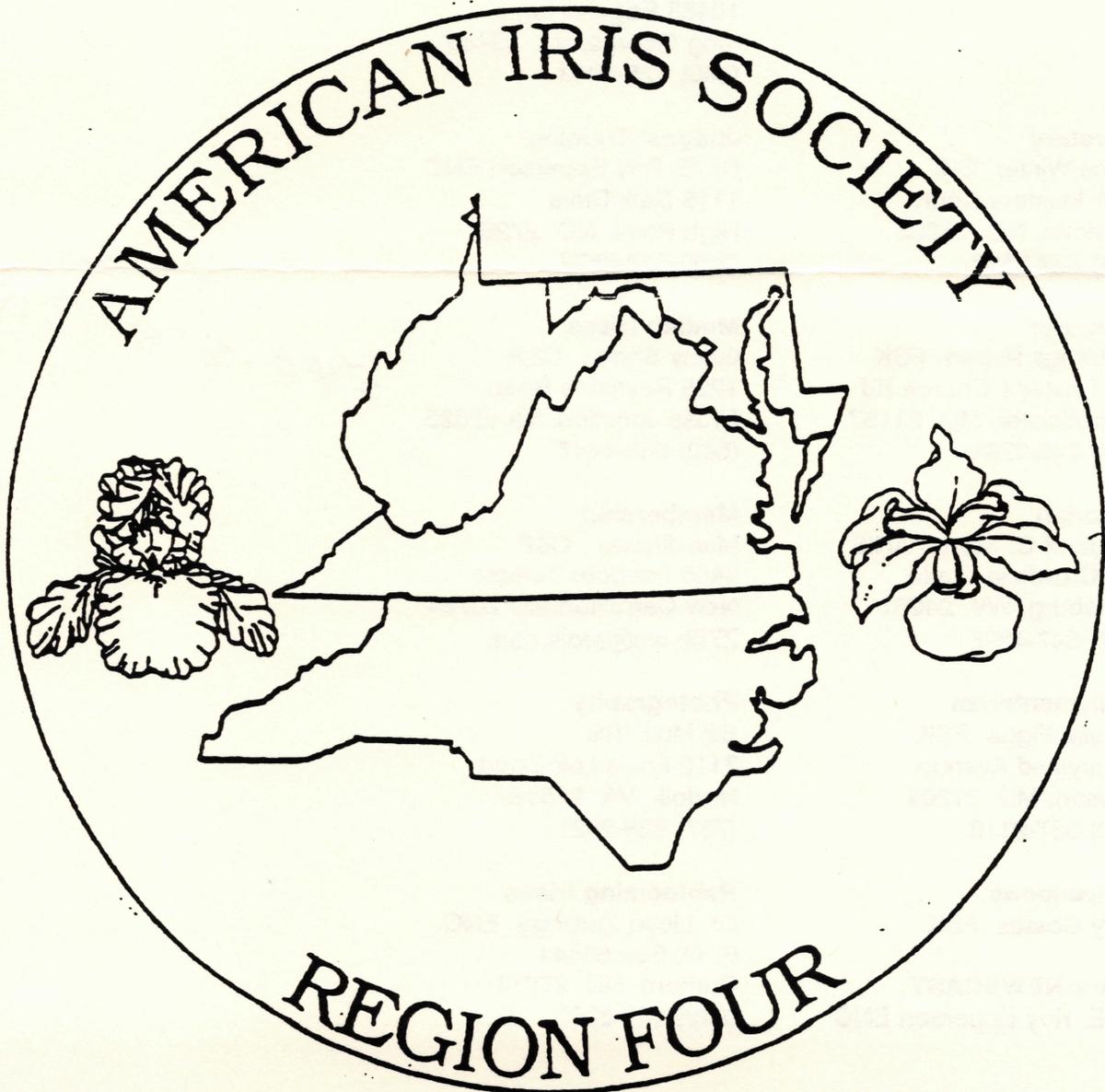


Newscast

Region 4 of The American Iris Society

Vol. 45, No. 3

DECEMBER 2003



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

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:

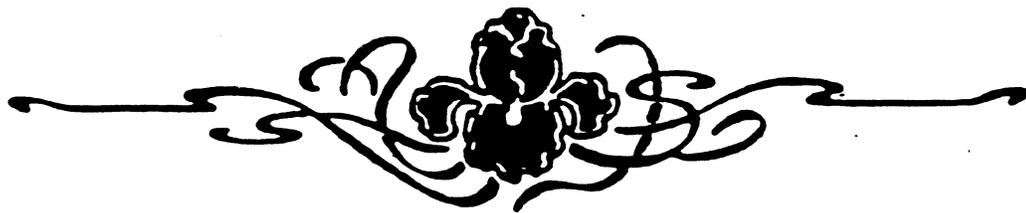
- a) encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus Iris, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;
- b) collection, compilation, and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding and culture of Irises; 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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IN MEMORIAM

Lilla Edwards Spoon (NC)



RVP'S MESSAGE

Ginny Spoon

This has certainly been an eventful year for Region 4 and the photos in the *Bulletin* remind us of the good times we had at the National Convention. We have had some lovely rebloom this fall in spite of freezing temperatures and heavy winds. The mild days in between the cold ones have been a bonus to reset irises, clean the beds and plant our seeds. We have planted many new iris introductions from Keppel, Black, Lauer, Blyth, Schreiner and others in the former convention beds at Winterberry along with the ones we were allowed to keep. We are looking forward to having visitors come see them in bloom next spring. This is a great opportunity for our judges to see many of the new irises close to home. We hope to update these beds every year with many of the newest introductions. We will have our annual youth hybridizing clinic for youths and young at heart on Saturday, May 29, 2004, usually our peak bloom, so please join us.



We have been able to sit back and watch our garden at peak bloom again, thanks to Jim Schroetter who took a complete video at the hybridizing clinic this spring of all the twelve raised beds in the master planting. We have also enjoyed viewing the videos of the Fredericksburg gardens filmed during the convention. But, there is nothing like the real thing, so come on out and see these irises in person this coming spring. Thanks to all of those who helped or attended our fall Region 4 meeting in Winchester in October. We had a great meeting and Stephanie Markham gave a wonderful judges' training on BB and MTB irises.

