

The Siberian Iris



Spring 2002

IRIS SIBIRICA 'LITTLE CENTENNIAL'

Currier McEwen 2002



Currier has long enjoyed the fact that his birthday comes on April Fools Day. In 2002, he celebrated his 100th birthday. We have taken special pains to select a Siberian iris worthy of the occasion. **LITTLE CENTENNIAL** is a diploid Siberian, 25" tall. It blooms continuously for 6 weeks beginning midseason. Pale green veins in the signals accent the lovely small snow-white flowers. Very floriferous. From: **SILVER ILLUSION X** (McGarvey seedling x **LAVENDER BOUNTY**).....\$40.00

Open Garden Days
Sundays June and July 14, 1-5 pm
and by appointment

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THE SIBERIAN IRIS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3

SPRING 2002

President's Letter, <i>Carol Warner</i>	2
2001 Registrations & Introductions, <i>Roy Epperson</i>	3
Popularity Poll (2001), <i>Barbara Schmieder</i>	13
"How to Register and Introduce an Iris"	14
New Members, <i>Linda Doffek</i>	17
Regarding your Membership, <i>Linda Doffek</i>	18
How to Use Siberian Irises, <i>Bill Dougherty</i>	19
Comments - 2001 Poll, <i>Barbara Schmieder</i>	23
In Memory of Howard Brookins, <i>Linda Doffek</i>	33
Siberian Display Gardens, <i>Bill Dougherty</i>	34
Enough of Novelties..... <i>Bob Hollingworth</i>	43
Old(er) Ones, <i>Caroline Stalnaker</i>	46
Historic Siberians at Iris City, <i>Greg McCullough</i>	50
Request for Historics, <i>Bill Dougherty</i>	52
2002 Popularity Poll Ballot	53
Letter to the Editor, <i>Jim Morris</i>	54
Advertising Rates; SSI Slides	58
Officers, Directors and Committees	59
Nominating Committee Notice	inside back cover

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- 1) Front cover by Vince Lewonski
- 2) Inside front cover ad - photo by Chandler Fulton
- 3) Back cover: Currier McEwen in his garden in 2001, by Sharon Hayes Whitney

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is such a fascinating time in everyone's year! I've just spent a couple of hours cleaning up old foliage on some of my Siberians that were not cleaned up last fall. The emerging green shoots hold so much promise of things to come.

We are looking forward to the 2002 AIS Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, and the prospect of seeing good Siberians again this year. Several hybridizers sent seedlings for evaluation in the Convention tour gardens. I am especially looking forward to touring the gardens this year and thrilled that my garden is not on tour as it was last year. Our Siberian section meeting will be held on Friday, April 25th from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. All are welcome, and we hope that many of you are planning to attend the Convention and our section meeting.

Congratulations to Currier McEwen, who celebrated his 100th birthday on April 1st. Currier is an inspiration to us all, and he is still hybridizing. Happy Birthday, and thanks from all SSI members!

I've had several messages from members who are giving talks, slide presentations and promoting Siberian irises at all sorts of meetings. From my point of view Siberians are some of the best landscape plants available. Please don't forget when evaluating newer, as well as older, varieties that according to the judges' handbook, 70 points are allotted to the plant in and out of bloom. Always look first at vigor, foliage, disease resistance and stalk characteristics before being swept away by a new color, pattern or form of the flower.

Our upcoming fall issue of TSI will contain information on the 2003 Siberian and Species Convention to be held in Canada. We are all looking forward to attending our next mini-convention.

Best wishes for a great bloom season across the country! Siberians and those who appreciate them are very special.

Carol Warner

2001 Siberian Registrations and Introductions

(From the *Registrations and Introductions in 2001* published by The American Iris Society as compiled by Keith Keppel Registrar-Recorder and catalogued by E. Roy Epperson of SSI)

ADRENALINE RUSH (Christy Ann Hensler, SPEC-X, R. 2000). Rock Garden 2001.

AHRTALWEIN (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001) Sdlg. SSTT509. SIB, 35" (90 cm), M. S. light wine red, upright; F, light wine red, white signal, semi-flaring. SSTT266: (McEwen wine red sdlg x 8253c (conversion): ("Apfelbluete", Steiger wine red sdlg. x Wine Wings)) X wine red sdlg.

BARBARA SCHMIEDER (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 2001). Sdlg. S95-38-1. SIB, 33" (84 cm), EML. S. pale barium yellow (RHS 10D) with deeper highlights, paling with age; style arms pale empire yellow (11D), light barium yellow (10B) midrib and tips; F. barium yellow (10B/C) with deeper (10A) highlights, paling with age, bright canary yellow (9A) non-fading signal; small flowers. S92-65-13: (S89-9-2: (Isabelle x Silver Illusion) x Snow Prince) X S92-11-10: (S85-6-6: (Star Cluster x Ruffled Velvet) x Snow Prince). Joe Pye Weed 2001.

BELLA STITCHES (Louise Bellagamba, R. 2001) Sdlg. S.191. SIB, 35" (89 cm), M. S. dark blue; F. dark blue, silvery white stitches. Parentage unknown.

BERLINER OUVERTUERE (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT459. SIB, 43" (110 cm), E. Large pale lavender, S. upright. 87101C (conversion): (Wide White x Lavender Bounty) X Fourfold Lavender.

BERLINER WELLE (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT277. SIB (tet.), 32" (80 cm), M. S. medium blue; style arms light blue; F. medium blue, white signal; form flat; wide, F. ruffled. Silberkante X Regency Belle. Joe Pye Weed 2001.

BLUE-EYED PRINCESS (Lorena Reid, R. 2001). Sdlg.

95S114EG. SIB (sino-sib), 30-36" (76-91 cm), EM. S. blue lavender, center lighter; style arms light blue lavender, very pale yellow midrib; F. very pale lavender with white distal area, signal large and bi-lobed, blue lavender, with light yellow lines, white centerline; flared. Pale yellow albino: ((*I. chrysographes* bee signal x unknown) X 92S98/109-27: (Lightly Touched x 8S101-1J: (Blue Forty x Mauve Mood)).

CANANDAIGUA LADY (Dana Borglum, SIB, R. 2000). Borglum 2001.

CANONBURY BELLE (W. Tallack, SIB, R. 1973). Lingen 2001.

CHESIERES VIRGINIA ADELE (Liselotte Hirsbrunner, SIB, R. 2000). Jardin L'Imprevu 2001.

CHINA BITONE (O. D. Niswonger, R. 2001). Sdlg. Sib.2-01. SPEC-X, 32" (81 cm), E. S. and style arms blue; F. violet. Sib.4-96: (Four Winds x *I. typhifolia*) X Sib.3-96: (Snowy Mountain x *I. typhifolia*).

CHINA LAVENDER (O. D. Niswonger, R. 2001). Sdlg. Sib.7-99. SPEC-X, 30" (76 cm), E. Light lavender, F. with slightly deeper center, small mustard haft area. Sib.3-96 sib X Sib.3-96: (Snowy Mountain x *I. typhifolia*).

CHINA WHITE (O. D. Niswonger, R. 2001). Sdlg. Sib.4-01. Spec-X, 30" (76 cm), E. White self. Sib.3-96 sib X Sib 3-96: (Snowy Mountain x *I. typhifolia*).

CHINESE BLUE (O. D. Niswonger, R. 2001). Sdlg. Sib.5-01. SPEC-X, 32" (81 cm), E. Light blue, F. slightly darker and with small white signal. (Esther C.D.M. x *I. typhifolia*) X *I. typhifolia* sdlg.

CHRYSATA CHARME (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT466. SPEC-X, 16" (40 cm), EM. S. white; F. white, delicate blue line pattern; slight fragrance. Sino-sib sdlg. X *I. lactea*, light fall type.

COMMON DENOMINATOR (Christy Ann Hensler, SPEC-X, R. 2000). Rock Garden 2001.

COQUET WATERS (M. McCarthy, SIB, R. 1987). Lingen 2001.

DIRIGO RUFFLED FEATHERS (John White, SIB, R. 2000).
Pope's Perennials 2001.

EDUARD REGEL (Georgi Rodionenko, R. 2001). Sdlg.
11579K-1. SIB, 24-26" (60-65 cm), ML. Blue purple self, F. with
whitish signal. Parentage unknown; seed from Currier McEwen.
Rodionenko 1999.

EGOIST (Sergey Loktev, SIB, R. 2000). Loktev 2001.

ELEGANCE AND SIMPLICITY (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R.
2001). Sdlg. S95-7-1. SIB, 43" (109 cm), M. White self, lemon
yellow (RHS 13A) signal; slight fragrance. S89-5-2: (Forrest
McCord x Isabelle) X S92-86-10: (S89-23-4: ((Star Cluster x
Ruffled Velvet) x Isabelle) x S87-6-2:(Kenabee x Alter Ego)). Joe
Pye Weed 2001.

ESPERANCE NINETY-SIX (Nerissa Marshall, R. 2001). SPEC-
X, 28" (70 cm), VE. Beetroot purple (RHS 71A), F. with white
(155D) signal. *I. laevigata* X *I. chrysographes*.

FIALKOVY (Georgi Rodionenko, R. 2001). Sdlg. 2A. SIB, 18-
22" (45-55 cm), E. S. dark violet shot crimson; style arms dark vio-
let; F. slightly darker than S., indistinct whitish signal with cocoa
brown netting. *I. sanguinea* X unknown. Rodionenko 1965.

FLEDGLING (Nerissa Marshall, R. 2001). SPEC-X, 24" (60 cm),
E. Beetroot purple (RHS 71A), F. with white signal. *I. laevigata*
X *I. chrysographes*.

FLUORESCENCE (Lorena Reid, R. 2001). Sdlg. 96S44-1D. SIB
(sino-sib), 36-42" (91-107 cm), EM. S. magenta maroon; style arms
maroon, magenta accents; F. bright magenta maroon, dark signal lines
extending 1/3 length of F.; broad form. 92S107-2G: (Mauve Mood x
Blue Forty) X Btfl40opG88-3B9: (Beautiful Forty x unknown).

GOSSAMER PRINCE (Chandler Fulton, SIB, R. 2000). Pope's
Perennials 2001.

HOEHENFLUG (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT611. SIB (tet.), 59" (150 cm), M. S. light medium blue; F. medium blue, small white signal. Germantet One X Harpswell Velvet.

HOHE WARTE (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg SSTT702. SIB, 59" (150 cm), M. Small-flowered near-white, tinted lavender, F. with small brownish signal. Hollingworth sdlg., tall white, X Snow Prince.

HUMBLE PATH (Glenn Stoneking-Jones, R. 2001). Sdlg. CSETSIB6-22-05-18-2001. SPEC-X, 14" (36 cm), EM. S. blue, small and thin, style arms brown; F. blue purple, dark blue blaze; pronounced sweet fragrance; foliage tall, thin. *I. setosa* "Nana Canadensis" X Snowcrest.

