

The Siberian Iris



SPRING 1999

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KABLUEY

Siberian iris, 18-27 petals and petaloids. 3 falls, 6 standards, then 3 more falls and 6 more stds, then more petaloids. No styles, sometimes a stamen can be found. 30" with one branch. Sdlg. S93G-2 ((Shirley Pope x Sultan's Ruby sdlg) X Uzushio).

SHEBANG

12-18 petals of rose-violet. No styles but often stamens with pollen. 30" with 1-2 branches. Sdlg. S93E-7 ((Shirley Pope x Sultan's Ruby sdlg) X Ranman.

KABLUEY and **SHEBANG** are not in our '99 Ensata Catalog, but offered first to SSI members through this ad.

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— THE SIBERIAN IRIS —

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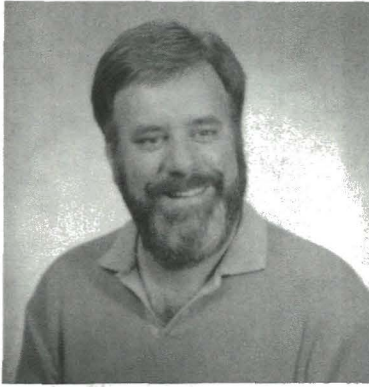
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Front Cover:

Siberians in the garden of the late Lee Welsh

Photo: from Lee's slide collection

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



The calendar says spring, but it sure feels like winter here in Oregon. This purgatory between winter and spring has turned me into a ball of nervous energy. Winter projects that are not now done will not get done. Spring will come, ready or not, so the next months will be a wild scramble. There's no shortage of chores, only of the time to get them done.

Our unseasonably cool weather has slowed the growth of everything, buying us a little more time. Also, it has allowed the Siberian irises to grow a couple of inches, past the easy reach of our ubiquitous slugs.

I had the good fortune to give a Judge's Training session on Siberians last month. Fortunate not only because I was able to spend an absolutely beautiful weekend in a very beautiful place (Missoula, Montana) but also because it gave me the opportunity to really study our new Judge's Training handbook. What a joy! Unlike many of the chapters in the old handbook (and unfortunately, some in the new handbook) the Siberian chapter is very well written. A novice can read our chapter and really get a good sense of what makes our favorite flower so special. That the rewritten chapter was a frantic last-minute effort is a testament to the art and skill of its authors. Thanks to Bob & Judy Hollingworth, Marty Schafer, Jan Sacks, Currier McEwen and everyone else involved.

The AIS national convention is less than a month away from the day this is written. While I don't have high expectations of seeing a lot of Siberian guests, who knows? The national

conventions are always fun and informative, regardless of what irises are seen. I've not been to Oklahoma before, so I'm really looking forward to exploring new territory, as well as seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Speaking of conventions, it's only next year that we have our own: June 2000 in Iowa – wow! This is something to get excited about! As with our previous two, registrations will be limited, so start planning now. I just can't begin to contain my enthusiasm...if you've attended one before, you know what I mean. If you have not yet attended one of our "minis", well, get with it!

I'd like to thank Dave Silverberg for serving two terms on our Board of Directors. Dave's experience and insight was valuable and will be missed. Jim Wilson of Oxford, Ohio has taken Dave's seat on our Board. For those not familiar with Jim, he created our SSI Web Page (<http://w3.one.net/wilsonjh/ssi.htm>) which has maintained our standard of excellence. Jim also has a very interesting and informative personal web page on irises, wilsonjh@one.net. For those of you with Internet access, I highly recommend visiting these two sites (both are also easily accessed through links with the AIS home page).

Sadly, as we go to press, the news reached me that Harry Kuesel has died. He was one of the first people Ellen and I met after joining SSI, and his welcoming attitude and encouragement endeared him to us. On behalf of the society, I extend our sympathy to his family. Harry was a past president of SSI and we will have an appropriate tribute to him in the next issue of **The Siberian Iris**.

Tom Abrego

1998 REGISTRATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS

AT THE BALLET (Calvin Helsley, SIB, R. 1993). Helsley 1998.

BLUE MORNING DAWN (Henry Milhorn, R. 1998). SIB, 40-46" (102-117 cm), M. Deep damask blue purple self, inconspicuous signal; very slight fragrance. Parentage unknown. Glasshouse Works 1995.

BRONZY MARVEL (Lorena Reid, R. 1998). Sdlg. 92S44-7F3B. SIB (sino-sib). 18" (46 cm). ML. S. warm pale lavender; style arms light gold, maroon base and partial midrib; F. light gold overlaid light magenta maroon giving bronze effect, large dark maroon signal with jagged edge, several dark gold central lines. Cascade Cream X clear yellow albino sdlg.: (*I. chrysographes* hybrid with bee signal x unknown). Laurie's Garden 1998.

CAESAR'S NEPHEW (J. Owings Rebert, SIB, R. 1995). Draycott 1998.

CASCADE BUTTERCUP (Lorena Reid, R. 1998). Sdlg. 92S43-4J6. SIB (sino-sib), 36-40" (91-107 cm), ML. S. light buttercup yellow, edge crimped; style arms bright buttercup yellow; F. buttercup yellow, medium sized deeper gold signal with few dark dashed lines. Cascade Cream X Anticipation Orange. Laurie's Garden 1998.

CLEEDOWNTON (Jennifer Hewitt, R. 1998). Sdlg. PT8815/1. SIB (tet.), 34" (86 cm). M. S. light to medium violet blue (RHS 91A/B); style arms same, darker crest edge; F. violet blue (90C), deeper (88A) near hafts, usually with narrow white rim, signal yellow paling to cream at edge,

veined dark violet; upright to semi-flared S., semi-flared F. Harpswell Happiness X Dance Ballerina Dance.

CRIMSON ACCENT (Jean Witt, R. 1998). Sdlg. 98-07-5910. SPEC-X (cal-sib). 20" (51cm), E. S. ivory, lavender midline, yellow base; style arms paler ivory, faint lavender tint; F. ivory, washed lavender, gold shoulders, diffuse gold signal; spathes crimson, conspicuous; foliage blue green. Snow Queen X yellow *I inominata* .

DAWN WALTZ (Marty Schafer/ Jan Sacks) R. 1998). Sdlg. S92-75-2. SIB, 27" (69cm). S. smooth light pinkish lavender (RHS 85D/C), some darker (86D) veining; style arms pearly white, green midrib in heart, crests curled; F. slightly deeper pinkish lavender (85B), shaded and veined darker (86D), signal apple green on white with lavender veining; ruffled. S89-16-1: (Reprise x Mad Magenta) X S89-9-2: (Isabelle x Silver Illusion). Joe Pye Weed 1998

DELBINO (Lorena Reid, R. 1998). Sdlg. (8S54-1B3) opG92-2G. SIB (sino-sib), 36-40" (91-107cm), L. S. palest ivory, narrow; style arms pale lemon yellow; F. light gold throat (signal) shading gradually to very pale lemon cream edge. 8S54-1B3: (Enbee Deeaych x yellow *delavayi* hybrid #1) X unknown. Laurie's Garden 1998.

DIRIGO BLACK VELVET (John White, R. 1998). Sdlg. 93 B-B4-7. SIB (tet.), 40-44" (107-112 cm), EM. Very dark purple overlaid with velvety black sheen, F. with prominent gold signal; style arms dark purple. Golden Edge X Over in Gloryland.