I am looking forward to attending the 2004 National AIS Convention April 19-24 in Fresno, California. I am really interested in seeing how the irises grow there. We are having our Region 4 Spring 2004 meeting at Virginia Beach on June 3-5. Hosted by the Hampton Roads Iris Society, this will be a Japanese Iris mini-Symposium entitled "Ensata Extravaganza." From the PowerPoint preview that Bill Smoot gave at the fall Regional, we are in for quite a treat. All attendees will be able to tour some lovely JI gardens. There will also be several excellent guest speakers/presenters and, of course, judges' training on Japanese Irises.

Several weeks ago Don's mother, Lilla Edwards Spoon, left us for a greater iris garden. Lilla continued to plant and care for her irises to the end of her journey on this Earth at 96 years. Lilla was the former President of the Charlotte Iris Society and she taught Don how to care for and hybridize irises. Don's father raised pigeons, and from his father Don first learned about genetics. Lilla would write to Don once a week, even when she was quite ill. A few nights ago, Don had a dream that he went out to get the mail, only it was Sunday. There was a golden envelope in the mail box addressed to him written in beautiful calligraphy. The letter was from Lilla of course, and in two pages she told him all about the beautiful place where she was living, that his Dad was there taking care of the doves in heaven, and she had a beautiful vegetable and flower garden that took care of itself.

Thanks to Anita Moran for volunteering to be our new *NEWSCAST* editor. Please help Anita and send her articles and other information about your club activities. Thank you, Roy Epperson, for being our editor for all these many years while doing all the other things you already undertake for our Region and The AIS. Without the dedication of members like these, our society would not be able to provide the wonderful experiences that we all enjoy.

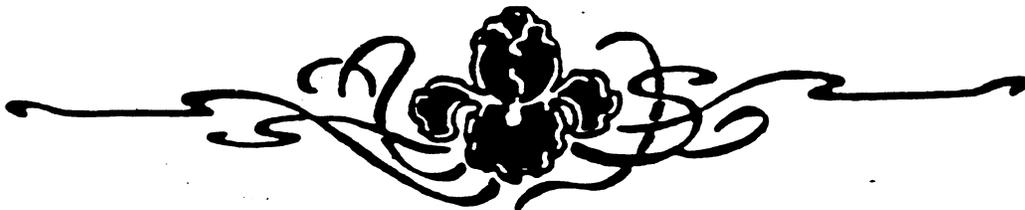
May all of you have a peaceful and joyous holiday season, and the best of wishes for the New Year.

=====

Region 4 as we geographically know it today - encompassing the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia - came into being in 1959.

The Regional Vice Presidents of Region 4 have been:

1959 - 1961	Claude C. O'Brien	North Carolina
1962 - 1964	Earl T. Browder	West Virginia
1965 - 1967	Rena Frantz Crumpler	Virginia
1968	Frank Sherrill	North Carolina
1969 - 1970	Maynard Harp	Maryland
1971 - 1974	William D. Kelley	West Virginia
1975 - 1976	Anne Lee	Virginia
1977 - 1980	E. Roy Epperson	North Carolina
1981 - 1983	Claire Barr	Maryland
1984 - 1986	B. J. Brown	North Carolina
1987 - 1989	Lloyd Zurbrigg	North Carolina
1990 - 1992	Carol Warner	Maryland
1993 - 1995	E. Roy Epperson	North Carolina
1996 - 1998	Anne Lowe	Virginia
1999	Sara R. Marley	Virginia
2000 - 2002	JaNiece Mull	Virginia
2003 -	Ginny Spoom	Virginia



LUMIS & PLICS

Keith Keppel

(Reprinted from *Region 17 Spring 2003 Newsletter*)

OK, gang, skip this if you don't want to get bogged down in the fine points of luminatas and plicatas. We need to start with some basic understandings of what we're trying to define. With both luminatas ("lumis") and plicatas ("plics"), we are dealing with two separate types of pigments, and the distribution of each type is independent of the other.

Let's start with the ground color. This can be white or can be due to various oil-soluble pigments which can vary from cream, yellow, pink, to orange. The ground color may be solidly applied (self-colored), or in various other patterns, such as what would be a self except the color gradually shades lighter toward the center; or the JOYCE TERRY pattern (colored standards and shoulders, or white standards and (yellow or pink or orange) colored falls; or colored (yellow/pink/orange) standards and falls paler, even white, generally with some of the standard color on the hafts. The color is not necessarily uniformly applied; for instance, most pink-ground plicatas will have hafts which are more salmon tones, due to the presence of more than one form of oil-soluble pigment. This is what the ground is. It has nothing to do with an iris being or not being a plicata; but it will always be there...this is the 'canvas' on which the plicata is painted. It will, of course, make a big difference on the final look of the iris.

The paint for the plicata pattern is a water-soluble pigment -- which does not mix with the oil-soluble ground pigment. This 'paint' is applied in much-varying degrees. If found nowhere else, the plicata pattern will be found on the fall haft. If more pattern is found, it will start to encircle the fall and the marginal band will widen. There are many variations of the pattern distribution in tall bearded (and probably more in dwarfs, etc.)

The patterning may occur as darker pigment in the veins (think MADAME CHEREAU, for one) with the area between the veins being unmarked or at least paler. The patterning may be in random dots, seemingly independent of the veins. The patterning may be so solid that there is no way to tell where veins occur. The markings may occur in dots or other applications forming 'strips' leading from the edge in toward the center of the flower. There may be veining striping through the center of the fall to the pigmented edge, or the center of the fall may be clear. They are plicatas because they have this water-soluble pigment (which is lavender, blue, violet, purple, or orchid pink) occurring in some manner as indicated above.

But plicatas may not -look- like plicatas! To look at LACED COTTON, you would say it is a white self. Pull the flower apart and you will find a very few, very minute orchid dots deep on the haft. These are plicata markings. Don't believe it? Then cross LACED COTTON with a plicata you recognize -- the seedlings will be plicata. (Plicata pattern is a recessive trait, so both parents must carry the factor).