IMPERIAL OPAL (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2001). Sdlg. S93H-1. SIB, 34" (86 cm), M. S. lavender pink; style arms absent; F. lavender pink, barely noticeable light yellow green blaze, slightly darker veins and speckling extending outward; multiple petal (12-20) hose-in-hose form: 3F., 3-6 S., 3 F., 3-6 S. S90M-8: (Mesa Pearl x Silver Illusion) X Ranman. Ensata Gardens 2001.

INTAGLIO (Christy Ann Hensler, SPEC-X, R. 2000). Rock Garden 2001.

IRISH MIST (Currier McEwen, SIB, R. 1999). Eartheart 2000.

JAC-Y-DO (Harry Foster, SIB, R. 1990). Lingen 2001.

JUGENDTRAUM (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT490. SIB, 28" (70 cm), M. Wide pinkish lavender. Mad Magenta X Silver Illusion.

JUST CRUISING (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 2001). Sdlg. S95-14-1. SIB, 33" (84 cm), EM. S. pale primrose yellow (RHS 4C); style arms paler primrose yellow (4D), darker (4C) curls, tips and midrib; F. sulphur yellow (7B to 6C), bright canary yellow (9A) signal; ruffled; pronounced sweet fragrance. S90-31-3: (S85-6-6: (Star Cluster x Ruffled Velvet) x S86-2-1: (Creme Chantilly x Warburton sdlg. inv. Atoll, Ruffled Velvet, Butter and Sugar)) X S92-56-13: (S89-5-10: (Forrest McCord x Isabelle) x Careless Sally). Joe Pye Weed 2001.

KABOOM (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2001). Sdlg. S93GC-1. SIB (tet.), 34" (86 cm), M. Navy blue, F. with gold and white sunburst blaze; ruffled, horizontal; multiple petal (9-12) hose-in-hose form: 3 F., 3 S., 3 F., 3 S. within center. Colchicine-induced tetraploid. S89A-1: (Shirley Pope x Hollingworth 85D1A12: (Sultan's Ruby x unknown)) X "Uzushio". Ensata Gardens 2001.

KARLA'S FADED DENIMS (Dana Borglum, SIB, R. 2000). Borglum 2001.

KHANKA (Georgi Rodionenko, R. 2001). Sdlg. 3032. SIB, 28-35" (70-90 cm), VE. Pale violet tinted crimson; style arms slightly lighter; F. with indistinct pale lilac spot. Natural hybrid, collected near Khanka Lake, Russian Far East. Rodionenko 1982.

LAVENDELWEIN (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT418. SIB (tet.), 32" (80 cm), M. S. lavender; F. light wine red, brownish haft. SSTT280: (Fourfold Lavender x Hollingworth D2C26) X Fourfold Lavender.

LITTLE CENTENNIAL (Currier McEwen, R. 2001). Sdlg. S89/108G. SIB, 30" (76 cm), EML. White, F. with medium yellow (RHS 7A) signal with pale sap green (150D) veins; F. form arched downward, recurved on lower 1/3. Silver Illusion X S82/125Y: (McGarvey 74-71-21-W1 x Lavender Bounty).

LUFTSCHLOSS (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT483. SIB (tet.), 30" (75 cm), M. Large light blue, F., with white throat and small white signal. From tet. sdlg., parentages unknown.

MADELEINE HAMILTON (Jennifer Hewitt, R. 2001). Sdlg. YT889/9. SIB (tet.), 28" (70 cm), ML. S. white, yellow veins at midrib; style arms white, midrib green to yellow; F. cream (near RHS 1D) veined green, deep yellow shoulders, signal green at hafts and cream in outer area, veined green; ruffled, S. and F. flared, style arms with floret crests and sometimes midrib outgrowths; slight fragrance. Harpswell Happiness X Golden Crimping.

McKENZIE BRUISER (Lorena Reid, R. 2001). Sdlg. 94S29-2E. SIB (sino-sib), 36" (91 cm), M. S. bright medium blue violet, nar-

row; style arms medium blue violet, midrib and crest center lighter; F. bright medium blue violet, very large blue black signal slightly lighter near edge. McKenzie Violet X 8S73-90S2: (Berlin Dark Mantle x self). Laurie's Garden 2001.

NACHTGESANG (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT481. SIB (tet.), 33" (85 cm), M. Large deep violet blue, F. with velvet texture, small white signal. Prussian Blue X Regency Buck.

NURSE'S APRON (Lorena Reid, R. 2001). Sdlg. 94S44-4E. SIB (sino-sib), 24" (61 cm), EM. Lightly ruffled white, F. with bi-lobed yellow signal edged and stitched with dark purple dashes. Mauve Mood X 8S54-1BopG 92-2G: (Enbee Deeaych x yellow *I. delavayi* hybrid #1). Laurie's Garden 2001.

OTEPOPO ELEGANCE (Gwenda Harris, R. 2001). SIB (sino-sib), 54" (137 cm), M. S. pansy (RHS 83A); style arms dark aster violet (87B) fading grey violet; F. pansy, overlaid velvet black; slight sweet fragrance. Black Garnet X unknown.

OTEPOPO NIGHT (Gwenda Harris, R. 2001). SIB (sino-sib), 39" (99 cm), M. S. pansy (RHS 83A); style arms pansy lightening to violet purple (77A) in center; F. pansy flushed violet black, gold haft striping deep in throat, feathered at edge. Black Garnet X unknown.

OTEPOPO POPPY (Gwenda Harris, R. 2001). SIB, 30" (76 cm), L. S. violet blue (RHS 96A) blending to orchid (77C); style arms orchid to violet, midrib violet blue; F. violet blue, fine greenish brown haft marking, faint white centerline; flat form. Parentage unknown.

OTEPOPO SERENE (Gwenda Harris, R. 2001). SIB (sino-sib), 50" (127 cm), M. S. white; style arms light dresden yellow (RHS 5D); F. paler chartreuse yellow (1D). Anticipation Orange X unknown.

OUT IN MISSOURI (O. D. Niswonger, R. 2001). Sdlg. Sib 5-93. SIB, 30" (76 cm), M. S. blue; style arms blue, midrib with turquoise hint; F. deep blue, darker center shadings, small white signal speck. Bishop's Pawn X unknown. Cape Iris 2001.

OVER THE RIVER (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 2001). Sdlg. S93-17-1. SIB, 30" (76 cm), M. Blue (RHS 96B) self; F. signal white with navy blue veins. Vicki Ann X Riverdance. Joe Pye Weed 2001.

PASTEL DANCER (Lorena Reid, R. 2001). Sdlg. 95S87-3G. SIB (sino-sib), 36" (91 cm), ML. S. near-white, few light lavender stitches on side edges; style arms white, slight pale lavender on sides; F. near-white, large pale yellow signal, lined lavender in throat and lower edge, center clear, lavender center streak below signal; broad pendant F. 92S34-2F: (Black Garnet x 8835-90S2 mottled: (Enbee Deeaych x Cascade Creme)) X 8846-811-1opG92-3J12: (Beautiful Forty x clear yellow albino).

PLUM FROLIC (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 2001). Sdlg. S92-6-10. SIB, 27" (69 cm), M. S. pale blue violet, overall red violet veining and dappling; style arms pearly light blue touched red violet; F. light blue ground, heavy red violet veining and dappling, signal white with dark blue veins; ruffled; slight fragrance. Roaring Jelly X Sailor's Fancy. Joe Pye Weed 2001.

PRITIAZHENIYE (Sergey Loktev, R. 2001). SPEC (sibirica), 39" (98 cm), E. S. medium blue; style arms light blue; F. medium blue, violet haft, dark venation, signal yellow subtended white. *I. sibirica* X unknown.

RAMBUNCTIOUS (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2001). Sdlg. S95H-1. SIB, 35" (89 cm), M. S. (6-9) blue violet; F. medium blue violet, small white blaze; multiple petals (9-12). Glow of Happiness X Ranman. Ensata Gardens 2001.

REDDY OR NOT (J.T. Aitken, R. 2001). SIB, 38" (97 cm), ML-VL & RE. Wine red, F. with white signal blending to green in throat. Parentage unknown. Aitken 2001.

ROADSIDE WONDER (Kitty Ackerman, R. 2001). Sdlg. K-98-1. SIB, 33" (84 cm), ML. S. and style arms violet blue (RHS 89B); F. violet blue, white rim, white signal and brownish haft. Shaker's Prayer X unknown.

ROGER LUCE (Currier McEwen, SIB, R. 1999). Eartheart 2000.

ROWDEN AURELIUS (John & Galen Carter, SIB, R. 2000). Rowden 2001.

SENECA SILVERY SKIES (Dana Borglum, SIB, R. 2000). Borglum 2001.

SENECA WINE TRAIL (Dana Borglum, SIB, R. 2000). Borglum 2001.

SIBIRISCHE NACHT (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT417. SIB (tet.), 30" (75 cm), M. S. dark wine red; F. dark wine red to blackish purple, small white signal. Wine purple sdlg. X SSTT315 (sectorial chimera): (Jamaican Velvet x ("Apfelbluete", Steiger wine red sdlg. x Butter and Sugar)).

SIBTOSA KING (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT554. SPEC-X (tet.), 32" (80 cm), M. Large deep violet blue, F. with small white signal. SSTT262, deep blue converted tet. sibtosia, X Regency Buck.

SIBTOSA QUEEN (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT523. SPEC-X (tet.), 41" (105 cm), EM. S. and style arms white; F. lavender pink, small brownish white signal. Converted lavender sibtosia sdlg. X Lucky Lilac.

SONG SPARROW (Roy Klehm, R. 2001). SIB, 30" (76 cm), M. S. light pinkish lavender; F. deep pinkish lavender, edges lighter, signal yellow. Parentage unknown.

SPINDAZZLE (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2001). Sdlg. S95N-1. SIB, 30" (76 cm), M. S. light rose, wide and horizontal; style arms rose, pearl edges and crests, midrib with petal-like keel; F. dark rose, blue violet halo around near-hidden gold sunburst blaze. Sailor's Fancy X S88M-1: (S85M-1: (Temper Tantrum x Ruffled Velvet) x S85P-1: (Ruffled Velvet x unknown)). Ensata Gardens 2001.

STATELY ELEGANCE (Lorena Reid, R. 2001). Sdlg. 92S44-173b. SIB (sino-sib), 24" (61 cm), ML. S. clear pinkish lavender;

style arms shaded pinkish lavender; F. pinkish lavender, indistinct deep pinkish lavender signal area with fine yellow lines; cupped form, laced edges. Cascade Creme X clear pale yellow albino: (*I. chrysographes*, bee signal, x unknown).

STITCH WITCHERY (Lorena Reid, R. 2001). Sdlg. 94cs9-2E. SPEC-X (cal-sib), 30" (76 cm), E. S. near-white, edges stitched purple, partial yellow midrib; style arms white and light reddish purple; F. white ground, purple stitch lines overall, yellow signal with additional row of heavier stitches at edge; fine green foliage. *I. chrysographes*, bee signal, X All Shook Up. Laurie's Garden 2001.