DROPS OF BRANDY (Marty Schafer/ Jan Sacks, R. 1998). Sdlg. S92-67-1. SIB, 27" (69cm), ML. S. pale blue (RHS 97D), faint darker dappling and veining; style arms semi-upright, pearly blue with some dark blue violet edging, blue

green midrib, large light yellow floret crest; F. washed medium blue, paler (97D) ½" diffuse edge, darker blue violet (94C) shoulders, small white to yellow signal veined blue violet; ruffled. S89-9-2: (Isabelle x Silver Illusion) X Careless Sally. Joe Pye Weed 1998.

ENID BURGOYNE (E. Burgoyne by J. Hewitt, SIB, R. 1997). Joe Pye Weed 1998.

FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES (Jean Witt, SIB, R. 1972). White Flower Farm ca. 1975.

HARPSWELL LOVE (Currier McEwen, SIB, R. 1995). Earthheart Gardens 1998.

JEZIORKO (Lech Komarnicki, R. 1998). Sdlg. 93/4/6 Sib2. SIB, 36-38" (91-97cm), EML. Deep blue violet, white F. blaze. Parentage unknown, 28 chr. group. Seed from BIS seed exchange.

LAKE NIKLAS (E. Berlin, SIB, R. 1981). British Iris Society 1997.

LOUISON (Calvin Helsley, R. 1998). Sdlg. 92-1. SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. Lightly ruffled rosy wine red, F. with large white signal. Mabel Coday X War March. Helsley 1998.

OFF SHE GOES (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 1998). Sdlg. S92-75-1. SIB, 28" (71cm), EM. S. light lavender (RHS 91C/D) with violet (86D) dappling, 1/8" warm white (159D) rim; style arms pearly warm white, pale yellow curls and midrib, wide; F. lavender (91B/C), violet dappling, ¼" warm white rim changing to gold at shoulders; signal pale yellow to gold with brick speckles and lavender veins prominent; ruffled. S89-16-1: (Reprise x Mad Magenta) X S89-9-2: (Isabelle x Silver Illusion). Joe Pye Weed 1998.

PACIFIC DARK EYES (Lorena Reid, R. 1998). Sdlg. 92S-8/109-1F. SIB (sino-sib), 36" (91 cm), ML. S. near white, light purple edges and midrib; style arms pale lemon cream; F. palest lemon cream aging near white, faint purple midrib, large dark purple signal with many lash-like lines extending into blade. Lightly Touched X 8S101-1J: (Blue Forty x Mauve Mood). Laurie's Garden 1998.

PATTY KAY HALL (Jack Norrick, SIB, R. 1997). Miller's Manor 1998.

PRIDE IN BLUE (Currier McEwen, SIB, R. 1995). Eartheart Gardens 1998.

ROSSANDEL (Jennifer Hewitt, SIB, R. 1995). British Iris Society 1997.

ROSSELLINE (Jennifer Hewitt, SIB, R. 1996). British Iris Society 1997

SHIPS ARE SAILING (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 1998). Sdlg. S92-19-1, SIB, 35" (89 cm), M. S. light blue (RHS 97C) ground darker bluebird blue (94B/C) shading and veining, light blue (97D) 1/8" edge; style arms pearly pale blue, darker midrib; F. darker bluebird blue (94A/B), deeper (93A) veining, light blue (97D) 1/8" edge; signal small, yellow gold with heavy deep blue violet veining; lightly ruffled. S86-8-1: (Forrest McCord x Springs Brook) X S89-23-4: (S85-6-6: (Star Cluster x Ruffled Velvet) x Isabelle). Joe Pye Weed 1998.

SIBTOSA PRINCESS (Tomas Tamberg, R. 1998). SPEC-X (sibtosa) tet., 36" (91 cm), M. S. light lavender pink; F. lavender pink. Converted lavender sibtosa: (Pink Haze x lavender *I. setosa*) X Fourfold Lavender. Joe Pye Weed 1998

SING (Calvin Helsley, R. 1998). Sdlg. 96-4, SIB, 37" (94 cm), M. S. light blue violet (RHS 96D), lightly mottled darker (96B/C); style arms light violet blue (98D), midrib darker (98B); F. light blue violet (96D), darker (96B) edge, still darker (96A) area on shoulders and either side of white signal; flat, flared form. Mabel Coday X D.S. Varner S060.

SIOBHAN (Jennifer Hewitt, R. 1998). Sdlg. JPW89/2. SIB, 30" (75 cm), EM. S. rich lavender pink (near RHS 80B); style arms turquoise, edges and crest lavender pink; F. deep red violet (nearest 80A), near violet center, with small diffuse cream white signal; short, flared S., semi-flaring and slightly ruffled F.; slight sweet fragrance. Reprise X Springs Brook.

SOFT WINDS (Robert Hollingworth, R. 1998). Sdlg. 85C3A2. SIB, 27" (69 cm), M. Ruffled light blue violet, F. with green hafts, small white blaze; style arms shaded blue. 83M3B8: (Pink Haze x Fairy Dawn) X 80 X1C2: (Super Ego x Anniversary). Greystone 1998.

SOMEBODY LOVES ME (Robert Hollingworth, R. 1998). Sdlg. 92J3B20. SIB (tet.), 32" (81 cm), EM. Ruffled medium blue violet, F. with very large white blaze; style arms light blue. 88U2D4: (((Wizardry x Windwood Spring sib) x (78F1, induced tet. from Dreaming Spires, x 78G2, induced tet. from Cambridge)) x (Happy Event x 82J2C7, Jewelled Crown sib)). Windwood Gardens 1998.

SPINNING SONG (Robert Hollingworth, SIB, R. 1996). Greystone 1997

SUNNY RED WINE (Tomas Tamberg, R. 1998). Sdlg. SSTT363. SPEC-X (cal-sib) tet., 14" (36 cm), M. S. light wine red; F. wine red, golden yellow signal. Red/yellow tet. cal-sib sdlg.: (Starting Calsibe x converted yellow cal-sib

sdlg.) X converted dark violet cal-sib sdlg.: (sino-siberian sdlg. X Miramar).

TEMPLE TALK (J. Owings Rebert, SIB, R. 1995) Draycott 1998

TEMPLE TAPESTRY (J. Owings Rebert, SIB, R. 1995) Draycott 1998

WEMBURY FRANCES (Marion M. Wood, R. 1998). Sdlg. 4/2/94. SPEC-X (cal-sib) tet., 31 1/2" (80 cm), L. S. and style arms violet purple (RHS 83C); F. deeper (83B), gold signal veined purple. S 8/290 purple: (WI x WII, induced tet. cal sibs from purple 40 chr. Siberian x mixed CA pollen) X Tamberg blue tet. cal-sib.

WEMBURY SOPHIE (Marion M. Wood, R. 1998). Sdlg. 11/1/94. SPEC-X (cal-sib) tet., 31 1/2" (80 cm), L. S. and style arms buff, flushed and veined pale rose purple (RHS 75B); F. purple (77) edged paler, gold signal edged white, purple veins. S 3/1/90, (from induced purple tet. cal-sibs) X Timpals.

CORRECTIONS OF PREVIOUS REGISTRATIONS

CAESAR'S NEPHEW (J. Owings Rebert, SIB. R. 1995). Change of spelling from Caesar's Nephew.

IN PRAISE OF...EVER AGAIN

By Sharon Hayes Whitney_____

At Eartheart Gardens we are often asked to recommend Siberians that will give the garden an extended bloom season. The repeat bloomers have a second period of bloom starting a few weeks after the end of the first bloom period. Currier McEwen has held extended bloom season as one of his breeding goals for years. It is in this spirit that we believe **Ever Again** to be worthy of special recognition.