There may be very definite plicata banding, but it is very faint, because a gene which inhibits the appearance of the pigment is present. If you are familiar with the variety GRECIAN GOWN, this is an example. When in bud and the pigment is a bit darker, it is very obviously patterned a

plicata; when open, it is next to impossible to see as the flower ages. We sometimes refer to these as "ghost plicatas." The paleness or darkness of pigmentation may change the looks of the flower drastically, but it does not change the fact of whether or not it is a plicata.

But remember...the plicata marking always starts at the haft. There is no large unmarked area along or around the beard. There will be some sign of dotting or striping alongside the beard. (**Warning:** not all haft marking is plicata, so marking does not prove the iris is a plicata; it is the absence of any marking which may help prove it is a luminata...more to follow if you haven't given up at this point!).

Now for luminata.... In luminatas, there is a wash of color (the water-soluble ones, as with plicatas) over the blade of the fall. There is a tendency for this wash to be paler, or missing from the veined areas. There is a tendency for the petal margins to be devoid of the water-soluble pigments. This is very obvious in some varieties, such as SPIRIT WORLD, very subtle in others. There is always a clearly defined area around the beard which has no water-soluble pigment, not a single dot, and the beards carry no blue or purple coloration. Style arms carry little to no water-soluble pigment. New variations on the pattern are coming. The unmarked ground area around the beard is expanding, forming larger and larger blazes, or extending as a spear pattern. The pale veining on an almost completely marked fall is changing to broad veining or banding, with 'islands' of pigment rather than an almost solid wash.

As with plicatas, the luminata pattern variations can occur on the same ground-color patterns (self, JOYCE TERRY, yellow amoena, etc.). Looking down a row of seedlings is like looking into a kaleidoscope: there are so many variations possible. This is what makes breeding patterned irises so fascinating. And now that you all understand what a plicata is, and what a luminata is....we need to go one step further. Both patterns can occur simultaneously, to give us luminata-plicatas ("lumi-plics"). In effect, what you have is one pattern superimposed on the other. The pale edge of the luminata is pigmented by the plicata. The unmarked area around the beard of the luminata now has plicata markings marching across the hafts and obscuring it. Blue pigment in the plicata beard may color the blue-free luminata beard. The normally unmarked central area of the plicata fall is now washed with color by the luminata. In most cases, you will end up with a flower which is totally, but unevenly patterned/marked. (JOSEPH'S MANTLE, PANDORA'S PURPLE, TEST PATTERN, CASBAH) -- there are many lumi-plics in commerce.

Before anyone starts asking about red plicatas, or brown plicatas, etc..., those 'colors' are due to the overlay of one type of pigment on another, or they are due to the incapability of our eyes to discern separate very minute transmission of light from adjacent different-colored cells.

With 'ghost plicatas', the anthocyanin (water-soluble) pattern is formed, but can be expressed in but a limited degree, due to suppression. With glaciatas (formerly referred to as ice-whites, lemon-ices, etc.), no anthocyanin is formed, not even the merest hint. What you have left is the ground...the canvas with no plicata (or luminata) paint applied. Which, incidentally, is what makes glaciatas so fascinating. Since they are incapable of producing any of the cool-colored water-soluble pigments, this allows the warm-colored oil-soluble pigments to appear in absolute clarity, with no greying effect from the anthocyanins. In a glaciata, there will be not so much as a single dot or line at the haft, no greyed suffusions.

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Region 4 2004 Tall Bearded Symposium Results

Region 4 introductions are in *italics*. Dykes Medal winners are in **bold**.

<u>Votes</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Rank</u>			
36	Dusky Challenger	.. 1	11	Bayberry Candle	.. 17
			11	Going My Way	.... 17
30	<i>My Ginny</i>	..... 2	11	Joyce Terry	..... 17
			11	Persian Berry	..... 17
28	<i>Immortality</i>	..... 3			
			10	Champagne Elegance	18
26	<i>Clarence</i>	..... 4	10	Holy Night	..... 18
			10	Proud Tradition	.... 18
24	<i>Little John</i>	..... 5	10	Queen in Calico	.... 18
			10	Song of Norway	... 18
23	Silverado	..... 6	10	Supreme Sultan	.... 18
			10	Total Recall	..... 18
22	Jesse's Song	..... 7			
			9	Bride's Halo	..... 19
21	Conjuration	..... 8	9	City Lights	..... 19
			9	Dazzling Gold	..... 19
20	Stairway to Heaven	.. 9	9	Honky Tonk Blues	.. 19
			9	Pond Lily	..... 19
19	Celebration Song	.. 10	9	Study in Black	..... 19
19	Lady Friend	..... 10	9	Superstition	..... 19
19	Vanity	..... 10	9	Tiger Honey	..... 19
17	Beverly Sills	..... 11	8	Afternoon Delight	... 20
17	Thornbird	..... 11	8	Babbling Brook	... 20
			8	Crowned Heads	.... 20
16	Yaquina Blue	..... 12	8	Lullaby of Spring	... 20
			8	Rare Treat	..... 20
15	Stepping Out	..... 13	8	Rustler	..... 20
15	Titan's Glory	..... 13	8	Spiced Tiger	..... 20
14	Hello Darkness	.... 14	7	Boogie Woogie	..... 21
14	<i>Sky and Sun</i>	..... 14	7	Breakers	..... 21
14	<i>Uncle Charlie</i>	..... 14	7	Gnus Flash	..... 21
			7	Gypsy Romance	.... 21
13	Edith Wolford	.... 15	7	Rhonda Fleming	.... 21
13	Jurassic Park	.... 15	7	Splashacata	..... 21
13	Mary Frances	..... 15			
13	Mesmerizer	..... 15	6	Copper Classic	..... 22
13	Skating Party	.... 15	6	Diabolique	..... 22
13	Starship Enterprise	.. 15	6	Gypsy Woman	..... 22
			6	Lemon Mist	..... 22
12	Before the Storm	.. 16	6	Let's Boogie	..... 22
12	Rosalie Figge	.... 16	6	Queen's Circle	..... 22
12	Victoria Falls	..... 16	6	Swingtown	..... 22
			6	World Premier	..... 22
			5	Acoma	..... 23
			5	American Classic	.... 23
			5	Bewilderbeast	..... 23
			5	Blenheim Royal	.... 23
			5	Blue Suede Shoes	.. 23
			5	Dynamite	..... 23
			5	Epicenter	..... 23
			5	Fancy Woman	..... 23
			5	Gay Parasol	..... 23
			6	Golden Panther	.... 23
			5	Good Vibrations	.... 23
			5	Grape Snakez	.... 23
			5	Halfway to Heaven	.. 23
			5	Kevin's Theme	.... 23
			5	Starring	..... 23
			5	Sweet Musette	..... 23
				4 votes	19 cultivars
				3 votes	38 cultivars
				2 votes	49 cultivars
				1 vote	86 cultivars

