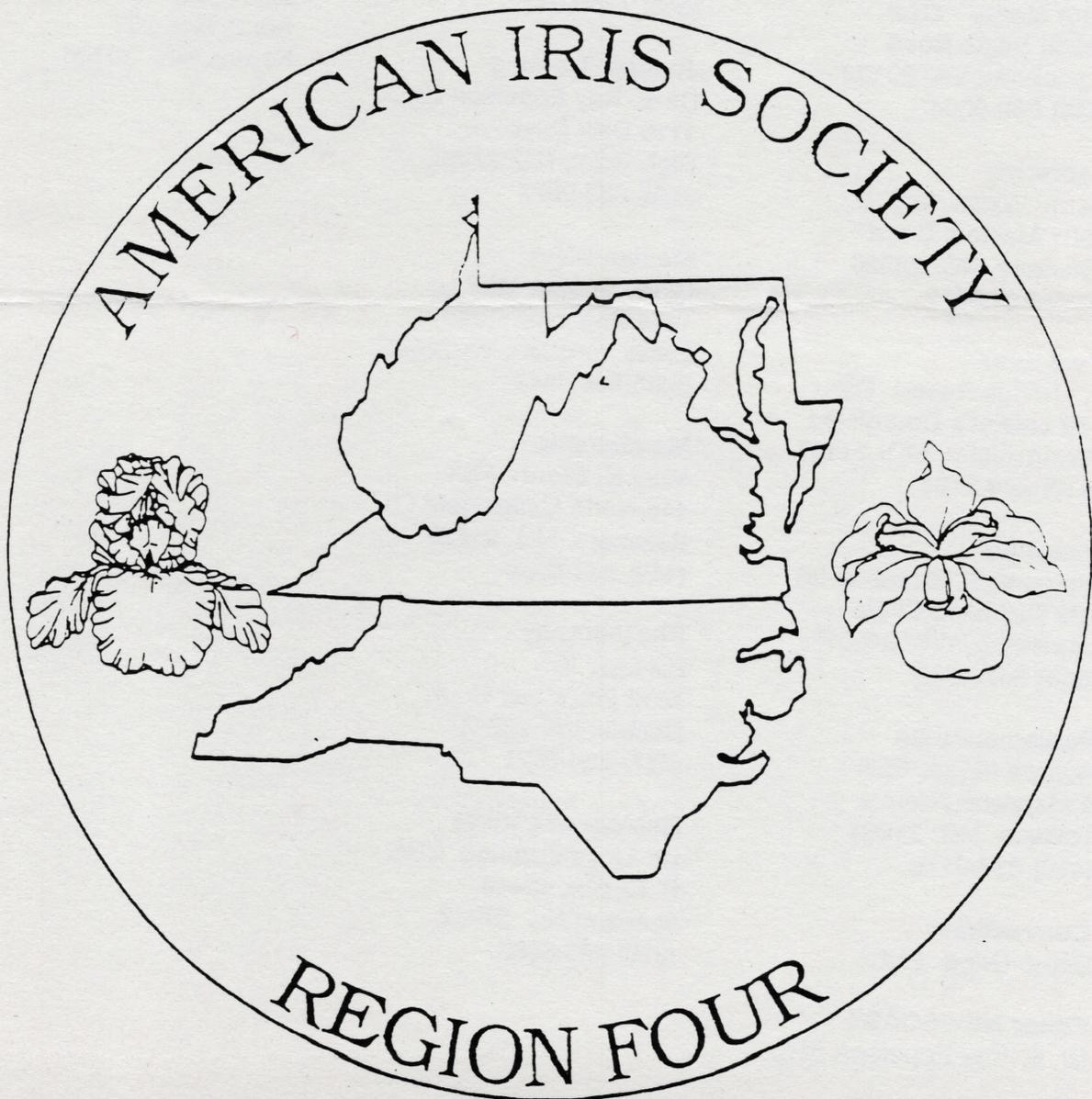


Newscast

Region 4 of The American Iris Society

Vol. 42, No. 2

AUGUST 2000



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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
Membership Secretary **Marilyn Harlow, P.O. Box 55, Freedom, CA 95019-0055**

Communications regarding **American Iris Society membership, dues and change of address** should be addressed to **Marilyn Harlow**.

Region 4 is comprised of the states of **Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia**.

NEWSCAST is free to AIS members in Region 4. Subscription rate for those not in Region 4 is \$5.00 per year. Checks made to Region 4, American Iris Society should be sent to the Region 4 Treasurer.

Permission is granted to reprint any material appearing in NEWSCAST provided that proper credit is given.

The Purposes of The American Iris Society, and Region 4, shall be to develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation and culture of the genus *Iris*; to stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in the scientific and horticultural education of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus *Iris*, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. These shall include but are not limited to:

- a) encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus *Iris*, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
- b) collection, compilation, and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of *Iris*es; and,
- c) education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional, and national meetings open to the public.

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RVP's MESSAGE

The year 2000 has proven to be a very busy year for me. I still am back in the 20th century trying to get things finished up.

We have had a wonderful but very unusual iris season in the Tidewater, as well as all of Region 4. Irises bloomed early; they bloomed late; and in some cases just didn't bloom at all. Mother Nature has had a very busy year so far keeping everyone on his or her toes. No rain, too much rain, hot weather in the winter, chilly right-down-cold weather for our region, followed by very hot weather the next day seems to have been the norm for this year.



Bill and I attended the AIS national convention in Dallas, TX, the last part of April. One thing about going to national besides seeing people you don't get an opportunity to see that often, is to see the various gardens, growing conditions and irises in different parts of the United States. The weather cooperated while we were in Dallas. However, they had some heavy rain and strong winds before the convention. We had an opportunity to see some outstanding gardens both public and private, as well as seeing iris that we don't grow here in Region 4. We attended judges' training sessions as well as all of the meetings and had an opportunity to see the workings of the national AIS. If you have an opportunity (**and you have two coming up in the next few years**) make an effort to attend the national AIS conventions. Next year it will be held outside of Baltimore, MD, and then two years after that it will be in our own Region 4. Both of these AIS conventions are worth your time and effort to attend. Some of Region 4's gardens will be on tour spring of 2001. So, mark your calendar.

For those of you who were able to attend our Spring 2000 Regional, it was great, even if I do say so myself! After many problems, changing dates, etc., Tidewater Iris Society held a very successful regional meeting. We, too, were plagued with weather problems - one of our tour gardens was under water - but according to all reports everyone had a great time. We went to the Azalea Festival, which is held the last of every April here in Norfolk. Unfortunately the azaleas were bloomed out, but a train ride gave attendees an opportunity to see the Botanical Gardens. We had a great speaker for our Banquet. Bill Shear gave a wonderful presentation and had his new book for us to purchase. Roy Epperson outdid himself with the Judges' Training which everyone who took the training enjoyed as well as learning new things. The accredited show was small, but very well received and the Federation of Garden Clubs Artistic show section was enjoyed by all. The food was outstanding, the tour interesting and the auction, although not as large as in past years, was fun for everyone. We introduced the computer to tabulate the auction bids, thanks to Terry Thrash and his computer knowledge. Frances Thrash served as auctioneer and kept the auction moving. People seemed to enjoy having the auction on Friday evening. Thanks to everyone for all your help and thanks especially to the people who attended the regional for the first time and enjoyed the weekend. We missed many of our every time attendees because of the date change. I hope that you are making plans for the fall regional meeting hosted by C & P. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Our garden was not in as great a shape as Bill would have liked this spring. For someone who has never has a broken bone or been in the hospital since 1944 when he got shot up, he has more than made up for it this year. As a result, he has not been able to work in the garden like he enjoys doing and thus keeping it up the way he wants. In November he broke his leg; a week later he ended up in the hospital for two weeks with problems with his pancreas. Finally his leg healed and he could walk, but then we found he had a very large hernia which had to be repaired and another two months for recovery because of its large size. Finally he is over all of that and we go to the national convention and then have our own Regional. So he didn't have much time to get our garden ready. Then, after judging some iris shows, we headed back to Iowa (we are from Iowa) to visit our children, grandchildren and family and to attend the National Siberian Convention which was being held in Iowa City. I guess that Bill didn't get enough rest in hospitals here in Virginia because on Saturday night the first day of the convention, I rushed him to the University of Iowa Emergency Hospital where he spent the next two weeks. He ended up having emergency gall bladder surgery, the old fashion kind where they cut you from here to there. As a result we arrived back in Virginia in early July. I am still not unpacked and of course, Bill is still at the stage where a milk jug is all that he can lift. Needless-to-say, we have missed the Japanese and Siberian bloom season here in Virginia.