Ever Again is a tetraploid, introduced by Currier in 1992. It is a preferential repeater and as such its most outstanding feature is that it blooms best the second time around, when most of the Siberians have finished blooming for the season. The flower is a dark violet-blue with a white wire edge and a white signal. It is held on 40" flower stalks. It is nicely branched with two branches at repeat bloom.

Perhaps this flower has been overlooked because it is not outstanding in June when so many Siberians with their tremendous variety in color and form are blooming. The second time around it blooms prolifically, is the best repeater in its color and stands out in the garden.

Late in the gardening season there is nothing nicer than viewing a planting of Currier's repeat blooming Siberians: **Soft Blue, Lucky Lilac, Chartreuse Bounty and Ever Again**. Such a grouping is a subtle reflection and reminder of the spring Siberian bloom season.

HYBRIDIZING WITH 28 CHROMOSOME SIBERIAN IRISES

Once and Future Hybridizers: A Thought on the Future for Siberians.

By Bob Hollingworth _____

Siberian hybridizing has had its peaks and valleys over the years. After a vigorous start in the first two decades of this century by such pioneers as Amos Perry in England, Isabella Preston in Canada and Frances Cleveland in the US, the field entered a relatively fallow period in the 1930s that lasted through the 1940s and well into the 1950s. A renaissance then occurred, started by Fred Cassebeer with *White Swirl*, and rapidly followed up by such luminaries as Marjorie Brummitt, Ben Hager, Bill McGarvey, Currier McEwen, Anna Mae Miller, Steve Varner and Bee Warburton who all worked in depth with the 28 chromosome group. Almost miraculously, Currier McEwen is still active, but inevitably the contributions of this generation of hybridizers is coming to a close. Only a handful of hybridizers who bloom a substantial number of seedlings are now active. Will a new generation of hybridizers take up the challenge or will we see another lull in Siberian hybridizing? One thing is clear. We have not yet begun to see the end of the potential for breeding new and beautiful Siberians. Often we are still working at four to six generations away from the original field-collected Siberians such as *Nigrescens* and *Snow Queen*. In fact, we are only at the end of the beginning and the most exciting years for hybridizers still lie in the future.

In this issue we are highlighting the efforts of some hybridizers who are just setting out to explore this future. We want to encourage them, and others to continue to shape the future for Siberians. I apologize if I have overlooked some new hybridizers. I would be very pleased to hear from you and to print an outline of your progress. Also, for those who are just contemplating getting started there is a reprint in this issue on how to make crosses with Siberians, written by Marty Schafer (page 24). In the fall TSI we will have coverage of the genetics of Siberians (as far as we understand the subject) and some hints and tips for beginners which we hope will assist them in getting to their objectives without falling into too many holes in the road along the way.
Ed.

HYBRIDIZING

By Jean Marc Boileau, Quebec, Canada_____

My love affair with irises began when I was young. My parents' house was located near a small pond where many *Iris versicolor* were growing. I remember that I used to bring wild iris bouquets to my mother. Time passed and in the early 90's, while I was shopping at a local nursery, I noticed these nice flowers called "Siberian irises". They were probably **Caesar's Brother** and reminded me of the flowers that I used to bring to my mother many years before so I bought a couple of pots. Then I discovered by chance that there were iris societies, one of them being the SSI. I ordered the past twenty issues of **The Siberian Iris** and I read each issue many times. I noticed that most Siberian introductions were coming from just a handful of hybridizers. What these hybridizers had in common is that most, if not all, had bred with **White Swirl** at one point, but once their hybridizing program was established, they rarely crossed their own

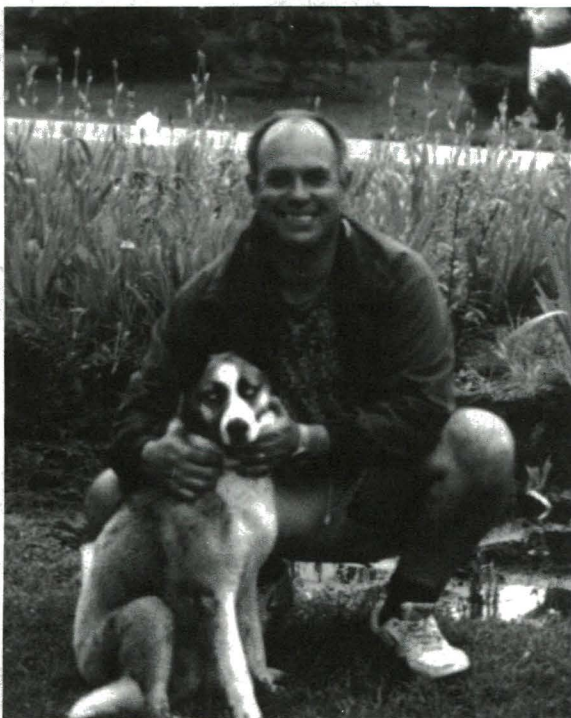
seedlings with varieties coming from other hybridizers. I thought that the full potential of many excellent cultivars would never be known unless more crosses could be made with them. For the time being, one of my goals is to explore a small fraction of this huge potential.

Hybridizing is a love affair. If the hybridizer isn't powered by an intense passion for what he does, hybridizing is merely another after-hours activity that will be put aside after a few inconclusive experiments. Beginning hybridizers do not need specific goals or complicated plans. The most important thing is to make a few crosses, just for the fun of it, then let things happen. When I made my first cross in 1996, I was merely experimenting with Marty Schafer's pollination method which, to the eye of a beginner, appeared relatively easy and in fact, was. Basically, one has to be quicker than bees. First, select two parents, then find a bloom which will open within a few hours, remove standards, falls and anthers from the pod parent. With a toothpick, scratch pollen from the anthers of the pollen parent and gently spread pollen on the stigma of pod parent. Then put an identification tag around the pod parent.

Hybridizing can be done almost anytime. If you don't feel like watching TV and can withstand a few hundred mosquitoes and some passing moths, you might find it more convenient to make crosses after sunset, when it is cooler and there is no wind. In 1998, half of my crosses were made in the evening. A flashlight is cumbersome but essential. This year, I will refine my technique - this is called "the hands free variation" - by fastening a lightweight flashlight around my head. Though this improved technique is an excellent means of amusing your neighbors, there are more practical reasons for trying it: Siberians, and tetraploids in particular, are renowned for being more fertile when the temperature isn't too hot; in addition, you don't have to worry about pollinating

bees; and last but not least, you will have a free hand to smack a few mosquitoes.

Many weeks after I made my first cross, I noticed a couple of green seed pods which were quite big. I got really excited and began thinking about crosses that I would make the following year. Without realizing it, I was already beginning to define goals. I wanted to improve existing Siberians and had two main concerns: first, I did not want to repeat what others had done before and second, I did not want to make useless crosses by selecting parents which had no potential. Easier said than done. The Cumulative Checklist of Siberian Irises is an invaluable tool which provides a wealth of information about all registered cultivars.



Jean-Marc and his 'Helper' in the Garden

I thought that one way of maximizing my chances of making decent crosses would be to select parents which were introduced in the 80's and 90's. Siberians that I liked were round, ruffled, flaring or semi-flaring. While applying these criteria, I was able to reduce the number of potential candidates to about 35 varieties: 20 tetraploids and 15 diploids.