REGION 4 MEDIAN REPORT

Ginny Spoon

This spring was the wettest and coldest that I can remember in northern Virginia. When the convention tours arrived in our garden, the IBs were at their peak with many MTBs and BBs in bloom. There were many TBs for conventioners to see, but the median lovers were really excited to be able to see a large selection of their favorites. Marky Smith's IBs were spectacular. I particularly liked the luminata IBs BLACKCURRANT (Smith '99) a dark red-violet luminata and OBLIVION (Smith '03), a near black luminata. A favorite of the conventioners was DELIRIUM (Smith '01), a gold with dark violet overlay. JANE EYRE (Sutton '01), a pink over purple IB was another favorite of mine. DOUBLE YOUR FUN (Aitken '00) rebloomed both years and is a lovely smoky pearl with a violet flush over yellow. IN A FLASH (Black '01) is an eye-catching IB in dark purple with orange beards.

The MTBs multiplied well and were exceptional. I must admit my favorite was Don Spoon's MASLON ('02) with yellow standards and purple falls with a white edge border. It was a prolific bloomer and it had 56 increases on a two-year plant! That was the largest number of increases of any guest iris in the convention beds. NIGHT SPIRIT (Craig '02) is a lovely dark violet. CHEESE AND WINE (Dunderman '03) a cherry red with orange beards is another striking color combination. AMONG FRIENDS (Varner '02) with white standards and purple falls with white edges is lovely. FIESTA FLIRT (Fisher '01) is another showy MTB with honey gold standards and brick red falls. DANCING LILACS (S. Markham '02) with its dreamy lavender-orchid flowers was another favorite.

TEAPOT TEMPEST (L. Markham '99) a fuchsia pink with orange beards is a divine BB. It had 7 to 9 buds on well-proportioned stalks and great foliage that held up well in our wet spring weather. The weekend after the convention, we held a judge's training session at Winterberry Gardens and all the students gave it a perfect score. RASPBERRY SILK (Spoon '00) was another convention favorite. The clumps in the guest gardens were mostly all in bloom and it was lovely with the champagne ground and dark raspberry splashes. It also rebloomed in a nearby garden in Zone 6 last fall. DELIGHTFUL KID (Innerst '01) was another outstanding BB with light pink standards, white ground with rosy plicata falls. ANACONDA LOVE (Kasperek '99) is a broken color BB pink splashed purple and streaked white. ELEGANT LASS (Craig '02), a BB with white standards and lavender falls, surprised and delighted us with early rebloom two years in a row.

BB PEACH PARASOL (Spoon '97) and IB RHEA PEERZ (Kasperek '99) were both prolific rebloomers both years of the convention. SDB FOREVER BLUE (Chapman) rebloomed the second year of the convention and is a beautiful blue in the late season. SDB NEUTRON (T. Johnson '01) was a dark purple with white beards that was a standout with 4 to 5 buds. One of Don's SDB seedlings with a large greenish-blue spot had its last bloom during the first day of the tour and it caught the eye of several median fanciers. We hope to register it soon with the name TUTU TEAL.

BEARDLESS and SPECIES REPORT

Carol Warner

Now, this is beardless weather! With the drought behind us, and lots of snow and rain through Region 4 this year, the beardless irises were in their glory. Bloom was fantastic, but a bit later than usual. Beardless irises are supposed to be good landscape plants with lovely grass-like foliage throughout the season. As I write this report, the foliage is still deep green and vigorous. Since most beardless are not susceptible to fungal diseases or bacterial rot the excess moisture has only caused them to grow better.

This was the best year I have seen for Japanese irises. Stalks were taller and flowers larger, proving that they appreciate all the water they can get. The constant rain even washed away the soil toxins or whatever prevents plants from growing well in the same soil year after year. Clumps that were on their last legs last year have recovered and look like second or third year clumps. Some say that thrips can be washed off of plants with a stream of water but I never believed that until the rains kept them from ever becoming a problem. My beardless irises were never sprayed this year and the only problem seemed to be a bit of borer damage.

The Beardless and Borderless Convention in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada was a very enjoyable well-planned event. The iris bloom season was greatly retarded there too, so only the very early varieties had bloom during the four days. Bloom was so late in one garden that we saw an excellent display on Intermediate Bearded. Even though it was disappointing to see so few of the newer varieties in bloom, the other events and the time spent with other beardless enthusiasts was well worth the trip.

It is impossible to have a beardless report that doesn't mention the loss of a great hybridizer, Currier McEwen, at the tender age of 101. Those of us lucky enough to know him will always be inspired by his love of Siberian and Japanese irises and his will to ever improve on the varieties available. Tetraploidy was born in Siberian and Japanese irises because of his determination and his 168 iris introductions will be a tribute to Currier forever.

In 2004, we will have the opportunity to have a regional meeting/mini-symposium during Japanese iris bloom season in the Norfolk/Portsmouth/Virginia Beach area. [Ensata Extravaganza June 4,5,6]. What a treat these folks have in store for us. In 2005 we will also have the Society for Japanese Irises Convention in neighboring Delaware. The Japanese irises are some of the most beautiful of the irises and extend the bloom season almost a whole extra month. Most of Region 4 has the acidic soil necessary for good growth, so I expect that a lot of new interest in growing Japanese iris will be created with these two meetings.

So....when rain keeps falling and the ground is soggy and the weeds are out of control...the beardless irises are loving every minute of it. This was their year!