However, in spite of or maybe because of all our problems, we did have a wonderful spring visiting a number of gardens in Region 4 and the eastern United States. We did make it to some local society meetings as well as Judges' Training and we are looking forward to visiting **your** garden and **your** society meeting in the future.

The web site is actively being worked on by our new Webmaster Spring Brooks. We are looking forward to meeting with her and getting more information on the Web Site. So, we need your input.

I am still looking for someone to chair the auction committee. So, how about it? It is a great way to get acquainted with your fellow iris lovers and it doesn't take that much of your time. If you come to the regional meetings, it is a piece of cake. You don't have to be the auctioneer!

Have a great remainder of the summer. I hope that you are looking forward to your reblooming iris. Ours have started to bloom.

#

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn Dughi (NC)

Robert Schreiner (OR)

Meredith Sparling (MD)

#

REGION 4 FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 20 and 21, 2000



Hosts: Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society

Headquarters: Holiday Inn, 1017 Millwood Pike
Winchester, VA 22602 Telephone: (540) 667-3300

Schedule of Activities:

Friday, October 20

- Noon - 6:00 p.m. Registration (Ballroom)
- Noon - 1:30 p.m. Show set up/Receipt of Entries (Appleblossom II)
- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Judging of Show
- 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting (Ballroom)
- 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Social Time (Cash Bar)
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Welcome Banquet (Ballroom)
- 7:30 p.m. Judges' Training (1 hour credit)
Exhibition Judging of Seedlings
Instructor: E. Roy Epperson

Saturday, October 21

- 8:30 a.m. Carpool garden visit to Winterberry Gardens (25 minute drive
north on route 522)
- Lunch on your own/snacks in the garden
- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Regional Auction (Appleblossom II)
- 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Social Time/Cash Bar, Jimmy's
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner (Ballroom)
- 7:30 -p.m. Guest Speaker: Mike Lowe on Iris Photography

REGISTRATION FORM IS THE LAST PAGE IN THIS ISSUE

CULTURE OF IRISES A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH FOR THE AVERAGE HOME GARDENER

Rena Crumpler

[Editor's Note: Rena Frantz Crumpler served Region 4 and AIS for many years as RVP, Editor of *NEWSCAST*, and a Director of AIS. She thoroughly understood the how of growing irises and presented a beautiful garden for visitors. She wrote a series of articles for *NEWSCAST* in 1978-79 when she was Editor and I was RVP. I intend to reprint each of these with some editing.]

Part 2. SOIL - WHERE THE ACTION IS

From the gardener's viewpoint soil is where the action is. It is the basis of all life and it is doubtful if man will ever unlock all of its mysteries. In early times, on an Earth fresh and new to humankind, it was easy to find areas of topsoil rich in the natural elements. Today, when good topsoil is at a premium, it has become essential for the average gardener to learn enough about his native soil to keep it in good condition, enrich it and alter its balance of structure and texture to suit his or her needs. It can be said that if your plants are not growing in soil suitable to their particular requirements, your efforts will meet with small success.

On this subject, generalizations can and will be questioned because they tend to over-simplify one of the world's most complicated sciences. However, this complexity need not baffle you because all you need to grow plants successfully is common sense and the will to acquire some relatively simple basic information.

The information that follows can be helpful to you, not only in growing irises, but in growing other plants because it deals with the important element of successful gardening. It can give you the knowledge to prepare your soil and construct your flower beds to achieve the best results.

DEFINITION OF SOIL/SOIL TERMS

First, let us understand that each field of endeavor has its jargon and attaches specific meanings to certain terms, not necessarily in accordance with a standard dictionary. Horticulture is no exception. For that reason, it becomes important to have a common understanding of the language we use.

Soil. A material which covers the Earth in a thin layer composed of a mixture of weathered particles of rock and decaying organic matter containing air and moisture.

Loam. You may be in the habit of thinking of loam as a rich soil. In fact, the dictionary says that it is. For the soil specialist, it may or may not be. She uses the word to refer to **mechanical make-up** without regard to nutritive value. It is so used here.

Sand, Silt and Clay. The most common terms used to denote size of soil particles: sand

(medium to coarse) being the largest, silt the next largest and clay the smallest.

Texture. Type of soil as a whole (fine, coarse, medium, etc.)

Structure. The various elements which combine to make up any given type of soil.

Pore Spaces. The spaces between the particles of soil.

Conditioning. The addition of elements to the soil to improve textural and structural balance so that the soil becomes friable and easy to cultivate.

STRUCTURAL AND TEXTURAL BALANCE OF SOIL

Soil must be something more than a storehouse for nutrients. It must have proper textural and structural balance to provide air and water in soil spaces. To deal with it intelligently, you must know the basic type or texture which is another way of saying that you need to know the particle size which makes up the main body of your soil. This is determined by the mineral content which constitutes the mechanical make-up or structure. Types of soil may be divided roughly as follows:

Gravel and Sand. If gravel or a mixture of gravel and sand predominates, the soil is practically useless to the gardener except as a base for walks, driveways, etc., and possibly for drainage basins. If all sand, it can be incorporated in reasonable quantities with other elements to make usable soil.

Stony Loam. Soil where over 50% of the bulk is composed of stones of varying sizes over 1" in diameter. If the remainder is fertile and reasonably well-textured, it can make good growing soil, but extremely difficult to work even with farm equipment. You can try to get it cleared of enough rock for use in the home garden, but before you do, you will be convinced that rocks are growing more rocks. However, in some sections of the country, there is so much soil of this type that you may have to live with it. Speaking from personal experience, I would say "Good luck! The first ten years are the hardest."

Sandy Loam. Soil that is over 50% sand with the remainder being silt and clay. If fine sand, it usually needs nutrients and considerable alteration in texture; if coarse sand, it requires less conditioning and extra nutrients. When improved in texture and adequate in fertility, it makes good, easy-to-handle, light garden soil.

Clay. More than 25% clay, practically no sand and the rest silt. Very difficult to work. Will cause drainage problems. Needs attention in every way.

Clay Loam. More than 25% clay, the rest silt and some sand. Same as for clay except perhaps less conditioning is required.

Peaty Loam. 15% to 25% organic with silt, clay and considerable sand. After conditioning, makes good soil for the Louisiana and Japanese irises and some of the native and species irises

if it is acid or an acidifying agent is added.

Peat. 25% or more organic with sand, silt and clay. Low in minerals and needs extensive adjustment.

In a well-balanced soil, about 50% of any given volume is composed of soils, about 50% of open spaces containing air and water. Basically, the solids are made up of sand, silt and clay which form the texture of the soil. Keep in mind that sand is the largest particle, silt the next largest and clay the smallest. The spaces between the solid particles (pore spaces) may be filled with water or air depending on their size.

If a soil is extremely sandy, the pore spaces are too large. Nutrients are not present except in small quantities, and, even if added, will leach out before the needs of the plants are satisfied. Silt usually contains food element. However, it is too dense to promote good plant growth. It bakes to a hard crust and alternates between being too wet and too dry. Clay, which may or may not be rich in food elements, is heavy and difficult to break up. It absorbs copious amounts of water and holds fast to it. It often cracks when dry and then is hard to moisten. Clay is even more dense than silt. On slopes, this may cause run-off and erosion and drainage is always a problem in level areas.