SWEET LITTLE SUSIE (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 2001). Sdlg. S94-30-1. SIB, 22" (56 cm), EM. Medium hyacinth to wisteria blue (RHS 91A, 92A) self, F. with large round white signal veined violet blue; ruffled; slight fragrance. S90-45-2: (S86-16-1: (Percheron x Isabelle) x Sailor's Fancy) X S92-65-1: (S89-9-2: (Isabelle x Silver Illusion) x Snow Prince). Joe Pye Weed 2001.

TANZ NOCHMAL (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg. SSTT307. SIB, 18-31" (45-80 cm), M & RE. Ruffled medium blue, F. slightly mottled, small white signal. Blue Reverie X SSTT199: (SSTT164: (Ewen x white sdlg.) x SSTT179 conversion: ("Milky Way" x Cambridge)).

THREE HAND STAR (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 2001). Sdlg. S94-47-1. SIB, 29" (74 cm), M. S. medium purple (RHS 89B/C), edge lighter; style arms pale blue violet (92D to 97D), darker blue midrib and heart; F. velvety royal purple (89A), pale wisteria blue (92B/C) rim, no visible signal; slight fragrance. Lady Walpole X Sailor's Fancy. Joe Pye Weed 2001.

TILT-O-WHIRL (Bob Bauer/John Coble, R. 2001). Sdlg. S95Y-4. SIB, 38" (97 cm), M. S. (6-9) blue violet; style arms blue violet; F. (3) blue violet, white sunburst blaze; multiple petal (9-12) form. S93R-2: (Silver Illusion x S90M-8: (Mesa Pearl x Silver Illusion)) X Shebang. Ensata Gardens 2001.

VELVET MIST (Roy Klehm, R. 2001). SIB, 28" (71 cm), M. S.

dark purple; F. rich velvety purple, pronounced yellow signal striped deep velvety purple. Parentage unknown.

VIEL CREME (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2001). Sdlg, SSTT503. SIB (tet.), 39" (100 cm), M. S. white; F. cream white, throat light yellow. SSTT278: (8378: (white sdlg. x (Dreaming yellow x self)) x Dreaming Orange) X "White Ruffles", sib to Tanz Nochmal.

WEBER'S SPRING BLUES (Glenn Stoneking-Jones, R. 2001). Sdlg. CSETSIB6-11-05-18-2001. SPEC-X, 6" (15 cm), E. S. lavender blue, small; style arms mustard yellow; F. lavender, bluish purple signal, pronounced purple veining; foliage thin, grassy; pronounced sweet fragrance. *I. setosa* "Nana Canadensis" X "Sibirica Nana Alba".

WHITE AMBER (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks, R. 2001). Sdlg. S95-57-2. SIB, 26" (65 cm), E. S. lavender with naples yellow (RHS 11B) edge aging cream (11D) with pale yellow edge; style arms deep yellow (11A) with lavender, aging paler; anthers magenta; F. lavender pink with aureolin yellow (12B) marginal area, aging to lighter pink and yellow blend, signal aureolin yellow (12C) with deep pink veins; small, lightly ruffled. S92-75-11: (S89-16-1: (Reprise x Mad Magenta) x S89-9-2: (Isabelle x Silver Illusion)) X S92-65-13: (S89-9-2 x Snow Prince). Joe Pye Weed 2001.

WINCHESTER BLUE (Heather Collins by Gwenda Harris, R. 2001). SIB, 22" (56 cm), M. S. violet blue (RHS 96C), deeper veining; style arms pale violet blue, midrib turquoise; F. violet blue, hafts marked brown, rounded white ray pattern in center. Parentage unknown.

SIBERIAN POPULARITY POLL

2001 Votes '99 Rank

1. ROARING JELLY (<i>Schafer/Sacks '92</i>)	62	1
2. OVER IN GLORYLAND (<i>Hollingworth '93</i>)	42	5
3. JEWELLED CROWN (<i>Hollingworth '87</i>)	40	2
3. STRAWBERRY FAIR (<i>Hollingworth '94</i>)	40	5
4. CORONATION ANTHEM (<i>Hollingworth '90</i>)	39	4
5. SHAKER'S PRAYER (<i>Warner '90</i>)	29	7
6. LADY VANESSA (<i>Hollingworth '86</i>)	28	12
6. SULTAN'S RUBY (<i>Hollingworth '88</i>)	28	6
7. LAKE KEUKA (<i>Borglum '94</i>)	26	3
8. MESA PEARL (<i>Bauer/Coble '94</i>)	23	10
9. PINK HAZE (<i>McGarvey '80</i>)	21	9
10. SOMEBODY LOVES ME (<i>Hollingworth '98</i>)	20	----
10. SPRINKLES (<i>Bauer/Coble '94</i>)	20	----
11. BUTTER & SUGAR (<i>McEwen '77</i>)	19	----
11. CARELESS SALLY (<i>Schafer/Sacks '96</i>)	19	10
11. CHEERY LYN (<i>A.M. Miller '91</i>)	19	----
11. SHIRLEY POPE (<i>McEwen '79</i>)	19	14
12. ESTHER C.D.M. (<i>McGarvey '82</i>)	18	13
12. REPRISE (<i>Warburton '87</i>)	18	8
12. SHIPS ARE SAILING (<i>Schafer/Sacks '98</i>)	18	----
13. SUMMER SKY (<i>Cleveland '35</i>)	17	15
14. FOND KISS (<i>Schafer/Sacks '99</i>)	16	----
14. PERCHERON (<i>Warburton '82</i>)	16	----
15. AQUA WHISPERS (<i>A.M. Miller '88</i>)	15	14
15. MABEL CODAY (<i>Helsley '85</i>)	15	----
15. SHALL WE DANCE (<i>Hollingworth '92</i>)	15	15
15. TRIM THE VELVET (<i>Schafer/Sacks '95</i>)	15	15

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**14 votes:** Blueberry Fair, High Standards, Neat Trick, Riverdance, Snow Prince, Temper Tantrum. **13 votes:** Gull's Wing, Salamander Crossing, Springs Brook, Steve Varner, Super Ego. **12 votes:** King of Kings, Mad Magenta, Pansy Purple, Tom Schaefer. **11 votes:** Ruffled Velvet, White Triangles. **10 votes:** Blackberry Jubilee, Carmen Jeanne, Purple Sand, Rill, Dirigo Black Velvet.

## *How to Register and Introduce an Iris*

*Reprinted by permission from the January 2002 American Iris Society Bulletin*

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises except bulbous irises.

### **Registration**

1. Write to the AIS Registrar, Keith Keppel, P.O. Box 18154, Salem, OR 97305, for a registration blank, enclosing check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The fee is \$7.50 per registration, or \$10.00 if transferring a name from a previous registration.
2. Select a name which has not previously been used and submit it for approval. To determine availability of name, please refer to all ten-year *Check lists* (beginning 1939) and annual *Registrations and Introductions booklets* (beginning 2000). (Preliminary checking can also be done on the internet: [www.irisregister.com](http://www.irisregister.com)). Please also suggest alternate names. A name is not registered until the registration application has been completed and approved and a certificate of registration returned to you.
3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Rules are subject to change, but at the present time the following names will not be permitted:
  - a. Names of living persons without their written consent, or names of recently (10 years) deceased persons without permission of next of kin or other authority.
  - b. Personal names containing the following forms of address or their equivalent in another language: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.



- c. Names including symbols, numerals, non-essential punctuation or abbreviations.
  - d. Names beginning with the articles "a" or "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
  - e. Names in Latin or in latinized form.
  - f. Slight variation of a previously registered name.
  - g. Names in excess of three words, ten syllables or thirty letters.
  - h. Names containing the word "iris" or "flag" or the species' names of Iris, or formed wholly by recombining parts of the parental species' names.
  - i. Names containing the hybridizer's name in possessive form.
  - j. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black), or which are composed solely of adjectives which could be construed as a simple description (e.g. Pale Blue, Ruffled).
  - k. Names translated from the original language; they should be transliterated as necessary.
4. Previously registered names may be re-used only if (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in the parentage of later registrations, and (c) a statement of permission is obtained from the prior registrant.
5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof no stock now exists and that the iris was not listed as a parent in registrations. ***It is the obligation of the registrant to furnish the registrar with acceptable proof.***

## ***Introduction***

Introduction is the offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, and advertisements in the *American Iris Society Bulletin* are

acceptable means of introduction. It is a requisite of awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. A variety is not eligible for listing on the awards ballot until after it has been recorded as introduced by the Registrar-Recorder. Send the Registrar a copy of your list, catalog or advertisement by first class mail so verification of introduction can be made. Internet webpage introduction will also be acceptable, provided that the introducer sends a printed copy of the webpage to the registrar by first class mail.

The Registrar will supply a sample application form upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope.



**New Members**

**Joyce Bertram, Lancaster, California**  
**John & Rosemary Cain, Taos, New Mexico**  
**Robert & Janet Canning, Walnut Creek, California**  
**Shauna Cannon, Spruce Grove, Alberta, CANADA**  
**Donn Carlsmith, Aiea, Hawaii**  
**Ann Colwell, Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**Clare Dodsworth, Darlington, Co. Durham, ENGLAND**  
**Arlene G. Duchess, Presto, Pennsylvania**  
**William Fueger, Novelty, Ohio**  
**Golden Wings Iris Society, Caledonia, Mississippi**  
**Patrick Holland, Fairview Park, Ohio**  
**Sharon Lee, San Jose, California**  
**Barbara Leschisin, Andover, Minnesota**  
**Norma Lunden, Mica, Washington**  
**David Maltby, Scotland, Ontario, CANADA**  
**Mrs. Claire Patten, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND**  
**Vaughn Sayles, Jr., Marathon, New York**  
**Pat Schwartz, Middleton, Wisconsin**  
**Sylvia Smith, Severn, Maryland**  
**Caroline Randolph Stalnaker, Strasburg, Virginia**  
**Mary G. Sullivan, Scotland, Arkansas**  
**Judith Tucholski, Cheektowaga, New York**  
**Martha Walker, Jacksonville, Arkansas**  
**Marsha Williams, Thompsons Station, Tennessee**

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Regarding your membership,

To provide improved service, I have been updating/correcting the membership files over the last year. I've added the year that your membership expires on the top line of each mailing label. For example, if your label has "2003" on it that means your membership will expire on the FIRST day of 2003. Based on the number of renewals I received since January 1st it appears many members were quick to determine the method to my madness. Of course, I always knew Siberian Iris enthusiasts were extremely bright. If you have no year indicated, that would mean you are either one of our valued life members or are receiving the publication as a complimentary copy.