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
Winchester, Virginia
Friday, October 10, 2003**

RVP Ginny Spoon convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. The minutes of the October 5, 2002, Board Meeting as printed in *NEWSCAST*, Vol. 44, No. 3, December 2002 were accepted. (There was no spring 2003 Region 4 Board Meeting due to the Falls Church National AIS Convention)

Reports of the Officers

Regional Vice President - Ginny Spoon Oral Report

Assistant Regional Vice President - Jerry Coates

Scheduled meetings of Region 4 are as follows:

2004 Spring Hampton Roads Iris Society (HRIS)
"Ensatá Extravanganza" June 3, 4, 5, 2004

2004 Fall OPEN

2005 Spring Eastern North Carolina Iris Society (ENCIS)
May 6 & 7, 2005

2005 Fall Central Virginia Iris Society (CVIS)

Secretary - Carrie Winter NO REPORT

Treasurer - J. Owings Rebert (Printed in full on page 7)

Parliamentarian - Rosalie Figge NO REPORT

Editor, *NEWSCAST* - E. Roy Epperson

Due to increasing responsibilities at the national level in AIS and SSI, I requested RVP Spoon to seek a replacement as Editor. Anita Moran will become the Editor effective with the March 2004 issue of *NEWSCAST*. **PLEASE** support her with timely submission of articles for publication. Editors should edit and not have to generate/write articles.

Reports of Standing Committees

Auctions - Roslyn and John Mitchell

All members were urged to donate plants to the spring and fall regional auctions and to participate in the auctions by purchasing new plants.

Beardless and Species - Carol Warner Page 10

Budget - Jack Loving

PROPOSED 2004 BUDGET

Printing and Mailing three (3) issues of <i>NEWSCAST</i>	\$ 3,300.00
RVP National Board Meeting Travel Expenses	\$ 600.00
Membership Committee Expenses	\$ 500.00
Slides and Photography Committee	\$ 500.00
Memorials	\$ 300.00
AIS Youth Program	\$ 100.00
Region 4 Web Page	\$ 300.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 300.00
	=====
	\$ 5,900.00
	=====

Motion was made to approve the Proposed 2004 Budget. Unanimous approval.

Historian - Margaret Stone NO REPORT

Judges and Judges' Training - E. Roy Epperson
This report is printed in full on page 20

Legal Counsel - Bill Kuykendall NO REPORT

Median Irises - Ginny Spoon Page 9

Membership - Mac Shawe
As of 9/30/03 Region 4 has 11 Affiliated societies
As of 9/30/03 Region 4 has 472 memberships (single and dual)

Mary E. Brown, AIS Membership Secretary reported at the Fall AIS Board Meeting:
As of 10/29/03 Region 4 has 475 memberships = 570 members
Region 4 is second after Region 14 with 599 members
As of 10/29/03 Region 4 has 18 Youth members

Photography - Bill Mull NO REPORT

Reblooming Irises - Lloyd Zurbrigg NO REPORT

Robins - Libby Cross NO REPORT

Webmaster - Spring Brooks **The web page address is: www.irisregion4.com**

Youth - VACANT

Reports of Region 4 Affiliates (Printed on pages 14-19)

Eight of the eleven affiliates submitted written reports.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented for discussion and/or action.

New Business

The nominating committee was elected from the floor: E. Roy Epperson (NC), Eric Simpson (DC), Bill Smoot (VA), and Carol Warner (MD). Epperson was designated as Chair.

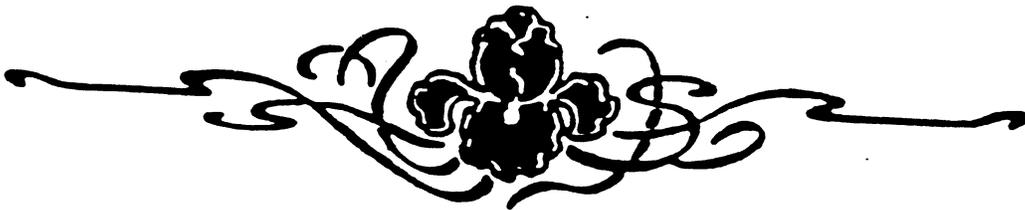
RVP Spoon announced the appointment of Michael Lockett as Chair of the Reblooming Iris Committee; Bill Smoot as Webmaster; and Anita Moran as Editor of *NEWSCAST*.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

=====

NEWSCAST was initiated in 1959 as the publication of Region 4. It has gone through several formats over the years. The following persons have served as Editor(s).

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|------------------------|
| 1959 (August) | - | 1961 (November) | Nannie Paquet |
| 1962 (April) | - | 1963 (April) | Richard Meagher |
| 1963 (July) | | | Rena Frantz |
| 1963 (October) | - | 1965 (July) | Donald Michel |
| 1965 (August) | - | 1965 (November) | Rena Frantz |
| 1966 (March) | - | 1967 (December) | Martha Davidson |
| 1968 (April) | - | 1974 (May) | Rena Frantz Crumpler |
| 1974 (August) | - | 1977 (August) | E. Roy Epperson |
| 1978 (January) | - | 1981 (January) | Rena Frantz Crumpler |
| 1981 (April) | - | 1985 (September) | B.J. and Frances Brown |
| 1986 (January) | - | 1988 (December) | Clarence Mahan |
| 1989 (March) | - | 1991 (December) | Anne and Mike Lowe |
| 1992 (March) | - | 1994 (December) | Phil Ogilvie |
| 1995 (March) | - | 1998 (August) | Dennis Stoneburner |
| 1998 (December) | - | 2003 (December) | E. Roy Epperson |
| 2004 (March) | - | | Anita Moran |



REPORTS OF THE AFFILIATES

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN IRIS SOCIETY - Danee Hoover



CMIS has experienced a busy and productive year. Our membership is small with 12 people who actively help with shows and rhizome sales. We have a talented dedicated group who work hard all year conducting sales, business meetings, and two iris shows.

During February and through March, we published our annual newsletter. It contains the dates of shows, meetings and articles pertaining to Iris culture. Also in February, we hosted a judges' training class with Marshall Goforth on Garden Judging and Flossie Nelson on TB Iris. Six people attended.