Water must be able to drain down through the soil. When a quantity of water is caught and held in the soil, a plant becomes unhealthy and dies. This is not caused by the water itself but from lack of oxygen which the plant must have to provide respiration for plant roots and soil microorganisms. Carbon dioxide, released by the respiration process, must be allowed to escape.

The Best Garden Loam. A garden soil of greatest growing power to the most plant life should be a combination of the three main ingredients of sand, silt and clay. When organic matter and nutrients are present, a mixture of 35-50% sand, 25-40% silt and 10-15% clay, makes an excellent textural and structural balance for the vast majority of garden plants. The bearded and bulbous irises, the species, native hybrids, the Siberians and even the Louisianas will flourish in this combination of garden loam provided the pH is adjusted to suit them.

[Editor: How do you know what your soil type is? The "Feel Test" can help you determine your soil type. Take just enough moist soil to rub between the thumb and finger. Rub it back and forth several times and feel it very carefully. A clay soil will be slick and smooth, with little or no grittiness. A predominantly sandy soil will be gritty and will not stick together well. A loamy soil will stick together easily, but not tenaciously like a clay. Loams will feel moderately gritty. As the soil dries between your fingers, rub it into a dust and feel it carefully. A loamy soil will have a component to it that feels like flour. This is silt, a soil particle size between sand and clay. Clays may also have a floury feeling to them indicating silt content, but clay soil lacks the gritty sand component found in loams.

If you have difficulty determining your soil type by this method, dig into your soil when it is dry. A sandy soil will seldom exhibit clods. Any clods that do form will crumble easily. A loamy soil will have clods that can be sliced cleanly with a shovel. Clay soils tend to form hard, persistent clods. Rather than slicing through them, a shovel will get stuck or will shatter the clod into many hard, little blocks of soil.]

pH - WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK?

After soil structure and texture have been corrected, one of the principal demands of the plant is that it be grown within certain ranges of acidity and alkalinity according to its requirements. Simply stated, pH is the term used by scientists to indicate the degree of soil acidity. The pH scale reads from 1 to 14 with a pH value of 7.0 considered to be neutral. Readings below 7.0 indicate higher acidity; above 7.0 indicate higher alkalinity. When pH readings are lower than 5.0 or higher than 7.5 many elements needed by plants are "locked up" in the soil and are not available to the plants in forms that they can use. In addition, other elements harmful to most plant life may be released into the soil. Bearded, bulbous and spuria irises have a rather wide range of pH tolerance, but usually grow best within a pH range of 6.1 to 7.2. Beardless irises other than the spurias like more acid conditions and prefer a pH range of 5.1 to 6.0.

Soil pH can be changed to suit the different types of irises by the addition of certain organic matter and/or chemicals. Among the organic materials, straw and manure will result in an increase in alkalinity which raises the pH especially if these materials are decomposed. Compost generally does the same thing. A balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 should usually be added to these materials to maintain adequate fertility.

Various chemicals which raise or lower pH are relatively inexpensive and will act much more quickly than organic matter. As a rule of thumb, to raise the pH of light, sandy loam one full point, add 3 to 4 pounds of ground limestone per 100 square feet; medium loam, add 4 to 5 pounds per 100 square feet; heavy clay loam, 6 to 7 pounds per 100 square feet. Agricultural ground limestone is best and most economical for this purpose. To lower the pH of light, sandy loam one full point, add 1 pound of dusting sulfur per 100 square feet; medium loam, 1 1/2 pounds per 100 square feet; and heavy clay loam, 2 pounds per 100 square feet. Ordinary dusting sulfur is satisfactory and inexpensive to use. You will realize that these are approximate amounts and will vary with each soil. Any materials used to alter pH, whether organic or synthetic chemical, should be spread evenly on top of the ground and dug or chopped in to a depth of 3 to 6 inches.

IMPORTANCE OF TESTING SOIL. County Agents, Agricultural Stations and Agricultural colleges as well as most soil research centers will analyze your soil. Some have a fee but many will do it free of charge within their own states. They will instruct you in how to take samples and make recommendations for corrections. Home soil testing kits are available at garden supply stores. The home soil testing kits are accurate enough for testing pH. However, analyzing soil as to content and availability of nutrients is a complicated process and your results with home kits are likely to be of little value. If you are gardening in a new location and are not "sure of your ground", it may pay you to have a professional analysis made in the beginning and again in a couple of months if you have attempted to change materially the soil texture or structure. Meanwhile, an inexpensive home kit can be used satisfactorily to test your soil pH every year or two. Always follow exactly the directions that come with the kit to take soil samples.

[The next article in this series is "Soil Nutrition" and will be printed in the December *NEWSCAST*.]

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 1, 1999 through June 25, 2000

Balance on February 1, 2000 (Checking only) \$ 8,281.71

Receipts

Maturity of CD #3 on 3/09/00	\$ 2,455.92
Donation: C & P Iris Society	\$ 600.00
Interest on Account	\$ 30.28
	=====
	\$ 3,086.20

Expenditures

Epperson - March NEWSCAST	
Printing and Mailing	\$ 718.59
Mary Brown, Membership Mailing	\$ 285.88
AIS Storefront: 700 copies <i>Basic Iris Culture</i>	\$ 390.00
Epperson - Mailing <i>Basic Iris Culture</i>	\$ 319.82
Dennis Stoneburner - Mailing slides	\$ 14.17
	=====
	\$ 1,728.46

Net balance on June 25, 2000 \$ 9,639.45

Certificate of Deposit Assets

No. 1: Toward "2003 National Convention" (11/25/00)	\$ 2,150.48
No. 2: Toward "Newscast culture issue" (11/25/00)	\$ 645.24
No. 4: Toward "2003 National Convention" (06/02/01)	\$ 3,164.34
No. 5: Toward "2003 National Convention" (12/02/00)	\$ 1,000.00
	=====
	\$ 7,060.06

Complete Current Net Assets on June 25, 2000 \$ 16,699.51

Submitted by J. Owings Rebert, Treasurer

THE MULL GARDEN - NORFOLK, VA

By Sara Marley

Stepping off the bus at the Mull garden gave instant pleasure as we viewed the colorful pansies clustered around the focal point located in front of the house. The figures of the boy and girl under an umbrella are the official greeters for those who travel around the cul-de-sac.

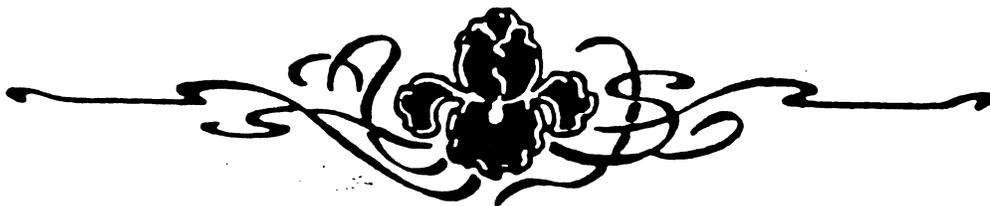
Bill and JaNiece grow close to 1,000 different varieties of iris, as well as daylilies, hostas and a host of other perennials. Packed into a 3/4 acre lot, the free-form flower beds are tastefully placed along the sides and the rear of the house. HELEN COLLINGWOOD, a classic, is much in evidence around the foundation, whether in partial shade or full sun. This cultivar is JaNiece's favorite TB iris.