A sincere thank you to the members who promptly sent their renewals just as soon as they received their notice. And all the folks who've lightened my load by upgrading from annual to triennial membership. Also, we've have had an impressive number of members, new and old, that have recently chosen life membership. It's gratifying to see so many willing to invest in this society, this quality publication, and the future of this graceful and gorgeous flower.

Special thanks to Rita Gormley, a real gem, who generously offered me guidance while I was "cooking up" our new membership database. And to Ellen Gallagher, who regularly provides prompt answers, sage advice, or a good belly laugh that gets things back in perspective for me. All that, and this terrific publication too. You should see her Wonder Woman® cape...

One of my goals is to ensure that you receive your mailing just as promptly as possible. You can help by letting me know about any changes or corrections needed in your address. Please email me at **LDoffekSSI@aol.com** or drop me a note via snail mail. If there is something else I can assist you with, or answer any questions, such as the status of your membership, please ask. I'd be happy to assist you.

~ Linda Doffek, Membership Chairman

How to Use Siberian Irises

Principles and Elements for Landscaping

by *Bill Dougherty, Minnesota*

Siberian irises have many characteristics suitable to today's sustainable urban landscape practices. Key elements of landscape design call for material with variety in height, texture, form, and seasonal interest. Drought and moisture tolerance, insect and disease resistance, sun or shade tolerance, and soil adaptability, are also important elements. Siberians match these key elements well.

Because of the relative novelty of Siberian iris many gardeners and landscapers are at a loss on how to use them. Some concepts for their use will be discussed.

Desirable characteristics

- Easy culture and maintenance once established
 - Prefer full sun can tolerate some shade
 - Prefer ample moisture, but drought resistant
- Tough meadow plants can handle competition w/grass and other perennials
- Few insect and disease problems
- Adaptable to many soil conditions - acidic to neutral
- More than one season of interest
 - Spring flowering
 - Bloom on a horizontal plane
 - Foliage
 - Strong vertical presentation throughout season
 - Brown foliage after frost
 - Seedpods add winter interest
 - Some have red base color/spathes
- Growing variety of height, flower form, pattern, texture, and color
 - Flower forms - Simple, tailored to ruffled and refined
 - Traditional
 - Pendant
 - Arched

- Modern
 - Semi-flaring
 - Open
 - Rounded
- Latest development
 - Double
 - Multi-petal
- Variety of color
 - Flowers
 - Blues – All variations from silver blue to midnight blue excepting true blue
 - Violets - Light lavender to deep red violets and black
 - Red – Derived from violet, crimson
 - White – Cream to transparent
 - Pink – Cool, deriving from blue
 - Yellow – Some fade to white more color-fast varieties available
 - Foliage
 - Green to glaucous blue-green
- Patterns
 - Yellow/white/green signals
 - Dappling/broken color
 - White/gold/silver/blue edging
- Height
 - Growing variety 8" to 46" (Classes are arbitrary)
 - Mini 8-10"
 - Intermediate 18-24"
 - Average 30-36"
 - Tall 40-46"
- Movement with wind
 - Traditional flower forms flutter like butterflies
 - Foliage provides interesting sound (susurrations) like ornamental grasses

Landscaping Concepts

- Color comments

Generally Siberian irises are blue and violet with green foliage. These are the most harmonious colors in the garden adding balance and scale. Quintessential cool colors; they suggest distance, space, harmony, calm, and tranquility. Add crimson and white for contrast and yellow for complementary partnership.

Dark red-violets and crimsons, particularly some of the diamond-dusted varieties, can add a shimmering effect adding variety.

Because violets, blues, pinks from blue, are recessive they should be planted en masse which adds simplicity, balance, and scale.

At dusk blues and whites remain visible longer and add value to plantings surrounding an evening sitting place, providing emphasis.

- Plant Value

The tough rhizomes create dense clumps. The tall, upright, and vigorous foliage can shade competing forbs etc., creating ground cover.

The dominating structure of Siberian iris, like their complements ornamental grasses, can provide filler to a naturalistic or mixed perennial border. Unlike their tall bearded cousins in which each plant has been hybridized to make a single large showy display, many Siberians are more subtle, they can provide a sense of continuity or backbone to the perennial garden.

An accent planting provides continuous focus or feature to a landscape. During the flowering period a clump of Siberians can provide accent but generally a planting cannot hold its

place as an accent throughout the season. Siberians should be associated with other perennials and in combination provide accent during the cool spring season and filler during the remaining time.

There are an increasing number of Siberian irises that can be used as specimens in a landscape planting. By specimen we mean a single planting working as a special feature. Specimens are dramatic and provide a focus to themselves and surrounding features during their season of bloom.

These irises are very responsive to the air itself. In combination with cool season grasses like *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster', the play of light, flutter of flowers, the swaying movement of foliage, and the rustling sound can provide a tremendous sensory delight.

Given their many desirable traits, Siberians can be used in a large variety of landscaping situations. I invite readers of this article to share their opinions on how to use Siberians in the landscape through the Siberian e-mail list by subscribing at:
sibro-subscribe@yahoo.com

Author's note: This article is born out of the many talks I have given recently on Siberian irises. Besides showing slides and providing cultural information I like to give gardeners and landscape professionals ideas on how to use these iris in their landscapes. Some of the material is obvious and redundant to the many connoisseurs of this magazine and some may provide further thought and discussion on this topic.

Favorite Siberian Irises for 2001

by *Barbara Schmieder, Massachusetts*

Some statistics of the voting this year:

- 1) 131 SSI members voted this year as opposed to 69 in 1999.
- 2) The votes came from 34 states (23 last time) plus Canada and overseas.
- 3) Votes by state: Michigan 15; Massachusetts and Missouri, 10; California, 8; Maine, Nebraska, New York and Virginia, 6; Maryland and Washington, 5; Illinois and Kentucky, 4; Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania, 3; Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Tennessee, 2. Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, New Mexico, South Carolina, Vermont, Wisconsin and West Virginia, 1.
- 4) Canada sent 4 ballots, England 2 and one each from Germany, Lithuania and Russia.
- 5) Fourteen of the 2001 favorites are Morgan-Wood Medal winners and **SUPER EGO** won the Morgan Award in 1971 before the Siberian class had a medal category.
- 6) 332 varieties got at least one vote (up from 229 last time around).

Siberian Popularity Poll Comments

It has been a lot of fun tabulating the results of the ballot and reading the comments when the votes came in. I'll start with some of the briefer ones.

- ◆ Rosemary and John Cain, New Mexico: *We are brand new members and pretty new at growing these lovely iris. We have about eight so far in our garden, but not all bloomed last year. Of those that did bloom, perhaps our favorite is **CORONATION ANTHEM** (Hollingworth '90).*
- ◆ Brian Wendel, Indiana: ***CORONATION ANTHEM** (Hollingworth '90) and **ROARING JELLY** (Schafer/Sacks '92) were just exceptional with lots of blooms and plenty of new growth.*

Overall, it was a very good year for Siberian iris bloom.

- ◆ Jacqueline Clark, Vermont: **CATHY CHILDERSON** (Johnson '88) *is a beautiful Siberian that does really well here.*
- ◆ Alun and Jill Whitehead, England: **SNOW PRINCE** (Tiffany '90) *is slow to clump, because it's too busy flowering!*
- ◆ D. and D. Eigenman, California: **LINDA MARY** (Cooper '90), **PANSY PURPLE** (McEWEN '71) and **MABEL CODAY** (Helsey '85) *all bloom in the San Francisco Bay area without icing.*
- ◆ Ellen Gallagher, New Hampshire: *Wish I could have listed 50 favorites for 2001! (I feel the same way, Ellen - it was painful to have to limit my list to 15!).*
- ◆ Bruce Filardi, Oregon: *It would have been helpful to know whether this is supposed to be your 15 favorites, in order from #1 (top favorite) on down - or just your 15 favorites in no particular order. (This was a question from several people and I'm sorry that I didn't make it clear. It is not meant to be in any particular order but in your comments, you can always expound on your favorites).*
- ◆ (no name given) from Washington: *I'd like to see more variety in form. I don't like the cookie-cutter approach into which we are drifting. (Editor's note: This comment surprised me since I think the Siberian hybridizers (Bauer-Coble, Schafer/Sacks, Hollingworth, etc. are doing just the opposite of a "cookie-cutter approach". See the article on "Recent Trends in Hybridizing Siberian Irises in the USA" by Bob Hollingworth in the spring 2001 issue of TSI. I will be glad to e-mail or snail-mail a copy if anyone wishes.)*
- ◆ C. ROSS, Michigan: **PURPLE SAND** (A.M. Miller '91) *had repeat bloom.*
- ◆ Mrs. Rae Johnson, Michigan: **Sibirica Nana Alba**. *most overlooked of all white Siberians. These, with lots of water, form huge white clumps - I sell out of them every year! People can't wait to plant them beside pools, fountains, etc. TURQUOISE CUP (Cleveland '29) *is a great old Siberian. It stand out in the garden with its color.**

- ◆ M. Dean and Judith Hunt, Kentucky: **CAESAR'S BROTHER** (Morgan '32) is the garden work horse!
- ◆ Donald Sorenson, Michigan: **STRAWBERRY FAIR** (Hollingworth '94) - what a great overall plant! Great color and those deep ruffles. Deserves all of the awards it has gotten. **MESA PEARL** (Bauer/Coble '94) - a good grower in my garden. So many visitors wanted some of of it. I gave away so much and now I have to replace it!
- ◆ Jerry Huntley, Nova Scotia, Canada: I had a wonderful bloom on the SI in 2001, despite having divided quite a few of them. There was no rebloom this year because the weather here was cooled and it got very dry after the middle of June. The SI season still extended over a 30-day period from the first bloom on **SHAKER'S PRAYER** (Warner '90) on June 12th to the last bloom on **KING OF KINGS** (Varner' 83) on July 11th.
- ◆ Caroline Stalnaker, Virginia: I doubt that many of my choices will make the cut, but as one who grows historic Siberians, I felt that I should state my choices from what I grow. (For the record, here are some of the irises that Caroline voted for and aren't we all grateful that they are being preserved.) **GRANDIS** (Farr '12), **GATINEAU** (Preston '32), **SNOW QUEEN** (Barr 1900), **MY LOVE** (Scheffy '48), **TOWANDA RED FLARE** (Scheffy '48), **ERIC THE RED** (Whitney '43), **COOL SPRING** (Kellogg Reg. '39), **TURQUOISE CUP** (Cleveland '27) and **SNOWY EGRET** (Cleveland Reg. '39).
- ◆ Ernie and Ann Henson, Illinois: Siberians grow really well here in the midwest. Steve Varner's perform the best for us and we have been trying to collect all of his introductions. He encouraged us to join the Siberian Society at a time when we grew only about 20 varieties and now we have lost count of how many grace our garden. - 200 more or less. The fun is in the growing, not the counting. (Another comment by the Hensons was that they think that **ESTHER C.D.M.** (McGarvey '82) and **GULL'S WING** (McGarvey '89) are the same.)
- ◆ Marcia Connelly, Massachusetts: **TRIM THE VELVET** (Schafer/Sacks '95) is by far my favorite.