My initial goal was to cross Currier McEwen's tetraploids with Bob Hollingworth's. I wanted to mix unrelated genes, hoping to produce offspring with different or better traits than those of the original parents. Over two years, I made more than 30 tetraploid crosses. For example, **Strawberry Fair** (Hollingworth '94) was my most ruffled tetraploid and I crossed it with Dr. McEwen's biggest tetraploids growing here: **Harpwell Snow**, **Dreaming Orange**, **Harpwell Valor**, **Harpwell Princess Karen**, **Chandler's Choice** and **Lady of Quality**. **Strawberry Fair** was also crossed with **Harpwell Chanteuse**, a very ruffled creamy white (sometimes it has a yellow cast) with very good form. In my search for big flowers with tall stalks, I crossed a huge round white, **Harpwell Snow**, with **High Standards**, which has outstanding upright foliage and flower stalks as high as 45-48 inches.

Although it is difficult to predict what the results will be, my strategy will be to refine specific traits (i) by crossing seedlings with each other and/or (ii) by back crossing seedlings with one of their parents.

When **Careless Sally** (Schafer/Sacks 96) bloomed, the first thing that caught my attention was its color, which was a unique blend of pink and rose, but with a soft yellow signal that seemed to extend under the rose-pink color of the falls. The flower was full and all parts were exquisitely ruffled. There was no doubt in my mind that this one was a

breakthrough, and I crossed it with 18 named varieties with great forms and colors, such as **Sprinkles**, **Mesa Pearl**, **Lavender Stipples**, **Moon Silk**, **Steve Varner**, **Sweet Success**, **Gull's Wing**, **Linda Mary**, **Super Ego** and many others. If **Careless Sally** passes its good qualities to its offspring, these crosses alone could be enough to start a most ambitious hybridizing program. There is another special thing about **Careless Sally**: it has yellow genes (one of its parents is **Sailor's Fancy**, an offspring of **Springs Brook X Butter and Sugar**) which are likely to remain present in crosses that were made with it. Why is yellow so important? Let's answer with a question. What would Monet's paintings look like if no yellow pigment had been available to him? The answer is simple: there would be no masterpieces such as the famous Water lilies series. In painting, yellow is a primary color which is mixed with other colors to produce different hues. Until now, yellow Siberians did not attract too much attention, chiefly because of their lack of vigor and brightness, and most just have 2 buds per stalks. Fortunately, much better yellows are coming real soon. Yellow Siberians aren't just cute flowers, they are work tools which will become increasingly important in hybridizing. Marty Schafer demonstrated that by crossing yellow Siberians with any other color, it is possible to obtain much improved yellows in the second or third generations and, equally important, yellow genes produce color combinations which were unthinkable a few years ago.

Many of the crosses that I have made through the past two years involve parents with yellow genes and most of my future efforts will be directed this way. I don't have enough experience to have specific goals such as true blues, pure pinks or brighter yellows. I prefer to think in terms of color combinations, patterns, form, size and length of bloom. This way, I do not feel any pressure to produce specific results and my mind remains opened to the unexpected. With narrowly

defined goals, it is easy to miss exciting crosses. With very broad goals, one could be overwhelmed with too many suitable crosses to make. Winter is an excellent time to think things out, elaborate strategies and identify which parents will be needed to fulfill the goals. Plans conceived - and written - well in advance will provide guidance at bloom time when hundreds of flowers are opening at once and each one of them is begging for your attention.

When I am thinking about the future of Siberian irises, I can't avoid comparing them with other perennials such as the ever popular daylilies and Tall Bearded irises. Both have improved at a breathtaking speed during the past decades. Hundred of new varieties have been introduced every year. With such extensive hybridizing, it has become increasingly difficult to get significant improvements. Although hybridizers are always pushing the limits, it is likely that most of their potential has been achieved. Unlike daylilies and Tall Bearded, Siberians evolved much more slowly, with merely a few dozen introductions through the best years. Just a fraction of their potential has been explored and big strides can still be achieved. With the 21st Century at the doorstep, Siberians must improve at a much faster pace in order to have a place among the top competing perennials. Siberians are outstanding garden plants, and gardeners who take pride in buying distinctive perennials will want Siberians with different colors, better and different forms and true rebloomers rather than erratic repeaters. The future of Siberian irises will thus be shaped by hybridizers' ability: (i) to greatly expand the color range and (ii) to improve form, bud count and length of bloom. The challenge is considerable, but recent progress in hybridizing is a clear indication that the best has yet to come. The next decade will be the most exciting in Siberian iris history.

From Jeff Dunlop, Maine

I started collecting Siberian irises around 1985 when I saw the first flowers on **Shirley Pope**, a diploid introduction of Currier McEwen. Then, as the collecting continued, his tetraploids caught my eye; fine plants from a local gentleman who was kind and generous. In 1990 Currier began giving me extra seedlings.

In 1993, I made 80 crosses thinking that I too might one day produce wonderful Siberians. About 75% of the crosses were tetraploids and the remaining 25% diploid. And this still holds true. After six years my goal is still simple: develop significantly more beautiful flowers than currently exist. My hybridizing to date consists almost entirely of zealous outcrossing as a means to achieving that goal. A few of my preferred parents are **Lady Lilac**, **Harpwell Chanteuse** and Bob Hollingworth's **Jewelled Crown**. Last year I was able to make 362 crosses producing a good seed pod on one cross in every five overall. Somewhat low percentage-wise, though acceptable to me.

Many terrific people have been helpful and offered good advice, but none more than my mentor, benefactor and dear friend Currier McEwen. Over the past two years he and Sharon Whitney have seen to it that I have at least a piece of every fine Siberian that he ever developed, including his latest seedlings which are "pushing the envelope" of breeding in these lovely flowers.

My seedlings show more promise each season and the goal appears to be attainable. Joyce and I have in our garden an exquisitely beautiful red Siberian iris. It is numbered 96040-2, a cross of **Lady Lilac** X **Tiffney Lass**. Both parents are Currier's tetraploids introduced in 1991 and 1990 respectively. The flower is a gorgeous wine red near self with

a small green throat and those lovely **Tiffney Lass** broad shouldered falls. I have had some very nice pinks and reds out of **Lady Lilac**.

This exceedingly handsome plant is in our backyard to stay, due to two important factors: (i) I made the cross and grew the seeds to flowering stage for evaluation and (ii) the plant had the right combination of genes thanks to the miracle of genetic variability. Luck often plays a part in the most sophisticated breeding programs.

There are siblings in the cross that are relatively generic and will be considered “also ran’s”. But this season we will pick one among seven good ones as a potential future introduction and perhaps give another as a door prize on Garden Day, June 13th.

Anyone, including you, has the opportunity to have your own flowers of similar refinement, but only if you make the crosses and grow the seeds to flowering plants.

So I urge you to make all the crosses you can this season using your newest and best plants so you don’t reinvent the wheel. Sometimes older plants of special merit work perfectly well when crossed with the new. Morning work is required in order to beat the foraging bees to the freshly opened flowers, so you must arrange to have a few mornings (up to three weeks) at home, a tantalizing prospect in itself. Reference material is available if you are new at this, including Currier’s scholarly book **The Siberian Iris**.

We need more people hybridizing these lovely flowers. Every fine specimen you produce might eventually be available for improvement by others. 96040-2 will someday be an antique with many generations of improvement built on it. This

season however, it just may be the most beautiful Siberian ever.

Remember, if you have not done so yet, please go forth and breed (Siberians that is). In this case, more is better.