Meandering paths of grass or bark mulch guide you to the rear, passing clumps of Siberians and Japanese iris on the right. An excellent clump of INDY (Hollingsworth '85) in full bloom caused one to pause before traveling farther. Making use of native stone, the Mulls have fashioned a waterfall and stream with benches on either side in the shade. A nice place to sit and enjoy the overall garden. VIOLET MUSIC (Mahan '91), a child of VIOLET MIRACLE and VICTORIA FALLS, reblooms and is a ruffled, medium violet with a white blaze on the falls and has a spicy fragrance. ETERNAL BLISS (Monty Byers '88) has pale violet S, F of violet-white accented by a tangerine B and is heavily ruffled.

Hurricane Bonnie might have been a blessing in disguise for this garden when 2 large pine trees were felled by the winds. This opened up more sunlit areas of the yard and the "Zurbrigg" garden was created. LIGHTLY SEASONED (Zurbrigg '79) and BROTHER CARL (Zurbrigg '83), both rebloomers, were vying for attention and it was hard to determine which was the better of the two. LIGHTLY SEASONED was the recipient of the Nearpass Award.

Of interest to several attendees was the manner of identifying the irises. Bill cuts lengths of 1/2" PVC pipe, inserts them into the ground so that about 4" is exposed. Each plant is given a control number and that is painted on the pipe. It is then easy to insert a plastic marker with the cultivar name on it into the pipe. When the hurricane passed over, a lot of the markers were lifted out of the pipes, but with the numbers painted on the pipe, it was easy to make a correct identification.

The fluky weather made setting dates for peak TB bloom very hard to determine, which always seems to be the case. At any rate, 2 of the 3 gardens visited had plenty of bloom for the most avid irisarian. Our thanks to JaNiece and Bill for opening their garden for our viewing pleasure. They are truly dedicated gardeners.



AIS MEDAL AWARDS 2000

Dykes Memorial Medal

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (Larry Lauer)

John C. Wister Medal (Tall Bearded)

CELEBRATION SONG (Schreiner's)
CLARENCE (Lloyd Zurbrigg)
MESMERIZER (Monty Byers)

Knowlton Medal (Border Bearded)

APRICOT FROSTY (O. D. Niswonger)

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal (Intermediate Bearded)

DARK WATERS (J. T. Aitken)

Cook-Douglas Medal (Standard Dwarf Bearded)

VAVOOM (Allan Ensminger)

Caparne-Welch Medal (Miniature Dwarf Bearded)

BUGSY (Ben Hager)

Morgan-Wood Medal (Siberian)

OVER IN GLORYLAND (Robert Hollingworth)

Mary Swords Debaillon Medal (Louisiana)

CAJUN SUNRISE (Joseph Mertzweiller)

Williamson-White Medal (Miniature Tall Bearded)

PARDNER (Kenneth Fisher)

Clarence G. White Medal (Arl - 1/2 or more Aril)

SHEBA'S JEWEL (Howard Shockey)

William Mohr Medal (Arl - 1/4 to less than 1/2 Aril)

SILENT TEARS (Les Peterson)

Eric Nies Medal (Spuria)

ILA REMEMBERED (Ben Hager)

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal (Californicae)

PINK CUPID (Vernon Wood)

Founders of Signa Medal (Species)

DOTTED LINE (Lorena Reid)

Randolph-Perry Medal (SpeciesX)

PHIL EDINGER (Ben Hager)

Payne Medal (Japanese)

BELLENDER BLUE (Hazzard by Bauer/Coble)

Award of Merit - TB

LOCAL COLOR (Keith Keppel)	142 votes
SWINGTOWN (Schreiner's)	123 votes
TOM JOHNSON (Paul Black)	111 votes
NIGHT GAME (Keith Keppel)	103 votes
SPICED TIGER (Brad Kasperek)	103 votes
ROMANTIC EVENING (Joseph Ghio)	98 votes
WISHFUL THINKING (Keith Keppel)	96 votes
ARCTIC EXPRESS (Joe Gatty)	95 votes
AURA LIGHT (Barry Blyth)	87 votes
DEBBIE REYNOLDS (Oscar Schick)	84 votes
OLD BLACK MAGIC (Schreiner's)	77 votes
SKYWALKER (Schreiner's)	77 votes
GNUS FLASH (Brad Kasperek)	73 votes
JOY JOY JOY (Allan Ensminger)	72 votes
PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE (Niswonger)	72 votes
FASHION DESIGNER (Keith Keppel)	71 votes
FATAL ATTRACTION (Frederick Kerr)	67 votes
SNEEZY (Keith Keppel)	67 votes
ZANDRIA (Don Nebeker)	66 votes
TOTAL RECALL (Ben Hager)	64 votes
BLUE SUEDE SHOES (Schreiner's)	61 votes
LEMON CHESS (Walter Moores)	61 votes
AROUND MIDNIGHT (Schreiner's)	61 votes
DREAMSICLE (Schreiner's)	61 votes
KNOCK 'EM DEAD (Richard Ernst)	61 votes
PAINT IT BLACK (Schreiner's)	61 votes
CROSS CURRENT (Keith Keppel)	61 votes
DODGE CITY (Larry Lauer)	61 votes

Award of Merit - BB

LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE (Roderick)	86 votes
VERY VARIED (Allan Ensminger)	69 votes

Award of Merit - IB

PROTOCOL (Keith Keppel)	86 votes
LONDONDERRY (Keith Keppel)	79 votes
SAILOR (Marky Smith)	79 votes

Award of Merit - MTB

APRICOT DROPS (J.T. Aitken)	135 votes
REMINISCENCE (Clarence Mahan)	84 votes

Award of Merit - MDB

SQUIGGLES (Lynda Miller)	85 votes
GNUZ SPREAD (Brad Kasperek)	68 votes

Award of Merit - SDB

IRISH MOSS (Bennett Jones)	58 votes
JAMES BOND (Marky Smith)	51 votes
EASTER (Keith Keppel)	50 votes
ACEY DEUCEY (Allan Ensminger)	39 votes
TATTLER (Keith Keppel)	39 votes

Award of Merit - SIB

SPRINKLES (Coble & Bauer)	90 votes
MESA PEARL (Coble & Bauer)	83 votes

Award of Merit - JI

EPIMETHEUS (Sterling Innerst)	35 votes
PINK DACE (Jill Copeland)	29 votes

The **FRED AND BARBARA WALTHER CUP** is awarded annually by AIS to the originator of the iris variety that receives the greatest number of votes in the HM Award balloting, regardless of classification.

The 2000 winner is Keith Keppel for **MIDNIGHT OIL**, a tall bearded iris that received 143 votes.

The complete list of AIS 2000 Awards will be printed in the October 2000 issue of *The Bulletin of The American Iris Society*.



SHOW RESULTS IN REGION 4 FOR 2000

Carolina Mountains Iris Society - May 13

Best Specimen	COTTON PLANTATION (LA)	Randell & Pat Bowen
Silver Medal		Marshall Goforth
Bronze Medal		Randell & Pat Bowen

Carolina Mountains Iris Society - June 15

Best Specimen	FRECKLED GEISHA (JI)	Betsy Higgins
Silver Medal		Norma Murphy
Bronze Medal		Walter Hoover

Charlotte Iris Society - May 6

Best Specimen	CONJURATION (TB)	Frieda Allen
Silver Medal		David Hull
Bronze Medal		Frieda Allen
Best Design		Catherine Silverthorne

Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society - April 29

Best Specimen	PIPPY LONGSTOCKINGS (SDB)	Ginny Spoon
Silver Medal		Ginny Spoon
Bronze Medal		Clarence Mahan
Best Specimen - Youth	AZ AP (IB)	Britanny Stoll

Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society - May 20

Best Specimen	CHESHIRE CAT (TB)	Ginny Spoon
Silver Medal		Clarence Mahan
Bronze Medal		Ginny Spoon

C & P / Francis Scott Key Iris Societies - June 17

Best Specimen	LIGHT AT DAWN (JI)	Carol Warner
Silver Medal		Carol Warner
Bronze Medal		Bruce Hornstein

Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society - October 20

To be held at Fall Meeting of Region 4 in Winchester, VA

Eastern Shore Iris Society - May 13

Best Specimen	EVERYTHING PLUS (TB)	Joan Wood
Silver Medal		Joan Wood
Bronze Medal		Brenda Walker

Francis Scott Key Iris Society - May 20

Best Specimen	DEMURE ILLINI (SIB)	Carol Warner
Silver Medal		Carol Warner
Bronze Medal		Bruce Hornstein

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society - May 13

Best Specimen	PETITE MONET (MTB)	Nina Cox
Silver Medal		Jim & Gina Schroetter
Bronze Medal		Sharon Lipiec
Best Design		Dottie Dunivin
Design Sweepstakes		Dottie Dunivin

Tidewater Iris Society - April 28

Not reported

Virginia Peninsula Iris Society - May 13

Cancelled due to lack of available accredited judges

#



Eastern Shore Iris Society - May 13

Best Specimen
Silver Medal
Bronze Medal

EVERYTHING PLUS (TB)

Joan Wood
Joan Wood
Brenda Walker

Francis Scott Key Iris Society - May 20

Best Specimen
Silver Medal
Bronze Medal

DEMURE ILLINI (SIB)

Carol Warner
Carol Warner
Bruce Hornstein

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society - May 13

Best Specimen
Silver Medal
Bronze Medal
Best Design
Design Sweepstakes

PETITE MONET (MTB)

Nina Cox
Jim & Gina Schroetter
Sharon Lipiec
Dottie Dunivin
Dottie Dunivin

Tidewater Iris Society - April 28

Not reported

Virginia Peninsula Iris Society - May 13

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IRIS POND FRUIT PIZZA

[This wonderful pastry was served in the Mahan garden (Iris Pond) during the garden tours of the 1991 National AIS convention. The Editor has used this recipe to acclaim many times and has just included it in a local church recipe collection and chooses to repeat it here for your use and enjoyment.]

1 20 oz. pkg. Pillsbury's Best Refrigerated Sugar Cookies

1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened

1/3 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. vanilla

Assorted fruit such as kiwi, banana, strawberry, grapes, blueberries, mandarin oranges.

1/2 cup orange marmalade or peach or apricot preserves

2 tbs. water

Freeze cookie dough 1 hour. **Slice** into 1/8 inch slices. **Line** foil-lined pizza pan with cookie slices, overlapping edges slightly.

Bake at 375 F for 12 minutes or until golden brown. **Cool**. **Invert** on serving plate; carefully remove foil. **Turn** right side up.

Combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla, mixing until well blended. **Spread** over cookie crust.

Arrange fruit over cream cheese layer. **Glaze** with combined marmalade and water. **Chill**.

To serve, **slice** into wedges.



REMEMBERING BEN HAGER

Anna C. Cadd, Healdsburg, California - May 1999

(Reprinted with permission from The Region 14 *Bulletin*, Spring 2000)

There is the reason for everything in the Universe.
It is the reason for the moonshine,
and the reason for the raindrops.

It is the reason for the small caterpillar to eat the rose leaf,
and the reason for the rose to have the thorns.

And it is the reason for the butterfly to fly over the iris field
and touch the falls and petals.

There is the reason for everything in the Universe.

Long time ago God created The Man.
And gave Him everything.
Gave Him the power to change the world, and a big loving heart.
Gave Him the power to make new creations.
Gave Him the power to be a good friend,
and the good joker, and the good man.
And God knew that The Man will not waste those gifts.
And God was lucky. The Man did not fail Him.
The Man somehow knew how to use the talents
and with the joy and happiness He was the friend to everybody.

So happy, God gave Him another gift.
When The Man was walking, the irises were looking at him
and smiling, the birds were singing
and the wind chimes carried their tunes.
But God thought about another reward. God knew, that when The
Man will finish this journey and will be the time to go,
it must happen on the field full of irises.
In the spring so The Man can enjoy them for the last time,
and look at them, and be happy.

And his soul will fly away, and this will be The Butterfly,
touching the iris petals for the last time and God will smile
He did the good job on this Man.

And God is smiling. With this Butterfly He will have the helper
to make Elysian Fields as beautiful as the Earth gardens.

And only here is the big empty space left

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
Norfolk, Virginia
Friday, April 28, 2000**

RVP JaNiece Mull called the meeting to order. E. Roy Epperson moved that Caryll Randall serve as Secretary pro tempore. The motion was seconded and approved. The agenda was adopted by consensus. The minutes of the October 29, 1999, Board Meeting as printed in *NEWSCAST*, Vol. 41, No. 3, December 1999, were accepted.

Reports of the Officers

Regional Vice President - JaNiece Mull

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming to the Region 4 Spring Meeting of the AIS. I would like to thank Tidewater Iris Society for hosting this spring meeting. I realize that because we had to change the date of this spring meeting it has greatly cut down on the attendance. Bill Mull is the Convention Chairman and Bill Smoot is the Show Chairman and from the looks of our schedule we are going to have an enjoyable, perhaps even a little different Spring Meeting. With all of the rain that the Tidewater area has been having, I am surprised that we are not swimming to the gardens. Bill Smoot was planning on having his garden on tour, but it is now a water garden, thanks to Mother Nature. Thank you to everyone in the region and at Tidewater for all the assistance you give me.

Last November, when I became RVP, Region 4 was #1 in membership in AIS. I am sorry to say that as of the first of March we slipped to #2. However, we are less than 30 members from #1 and with everyone working to bring in new members, I feel certain that we are going to be #1 again. It seems that every year AIS loses about 1,000 members and gains about the same number. So we need to get new members more involved and keep them in AIS. One way to do this is to use the Email. It is not only one of the quickest ways to contact people, but is also one of the cheaper ways as it doesn't require any postage or delivery time. So if every club would make an effort to get the Email addresses and send them to me, I will try to keep in closer touch with the AIS members in our Region.

January is the time for all the affiliated groups to renew their affiliation with AIS. I send out a letter to each of the Presidents with the affiliation renewals and was very pleased that only two societies needed to be reminded. Their problem was an officer who was not an AIS member. So I am happy to report to you that we have twelve (12) affiliated AIS societies in Region 4. Our AIS president, our own Clarence Mahan, has as one of his goals to add at least one society/affiliate per Region. So, how about it? We need two more societies to get over that 13 mark (not that I am superstitious or anything.)

Bill and I attended our first AIS National Convention in Dallas the middle of April. It was not only very enjoyable, an opportunity to see many irises that we don't normally see, but it was also very informative. The convention was very well organized, but I am certain our national in 2003 will leave it in the dust. Region 4 is very fortunate in the fact that our next four national AIS conventions are very close to home: 2001 is in Pennsylvania with the hotel in Maryland; 2002 is in Memphis, TN; and then in 2003, the convention is in Region 4; and 2004 is in Spartanburg,

SC, Region 5. The next few years will be a perfect opportunity for Region 4 members to attend a national convention. It is well worth your time and effort to go. So mark your calendars.

I would like to quickly go over a few things that came out at the AIS Board meeting in Dallas that have some effect on Region 4 as well as the other AIS members.