- ◆ Carryl Meyer, Montana: *It is really hard trying to remember some of the blooms at this time of year when everything out there is white. Some of the symposium ballots list many irises and you just have to check the ones you like which is much easier than having to think of all of them. I know some of my favorites are older ones but with our screwy weather here, the ones that survive and bloom easily become a favorite.*
- ◆ Janet Hawel, Kentucky: **LAVENDER STIPPLES** (A.M. Miller '91) *has excellent form, interesting flower. The world needs to see more of this plant. REPRISE* (Warburton '87), *nice plant habit with a reliable repeat bloom. SUMMER SKY* (Cleveland '35) *is a small flower with true blue color and floriferous. A great addition to any Siberian collection. MESA PEARL* (Bauer/Coble '94) *is a delicate perfect flower. PANSY PURPLE* (McEwen '77) *is absolutely an A+ plant. Excellent grower with upright foliage. Flower is an attention grabber in the garden.*
- ◆ Pamela Peltier, Virginia: *I bought LADY VANESSA* (Hollingworth '86) *before she won the Morgan-Wood Medal and I love her. WHITE SWIRL* (Cassebeer '57) *was introduced by Fred Cassebeer who started me on Siberians before I left Rockland County, New York. BUTTER AND SUGAR* (McEwen '77) *was a great step forward when it was introduced. As you can see, sentiment enters into my choices.*
- ◆ Maggie Lou Smith, New York: *My listings are not in the order of preference. SUPER EGO* (McGarvey '66) *however, I just don't EVER want to be without. Some plants are just so worthy and dear and you know what, little SUMMER SKY* (Cleveland '35) *is dear! Old faithful. Some plants take drought, too much rain, mean winters and yet they never let one down come spring! That to me is a plant. Never mind the show bench but just be always there, take all the flack elements can dish out (note: I didn't blame Mother Nature) and still remain to give a body JOY. They get my vote.*
- ◆ Marie Cain, Nebraska: *I look at my overgrown Siberians and wonder how it happened, when 12 years ago I was afraid I couldn't grow them at all. Ha - now 46 varieties later and run-*

ning out of room with al my seedlings, also. They are of great interest to people who come to see my TB iris - some didn't know there were so many kinds of irises. We have loved sharing our gardens. Now soon to be 80, I've got to cut down the gardens and sell off several lots. I'll miss them but I'll keep all I can. I'm an Iris Nut. **ROYAL HERALD** (Scheffy '48) grows and grows and it has seeds! Every year it takes over even the pathways.

- ◆ Marky Smith, Washington: Two excellent tets for me in my (irrigated) desert climate yard are **BLUEBERRY FAIR** (Hollingworth '97) and **DIRIGO BLACK VELVET** (J. White '99), the latter being a very strong grower and instant clump maker. The "blueberry" version is also very strong and floriferous, unlike its strawberry cousin, which I loved and replanted three times, none successfully, sad to say. **OVER IN GLORYLAND** (Hollingworth '93) was slow to start but is now happy. **CORONATION ANTHEM** (Hollingworth '90), which grows with no attention in a mixed border, rebloomed heavily this season, perhaps more vigorously than its initial bloom. Among the diploids, my present favorites tend to toward those I'm using for hybridizing. So far, for yellows, I have used **HELLO YELLOW** (Hollingworth '99), which isn't very strong in my yard, but gave lovely seedlings, and **TOM SCHAEFER** (Schafer/Sacks '00), which is strong, but threw plants that were not as yellow and rather stiff flowered. Of course, **CARELESS SALLY** (Schafer/Sacks '96) will always oblige and both **BLACKBERRY JUBILEE** (Schafer/Sacks '97) and **RAGTIME DANCE** (Hollingworth '97) have been good parents. Hollingworth's **THAT'S MY BABY** ('95) was one of my all time favorites, but it left me last year and I'm waiting for Bob and Judy to start selling again so I can replace it. All the new Siberians are so great that I'm running out of room.
- ◆ Trevor Cole, Ontario, Canada: I do not have a very large collection (about 20 varieties) and few of the latest introductions but have long had a love of Siberians. Before I retired, I was in charge of a public display garden with a good collection (including most of the Preston introductions) and sent in the

occasional poll from there. Anyway, the following are ones that did well in my garden last summer in spite of a long drought. They were all moved in the fall and put into improved soil so hopefully will do better in the future, **BUTTER AND SUGAR** (McEwen '76), **FAIR COLLEEN** (Mahood '66), **LITTLE TRICOLOR** (Sensenbach '69) - the blend of colors in this is amazing, **FLOATING ISLAND** (McEwen '73), **PEG EDWARDS** (McEwen '75) is my favorite blue. **TEMPER TANTRUM** (McGarvey '86), **EGO** (McGarvey '66), **PINK HAZE** (McGarvey '80), **ILLINI FLIRT** (Varner '85) and **WISLEY WHITE** (Reg. '40) are also favorites. (I have included the entire list, as many parts of the country {Canada and also the US} are suffering from drought and Trevor's list is of plants that did well for him in spite of a long drought.)

- ◆ Anne Lowe, Virginia: *For hardiness and landscape value CAESAR'S BROTHER* (Morgan '32) can't be beat. A close second is Hager's *SPARKLE* ('78). Both require an ax to divide the clumps. *CONGO DRUMS* (Marx '56) - one of the blackest and a survivor that does not fade or droop in hot sun. Grows well in our humid and hot climate. *PINK HAZE* (McGarvey '80) does better in clay soils than sand (us) but when well grown is still a leader in this color class. *NIGRESCENS* (Van Houtte 1875) is an oldie but faithful goodie. Mine came from Currier McEwen and I treasure it for that reason if no other. Everyone should grow at least one good white. *ESTHER C.D.M.* (McGarvey '82) is on the creamy side, *RIMOUSKI* (Preston '38) for its form (rabbit ears) and *KING OF KINGS* (Varner '83). Among the "edged varieties" we have *SILVER EDGE* (McEwen '74) or the newer *GOLDEN EDGE* (McEwen '92). Another oldie, *JORETTA* (Carlson '64) has branching that has to be seen to be believed. There's an oak tree somewhere in that one's gene pool! *SULTAN'S RUBY* (Hollingworth '88) is slow to start and hates to be moved but an eye catching color and pattern when established. So many good blues: *LIBERTY HILLS* (A.M. Miller '89) is a favorite self; *Percheron* (Warburton '82) is a patterned blue. *REDDY MAID* (McEwen '78) is still one of my favorite

reds and **REPRISE** (Warburton '87) is a lovely color and sometimes repeats as the name implies.

- ◆ Carol Coleman, Idaho: #1 is **STRAWBERRY FAIR** (Hollingworth '94) and it was outstanding in our garden this year. It drew lots of guests' and Judges' attention. In our area, Siberians need more care and attention to water demands due to our hot, dry summers. Crucial to this is a good start before winter. **SNOW PRINCE** (Tiffney '90) and **FAIRY FINGERS** (Willott '91) were wonderful and I fielded many questions about those two. I am looking forward to this spring as I have many new plants to observe. Hopefully, they made it through our winter of cold but but much snow. P.S. I finally got flowers from **BUTTER AND SUGAR** (McEwen '77) which had a hard time getting started here (new wetter location may have solved this problem).
- ◆ (no name given), Delaware: According to a local paper, Delaware had its worst drought since all record began in 2001, between about June to the end of the year. We have had a few droughts starting about October 1994 but last year (even though I am in a wetlands area) flower production was significantly down. Even a neighbor, who does minimal gardening, commented on the fact that there weren't many flowers that summer. Not any hotter than usual but rainfall was scarce. I picked **MAD MAGENTA** #1 (Warburton '87) as it has been an outstanding plant in both bloom and growth. #2 was **JIGGLES** (Bauer/Coble '00) is beautiful, a good bloomer and has good growth. **SHEBANG** (Bauer/Coble '99) has been an excellent grower and blooms were good this year. I am hoping for better rain this year to see if some of the other SI will perform better. My older clumps did not seem to be affected by the drought other than shorter blooming time.
- ◆ Nick Suszko, Michigan: I would like to see more accurate and complete information from SI hybridizers about current releases in their catalogs. Too many listings describe a fantastic bloom but neglect to say the plant has any negative qualities such as: flower stalks incapable of supporting the bloom, poor

foliage, very poor plant vigor and too few bloom. If these plants are intended for other hybridizers who wish to work out the bugs, say so. Conversely, if a plant gets passing grades in the above criteria, describe it as landscape ready.

- ◆ Currier McEwen, Maine: *The plants I have selected for the Popularity Poll have been chosen for a variety of reason as I will explain after the listings: **LITTLE CENTENNIAL** ('02), **HARPSWELL VELVET** ('90), **EVER AGAIN** ('91), **RUFFLED VELVET** ('73), **BUTTER AND SUGAR** ('76) and **HARPSWELL PRINCESS KAREN** ('96) - my own introductions. **HARPSWELL VELVET**, **EVER AGAIN**, **RUFFLED VELVET**, **BUTTER AND SUGAR**, **HARPSWELL PRINCESS KAREN**, **SUMMER SKY** (Cleveland '35) for their contributions to hybridizing. **MAGNUM BORDEAUX** (Bauer/Coble '00), **STRAWBERRY FAIR** (Hollingworth '92), **OVER IN GLORYLAND** (Hollingworth '92), **LAKE KEUKA** (Borglum '91), **HARPSWELL PRINCESS KAREN**, **DANCE AND SING** (Schafer/Sacks '02), **TANZ NOCHMAL** (Tamberg '01) - for quality (in their colors especially). **NEAT TRICK** (J. White '94) and **GOSSAMER BREEZE** (Fulton '01) for special features.*
- ◆ Then I found three ballots with comments from foreign countries which were very exciting to read. The first is from Edmundas Kondratas, Lithuania. Edmundas had comments on every iris on his poll as follows: **PURPLE PROSE** (Waburton '86), *beautiful, unusual form of flower, good color and abundant flowering.* **TRIM THE VELVET** (Schafer/Sacks '95), *beautiful form of flower, excellent color with white rim on falls and abundant flowering.* **LADY VANESSA** (Hollingworth '86), *good form, brilliant color and abundant flowering.* **CORONATION ANTHEM** (Hollingworth '90), *good form, fine blue color and the most abundant and long flowering period of all the tetraploids I have.* **SHALL WE DANCE** (Hollingworth '92), *good form and color and repeat bloom.* **ROARING JELLY** (Schafer/Sacks '92), *good form and unusual color but not abundant inflorescence here.* **ISABELLE** (Warburton '89), *good*

form, color and nice appearance of clump. **MESA PEARL** (Bauer/Cobel '94), unusual form and color, not abundant inflorescence here. **DEVIL'S DREAM** (Schafer/Sacks '90), Unusual color for Siberians and abundant flowering plus repeat bloom but the stems are short. **HARPSWELL HAPPINESS** (McEwen '83). Best white here. **CHEERY LYN** (A.M. Miller '91). Good color, abundant and long flowering. Yesterday form of flower. **SAILOR'S FANCY** (Schafer/Sacks '91). Most abundant flowering and the blossoms are at one level and one of the best for landscape purposes. **EGO** (McGarvey '66), though older it has good form, color and very abundant flowering. **RUFFLED VELVET** (McEwen '73). Good clump effect. **SHIRLEY POPE** (McEwen '79). Form and velvety color are pleasing but not sufficient abundance of flowering.

