marcyn, Chester A. 2302 Kensington Ave. Westchester IL 60154
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Morley, M/M Kevin J. 6735 Belinder Ave. Mission Hills KS 66208
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Mossman, James B. 11067 NE Arness Rd. Kingston WA 98346
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Savannah, Anne Box 13, Site 6 RR1, Delvintom, Alberta TOL 0X0
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74112
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Thiele, Irmagard E. 3315 Torwood Dr. RR1, Dunrobin Ont KOA
1TO Canada
Torizuka, M/M Tom Ayame Garden, PO. Box 69 RR4, Fenwick
Ont LOS 1CO Canada
Violette, Angeline M. 228 Mud Lake Trail, Polson MT 59860
West, M/M Truel & Joan 1050 Camino Rancheros, Santa Fe NM
87501

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Carol Warner _____

The nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for office in The Society for Siberian Irises. If approved, the term of office will be from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2001.

Directors: Mr. Howard Brookins
Mrs. Kathleen Guest
Mr. James Wilson

The bylaws require that these nominations be sent to all voting members of SSI by November 15, 1998. Publication in TSI fulfills this requirement. If no additional nominations have been made within four weeks (by December 13, 1998), 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 nomination petition, and sent to the chairman of the Nominating Committee by December 13, 1998, 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, 1999 with instructions for voting by mail. Ballots must be returned to the Elections Committee no later than February 1, 1999.

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES
BOARD MEETING, DENVER, CO June 2, 1998**

Submitted by Carol Warner, Acting Secretary _____

The board meeting was called to order by the President, Tom Abrego at 3:00 p.m. Other members present were Jim and Jill Copeland, Glenna Costillio, Bob Kemp, Anna Mae and Ron Miller, Bill Smoot and Carol Warner. Only two board members were present, so there was not a quorum.

Carol Warner was asked to take the minutes in the absence of the secretary. The minutes of the last meeting, as printed in TSI, Fall '97, were approved.

The treasurer, Jim Holmes sent a report, which is attached.

Committee Reports

Robins: Chairman Dale Hamblin sent a report to Tom stating that there are six robins currently circulating.

Editor: Judy Hollingworth reminded us that good articles are always needed for TSI.

Nominations Chairman: Carol Warner presented the names of three directors: Howard Brookins, Kathy Guest and Jim Wilson. All are willing to serve until 2001. Bill Smoot will be the new member on the nominating committee.

Slide chairman: Bob Hollingworth has requested good slides for our sets. These are used by many garden clubs and it is a good way to promote our irises. Bob Kemp suggested that there be an article or notation in TSI as to which slides are needed. More slides are needed to fill a fourth set.

Old Business

The revised check list, 1997 edition, will be available at the section meeting tomorrow. One hundred have been printed and will be sold for \$6.00 per copy. Howard Brookins will have them available.

The Iowa 2000 Convention will be held the first weekend in June. Barry Stoll, convention chair, has reported that the gardeners are very pleased with the guest plants.

The new "*Invitation to Join*" was done by Tom Abrego. It is lovely and will be a model for other sections to follow.

The Judges Handbook Revision Committee has completed a rather substantial rewrite of the Siberian section.

A motion was made to instruct Jim Wilson to go ahead and put the SSI web page on line.

A scheduled discussion on SSI Awards was tabled until more members are present. Carol Warner announced that **Shall We Dance** by Bob Hollingworth received the B.Y. Morrison Award at the Region 4 Spring meeting for the Best Out of Region Iris seen growing in the tour gardens.

New Business:

A proposal to host the next Siberian Convention in the year 2003 has been received from Chris Hollingshead. Region 16 and Region 2 will co-host in Burlington, ONT, approximately June 10. A motion was made to accept this proposal. President Tom had proxy votes from the board members and the invitation was accepted. The three year rotation would allow for another convention in 2006. We will be considering offers to host then if any groups are interested.

Incorporation is necessary and we need to get busy and do it.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned early.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Submitted by James P. Holmes

INCOME STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 12-31-97

Income:

Ads		\$180.00
Interest income		715.65
The Siberian Iris book sales	699.00	
- book expenses	(709.92)	
- royalties	1186.52	
Total		1175.60
Membership income, check lists etc.		5004.50
Slide rentals		35.00
Donations- Northeast Apogen Soc.		1000.00
- Betty Wood, medals		2000.00
Total income		10110.75

Expenses:

Membership Brochure		1414.80
Membership Secretary expenses		1446.35
Iris Research		845.00
Engraving		14.25
TSI publication - Spring '97		1819.26
- Fall '97		1490.09
Color separations		425.00
Total expenses		7454.75
Income net of expenses		2656.00

BALANCE SHEET as of 12-31-97

Assets:

Bank accounts - checking		\$1384.14
- savings		5093.77
Investments - U.S. Treasury Note 6 1/4% due 6-30-98		5000.00
- U.S. Treasury Note 6 1/8% due 8-31-98		5000.00
Total		16477.91

Liabilities, reserves, surplus:

Reserve for iris research and color plates		823.78
General Surplus		15654.13
Total		16477.91

HISTORIC SIBERIANS ON THE HIPS (HISTORIC IRIS PRESERVATION SOCIETY) WEBPAGE

By Mike Lowe _____

I have (finally!) purloined a bit of time and put a selection of historic Siberian cultivars on the HIPS webpage <http://www.worldiris.com>. Some cautions are in order:

1. Historic Siberians were not well documented in the AIS Check List or in contemporary literature. Catalog photos of historic Siberians are **EXTREMELY** rare.