From: Bill Dougherty, Minnesota _____

I got "hooked" on Siberians in 1990 after seeing **Super Ego** in a perennial book and after visiting a local grower who had a magnificent clump. I had grown some Tall Bearded irises and *I. versicolor* before, but Siberians really struck my fancy. I quickly purchased a number of plants and joined SSI. I joined the Iris Society Of Minnesota in 1993 and entered Siberians in that year's mid-season show. I won the sectional ribbon with **Heliotrope Bouquet**, which is still a favorite. I tried my hand at hybridizing that year. The only interesting results were multi-petalled seedlings from **Halcyon Seas**. Every year since I have made some crosses and lined out seedlings. I have them tucked wherever my suburban yard has room. I showed my first seedling in '97, a red, from **Windwood Serenade**. Last year a large hailstorm (baseball-sized) destroyed my seedling patches just as they started to bloom. Two late-flowering seedlings did manage to recover and show a few blossoms. They both require additional evaluation.

Goals? I mostly use diploid parents. I have some mini-Siberians which should bloom this year. I have also concentrated on plants which flower very early or very late, wanting to create more choices at either end of the growing season. The plant itself is of major importance. I feel Siberians should fill a major role as landscape plants in Northern gardens. I have used **Gull's Wing** extensively and should see a number of seedlings bloom this year which share

its great foliage characteristics.

My goals are evolving as the quality of my seedlings evolve. With the hailstorm disaster postponing the evaluation of a number of seedlings, I spent most of my energy in purchasing new Siberians to add to my gene pool choices. Better parents, better offspring.

From Cynthia Kermode, Illinois _____

To call me a Siberian hybridizer causes me to blush with chagrin. Maybe I could be considered a hybridizer in an embryonic sense. I love and am fascinated by the process. I started with Siberians in a usual way. My grandmother had the standard short blue flower. I loved it and took it with me when I moved. Time passed, and I realized that there was an exciting white cultivar **Snow Queen** which my husband was repeatedly "informed" about until it was secured in 1988.

We had the great fortune of living in Urbana Illinois at the time, and I attended the local iris show sponsored by the Prairie Iris Society. To my amazement there were more than two cultivars (and colors) of Siberian iris! There was even a hybridizer who lived in the area, Steve Varner. I went to Monticello, and had the honor of walking his seedlings. One that I kept stopping to admire was **Dance Ballerina Dance**. I was hooked.

I collected a few more cultivars, and eventually dabbed a little pollen on whim. I recall the first cross was **Kenabee x Snow Queen**. The flowers bloomed in 1990. The siblings still have a place in my heart, remarkably uniform flowers on plants segregated pale blue and white. Planted randomly en-mass, the bed has the effect of whitecaps on water, alive with movement. I still enjoy the sight immensely. Emboldened, I

dabbed a little more. This time **Kenabee x Illini Glory**, and **Temper Tantrum x Illini Glory**. The former cross showed opalescent hues of pale lavender, pink, and blue, while the latter glowed jewel tones of wine.

On a return trip to Monticello, Steve Varner gave me an opening bud from an amazing flower that grew happily in his garden, **Silver Illusion**. I used the pollen on all that I could find in my yard. Luckily some seeds set. I have never been able to grow the plant to flowering here, but I'd like to try again sometime. The cross resulted in a few brave seedlings. One flowered last season. The rest, I hope to see this year. **Illini Stardust x Silver Illusion** grew robustly and flowered in time for the Prairie Iris Show. I numbered it and brought it along. It won a blue ribbon in the seedling class. What a thrill. But the greater honor was that Steve Varner thought it nice enough to have a piece. It makes me happy to think that it's traveled back to its origin.

Several colchicine-treated siblings may bloom this year. I look forward to that. Also a cross of a 4-falled **Pink Haze x Silver Illusion** is looking happy. I cross my fingers here too. **Butter and Sugar x Isabelle** is waiting in the wings.

But now where to go? I would like to find a seedling or two in all of these crosses to begin a modest program, outcrossing with some of the absolutely fabulous things that I've recently acquired. While I have too few seedlings to intuitively know what direction I'd like to go, I do know that I'd love to extend the flowering season somehow. I've also recently heard tell of the elusive fragrant Siberian. My heart leapt with joy at this prospect! I will have to investigate!

In the meantime I devour each issue of **The Siberian Iris** journal as it arrives. I read each digest of the E-mail *Sibro* with relish, learning from the masters on the list. I hope to

tour Steve's garden again this spring to see his lovely things (perhaps to see my own baby there too). I want to make it up to Michigan in June as well. I've heard tell of a Schafer/Sacks talk in Indiana in October that I must attend. Oh, and there's that National Convention coming up in Iowa! So many things to look forward to.

So I can't tell how successful I'll ever be with my Siberian hybridizing program, but I'm definitely hooked. And I figure that enthusiasm can make up, at least in small part, for skill. Regardless, oh the joy that Siberians bring in-season...elegant flowers dancing in the wind!

*One other person to mention is **Dean Cole**, also from **Maine** who says that his hybridizing program is still in its infancy, he's only been serious for the last two years. However, last spring he did plant 500 seedlings and is expecting a high percentage of bloom this year. This spring he is germinating seed from 175 crosses he made in 1998. His plan is to cross a wide variety of material and then make F2 crosses and see what develops.*

Tom Johnson, from Oregon was to write for this issue but a death in the family made it necessary to postpone it to a later time.

Keep an eye open for all the people who have written. It's going to be fun watching for their introductions.

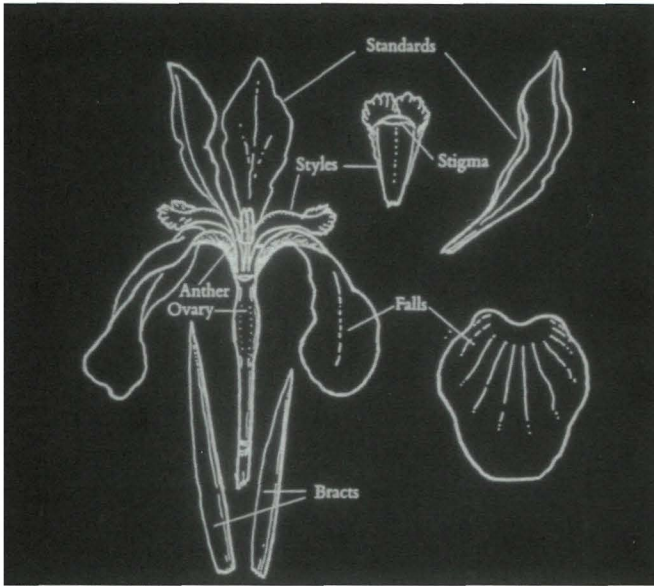
DO YOU WANT TO HYBRIDIZE SIBERIAN IRISES?

By Marty Schafer_____

(this article was first printed in the Iris Society of Massachusetts' newsletter)

Do you want to hybridize Siberian irises? Don't let the mechanics stop you. Pollination of beardless irises can be very easy.

First you need to learn the critical parts of the flower. One day when you are out in the garden admiring your irises, take a close look at one flower. Look down from the top. Count nine large structures. Six are the petals you know and love -- three standards and three falls. These are the largest and most colorful parts of the flower. To bees they are advertisements in big neon lights, "Nectar here, drink at Joe's." The other three structures are the style arms. They lie over the narrow parts of the falls called the hafts. Having located the style arms, gently lift one of them up. The first thing you might notice is that you have uncovered another structure that looks like a little diving board. This is an anther and it contains pollen. If you look above the anther at the underside of the style arm you see a little protruding shelf. This is the stigma. Depending on the species of iris its edge may be round, straight or sharply angled. You are on your way to creating your own beautiful hybrids when you put pollen from one flower on the stigma of another. These two flowers are the parents. The one that provides the pollen is logically the "pollen parent." The one that provides the stigma is the "pod parent" because that is where the pod forms that contains the seeds.