- ◆ Udo Braksein, Germany: Thanks for thinking of me and sending this sheet. I enjoy to participate and hope many others will do also. As you will learn from my "hit list" there are so many of Bob Hollingworth's. If there is any innovation in Siberians, Bob has done so with things like **STRAWBERRY FAIR** ('94) and **SOMEBODY LOVES ME** ('98). Really wonderful!
- ◆ Audrey Tzeschenkov, Russia: Each year **FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES** (Witt Reg. '72) begins to bloom first in my garden. **ESTHER C.D.M.** and **GULL'S WING** (McGarvey '82 and '89) bloom in the end of Siberian season in the beginning of July. Last year was very wet and cool and I didn't see nice Siberian blooming as in the year 2000. Usually we had rain each day in June. I saw many nice modern Siberians but they were first year plants. Very nice Schafer/Sacks' Siberians grow wonderfully here and that is very important. **LAVENDER BOUNTY** (McEwen '81) bloomed about 3 weeks. Siberians are new iris culture for many of our iris people. They aren't so popular as TBs but they are very new in Moscow and must be the first there. I have no problems with so nice and reliable iris culture. (Apologies to Audrey if I have made mistakes in her letter. One corner of it was destroyed in the mail having arrived in a plastic bag and I had to guess at some of the words, hopefully correctly).

- ◆ William Riggs wrote with questions about the poll. *I received the 2001 Siberian Pop. Poll in the mail today. I was wondering what type of criteria is used in voting. Do you vote only for the ones you personally grow or what you have seen in your and other gardens or are pictures of the various plants OK to use in placing your votes? I really like the picture of **STRAWBERRY FAIR** but I haven't seen it growing yet. Would that disqualify a vote for it?* (The answer re voting from a picture is a definite no. A picture can tell you nothing about the growth habits or really anything else. I personally only vote for plants that grow in my own garden but I think that it would be OK to vote for something that you might see several times during a season at someone else's garden. I could conceivably vote for an iris in the Schafer/Sacks garden as I usually go there 4 - 6 times during Siberian season. However, I grow 85-90 in my own garden which I look at several times a day and I find it difficult enough to pick only 15 favorites from them!)
- ◆ Mark Sieffert, Michigan: ***DEVIL'S DREAM** (Schafer/Sacks '90) is one of the best.*
- ◆ Marsha Williams, Tennessee: *I just started growing Sibes in the last 3 years and only have 24. Just off the top of my head I can think of the one that got me and my husband interested in Siberians because of its growth and habit. Ironically, I bought it labelled as another type of plant but it has been well worth the mislabel. It is **VELVET NIGHT** (Edwards '61).*
- ◆ Bob Sawyer, Maine: ***SERENADE IN BLUE** (Waite '88) makes a beautiful clump. **SHAKER'S PRAYER** (Warner '90) - the clumps are so dignified. **HARBOR MIST** (Waite '90) - I love the color and it repeat blooms. **DIRIGO BLACK VELVET** (J.White '99) could be my favorite but I have not had it long enough to tell. **CAESAR** (Morgan '30) is the best growing clump in the garden. **ROARING JELLY** (Schafer/Sacks '92) has not been in place long enough to make an assessment.*

IN MEMORIAM

In December of 2001 the Society for Siberian Irises lost a valued friend, loyal member and selfless worker. Howard L. Brookins had been the society's first membership secretary, serving from 1992 until 2001. In addition, he edited the Siberian Iris Checklist for a number of years, handled publication sales, and headed the display garden committee as well as Registrations and Awards. Howard was always one of the first to step forward and volunteer his time and energy for this society and fill any position in need.

In 1997, Howard was named Dean of the Wisconsin Iris Society to honor him for the extensive contributions he had made and the significant roles he had filled in the W.I.S., Society for Siberian Irises, Reblooming Iris Society, Society for Japanese Irises, American Iris Society (he served as a Region 8 garden judge for over a decade), and Boerner Botanical Gardens' iris display. In addition, Howard was an aficionado of lilies and daylilies, and was a member of their local and national societies. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Siberian Irises.

Howard's garden was always a wonder to behold. The first time I met him was in his yard where I was awed by his collection of ferns, hostas, daylilies, irises, and clematis. I looked forward to yearly visits that showcased whatever his latest fancy was, from growing huge, unusual Cardoun from seed to his collection of Pulmonaria. There was always something new to admire and seldom did you leave his garden without him filling your hands with plants he was anxious to share. He was a natural teacher, very patient and affable, always willing to impart his knowledge. His contributions have been countless and his loss is heartfelt.

~~Linda Doffek (special thanks to Jerome Bengtsen for his contributions and assistance)

2002 Siberian Iris Display Gardens

by Bill Dougherty, Minnesota

Again this year, Bill Smoot and I will co-chair the Siberian Display Garden (SDG) Program. The goal of the SDG program is to promote Siberians in our gardens.

SDG owners grow and maintain a quality collection of Siberian Iris and are willing to open their gardens to show and educate the gardening public about the qualities and culture of our cherished iris. Where better to praise the virtues of Siberian iris than in the garden? Not only does the gardening public have a place to examine well-grown Siberians but AIS members and Judges could use SDGs to examine the latest hybrids and introductions if available.

Qualifications

- (1) SDG owners must be members of SSI.
- (2) They are willing to have their addresses and contact information publicized.
- (3) They should have a collection of well-grown Siberians and be willing to tell others about their culture.

The Program

- *Program enrollment will be in November when new gardens will be enlisted. (Enrollment is closed for 2002)
- *Existing garden owners will complete a yearly activity report and determine if they wish to continue in the program.
- *SDGs will be published in the Spring TSI, the SSI website, new SSI membership material and other SSI publicity opportunities. SDG owners will receive SSI membership brochure's culture sheets, annual questionnaire and activity report.
- *Annual publication of the member list will detail the contact name, address, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Visits will be appointment only arranged with the garden owner. **Please call or e-mail in advance.**

We have talked to some commercial growers and they have shown interest in providing a small discount to SDG owners. Commercial growers that wish to provide a discount to SDG members contact either co-chair listed below. We are eager to answer questions or respond to comments.

William Smoot
213 Derby Road
Portsmouth, VA 23702
Phone: (757) 393-4617, BillSmoot@msn.com

William Dougherty
7420 Concerto Curve
Fridley, MN 55432
Phone: (763) 785-2543, Wmcdougherty@cs.com

Display Gardens

Region 1 (CT,MA,ME,NH,RI,VT)

Dean O. Cole
21C Great Falls Road
Gorham, ME 04038
(207)892-5248, doc070352@aol.com
Bloom: 12 – 27 June

Jeff & Joyce Dunlop
24 Basin Road
North Windham, ME 04062
(207)892-4057
Bloom: 5 – 20 June
Afternoons by Appointment!

Earthheart Gardens
Sharon Hayes Whitney
1709 Harpswell Neck Rd.,
South Harpswell, ME 04079-3303
Sharon(207)833-6905, Currier(207)833-5438
(e-mail for an appt.) ertheart@gwi.net
Bloom: Early to Late June
Note: Open Garden Day, 3rd Sunday in June

John W. White
193 Jackson Hill Road
Minot, ME 04258-4413
(207)345-9532, Tedwhite1@aol.com
Bloom: Mid-June – Mid-July

Anne & Dick Jarobski, Reflections
17 Chestnut Street
West Newbury, Mass 01985
(978)363-2282
Bloom: Mid-June – Mid-July

Kathy & Curt Marble
84 Littleton Country Road
Harvard, MA 01451-0287
(978)465-8086, km222@cornell.edu
Bloom: Early June

Andrew and Ellen Gallagher
Granite Gardens
1689 Riverside Drive
Berlin, NH 03570
(603)752-5731, ellengalla@yahoo.com
Bloom: Late June/early July

Philip W. Cook
Poker Hill Gardens
PO Box 338
Underhill, VT 05489
(802)899-9928, phgarden@together.net
Bloom: Early to late June

Region 2 (New York)

Alice D. Belling
7414 Raiber Road
Holland, NY 14080
(716) 537-2798
Bloom: June

Dana and Sylvia Borglum
Borglum's Iris Gardens
2202 Austin Rd.
Geneva, NY 14456-9118
(716)526-6729, Sylborg@aol.com
Bloom: June

Kathy Guest
494 North Street
E. Aurora, NY 14052-1446
(716)655-1762, Irisborer@aol.com
Bloom: Early to Mid-June

Robert E. Kontak
207 Hinsdale Road
Camillus, NY 13031
(315)487-0284, robert.kontak@lmco.com
Bloom: June

Region 4 (MD,DC,VA,WV,NC)

Draycott Gardens
Carol Warner
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, Maryland 21155
(410)374-4788, draycott@qis.net
Bloom: 20 May – 10 June

Libby Cross
8907 Potts Creek Road
Covington, VA 24426
(540)747-2123, LibCROSS@aol.com
Bloom: Early May to Early June

Bill Smoot
213 Derby Road
Portsmouth, VA 23702
(757) 393-4617, BillSmoot@msn.com
Bloom: Early May – Early June

Nicholls Gardens
Diana Nicholls
4724 Angus Drive
Gainesville, VA 20155-1217
(703)754-9623, nichollsgardens@juno.com
Bloom: May

Region 5 (SC,GA,FL,PR)

Marshall Goforth
837 S. Green River Road
Gaffney, SC 29341
(864) 487-4082
Bloom: Late April thru May

Region 6 (OH,IN,MI)

Richard Cryberg
9531 Robinson Road
Chardon, OH 44024
(440)285-3287, ei048@cleveland.freenet.edu
Bloom: Early June

Tony and Dorothy Willott
26231 Shaker Blvd.
Beachwood, OH 44122-7111
(216) 831-8662, DWiris@aol.com
Bloom: June

Anna Mae Miller
1700 Bronson Way, Apt. 155
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(616) 349-5934, Irisquilt@aol.com
Bloom: Late May – Mid-June

Donald R. Sorensen
5000 Eleven Mile Road
Rockford, MI 49341
(616) 866-1493
Bloom: Mid-May – Mid-June

Bob Bauer & John Coble
Ensata Gardens
9823 E. Michigan Ave.
Galesburg, MI 49053-9756
(616)665-7500, Ensata@aol.com
Bloom: Mid-May – Mid-June