On April 26, our spring meeting was held at the Bullington Learning Center in Henderson County. Sixteen members and one guest attended. John Murphy, the center coordinator, presented the program. He explained the workings of the center and their future goals. Afterward, we toured the area and admired the rare and interesting plants.

CMIS was asked to contribute baked goods for the 2003 National Convention. It was decided to make a donation, which was mailed to Carrie Winters, the "Cookie Monster."

A Board meeting was held on May 2 at the home of Jeanne Grundies. Watercolor paintings of Japanese iris were selected for reproduction. Paintings selected were: GEISHA GOWN, MIDNIGHT STARS, PURELY ORNAMENTAL, SNOWY HILLS, and STRUT AND FLOURISH. Some of these were sold at our Japanese show. Jeanne Grundies produced these wonderful paintings.

Our Spring Iris Show was on May 10 at the First Congregational Church in Hendersonville. Weather plays an important part in all iris shows, but here in the mountains of Western North Carolina, it is especially true. Two weeks before the show, a sudden heavy wet snowstorm broke down trees, shrubs and plants. Then the week of the show heavy rain, wind and hail punctured blooms, buds and foliage. Our show was small but lovely. We had eighteen exhibitors enter 124 stalks, which included BB, IB, TB, MTB, LA, SIB, Spuria, species and Dutch. Best of Show was the MTB CAROLYN ROSE, exhibited by Jeanne Grundies. Silver Medal went to Randell and Pat Bowen and Bronze Medal to Megan Wray.

Our Japanese Iris Show was held June 12 & 13 at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville. We are proud to be able to present the one and only Japanese Show in North Carolina and our goal is to attract more growers of Japanese iris. Ten exhibitors entered 75 entries. Best of Show was PRAIRIE EDGE, exhibited by Walter Hoover. Walter won the Silver Medal and Jeanne Grundies the Bronze Medal. The Opportunity House is a community center for seniors. It was decided to offer container-grown Japanese Iris for sale during the Japanese Iris Show. It was a great success. This offers a service to seniors who may not otherwise have the opportunity to purchase these beautiful plants.

Our iris auction and sale was August 9. Buyers at our sale look for color and price, so our pre-priced sale tables are purchased quickly. The true grower stays for the Auction Iris wanting a

bargain on newer varieties. This year our sales included 200 iris sent to us from the National Convention guest iris increase. CMIS was most appreciative and our sale was a big success. Gift iris were given to the Bullington Learning Center. Selections were made from guest iris received from the National Convention.

Our fall meeting was held on Saturday, November 1, with Randell Bowen giving a program on "Growing TB Iris". We selected dates for our 2004 meetings and shows.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY - Linda Laing

The year 2003 has been very successful for CVIS. We are still growing and we have achieved a lot of firsts!

Our two plant sales were a success in spite of the very wet monsoon-like weather. We had another plant swap in July with plenty of the strange and weird, which was exciting. We had another judges' training for two hours credit with Carol Warner. Carol is an absolutely captivating speaker and explains so well that we had 15 persons take the exam! About 30 people were present and even those who did not take the exam remained afterward to ask questions.

Our election has taken place for 2004-2005. The newly elected officers are:

President	Linda Laing
Vice President	David Traylor
Secretary	Dianna Williams
Treasurer	Van Ferguson
Newsletter Editor	Elise Zylstra
Membership Coordinator	Elise Zylstra

Our end-of-year party and gift exchange is held in November. In January, we start work again on our many activities which will include starting to plan for our next iris show in the spring and hosting our first Fall Regional in 2005.

Krissy Laing, our only youth member, also appeared on the inside back cover of the July 2003 *AIS Bulletin*. Krissy, you make all of us proud of you!

CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - Carrie Winter



The Charlotte Iris Society (CIS) is winding down the second year of our biennium with the Holiday Luncheon planned for December 6. New officers will be elected at that time and proposed changes to the bylaws returning us to annual dues collection and a subsequent dues increase will be considered.

At our recent meeting in October we approved a long overdue set of policies and guidelines which should help us streamline some procedures and establish guidelines for dealing with various issues in a consistent manner. We also approved our contribution to Region 4 covering 2002 and 2003 as well as our gift to the CIS Endowed Scholarship at the Horticulture Department of Central Piedmont Community College.

The iris that CIS received from the 2003 convention have been planted for increase in an area in the garden of Dave Hull's neighbor. They will become stock for our 2004 and 2005 sales. Our yield for the Summer Rhizome Sale was low so our Summer Rhizome Sale was combined with our Fall Auction and Sale. The event, held in August, raised approximately \$1,100. The auction featured Japanese and Siberian collections from Draycott Gardens. Post Auction sales to local nurseries were not arranged this year, but a collection of bearded iris have been potted in anticipation of a sale in conjunction with our Spring Show scheduled for May 1, 2004.

Efforts to encourage more participation with AIS seem to be showing some results - nine members attended the 2003 convention; two additional persons have initiated judges training, and the number of AIS members has increased.

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY - Don Spoon



2003 was the greatest year for the C&P Iris Society and Region 4. We focused all our efforts on our AIS National Convention, and we were rewarded with the best convention ever as many attendees wrote in their thank you notes. Everyone involved contributed their very best, and we reached all our goals. There was a great sense of pride of having accomplished a monumental task exceptionally well. At our C&P Youth Hybridizing Clinic, a week after the convention, our master planting at Winterberry Gardens was at peak bloom for the TBs. The youth made many crosses and produced many successful crosses.

That weekend Jack and Rosalie Loving, Jim Schroetter, and Lois Rose, who tended three of the four Fredericksburg tour gardens, and many C&P members visited to enjoy the peak bloom. It was a joyful occasion, like taking a victory lap together. Ginny Spoon, in her RVP letter in *NEWSCAST*, thanked all those in Region 4 who worked together to make our convention such a grand success.

We held our July sale at Shrevewood Elementary School Gymnasium. It was our most diverse sale and auction ever with the many plants from the National Convention. C&P IS had an August picnic at Blandy Experimental Station. The food and camaraderie were splendid. We showed our slides taken during the spring bloom season and at the convention guest gardens. Paul Hill showed slides of his exciting new medians and TB seedlings including a magnificent TB with pink standards and purple falls and red beards. I showed my new TB seedling that has the reddest beard ever, right at spectrum, signal red.