1. We will have a new AIS membership chairman as of the first of October. Marilyn Harlow turned in her resignation after spending the last ten (10) years as the AIS membership chairman. As she put it.. "she was going to smell the flowers."... Marilyn has done a great job and will be missed by all. She is to be commended for her work.
2. Donations to The American Iris Society. Jeanne Clay Plank, our Second Vice President, has come up with a model to use for donations to AIS. I will be sending these forms out to each of the Affiliate Presidents sometime after the first of July. I think you will find them very helpful. I am also enjoying her brief explanation of the various ways you can donate to AIS. I hope that each affiliate will make this available to their members.
3. AIS is in the ELECTRONIC AGE! Registration checklist database of 1980-1989 presently is on line at no cost. Mike Lowe has supplied scanned versions of the 1989 and 1979 Checklists. 1989 has been formatted and proofed and is currently on line. Registration forms for new irises will be on line shortly. It is hoped to have an iris auction web site up and running in the next few months.
4. AIS Storefront is also on line. You can order directly by Email.
5. AIS and Region 4 has 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated tax-exempt status.
6. It appears that sometime in the future it is going to be necessary to raise the AIS dues. At the present time, AIS has no financial problems. Several years ago our dues jumped and as a result we lost a number of members. The cost of everything is going up and it will be necessary for AIS to raise dues sometime to keep up with the cost. The RVPs voted to raise the annual dues but to keep the triennial dues at the same price. At the present time AIS is completely a volunteer organization. At one time, the Membership Chairman, the Editor, and the Registrar received salaries. Terry Aitken is stepping down as Editor, so it may become necessary to pay someone to become our new Editor.
7. The Tall Bearded Iris Society, TBIS, requested a vote by The AIS Board on their request to become a Cooperating Society of AIS. At the present time there are two cooperating Societies in AIS: the Aril Society International and the Society for Louisiana Iris. The AIS Board voted to not approve TBIS becoming a Cooperating Society. The motion was then made that the TBIS become a Section within AIS. The Tall Bearded Iris Society is meeting the latter part of May and will vote on becoming a Section.

8. At the RVP Board of Counselors' meeting it was brought up that it would be very helpful to the societies to have all the accredited judges listed with their telephone numbers and email addresses (if they have them) along with their mailing addresses.

On a Regional basis, we are facing the following:

1. Dick Sparling has resigned as Median Chairman. He is planning on moving to New England to be closer to his children. It was with regret that I accepted his resignation. He will be a hard act to follow. I have appointed Ginny Spoon to serve in that capacity as Chairman of that standing committee.

2. Bill Smoot resigned last fall due to health as Webmaster. It appears that a replacement will be in place very shortly. Region 4 appreciates all the time, effort and money that Bill has devoted to the Web Page. Region 4's web site and domain name is **Irisregion4.com**. Many of you have sent me information about your Society, sales, shows, upcoming events, pictures. etc. Hopefully, these items will be on the web shortly. Please continue to send me information so we can deep the web page up to date and make it not only user friendly but a good educational tool for people interested in iris.

3. Region 4 presently has approximately 650 AIS members, with 24 accredited garden judges, 5 master/active, 5 master/retired, 5 emeritus and 6 apprentice judges for a total of 45 judges. However, we need more members and we need to get more members interested in studying to become judges. Serving as a judge is not only educational but it is an opportunity for you to serve AIS and also have a great time while doing so. So think about becoming a judge.

4. I would like to thank Mary Brown for all the work she has done on the membership. When you listen to her report you will see that she really worked to get members to renew. We need to get new members in Region 4 and we need to keep our present members.

5. Last, but not least, I am still looking for a chairman for the auctions committee. You do not need to be the auctioneer. However, you can be if you wish. It is important to organize the auction, notify societies of the auction, have the materials needed for a successful auction. This year Tidewater is going to put the auction on the computer, so hopefully you will be able to get your totals sooner. If things go as planned, we are going to be using numbered paddles to bid with. Rich Randall made paddles several ago, but we don't seem to be able to locate them. So we are working on that project. This is a great opportunity for you or someone in your society to get involved on a regional level with a minimum of work. It is helpful if you can attend most of the auctions. So VOLUNTEER!

As you go around to our gardens tomorrow, I hope that you will have an opportunity to enjoy the International Azalea Festival which is held each spring here in Norfolk. The Botanical Gardens are on our tour schedule. When you get to the Mull's garden, you may be wondering why Bill's perfectly edged raised beds have irises planted in the edges. Well, Bill broke his leg

last fall and I ran into a few challenges with the Youth Projects at the elementary schools and as a result I heeled in the Youth Project iris in Bill's edged beds. So enjoy. We are still working with the Youth Project and on Monday, Bill and I go to a year-around school to work with 36 students on an iris project. More to come in the future, I am certain. Presently one school has two iris in bloom from our project last fall. So it is coming, just presenting us with a few challenges.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for all the help I have received in the past six months. Your help, advice and just listening have helped me more than I can say. Thanks to each and everyone of you.

Assistant Regional Vice President - Glenn Grigg

There have been no changes in the scheduled Regional Meetings. We still have open dates for Fall 2000, Fall 2002 and Fall 2003. The scheduled meetings are as follows:

2000 Spring	Tidewater Iris Society
2000 Fall	Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society
2001 Spring	with Region 3, National Convention
2001 Fall	Fredericksburg Area Iris Society
2002 Spring	Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society
2002 Fall	OPEN
2003 Spring	AIS National Convention, Region 4 Host
2003 Fall	OPEN

I have made poor progress in securing hosts for the open fall meetings. I request that an appeal be made to Affiliates/Societies at this meeting to host the open meeting dates. Without such acceptance of the task, then I recommend that the structure of fall board meetings be changed to make them more acceptable to member societies.

Immediate Past Regional Vice President - Sara Marley

JaNiece is to be commended for the manner in which she has assumed the role of RVP. Even though there is an *RVP Handbook*, it seems that not everything gets written down. I am still trying to locate the company that manufactured the RVP pins. LaRue Boswell of Region 14 is to send me some information on this.

As you know, we are gearing up for the National Convention to be held in the Washington, DC, area in 2003. The gardens have been selected as well as some of the committee chairmen. The headquarters for the 2001 Convention will be Hunt Valley, MD. If you have never attended a National AIS convention, now is the time to do so. This one is practically in your back yard. You will learn about the "mechanics" of AIS, plant culture in different parts of the U.S., how people set up their gardens, and the people themselves. Attending the Judges' Training classes is very useful as each instructor has a different approach to the subject of irises. And, of course, there are the irises themselves. The hybridizers send their recent introductions and some of their reselected seedlings to be grown and evaluated in the gardens. These will be two-year clumps for bearded and three-year clumps for beardless. Quite an opportunity for you and me!!

Secretary - Carrie Winter

NO REPORT

Treasurer - J. Owings Rebert (Report printed in full on page 10.)

Parliamentarian - Rosalie Figge

The Parliamentarian has served Region 4 by attending the meetings in her official capacity.

Editor, NEWSCAST - E. Roy Epperson

No comments have been received with reference to the current format of *NEWSCAST*. [The RVP announced that Epperson has taken the position of Editor on a continuing basis.]

Reports of Standing Committees

Auctions - Vacant

The RVP asked for a volunteer to chair this committee. Roy Epperson encouraged participation by contributing plants and purchasing the "bargain plants."

Beardless and Species - Carol Warner

It looks as though this will be a good year for irises in general and beardless irises in particular. There was enough cold weather this winter for an adequate cold period needed by many of the beardless.

The national convention in Dallas, TX, gave an opportunity to see many Louisiana irises grown very well. I only saw two siberian irises and did not notice any Japanese. Very few species seemed to flourish in the warm Texas climate.

The Society for Siberian Irises Convention in Iowa the first weekend of June promises to be very exciting. From the slides I received, there will be some very nice gardens and last year's bloom was quite good. Beardless fanciers were buzzing about their plans to attend. [Editor: There was excellent bloom in the convention gardens. However, 90+% occurred before the actual garden tours of the convention. The highlight of this convention was hostas, hostas, hostas!]

The Sibrob on the internet has had some exciting topics recently concerning growth habits of new versus old varieties, trial gardens, patenting of plants, and the beginnings of bloom reports from warm climates. There are about 120 subscribers with varying degrees of expertise who enjoy learning more about siberians.

Our Region 4 Beardless and Species Robin is slowly making its rounds with fascinating bits and pieces of information on all types of beardless irises and some "companion plants."