Bob & Judy Hollingworth
Windwood Gardens
124 Sherwood Rd. East
Williamston, MI 48895
(517)349-8121, cyberiris@netscape.net
Bloom: Early to Mid-June

Region 7 (TN,KY)

Iris City Gardens
502 Brighton Place
Nashville, TN 37205
(800)934-4747, icity@msn.com
Bloom: May

Region 8 (MN,WI)

Dave Campbell
Borbeleta Gardens, Inc.
15980 Canby Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 334-2807
Bloom: Mid-May – Late June

William Dougherty
7420 Concerto Curve
Fridley, MN 55432
Phone: (763) 785-2543, Wmcdougherty@cs.com
Bloom: June

Holly Lane Gardens
Jack and Jan Worel
10930 Holly Lane
Osseo, MN 55369
(763) 420-4876, jworel@aol.com

Region 9 (IL)

Lou Emmons
7805 Tryon Grove Road
Richmond, IL 60071
(815) 678-4383
Bloom: Mid - Late June

Region 11 (ID,MT,WY)

Ken & Carol Coleman
C. Iris On Pond
2606 S. Pond
Boise, Idaho 83705
(208)336-3052, ciris@qwest.net
Bloom: June

Angelique Monet Violette
228 Mud Lake Trail
Polson, Montana 59860
(406)883-5535, aviolet@digisys.net
Bloom: June

Region 13 (AK,OR,WA)

Fran Hawk
518 NE 88th Street
Seattle, WA 98103

(206)633-4240

Bloom: Mid-May – Mid-June

Tom and Ellen Abrego

Chehalem Gardens

19105 NE Trunk Rd.

Dundee, OR 97115

(503)538-8920, **BHUZ@aol.com**

Bloom: May

Region 14 (HI,N.CA,NV)

Harold Peters

2048 Hickok Road

El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-9748

(916)933-3804, **harold@directcon.net**

Bloom: first two weeks of May

Debora Totoonchie

13128 Owl Creek RD

Nevada City, CA 95959

(530)477-2956, **Totoo@jps.net**

Bloom: usually June (sometimes late May)

Region 16 (CANADA)

Leroy Kriese

PO Box 1135

Vernon, BC Canada V1T 6N4

(250)766-1394, **ambrosia@silk.net**

Bloom: May & June - Peak early June

Jean-Marc Boileau

Box 592, Deschenes Road

Chelsea, Quebec

J0X 1N0 Canada

(819)827-2592, **mboileau@uottawa.ca**

Bloom: Early to Mid-June

Erin Mills Iris Garden/Chris Hollinshead

3070 Windwood Drive

Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5N 2K3

(905) 567-8545, **erin-mills@home.com**

web: **www.members.home.net/erin-mills**

Bloom: Early to Mid-June

Diana Louis
282 Waratah Ave.
Newmarket, Ontario, Canada I3Y 5J2
(905)853-5209, dlouis@dynamicro.on.ca
Bloom: Mid-June

Henry Pauls
49575 Elk View Road
Chilliwack, BC
Canada V4Z 1E8
(604)858-9549
Bloom: May 15 – July 1

Region 17 (TX)

Diana Winship
2120 Oak Brook Drive
Richardson, TX 75081
(972)234-5742, mikesmom@ix.netcdom.com
Bloom: Late May thru June

Region 18 (KS,MO)

Gormley Greenery
Tom, Rita and Kevin Gormley
6717 Martha Drive
Cedar Hill, MO 63016
(636)273-7435, ThomasPGormley@aol.com
Bloom: May

Jim & Doris Loveland
305 Fiedler Lane
Fenton, MO 63026
(314)349-4977, IRISROT@aol.com
Bloom: early to late May

Richard & Barbara Nicodemus
Nicodemus Iris Garden
Rt. 1, Box 297
Buffalo, MO 65622
(417)345-8697
Bloom: Mid-May thru June

Region 20 (CO)

Lynda D. Love
4900 E. Dartmouth Ave.
Denver, CO 80222

(303)757-1750, Rxiris@aol.com

Bloom: First two weeks of June

Region 21 (IA,NE,ND,SD)

Arnold & Carol Koekkoek

38 7th Street, NE

Sioux Center, IA 51250

(712)722-0724, koekkoek@mtcnet.net

Bloom: Last week of May – Mid June

Duretta Niemeyer

813 SE Trilein Drive

Ankeny, IA 50021

(515) 964-7830

Bloom: Last week of May – Mid-June

Barrett & Lynn Stoll

Walnut Hill Gardens

999 310th St.

Atalissa, IA 52720

(319)946-3471, walnuthl@netins.net

Bloom: 20 May – 10 June

*Enough of novelties: Some new "traditional"
Siberians of merit*

*by Bob Hollingworth (taken from his paper at the Iris Symposium
in New Zealand, November 2000)*

It would be quite misleading to leave the impression that everything of interest in Siberian breeding in the USA today relates to genetic novelties. Many lovely new irises are being created each year using conventional diploid parents which trace their roots back to such important progenitors as **White Swirl**, **Ruffled Velvet**, **Showdown**, **Pink Haze** and **Temper Tantrum**. Those listed below are twenty favorites from the last decade. Surely there is personal bias in any such list, but several of our choices fare well in the Popularity Poll and other soon will do as they become widely distributed. The group particularly illustrates the variety of forms available in garden Siberians which range from tailored to very ruffled and frilly, and from relatively flat, circular flowers to three dimensional ones with pendant falls. Bitone effects, contrasting signal areas, and other color blends and contrasts that confer interest and personality on the flower are also common among these modern varieties:

BLACKBERRY JUBILEE (Schafer/Sacks '97). Large ruffled flowers in a dappled array of red-violet and blue shades. Crushed blackberries just about describes it.

CARELESS SALLY (Schafer/Sacks '96). Ruffled flowers in a complex pale pastel blend of rose, blue and yellow. Excellent parent.

CARMEN JEANNE (Helsley '96). Superb ruffled blue with a darker rim on the falls, lighter blue stylearms and a clean white signal area.

COUNTESS CATHLEEN (Schafer/Sacks '97). Frilly palest blue-violet with deeper veining and dark shoulders on the falls.

CHEERY LYN (Miller '91). Bright lavender pink with a lighter rim on the falls and white stylearms. The best pink?

DRAMATIC PRELUDE (Helsley '91). Ruffled very dark purple with a large gold signal and greenish throat.

FISHERMAN'S MORNING (Copeland '94). Compact deep red-violet self with startling light-blue stylearms.

FLUTTER BY BUTTERFLY (Hollingworth '96). Strongly ruffled clear blue bitone. Fine parent for ruffling and heavy bloom.

GREEN EYED QUEEN (Varner '91). Lightish grape with a darker thumbprint on the falls and a green "UU" throat pattern revealed by the pendant falls.

ILLINI ROSE (Varner '97). Very full rosy-violet self with bluer-tinged stylearms.

LAKE KEUKA (Borglum '94). Compact, round, ruffled mid blue with lighter stylearms. Great clump effect.

MESA PEARL (Bauer/Coble '94). Lovely tailored pale lavender-pink with deeper veining.

MOON SILK (Stahly '91). Nicely ruffled, frilly light yellow amoena.

PURPLE SAND (Miller '91). Tailored light violet-red self, veined and dotted deeper, with lighter stylearms.

ROARING JELLY (Schafer/Sacks '92). Vigorous dappled red-purple with lighter, bluer standards and stylearms. Great bitone clump effect.

SIMPLE GIFTS (Hollingworth '94). Round completely tailored falls in the faintest shade of blue-violet. A unique form and clump effect.

TRIM THE VELVET (Schafer/Sacks '92). Tall, broad, deep blue-purple with a fine white hairline edge around the falls.

VERY VICTORIAN (Hollingworth '99). Subtle blend of mid-mauve and light blue in a ruffled, round flower.

Old wine in new bottles: The renaissance of I. sibirica

This form of *I. sibirica* is typified by narrow, upright standards, pendant falls, and a profusion of smallish flowers held high above the foliage. This form has a classical beauty which has never ceased to attract iris lovers and general gardeners, but which has been eclipsed among hybridizers since the 1950s by the broader, flaring **White Swirl** derivatives.

For example, **Shaker's Prayer** (Warner '90), of unknown parentage but close to *I. sibirica* in form, won the Morgan Wood medal in 1996 and still retains a strong place in the Popularity Poll. **Snow Prince** (Tiffney '90), a particularly attractive white *I. sibirica* with yellow shadings on the falls, has also garnered much attention and has been used as a parent by Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks to begin a line of

Siberians with modern colors and patterns but largely retaining much of the older *I. sibirica* form (for more information, see the article by Marty Schafer in *The Siberian Iris*, Spring 1998). These now include **Banish Misfortune** (Schafer/Sacks '99), a mid-lavender with a large creamy signal veined deep purple, and their other 1999 introductions, **Salamander Crossing** and **Sarah Tiffney**, which are an interesting combination of lavender dotting and splashing over a light yellow base. More of these modern "sibiricas" are to follow. The use of white *I. sibirica* also has interest since the color mutation leading to white is different from that in *I. sanguinea* and leads to different breeding strategies for color e.g. sanguinea white x sibirica white gives blue progeny (Marty Schafer, *TSI*, Spring 1998).

Siberian-Species Convention 2003

Beardless and Borderless!

Siberian
2003
Species

Convention Date: June 12-15 2003



A LOOK AT THE OLD(ER) ONES

by Caroline Stalnaker, Virginia

I'm a new member of SSI, arriving in a sense by the backdoor. After 40 years of gardening in four states and 15 locations, I found myself settled(?) 12 years ago. One of my first projects was a multi-genera white garden which contained many Siberians. Then I began growing many species iris and many Siberians. Rebloomers of all classes were added to my collections and these included several Siberians (the rebloom in Siberians is generally referred to as repeat bloom). Then I began collecting historic iris(those introduced over 30 years ago) and again there was a large representation of Siberians.

Last fall it occured to me that I should be supporting the group which promotes this growing passion of mine. When Ellen mentioned on the sibrob, the e-mail robin, she was hoping to emphasize the historic Siberians in the spring issue of TSI, I was asked if I would do an article. I do not hybridize, sell, show, judge or photograph Siberian iris nor do I have more than minimal formal horticultural training. Having said that, I believe if one joins a group, one contributes what one can (even if it's just returning a popularity poll). Disclaimer complete.

I love growing, sharing and talking about the old Sibs. I am still haunted by the first stop on the HIPS HAPPENING 2000 garden tour in upstate New York. We stood in a 5-acre abandoned commercial field of Siberian iris on what had been Indian Springs Farms. The property had been sold for subdivision, but row on row of blooms fluttered ethereally in the light breeze, last years pods still erect, last year's growth forming a natural mulch at the base, high grass still prostrate between the rows where snow had held it down not long before. Dazed, I stood on the edge of a group where the late Larry Harder was saying:"I think this must be ----? I haven't seen it in years. Do you think this could be---?" This experience, combined with the knowledge of loss of natural habitat, cli-

mate change and commercial demand for newer cultivars and limited commercial space has intensified my commitment to growing the "old ones". I'm reminded of a Chinese proverb which says: "Reject not the old for age alone: embrace not the new for mere novelty."