Our hardest job as guest garden hosts was to make sure that all the requests of the hybridizers were followed to the letter. The work was large, yet we had many hands to help so it was completed in a timely fashion. We appreciate the leadership of Ginny Spoon as Guest Iris Chairman and my son Bryan, who helped with every stage of our convention and its aftermath. We were so pleased to receive letters from each of the Region 4 affiliates thanking us for sending them each a very generous share of the guest iris increase. We also sent a collection for the (J.C. Raulston (NC State) Arboretum. I believe we did an excellent job of dividing up this treasure to all the affiliated societies. The last digging from the master planting was for the

auction for the Fall Regional Meeting hosted by C&P. Everyone attending who voted the Symposium will receive a free iris rhizome.

In September, our sale at Green Springs, mainly for beardless irises, was made a success by the able help of Eric Simpson, Al Bullock, and Virginia Walczak and all our many members who attended. It was a beautiful day. We even got to see some of the new members who had joined C&P at the July sale.

Because we hosted the National Convention, we now have two public iris plantings, one at Blandy Experimental Station and the other at Lord Fairfax Community College. These will be wonderful places for our members and the public to visit. I am beginning a program of research with irises with Dr. Nina Parker and her students at Shenandoah University and look forward to reporting on their progress.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY

Newly elected officers are:

Chairman:	Margaret Pearson
Vice-Chairman:	Susan Grigg
Secretary:	Jan Anderson
Treasurer:	Dr. E. Roy Epperson

ENCIS has just 30 members whose location is spread as far as Sunset Beach and Kitty Hawk, to Louisburg, High Point and beyond.

Our Vice President, Susan Grigg, planned five excellent programs for the year 2003. We started off our year with a business and planning session in January. Our March meeting in Louisburg yielded a wonderful program given by our own Dr. Roy Epperson, sharing his iris expertise in "Preparing Your Garden for Spring Bloom".

On May 3, we gathered a large number of our iris stalks for a day long 'showing' at the Atlantic Avenue Garden Center in Raleigh. Included were bearded, species, siberians, and PCNs. Also in May, many of us sent or brought cookies for the National Convention, and six of us were volunteer bus captains.

Susan Grigg and Roslyn Mitchell spearheaded the idea of an iris planting at the new Educational Building at the J.C. Raulston (NC State) Arboretum, and with the tremendous help of Ginny Spoon and the generous hybridizers who volunteered their guest irises, it will soon be a reality.

July found us in Dunn at our secretary Jan Anderson's home where we held our annual auction of iris and other plants. In September, Bill Smoot came to High Point and presented a very informative program on the Japanese iris. The iris rhizomes that ENCIS received from the guest irises of the National were distributed at this meeting and were so very much appreciated.

Finishing up a wonderful year, the December meeting will be a holiday covered-dish luncheon with slides of the 2003 National Convention presented by host Glenn Grigg.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - Sylvia Smith



The FSK IS participated in the Clyburn Arboretum's "Plant Lovers' Day" as a potential new avenue for increasing membership and our coffers. It was not as well attended as we had hoped. But as this President reviews the goals of the board, it was to branch out and find new ways to meet the people and sell irises to those in need. While we were not busy, we did get the "iris word" out. We met key individuals to other plant societies that will enable us to advertise and draw membership from their organizations.

We have enjoyed two successful sales, both held at popular area garden centers. Advance publicity through flyers, newspapers and a gardening show on the radio were key to drawing the crowds. Our shows were not as well attended, perhaps weather kept some from attending. We have experienced a very wet year, as you can attest to.

The most exciting thing that I can report to you at this time is the enthusiasm that we had at our spring meeting. The program was Frances Thrash and Bill Smoot's "Designing with Irises 101". The interest in adding this category back in to our iris shows and learning more about creative design using irises was overwhelming. We hope to be able to add this division to our shows in the very near future. We are also planning to have a design workshop to further educate our members.

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY - Jim Schroetter



The tremendous efforts of several club members paid off handsomely this year as we successfully hosted four of the National Convention Tour Gardens. In preparation, we held a series of onsite "Garden Workshop" meetings; these provided both training for club members and some hands-on assistance for tour garden owners. These meetings revealed that several of our newer members are quite talented and more than willing to help with weeding, digging and rhizome preparation. Likewise, many from our club volunteered to serve as a host/hostess, to provide baked goods, to take photos or video, to run errands or otherwise help out. This grand team effort was celebrated in September, when we held our highly successful 2nd Annual Barbeque meeting.

Our annual rhizome sale had hundreds of cultivars awaiting the eager crowd, and produced substantial revenues for the club. This event helped fund another scholarship for a Virginia Tech horticulture student, and allowed us to make a donation to support the programs of Region 4. At other meetings, we have enjoyed and learned from the slides and video footage taken in tour gardens during the Convention. After the Fall Regional, our final gathering of the year will be the annual Harvest Dinner meeting where we will elect new officers for the next term.

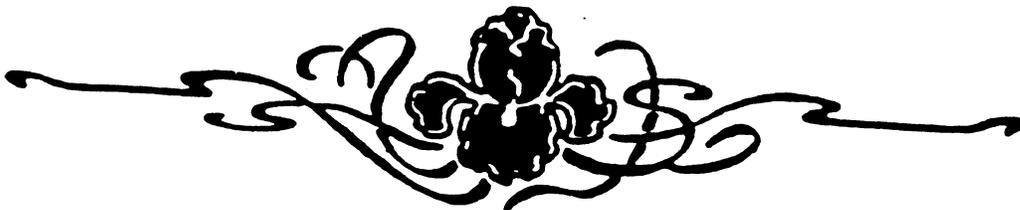
HAMPTON ROADS IRIS SOCIETY - Frances Thrash

HRIS has been very busy since last fall. We elected new officers in November and held a Christmas party in December.