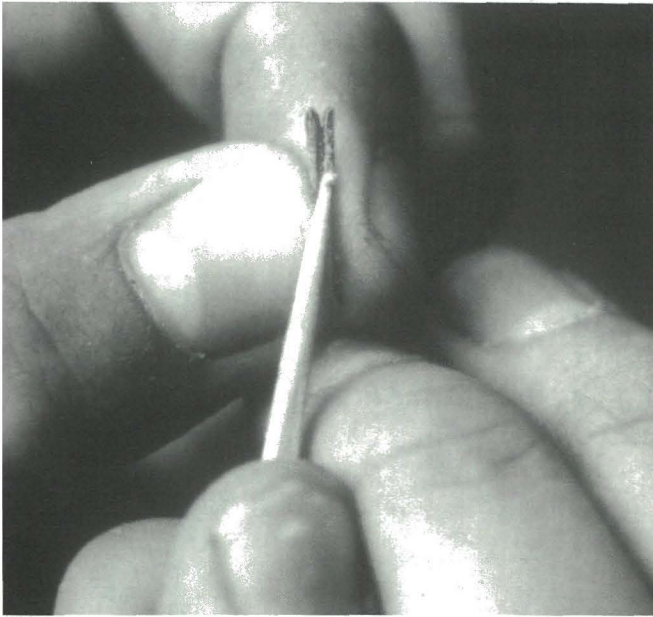


How do you choose parents? In the beginning this part is not very important. Just take two plants that have a few positive features like vigor, branching, color, or flower size and cross them. You might be pleasantly surprised with the results, and even if none of them are introduction quality, you learn a lot making the cross, harvesting, planting and germinating the seeds, and labeling, managing and blooming the seedlings. You can make progress from there with better ideas about where you want to go.

Now let's get down to making the cross. You need some simple tools: pencils and sturdy weather resistant-tags to label your crosses and tweezers (I like to use reverse-acting tweezers, whose points close together when they are not pinched. Hobby stores carry them.) These are the basics, but you might also like to have a small basket or box to hold all of these little things together. Also some people use a toothpick to transfer pollen to the stigma. Now that you know where the critical parts of the flower are and you have

chosen your parents and have your box of tools in hand, what's left? Not much. Go out to the garden around 7am before the bees wake up. Start with the pollen parent. Find a flower bud which is in the "bulgy" stage. This is one which will open in a few hours and whose falls are wrapped loosely around the standards, anthers and style arms. Open the flower. If you do it gently, you will have the flower to enjoy later in the day and tomorrow. Once the flower is open lift up a style arm and remove the anther. Just tug on it a little with your tweezers and it will come out. When you look at the anther closely now, it looks like a little hot dog bun - one of the long sides has a faint line cut into it. This is the opening to the chambers containing the pollen. Take the anther over to the plant you have chosen for your pod parent. Again, find a flower bud in the "bulgy" stage and gently open it. Lift up a style arm and locate the stigma. It will look a little different from the already opened flower you examined earlier. Since it is a newly opened flower the stigma will be "stowed in an upright position" like an airplane fold-up table. In this position no insect can pollinate this flower, but YOU CAN. Ever so gently tease the stigma away from the style arm with your tweezers making a little space on the "table." Don't tear the stigma or your cross won't work.

Take an anther from your pollen parent and put it faint line up, between the thumb and first finger of your un-dominant hand. Take your tweezers or toothpick in your other hand and run it along the faint line with just a little pressure. If there is a lot of pollen, it will burst out onto your instrument. And if there is only a little pollen you will have to scrape together all you can get. Take the pollen and smear it on as much of the stigma as you can. You don't have to pollinate all three stigmas, one is enough.



Now write the names of the parents on a label. Convention says that the pod parent comes first followed by an "X" and finally the pollen parent. (For example Bellissima X Butter and Sugar.) Make sure that the tag is put on the pollinated flower's own stem. You probably have to loosen the leaf-like bract below the flower in order to separate the stem of your pollinated flower from the other buds that are contained in the bract. Remember, it is important that you use "bulgy" stage unopened flowers. That assures you that neither the anther nor the stigma are contaminated by any other source of pollen. If you don't want to get up early - you can tie up the two flowers the night before. However, it is my opinion the you will get more successful pods if you make your crosses early in the morning. Unless you get involved in interspecies crosses you don't have to tie up the flower after pollinating it since your pollen is there first.

All that remains now is to wait until the seeds mature in six to ten weeks. When the pod begins to turn brown, but before it splits open, remove it from the stalk along with its label and put it in a dry place. I hang mine from the ceiling in little net bags. In September or October you will sow these seeds. Good luck.

THE BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

(reprinted from the BIS Newsletter, Spring 1999)

There will be a convention in the year 2002 in Cheltenham, UK to celebrate the eightieth birthday of the British Iris Society.

The West & Midlands Group, which will host the convention is already making plans and these include establishing beds of guest irises at several locations, as is done at other conventions, but never before in Britain. Thanks to the kindness of the gardeners who have agreed to host them, we hope to have displays of irises from hybridisers in Britain and other countries. This notice is to invite you to send us some of your creations which will be seen and admired by convention visitors. We hope that we may benefit from your generosity and shall be most grateful to you.

You are invited to send up to three plants each of recent registrations which may or may not have been introduced, and seedlings being considered for naming. As the convention will be held in late May, irises which are likely to be in bloom at that time i.e. Intermediate, Border, Miniature Tall and Tall Bearded Irises, **Siberians**, possibly early Spurias, and species which do not require special conditions will be especially welcome.

In order to give plants time to show their full potential, we would like to plant them in 1999 and request that they be sent to the organiser, Raymond Bomford (address below) to arrive between mid-August and late September 1999.

Please label each plant clearly with its name or seedling number, together with its type (TB, IB, etc.), height and colour, plus your name and address.

The packages should be sent to:

Mr. G. R. A. Bomford

The Hills

Tanhouse Lane

Beoley, Redditch

Worcestershire B98 9AB England

Telephone number: 011-44-1527 64332 (from the U.S.)

Overseas hybridisers in countries other than those in the European Community, **MUST** obtain a phytosanitary Certificate to accompany the plants. Customs Declarations should state clearly that the plants are a gift.

You will be notified of the receipt of your plants and progress reports will be provided. Early in 2002 you will be asked for instructions regarding the disposal of your plants after the convention. If no reply is received by 1st April, 2002, the committee will take this as permission to dispose of all stock in any appropriate manner, e.g. sale for assistance towards convention expenses. If plants are to be returned, postage must be paid by the original sender.

All possible care will be taken by host gardeners of the guest irises in their care, but neither they nor the West & Midlands Iris Group will accept responsibility for losses beyond their control. If you have any queries, please contact Raymond Bomford or the Group Hon. Secretary, Peter Hewitt (011-44-1584 890526).