A friend recently shared some old iris catalogs with me. The Indian Farms catalog from 1926 lists 12 Siberians. I know of 4 still available commercially. Does anyone still grow Fryer's **TRUE BLUE** or Perry's **PIGMY**? Lloyd Austin's 1950 Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens catalog features 28 Siberian cultivars. To my knowledge none of the three pinks are available. Surprisingly, two of the three reds are and only two of the eight light and bright blues, four of the eight dark blues and violets and three of the five whites. The 1951 Salina Flower Farm (Kansas) catalog shows 48 Siberians and I'm aware of only 12 available now. Of the 19 being closed out at three rhizomes for \$.50 or 12 of one kind for \$1.80, only four remain in the market. I'm hoping more remain in gardens.

I don't grow these old ones for age alone but because they're unique and beautiful. The oldest in my garden are Barr's named introduced species: **EMPEROR**, dark blue, and **SNOW QUEEN**, white, (1900) and the medium-blue **BLUE KING** (1913) are all *I. sanguinea* collected in Japan.

Perhaps my all time favorite is Farr's 1912 **GRANDIS**: light violet erect standards and stylearms above white slightly arched falls veined violet is the essence of elegant simplicity. It makes a fine clump, and I fear I've done mine in by dividing it to share very late in the droughty fall of '01.

The 20's are represented by: **NORA DUSTIN** (Perry 23) a dark blue violet with white veined falls. **GREY PRINCE** (Simont 28) is a lovely slate blue; **DRAGONFLY** (Dykes '23) is a bronzed throated light blue-violet. Cleveland's **TURQUOISE CUP** (26) is light blue with a white rimmed gold signal while his **LLEWELLYN** (29) features wide standards sporting gold hafts on slightly flaring falls in a violet blue.

Either there was a flurry of hybridizing in the 30's or these varied cultivars have been particularly cherished and saved. Of the many Preston introductions which are favorites of mine include the pale-blue **GATINEAU** (32) and the blue and white **NIPIGON** (32). The rosy **HELEN ASTOR** (Whitney 38) makes her debut and the large frilled, thin petalled white **SNOWY HERON** (Cleveland 36) and the bitone effect with the radiating deep blue veins of **COOL SPRINGS** (Kellogg 39) add even more diversity. Preston's dark blue dwarf **SKEENA** ('38) is yet another gem from the '30's.

The only representation of the forties in my garden are Scheffy's **TOWANDA REDFLARE** (48) and **MY LOVE** (49) but what gems they are. **MY LOVE** is azure blue-veined violet with gold and white hafts and is my most faithful repeat bloomer often putting on a 9-week show.

Cleveland's violet blue **TYCOON** ('50), **YANKEE TRADER** (Wheeler '53) with medium blue standards and falls heavily marked white and **WHITE SWIRL** (Cassabeer '57) are my picks for the fifties.

There is a bonanza of gems still available from the 60's. Diversity is shown in the near black rounded **PURPLE MERE** (Hutchison '62), **PINK HAZE** (McGarvey '69), the tall dark blue-violet flaring **TEALWOOD** (Varner '60), **SALEM WITCH** (Spofford 62) a red purple with a big white blaze, and **PIROUTTE** (Cassabeer '64), a classic bitone blue. Always historic in my book are those first tetraploids of McEwen in 1969: **FOURFOLD WHITE** and **ORVILLE FAYE**.

The seventies hold many classics for us and one must mention McEwen's **DREAMING YELLOW** (71) and the wine-red **EWEN** (70) and the dwarf **LITTLE TRICOLOR** (Sessenbach 70) in its strong statement of blue, purple and red violet.

I hope I've whetted the appetite of those who have room for old and new Siberians and enlightened those who think all the historic are

pretty much epitomized by **CAESAR'S BROTHER** and **WHITE SWIRL**. To those who have historic Siberians, I would encourage listing with HIPS data base. Those commercial growers who keep the old ones available, I send my sincere thanks and if anyone is getting rid of older ones, there is room in my garden. Let's maintain the gene pool and the great diversity of this class we love.



Historic Siberians at Iris City Gardens

by Greg McCullough, Tennessee

Although we now grow over 35 species (and numerous species crosses) the Siberian iris remains one of our favorites. The delicate blooms and grass-like foliage also make them favorites of visitors to our garden. At last count we had 233 Siberian cultivars of which 50 were classified as antique (over 30 years old) by the American Iris Society. We get considerable interest in these older introductions and many think (rightly or wrongly) that they are better growers and survivors than newer introductions.

We grow our Siberians in slightly acidic clay soil amended with peat moss or rotten sawdust, and with enough sand to improve drainage but not enough to make cement. We mulch the beds heavily each year and fertilize in early Spring and then again after bloom. We have a good, strong year-round creek (named for the Younger clan of Jesse James fame) that we use for irrigation to ensure at least one inch of water weekly. All this, combined with our mid-zone 6 climate, makes for very good Siberian growing conditions.

I've selected some of our most popular antique Siberians that are also very vigorous growers for us. In the blue/violet blue tones, one of our best is **COOL SPRING** (Kellogg 1939), a light blue winner of the Morgan Award in 1966. **DEWFUL** (McGarvey 1965), also the winner of the Morgan Award in 1970, is a medium blue self with very light blue stylearms. Perfectly named for a Siberian iris, **FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES** (Witt 1972) has medium violet-blue standards with white falls covered almost entirely with violet-blue veining, resembling a butterfly-wing pattern. **MY LOVE** (Sheffy 1948) is a pale blue that is very early to bloom and is reported to rebloom.

One of our better whites is **SIBIRICA NANA ALBA** (Perry 1940), a tiny, white dwarf that grows very well and is a great accent in

front of the taller iris. While it has a nice flower, its popularity is substantially attributable to the scarcity of very short Siberians. **SNOWY EGRET** (Cleveland 1939) is a large, pure white with frilled edges. It's also a parent of **FOURFOLD WHITE** (McEwen 1970) a tetraploid white with yellow at the hafts. Both are good growers and are perennial favorites.

ERIC THE RED (Whitney 1943), also a reported rebloomer, is a deep red-violet winner of the Morgan Award in 1952. Although a good grower, it's popularity is such that we have to frequently remove it from our catalog to rebuild our stock. **POLLY DODGE** (McEwen 1972), a velvety wine-red and **EWEN** (McEwen 1971) a tetraploid wine-red are also much in demand.

But the most popular iris we sell is **CAESAR'S BROTHER**, a medium blue 1932 introduction and the 1953 Morgan Award winner. And it's not just the most popular Siberian, but is the best selling of all the iris we grow. It would be hard for me to pick a more vigorous iris. A two-year old clump may have multiplied 25 times or more and is so large and difficult to work with that we may have to dig and divide it every year rather than our customary two. The flowers are the classic Siberian butterflies held high above the foliage, making a wonderful display.

While we appreciate the modern flower forms, we think every garden should include the classically formed Siberian flowers found on the historic varieties. We also encourage everyone to join the Historical Iris Preservation Society and support their efforts to locate and preserve the antique cultivars of all species.

Request for Historic Siberian Iris

by Bill Dougherty, Minnesota

The Town and Country Garden Club of Mora, Minnesota and the Iris Society of Minnesota are requesting historic siberian iris for the Kanabec County History Center. Once established this bed of historic Siberians will be registered with the SSI Public Display Program. The display garden will be maintained by the Town and Country Garden Club.

If you wish to contribute your surplus plants to this effort please observe the following guidelines:

Plants will be accepted from August 1 to September 15. All varieties will be Siberian iris registered and introduced prior to 1972. As many rhizomes of each variety will be accepted as you wish to contribute. All plants can be shipped to:

Mary Duvall
28072 East Hardwood Lane
Brook Park, MN. 55007-5678
(320) 679-3973, e-mail: meduvall@ncis.com

The following information should be included:

- a. Contributor's name and address
- b. Name of variety

As Public Display Garden Chairperson I endorse the efforts of these organizations in establishing this display garden. I will contribute some of my historic siberians to this effort and I encourage members of SSI to send their surplus plants. I would also encourage other garden clubs and iris societies to construct similar display projects. If you have questions about the SSI Public Display Garden Program call me at 763/785-2543 or e-mail: wmcougherty@cs.com

2002 SIBERIAN POPULARITY POLL

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Comments are welcome and encouraged! Please send by September 15th for inclusion in the Fall 2002 TSI. Please include your location and send to: Barbara Schmieder, 566 Old Road to 9 Acre Corner, Concord, MA 01742 OR e-mail to: ellengalla@yahoo.com.

Letter to the Editor:

BORBELETA VS BORBOLETA (In response - see Fall 2001 TSI)

Yes, Carlos, you are of course correct that the word butterfly in Portuguese is spelled 'Borboleta' rather than 'Borbeleta'. Julius Wadekamper knew that full well -- but his sign painter didn't!

Julius spent ten years of his life in Santarem, Brazil where he founded a boys' school and learned to read and write Portuguese, the Brazilian national language. He picked up other dialects as well in this area on the Amazon River. Upon his return to Minnesota, he started his life-long nursery business, which the first sign-painter got wrong! Having been a Brother of the Holy Cross of Notre Dame and used to tight budgets, Julius sighed and kept the name as Borbeleta. He was too much of a gentleman to have made a fuss about it.

Some of my wife Jean's and my favorite memories were sharing both bus and car rides together with Julius as we toured Regional and Convention gardens. He was very knowledgeable as a person in more ways than just horticulturally. And on that subject he had few peers. It was a privilege to have known Julius.

And that, Carlos, is the rest of the story.

Jim Morris, Missouri

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ADVERTISING RATES

A source list for Siberians is printed in the 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: 1689 Riverside Dr., Berlin, NH 03570 by February 15th of each year.

OTHER ADVERTISING RATES:

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ABOUT THE 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, Linda Doffek at: 5547 Jacqueline Dr., West Bend, WI 53095-9725. (262)334-1128 or **LDoffekSSI@aol.com**

Dues: Single Annual	\$ 5.00	Family Annual	\$ 6.00
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Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates for Directors in The Society for Siberian Irises.

- 1) Jim Wilson (for a second term)
- 2) Peter Weixlmann (for a first term)
- 3) Dave Niswonger (for a first term)

Publication in TSI fulfills the requirement of notification of members of SSI by November 15, 2002. If no additional nominations have been made, the slate is to be considered elected four weeks after the above date. 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 nomination committee (the first V.P. of SSI) by December 13, 2002 together with a letter of consent from each candidate.