As far as a landscape plant, many of the beardless irises continue to be the most trouble free members of the genus *Iris* in our area. New culture sections have been added to the new *BASIC IRIS CULTURE* publication. This should help new members get started with these wonderful alternatives to the ever popular bearded irises.

Budget - Jack Loving - [This report is presented at the Fall Board Meeting.]

Historian - Margaret Stone NO REPORT

Judges and Judges' Training - E. Roy Epperson

Accredited judges and students were urged to participate in all available judges' training classes. At this meeting JT sessions were presented on Awards and Balloting (2 hours credit) and Ethics of Entering and Judging an Exhibition (1 hour credit).

Legal Counsel - Bill Kuykendall NO REPORT

Median Irises - Richard Sparling

This is the last report from me as your Median Chairman, as I am leaving Region 4 and moving "down" to Region 1. Both our children and grandson are within 45 minutes of one another - one in Maine, the other in Rhode Island. I am going to try and locate half-way between. It's been a great experience in Region 4 and as your Median Chairman for these many years. I've tried to include some ideas on growing the smaller irises and have thrown in some information on Miniature Dwarf and Arilmeds too. Through your good help, we have display gardens in most areas, but still need more in those places where none currently exist. The one thing that hasn't happened is to get you people to visit those gardens regularly. The next step (but that is up to you) is for you to get off your duffs and go visit them! The gardens are open for visits so get out and see them. I know it takes time, but your weeds can grow one more day. The gardeners really appreciate people coming. You don't have to wait for an invitation either. Just drop in or call ahead if you must.

As most of you realize, we've had an early spring. I've never seen bearded iris out so early. My first one, ATROVIOLACEA (MDB) opened 3/9. The earliest date before this year was 3/13. As I write this Easter Sunday, my SDBs have peaked, the arilmeds will peak this week and there must be up to 20 IBs out, so they should be at their best by the end of the week. Unfortunately we had hail on Thursday so many of those out were shredded. We've also had an MTB out with buds on several, and big stalks on TB other than rebloomers. Last year was the best bloom year I ever had and this year seems to be following right along although with shredded clumps, you'd never know it. Some of the newer ones that look great are TAX TIME, TOON TOWN, FRUGAL, CHOCOLATE SWIRL, DOT COM, BALTIC STAR and BORDEAUX PEARL - can hardly wait to see the others! All we need is some warmer weather.

The Median Iris Society is putting on a mini-convention in Massachusetts and Maine next year, so why don't you plan on coming up for a visit and see some gorgeous gardens there? It precedes the AIS National Convention being held in Region 3 but headquartered in Maryland in Region 4. If you come to either, I'll see you there.

Membership - Mary E. Brown

This past year has been a very busy year for all membership chairman. This was the first year to be affected by the change to yearly dues. Since many members had elected to extend their memberships for the old dues amount, and quite a few upped to triennial, this was the year for

the largest number of renewals coming due in December. About 50% of Region 4's members had renewals due December 31, 1999. It was decided to make a concerted effort to keep as many members as we could. With this in mind, each member with the December due date was mailed a letter urging renewal. Included in each letter was a stamped, addressed postcard. The postcard asked the member to check if they were renewing or not, and, if renewing, at what level. The response was far more than I expected. I got cards, I got letters. And they are still coming. The last card came just before I left for National last week! I would like to think that all the effort that went into this project is the reason we have a deficit of only 15 members since last May. Unfortunately the picture isn't quite that rosy. Over the flowering season, we had increased our membership substantially and so our loss was actually larger.

Several members who said that they were not renewing also explained their reasons. Some were no longer growing irises (had switched to other plants) or had moved to places where they couldn't garden (assisted living). Two cards were received from families letting me know that the member had died. In each case they wrote about how much the person had enjoyed gardening and the Society. All in all it was a very enlightening and touching experience.

In addition to the individual mailings, a short questionnaire was sent to each Society Membership Chairman or President asking for information about that affiliate and asking for ideas about membership. Again, the response was better than I had anticipated. Most of the questionnaires were returned and some very good suggestions were made. I have given copies to RVP JaNiece and we will be working on ideas to implement in the future.

Reblooming Irises - Lloyd Zurbrigg

Spring is not the time to record rebloom. I would, however, like to report extra-early tall bearded bloom, which has occurred here the past three years - always on a remontant. This year it was RENOWN with two stalks in early March. The stalks were not full height but the flowers were normal. These were in bloom between frosts in the first early warm spells of spring. It would seem that these stalks must have started in the fall and been able to resist the rigors of winter. I wonder if any of the readers has had a similar experience to this? If so, please write to me, and if there is sufficient material, I will write this up in a future issue of the Region 4 publications.

As I write this, the garden is nearing peak bloom for tall bearded. Hope you all have a good iris season.

Robins - Libby Cross

NO REPORT

Slides and Photography - Bill Mull

Significant happenings for this past year are:

1. The receipt of several hundred Region 4 slides from Dennis Stoneburner. These appear to be well identified and are in slide protective covers. I have not as yet sorted them by type or put them into trays.
2. Several slide trays have been purchased.

3. The appeal for additional slides has largely been ignored. I have had a few promised, but nothing has been forthcoming. Growers have to realize that this is another way for them to get exposure for their introductions.

4. I continue to take slides of iris in bloom in our garden. However, I am limited to those iris that we have purchased.

5. A slide presentation is being assembled of the School/Youth Program that RVP JaNiece has developed with several of the Elementary Schools in Norfolk.

6. I continue to provide the Editor with prints from the Regional meetings.

Youth - Dennis Pearson

The current number of youth members stands at 31 in Region 4. These are not all AIS members. I keep mailing information to all youth members whether or not they are members of AIS, knowing that gardening is a lifetime activity and that the "bungee cord theory" will work at some point in the future. I believe that once you appreciate the beauty of irises, you are hooked for life. It is then a matter of intensity. The late Winter Newsletter went out on time, giving tips for upcoming shows, trying to encourage participation in local shows. The summer issue will bring a large dose of puzzles, trivia and general insanity. It should be a fun issue. The fall issue will be scholarly, talking about point scoring. Hopefully some fall bloomers will give youth some practice material.

i applaud some of the creative work going on in some of our Affiliates: the Hybridizing Project, the school plantings and other efforts. Great work!!

Webmaster - Vacant

There is no chairman at the present time. Region 4 is now paying for the web page with a set-up cost of \$ 200.00.

Reports of Region 4 Affiliates

The written reports from the Affiliates were submitted without being read to the assembled group. [Editor: Most of these reports are for activities that have already occurred. Current reports will be printed in the December 2000 issue of *NEWSCAST*.

Reports of Special Committees

Region 4 Culture issue of *NEWSCAST* - E. Roy Epperson

Roy Epperson reported that (by Board action instead of a special culture issue of *NEWSCAST*) a copy of the second edition of *Basic Iris Culture* has been sent to each member of Region 4 at a cost of \$ 700.00 or approximately \$ 1.10 per person. Please note that on page 7 of BIC, the paragraph on species should be designated #6, not #4.

Epperson then moved that the Certificate of Deposit designated for the Region 4 culture issue be liquidated and the funds placed in the operating fund of Region 4. The motion was seconded and approved.

AIS and Region 4 Incorporation Status

Roy Epperson reported that The American Iris Society is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) entity for educational purposes under the IRS rules and thereby enjoys a tax exempt status. Region 4 has also incorporated and is a 501(c)(3) entity. As a result, any donations to the Auction may be taken as a tax deduction if you itemize your deductions. Also, if you are a Board member, you may deduct your expenses associated with Board Meetings, provided your name appears on the agenda.

Revision of Region 4 Convention Handbook - Libby Dufresne

NO REPORT

2003 National Convention - Clarence Mahan, Convention Chair

Roy Epperson stressed the need for a "Cookie Monster" to coordinate the refreshments for the gardens on tour. He added that there seems to be a problem in securing a hotel for the convention.