**AIS EXHIBITION CERTIFICATES AND SHOW
AWARDS FOR 1998**

EXHIBITION CERTIFICATES

Bauer-Coble	S 95 Y-1
Fulton, Chandler	F 8A -11
Grise, William	37
Helsley, Calvin	98-2
Morley Kevin	92-A, 92-C
Owen, Paul	4-Z
Pohlman, Neal	96-29-2
White, John W.	93A -B3-4
	93E-2
	93B-B4-7

SHOW AWARDS – For Best Specimen

Bob Keup, Glen Falls, New York	Dotted Line
Rita Adkins, Lexington, Kentucky	Cambridge
William Hessel, Glencoe, Illinois	Shirley's Choice
Ray /Judy Keisling, Lone Jack, Missouri	Roaring Jelly

HIGH COMMENDATION CERTIFICATES

There were no HC's awarded to Siberians in 1998

IN SIBERSPACE

From the Sibrob

The e-robin continues very successfully, directed by Ellen Gallagher, and the number of participants continues to grow. I thought the following post would be interesting to those growing Siberians in warmer climates.

Re: Growing Siberians in a Mediterranean Climate

I live in Los Gatos, California which is very close to a zone 9B situation with no summer rainfall. I am growing several Siberian iris hybrids. I use a very high compost / sand mixture over a silty clay and water three times per week for about 30-45 minutes. This is about the same amount that the lawn needs to look decent.

Siberians establish slowly, and usually do not bloom the first year. On the recommendation of Gigi Hall, I plant them 5-6" deep, rather than the more usual 2-3". This really helps to keep them cool and moist. Once established, the amount of water given will determine how good they look. All of mine are planted in a general garden bed/border and they get along just fine. The bloom heights do not approach those in the northeast. On average, they are about 2/3 of the registered heights. Peak bloom is in early May. They barely go dormant in January/February with a little help from my pruners.

Chad Schroter

JUST FOR FUN!

This list has been circulating over the Internet and came to us from a friend who is a daylily enthusiast.

SUBJECT: PROBLEM GARDENER

You might be a problem gardener if...

When you see an old house being torn down, you pull over and dig out all the abandoned peonies and irises...then try to get your friends to make room for them in their gardens.

You have all the Dutch garden catalogues back to 1979 so you can remember what tulips you bought.

A part time job in a garden center with a discount is your life's goal.

You spend the morning drive to work mentally marking roadside wild flowers for later seed collection.

You reply to "How are the kids?" with a detailed rundown on the health and flowering of each of your perennials.

While waiting for a bus, you find yourself deadheading the curbside impatiens.

You buy another plant, even though you have no earthly idea of where you will find a place to plant it.

If you won the lottery, your first thoughts would be about how to improve your garden.

It's spring and there's a late freeze warning. You go outside and carefully cover your tender plants. Later you remember to turn on the heat in the house for the humans who live there.

You have permanently brown knees from kneeling in that good earth.

You go outdoors to turn on the sprinkler, get carried away looking at the plants and then remember that supper is cooking on the stove!

You buy beer for slugs!

You looked around the garden and patio area and realized that it is neater than the house.

You have been known to garden after dusk with the aid of a flashlight or floodlight. (*check with Jean-Marc!*)

Siberian Websites

Bob Dunkley now has a website for his Mountain View Garden in Montana. He has an extensive list of Siberians. You can find him at www.mountainviewgard.com.

Ensata Gardens has a new web page, www.ensata.com, with gorgeous photos of Japanese irises and, they assure me, equally gorgeous Siberian iris photos to be added soon!

Coming soon— A website for the 2003 Siberian Convention hosted by The Canadian Iris Society, Western New York Iris Society and AIS Region 2.

NEW MEMBERS

Compiled by Howard Brookins _____

We are delighted to welcome the following new members. If they live in your area, consider inviting them over to see your garden.

Brown, Martha, Box 267 Cleo Springs, OK 73729

Bruce, John R. 604 The Alameda, Middleton, OH 45044

Cadman, Larry O. 4197 Saints Rd. Blanchardville, WI 53516

Cain, Marie, 124 W. 10th St. Fairbury, NE 68352

Canning, Robert, 45 Simpson Dr. Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Davis, Ray D. 3159 Maine Ave. Long Beach, CA 90806

Evatt, Karen, Mt. Mist Ornamental, 45525 SE Marmot Rd. Sandy, OR 97055

Filardi, Bruce, 4244 NE Royal Court, Portland, OR 97213

Franko, David, PO. Box 349, Palgrave, Ontario, CANADA LON 1P0

Gambutti, Mary Ellen, 2512 Richlandtown Pike, Coopersburg, PA 10836

Gormley, M/M Thomas & Rita, 6717 Martha Dr. Cedar Hill, MO 63018

Gregory, Patricia, 3129 S. Toledo Ave. Tulsa, OK 74135

Hall, Timothy Jackson, 410 Observatory Pl. Williams Bay, WI 53191

Hallman, Donnie, 228 Deer Springs Trl. Lexington, SC 29073

Hawver, Merrilee J. W9030 Lakeshore Rd. Sharon, WI 53585

Lazarus, Brian, 2566 Bell Creek Dr. Davidson, MD 21035

Millard, Patrick G. 23000 Baseline Blvd. Jordan, MN 55352

Miller, M/M Larry, 202 N. Wilmette, Westmont, IL 60559

O'Neill, Steve, 4626 Shellridge Rd. NW. Olympia, WA 98502

Peters, Harold S. Beautiful View Iris Gardens, 2048 Hickok Rd. Eldorado Hills, CA 95762

Pettenski, David A. 3408 218th St. SE. Bothwell, WA 98021

Ratay, John P. 6715 W. Stancliff Rd. Edinboro, PA 16412

Sparks, Cristina, 6504 Beaver Lake Rd. Alpena, MI 49707

Veazey, Cheryl W. 460 S. Holmes ST. Memphis, TN 38111

Kotzebue, Helmut von, Martensreihe 24, D-27616 Hollen, GERMANY

Vonderohe, Carol G. W10751 Wildwood Way, Poynette, WI 53955

Welch, Daniel, 465 Old Fort Rd. King of Prussia, PA 19046

Wenham, Patricia R. 406 Mission Creek Rd., Cashmere, WA 99815

LAST WORD

For years I wanted to be older and now I am

Margaret Atwood

My neighbor, who is my age, just bought herself a small chain saw, planning to clean up her wooded property. Then she had to suffer the indignity of roll reversal when her son, who now thinks he's the parent, declared that it was too dangerous for her – she might cut off her hand! This started me pondering whether there was anything positive about the aging process. Jimmy Carter has written a book on this subject. I think I'm ready to read it. There must be advantages that come with the passage of years. Someone suggested that with increasing age comes a liberty to speak one's mind – I like that idea and so I intend to exercise this new freedom right here. OK, judges, check page 30 of this publication. There are no HC's for Siberians in 1998. Where

were you at bloom time? Were there no Siberian seedlings worthy of the five votes it takes to receive an HM? Please, all of you accredited judges, go forth into the gardens this spring and judge –that ye be not judged! Wow, I feel better, definitely several years younger.

Bob and I are enjoying sending out the slide sets. They have traveled quite a bit over the winter months. In fact one set is currently in New Zealand! We are continuing Tom Abrego's work of updating them by contacting hybridizers for slides of their most recent introductions. We would be grateful to anyone who could send good clump and landscape shots.

Your "Favorite 15" ballot is with this issue. Please take the time to fill it out. You are the experts on which cultivars do well, and the more people who vote from different parts of the country (and abroad), the more complete will be the picture. Many people refer to this list in talks and in written material.

A special thank you to all our new hybridizers who contributed so willingly to this issue. It will be exciting to see their introductions as they come along. And how great to have so many ads in color!