2. Accurate photographic color is even more elusive when shooting Siberians compared to Bearded iris. Older catalog descriptions of Siberians leave much to the imagination.

3. Variation from cultivar to cultivar is less marked than in Bearded.

4. There are **FAR** fewer iris enthusiasts who are knowledgeable in the field of historic Siberians as compared to Bearded iris.

5. If not assiduously deadheaded, Siberians will 'rogue' far more often than Bearded iris and the 'rogue' will often supplant the true cultivar. Sad to say, 'imposters' are about twice as likely to be received when purchasing or swapping Historic Siberians compared to obtaining Historic Bearded.

With the above caveats in firmly in mind, you are invited to view and critique the new HIPS Siberian webpage.

mlowe@worldiris.com -- <http://www.worldiris.com>

LAST WORD

Well it definitely pays to ask! Following my request for someone to index the past issues of TSI, I got a call from Roy Epperson in North Carolina. Roy was responsible for our new AIS Judges Handbook, and, having successfully completed that onerous task, is ready for a new challenge. Thank you Roy. Thanks also to Rae Johnson, a stalwart of our local club, who offered to tackle the job if no one else came forward.

In Lynda Love's article (p. 4), she noted that several guest irises grew well enough, but did not bloom. We have only occasionally seen this in our own garden. We did, however, send Siberian seeds to England for family members to grow. All three live in Yorkshire, within 20 or so miles of each other. Two of them reported good growth but no flowers. The third, my Auntie Amy, has huge clumps, grown from the same seed, and they do bloom, but not every year. (In 1998, the bloom was apparently spectacular). Has anyone any insight into this? If so, please write and share.

PUBLICATIONS

***SOME BACK ISSUES OF TSI ARE AVAILABLE AT
\$2.50 PER COPY FROM:***

**Howard Brookins
N 75 W14257 North Point Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**

Please make check payable to SSI

SIBERIAN IRIS SLIDE SET

***SLIDE SETS SUITABLE FOR A CLUB PROGRAM ARE
AVAILABLE AT \$5.00 PER RENTAL FROM:***

**Bob Hollingworth
124 Sherwood Rd. East
Williamston, MI 48895**

Please make check payable to R.M. Hollingworth

SIBERIAN CHECK LIST

**The check list is available. To order, please send a check
for \$6.50/copy (\$10.00 for overseas orders).**

**To: Howard Brookins
N75 W14257 North Point Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051**

Please make checks payable to SSI

POPE'S PERENNIALS

1999 INTRODUCTIONS by John White

SIBERIAN IRIS

DIRIGO BLACK VELVET (Tet) - This is the "nearest to black" Siberian that we have seen. Upon opening, it has a velvety black sheen overlaying a dark purple flower with a prominent gold signal. A vigorous grower! 40-44" tall. Its parents are GOLDEN EDGE (McEwen) and OVER IN GLORYLAND (Hollingworth). Judges awarded it an EC in 1995 and 1996, and an HC in '96.....**\$35.**

JAPANESE IRISES

DIRIGO BLUE PLATE - a 3 fall JI -white ground with a 1/2 to 5/8 " deep blue edge. A crisp flower - opens flat like a plate. 36" tall - early to midseason - one branch. Truly a "Blue Plate Special"!.....**\$30.**

DIRIGO STAR - a striking deep purple Japanese iris! Its 6 falls are marked with a white blaze. This and white styles give a star-like effect. It was a hit with the Japanese iris lovers at the 1997 JI Symposium in Canada. Height - 40" - branching - long bloom season..... **\$30.**

When ordering please add \$4. for shipping and handling. Postage for overseas and Canadian shipment will be for full amount including State of Maine Phytosanitary Certificate charge of \$25. per package. Please specify Spring or Fall . For these cultivars and a list of other Japanese and Siberian irises send a stamped self-addressed business envelope to:

**Shirley Pope
Pope's Perennials
39 Highland Ave.
Gorham, ME 04038-1701**

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.

The deadline is March 1.

Other Advertising Rates:

Full Page (4" x7") Color	
If separation provided	free
If we provide separation	\$60.00
Full Page B&W.	\$50.00
Half page B&W. (4 x 3 ½")	\$30.00
1/4th page B&W. (4 x 1 ½")	\$20.00

PHOTO CREDITS

Front cover: Anna Mae Miller

Inside front cover: Bob Hollingworth

Inside back cover: From SSI slide set

Back Cover: Jan Sacks

Page 2: Judy Hollingworth

Page 6: Lynda Love

Page 12: Bob Hollingworth

Page 16: Bill Smoot (from a color slide)

THE SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

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2 Deer Hill Rd. Chester, NJ 07930

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337 Acton St. Carlisle, MA 01741
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- Registrations
and Awards:** Mr. Howard Brookins (as above)
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Slides: Robert M. Hollingworth (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.

Fax: 414 251-8298

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

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**Above: RILL (Bellagamba, '92)
Award of Merit Winner, 1998**

**Back Cover: REPRISE (Warburton, '87)
Makes an Elegant Statement in the Garden**