Unfinished Business

AIS Membership Brochures and Judges Handbook

Full color *Invitation to Join* brochures are available from E. Roy Epperson, AIS Exhibitions Chairman, at no cost.

The AIS Board of Directors has authorized that the *Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* be revised every five (5) years. Twenty (20) pages of revisions to the 6th Edition, 1998, have been printed and distributed to all accredited AIS judges. This includes a "Model Show Schedule" which gives guidelines for writing show schedules.

Membership Contest

Mary Brown, regional Membership Chairman, asked for help with the membership contest. Please call her with any suggestions and to find out how YOU can help.

New Business

Nominating Committee.

Rosalie Figge, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, stated that Glenn Grigg, Jr., Assistant RVP, was not interested in moving up to RVP, and asked if there is anyone interested in taking this position.

Proposal for Membership Cards

After relinquishing the gavel to Sara Marley, JaNiece Mull introduced the concept of a membership card for Region 4 and moved that Region 4 become a pilot program and that Region 4 have membership cards and that these cards would be used to obtain discounts from local, regional and national retail and catalog stores selling garden supplies, equipment, plants, books, etc. The motion was seconded and following extensive discussion tabled for action at the general meeting scheduled for April 29.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Following the Saturday night banquet (April 29, 2000), the meeting was called to order by RVP JaNiece Mull who expressed thanks to Maxine Simms, Elton Reitz, Bill Smoot, Frances Thrash, Terry Thrash, Bill Trotter, Katherine Boyette and Bill Mull for the delightful Region 4 Spring Meeting.

The motion concerning Membership Cards was removed from the table. After discussion, the original motion (Smoot/second) was approved.

RVP Mull asked Vince Lewonski, RVP of Region 3, to comment briefly on Region 4 as seen from someone from outside the Region. He spoke about the opportunities for excellent judges' training as well as the opportunities for family participation. Glenna Castillo then shared the benefits of attending regional and national AIS meetings. She pointed out the value of judges' training classes plus the advantage of viewing and evaluating many cultivars in the gardens - cultivars that one would probably not see in home gardens.

Rosalie Figge, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 2001:

Regional Vice President	JaNiece Mull
Assistant RVP	Glenn Grigg, Jr.
Secretary	Carrie Winter
Treasurer	J. Owings Rebert

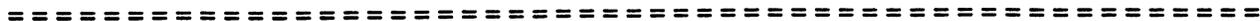
Roy Epperson moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation and that the secretary be directed to cast a unanimous vote for these candidates. The motion was seconded and approved.

The results of voting for various awards were announced.

The Charlie Nearpass Award went to Lloyd Zurbrigg for LIGHTLY SEASONED.
The Alice Bouldin Award went to Lloyd Zurbrigg for Seedling #0571-O.
The B.Y. Morrison award went to by Schreiners.
The favorite iris was BEST BET (Schreiner's '88)

Dr. Bill Shear, author of *The Gardeners Iris Book*, presented a very informative slide program showing the sequence of iris blooms throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned to complete the silent auction and to a brainstorming session to exchange ideas about improving Region 4 and its affiliates.



KOMMENTS FROM KIRKLEE and THE EDITOR

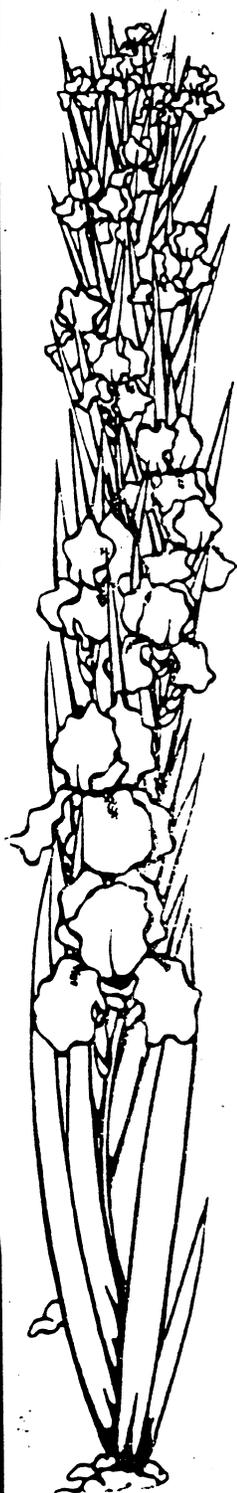
When our group arrived at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, we could see the participants getting ready for the crowning of the Azalea Queen. When someone asked who the queen was our granddaughter, Ginny replied "Iris Halldorsdottir." And she was right. Iris had visited Taylor Elementary School (Ginny's school) earlier and Ginny had already written the following for the school newsletter: "The Azalea Queen has arrived!! She visited W.H. Taylor Elementary at 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. on April 26, 2000. Her name is Iris Halldorsdottir and she is from Iceland. She came for N.A.T.O. week. N.A.T.O. is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There was a special presentation by Taylor citizens. At the program there was dancing, singing and everyone had a good time. Afterwards, she thanked them and answered questions. The Queen's visit was grand."

Region 4 has an additional connection to Taylor Elementary School. JaNiece Mull has been working with the Taylor P.T.A. to get a planting of TB irises on the school grounds in the school colors of Purple and Gold. JaNiece got all of the rhizomes ready for planting, but the new school grounds were not ready. So, JaNiece planted all of her rhizomes in the outer edges of the iris beds in their home garden. You saw many of these in bloom when we visited the Mull garden and you may well have wondered why they were planted where they were AND without any nametags!

The mini-Convention of the Society for Siberian Iris, held in Iowa in June, came well after peak bloom and turned into a hosta convention. Hosta grow much larger in Iowa and Michigan and Minnesota than they do here. We saw many of the newer hosta cultivars but few siberians in bloom. At the business meeting Carol Warner was elected President and E. Roy Epperson as First-Vice President (President-elect) to serve 2001 through 2003.

There is a request from the editors of the regional publications that they be placed on the mailing list of the other regions. I already receive many of the regional publications as most regions send their publications to the AIS Board members and Chairmen of AIS committees. At the present time *NEWSCAST* is mailed to each member of Region 4, the AIS Board members and Chairmen of AIS committees, and RVPs.

Roy





**AIS REGION 4 FALL 2000 MEETING
FRIDAY, OCT 20 AND SATURDAY, OCT 21
REGISTRATION FORM**



(Please print or type)

Name (1): _____ Chapter (1): _____

Name Preference for Name Tag (1): _____

Name (2): _____ Chapter (2): _____

Name Preference for Name Tag (2): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Home Work

<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>Total</i>
Full Registration: _____ X \$65 per person = \$ _____	
<i>This includes dinner on Friday and Saturday nights.</i>	
<i>After Sept 15, Registration will be \$70 per person. There will be no refunds after Oct 1.</i>	

Reblooming Iris Show: Friday, October 20, 2000 Setup from 12 noon to 2 pm

Try to bring as many as you can!

Auction Contribution:

Please bring irises (or daylilies, hostas, etc.) or other materials of interest for the Auction!

Please make all checks payable to:
Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society (C&P IS)

Mail registration to:
Joseph F. Metzger, Jr.
11927 Beaver Dam Road
Union Bridge, MD 21791

Information:
(410) 775-7737

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn
1017 Millwood Pike
Winchester, VA 22602
Phone: (540) 667-3300
FAX: (540) 722-2730

Millwood Pike is U.S. Route 50. The Holiday Inn is on U.S. Route 50 just off Interstate 81. The rate is \$62 per night (Single or Double) plus VA tax of 6.5%. Please call the hotel directly and mention confirmation #IRS. The block of rooms will be held until October 6, 2000. Friday and Saturday dinners will feature Jimmy's famous buffets with entrees to please everyone.

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