SIBERIAN IRIS CHECK LIST

**Check lists are available at \$6.50/copy
(\$10.00 for overseas orders) from:**

Howard Brookins

N75 W14257 North Point Drive

Menomonee Falls, WI 5305

Please make checks payable to SSI

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

ADVERTISING RATES

*A source list for Siberians is printed in each spring issue of
TSI at a cost of \$5.00 per listing. Please send your
check, made payable to the Society for Siberian Irises,
to the editorial office at: 124 Sherwood Rd. East,
Williamston, MI 48895 by February 15th.*

Other rates:

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

COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES

BORGLUM, DANA
2202 Austin Rd., Geneva, NY 14456-9118

CHEHALEM GARDENS, Tom & Ellen Abrego
PO BOX 693, Newberg, OR 97132

DRAYCOTT GARDENS, Carol Warner
16815 FALLS Rd., Upperco, MD 21155
(see ad, page 41)

EARTHART GARDENS, Sharon Hayes Whitney
R.R. #1, Box 847, South Harpswell, ME 04079
(see ad, page 40)

ENSATA GARDENS, Bob Bauer & John Coble
9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053
(see ad, inside front cover)

FIELDSTONE GARDENS INC., Steve Jones
620 Quaker Lane, Vassalboro, ME 04989
phone/fax 207-923-3836 E-mail fsgarden@pivot.net
Specializing in McEwen Siberian irises.

IRIS BY THE CREEK, Pat & Randell Bowen
528 Forest Ridge Drive, Shelby, NC 28152
E-mail rbowen@shelby.net Phone: 704-434-6118

IRIS CITY GARDENS, Macey & Greg McCullough
502 Brighton Place, Nashville, TN 37205
800-934-4747 E-mail icity@msn.com
(see ad, page 41)

JOE PYE WEED'S GARDEN,
Marty Schafer & Janet Sacks
337 Acton St., Carlisle, MA 01741

Commercial Directory continued...

**MOUNTAIN VIEW GARDENS, Robert W. Dunkley
2435 Middle Rd., Columbia Falls, MT 59912-9237
Website... www.mountainviewgard.com**

**PECAN GROVE GARDENS, Steve and Jane Smart
1351 Chesnee Hwy. Gaffney, SC 29341-3416
E-mail irisman@msn.com Phone: 864-489-7137**

**QUAIL HILL GARDENS,
Everette & Ann Lineberger
2460 Compton Bridge Rd., Inman, SC 29349
Phone: 864-472-3339**

**NICODEMUS IRIS GARDEN,
Richard & Barbara Nicodemus
Rt. 1, Box 297, Buffalo, MO 65622
Phone: 417- 345-8697**

**WINDWOOD GARDENS, Bob & Judy Hollingworth
124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895
Phone: 517-349-8121
(see ad, page 42)**

Photo Credits:

Page 14: Mrs. Jean-Marc Boileau

Page 25: From **Siberian Irises** by Currier McEwen

Page 27: Bob Hollingworth



**CURRIER McEWEN
1999
SIBERIAN IRIS INTRODUCTION**

BUTTER AND CREAM (T₈ S87/175): Tetraploid Siberian Iris, 30", blooms early mid season to late. We are thrilled with this magnificent descendent of Butter and Sugar (RHS 5C). Butter and Cream is a strong overall yellow (RHS 12B) with 5" ruffled flowers of excellent form and branching. Its round, ruffled falls (RHS 12B) fade slowly while the crimped edges remain a strong yellow (RHS 12A) throughout the blooming period. A lovely feature of this flower is the central cup which is formed by the position of the standards and the styles, and accented by fimbriated style midribs and their crimped edges (RHS 4C). The photo of Butter and Cream appearing in McEwen's book, *The Siberian Iris*, Plate #24 unfortunately shows the flower as much darker yellow. . . \$35.00

In addition to Currier's 1999 Siberian introduction we are making a special note regarding our fall 1998 introduction of 'Pride in Blue,' the first Siberian to reach true blue in our gardens (RHS #100). We are looking forward to evaluating the color in gardens with varying conditions and soils. However we must offer Pride in Blue at a high price this year due to limited stock. Next year we hope to have more plants at a lower price. Currier has worked tirelessly over the years to develop true blue.

This is his 'Pride in Blue.'\$80.00

**Please visit us on McEwen and Eartheart Open Garden Days
Sunday, June 20 and July 11, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.**

Eartheart Gardens
Sharon H. Whitney
RR #1, Box 847, Harpswell, ME 04079-9725
(207) 833-6327

Descriptive catalog: \$2.00 - Deductible

DRAYCOTT GARDENS

Siberian and Japanese Irises

Carol Warner
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155
(410) 374-4788

Send \$1.00 for price list.



IRIS CITY GARDENS

Macey and Greg McCullough
502 Brighton Place
Nashville, TN 37205-2556
615-386.3778 800-934.iris

Primarily beardless iris; Japanese,
Siberian, Louisiana and Species

We carry some antique iris, tall
bearded iris and a variety of
pond plants.

Call or write for free catalog



WINDWOOD GARDENS...NEW FOR '99

We are pleased to offer two diploid introductions for 1999 from Windwood Gardens. A comment about **Hello Yellow** is in order. This strong yellow amoena/bitone is the result of about 15 years effort since we introduced the pale yellow amoena, Pas de Deux. Many, many yellow amoena seedlings have come and gone in the garden since that time as we sought for the combination of deeper color, branching, bud count and vigor. With **Hello Yellow**, all these things have come together. Hello -- at last!

HELLO YELLOW. Diploid. Strongly colored, sun-fast yellow amoena. Lightly ruffled falls curl down to increase the distance impact. Very pale yellow standards and yellow-keeled stylearms give a bitone effect. Vigorous and floriferous. 1-2 branches with 4-6 buds. Good foliage. 37". Early to midseason. Reblooms at times. Outstanding clump effect. Much admired at the 1993 Siberian Convention. Seedling 91A2B13. Tediously complex parentage going back to Butter and Sugar, Pas-de-Deux, Ruffled Velvet, Super Ego, Anniversary, Forrest McCord and others. \$35.00

VERY VICTORIAN. Diploid . A lovely pastel blend of mid-mauve (falls and standards) and light blue (stylearms) that are the shades of an earlier era. The blending of these colors is too subtle to catch easily on film but the photo on the inside back cover is as close as I can get. Full, rounded form with good ruffling. Strong upright foliage and a beautiful garden effect overall. Vigorous. 5 buds. Early to mid season, 32". Seedling 90M3A3. Parentage involves Pink Haze, Wing on Wing, Augury, Pas-de-Deux and Lavender Bounty. \$35.00

Bob and Judy Hollingworth: WINDWOOD GARDENS
124 Sherwood Rd. E., Williamston, MI 48895
list free upon request

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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

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BUTTER AND CREAM (McEwen '99), See ad page 40



VERY VICTORIAN (Hollingworth '99) See ad page 42

Frosted Emerald (Stahly '99)



White standard over falls of a distinct pale green with green lines extending from a very green throat make this flower a stand out. Nicely formed with ruffles, moderate height, 1 branch with typically 4 buds. \$40.00

Also for 1999: ACTIVE DUTY (Stahly). Deep wine red (a little deeper than RHS 80A); has a green signal with slight blue halo. At 37" blooms well above the foliage; a vigorous grower that transplants easily. Typically 1 branch and 5 buds. \$35.00

*Harold L. Stahly
8343 Manchester Drive
Grand Blanc MI 48439*