February, we were at the Fred Heutte Center playing Iris Trivia. Our March program was "Irises for Beginners", a back-to-basics program for some of our new members and a refresher for the old ones. In April we talked about how to show irises and grooming irises for the show bench. Our TB show was held Mother's Day weekend at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and had over 1,200 people see it. The weekend before, we held a garden tour of bearded irises, nearly filling a bus with all the Hampton Roads people who were thrilled with our hospitality and interesting gardens. In June we held a beardless show and tried to do a beardless tour. First, our bus never showed and then it rained and it rained. We did see some irises between the raindrops but the weather could definitely have cooperated better. In July we could be found at the McDonald's "Crepe Myrtle" festival in both Virginia Beach and Chesapeake selling beardless irises. We were so successful in Virginia Beach that we were sold out by 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoon.

In August we had a delightful program by Dr. Roy Epperson on "Ethics". Then in September, we were out selling beardless irises at the Master Gardener sale at the Experimental Station in Virginia Beach. This event wasn't as well attended as it has been in the past and we didn't sell all of our irises, but we did plant a lot of them in the Pagoda beds for next year's mini-symposium. In October we had a picnic and nominated new officers for next year.

We've been really busy as mentioned before with meetings, sales and parties, but we've not forgotten, but have been really working on the 2004 Spring Regional meeting - "Ensata Extravaganza". Several of us have been hard at work not only on our gardens, but on gardens at the Botanical Garden, and at the Pagoda in downtown Norfolk. We are really looking forward to this upcoming event and hope that all of you will be able to attend.



REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
JUDGES AND JUDGES' TRAINING REPORT

E. Roy Epperson, Chairman

For 2004, the following changes occurred in the Roster of Region 4 Accredited Judges:

Apprentice appointed (3): Dan Laing, Kristen Laing, Michael Locketell
Advance to Garden (1): Linda Laing
Dropped for insufficient hours (1) Accredited Garden: Dennis Pearson
Lost (1) to death: JaNiece Mull
Transferred in (1 Garden): Donald W. Rude

For 2004, Region 4 will have the following Roster summary of Accredited judges:

22 Accredited Garden
6 Master : Active
5 Master : Retired
5 Emeritus
4 Apprentice

2004 Roster of Judges, Region 4

Accredited Garden

Barbara Alexander
David W. Bowen
Pat Bowen
Randell Bowen
Sandra S. Bryan
Libby Cross
S. Herman Dennis III
Glenna de Quoy
Ruth Brown Holbrook
L. Bruce Hornstein
Linda Laing
Bill Mull
Flossie Nelson
Bea Rogers
Donald W. Rude
Merrick E. Shawe
William C. Smoot
Donald M. Spoon
Virginia Spoon
Frances Thrash
Carrie Winter
Joan R. Wood

Master/Active

Walter Hoover
Mrs. Paul D. Kabler
Anne Lowe
Mike Lowe
Mrs. Richard D. Steele
Ruth E. Walker

Master/Retired

Mrs. Glenn Grigg, Jr. (Susan)
Nancy Karriker
Joseph B. Parker, Jr.
Mrs. James H. Trent
Mr. Dennis A. Wilkie

Emeritus

E. Roy Epperson
Mrs. Frank H. J. Figge
Clarence E. Mahan
Carol Warner
Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg

Apprentice

Dan Laing
Kristen Laing
Michael Locketell
David L. Taylor

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AN ACCREDITED AIS JUDGE

E. Roy Epperson, JT Chair, Region 4

Region 4, like all of the Regions in The American Iris Society, needs more fully accredited judges. Fully accredited AIS judges are Garden, Master/Active and Emeritus. Master/Retired may return to fully accredited status by requesting activation and completing the required number of training hours.

All of the official AIS awards (except the Exhibition Certificate for seedlings) are garden awards and so those persons wanting to become accredited judges need to be growers of iris of all types that prosper in their growing area.

AIS judges are designated Apprentice, Accredited (Garden), Master/Active, Master/Retired or Emeritus. Emeritus status is by vote of the AIS Board of Directors. The 'entry-level' judge is that of Apprentice.

To be appointed as an Apprentice Judge, the student must complete the following:

1. MAKE application for entry into the judges' training program.
2. COMPLETE three (3) years of continuous AIS membership.
3. Successfully COMPLETE a minimum of two training sessions for a total of ten (10) hours.

The Region 4 Board has defined these ten (10) hours as follows:

- a) Four (4) hours of structured classroom training on Bearded irises.
 - b) Two (2) hours of structured classroom training on Beardless irises.
 - c) One (1) hour of structured garden training on Bearded irises
 - d) One (1) hour of structured garden training on Beardless irises.
 - e) Two (2) hours of structured training on Judging at an Iris Show.
4. RECEIVE the recommendations of five (5) accredited judges.

The Region 4 JT Chair maintains training records for all students in the program and all accredited judges. When a student has successfully completed the requirements above, then the JT Chair recommends you to the RVP, who in turn recommends you to the AIS Chairman of Judges, who in turn recommends you to the AIS Board of Directors at its regular fall meeting.

Remember: The training year is August 1 of one year through July 31 of the following year.

KOMMENTS FROM KIRKLEE and THE EDITOR

New Hardiness Map: An updated version of the USDA Hardiness Zone Map has recently been introduced, the result of a cooperative venture between the United States Department of Agriculture and the American Horticultural Society. Long in use by gardeners over much of North America, this map is based on a single factor: the average annual minimum temperature. (In contrast, the *Sunset Western Garden Book* plant zones are based upon more than two dozen factors.) The USDA map breaks the fifty states into thirteen zones, instead of the eleven of its 1990 predecessor. Each zone represents a 10° F difference in the average minimum temperature. No longer found are the "a" and "b" zone designations that represented five-degree temperature differences in the 1990 map. The new zones bear plant names (Goldenrod, Cornflower, Carrot, Violet, Apple, Buttercup, Rose, Moss, Peach, Poinsettia, Peppermint, Melon, Bluebell, Orchid, and Papaya), each identified by a distinctive color. Alas, the new map no longer includes Canada or Mexico. A digital version of the map, with directions for its use, can be found on the AHS website (www.ahs.org). The American Horticultural Society also has a Plant Heat Zone Map, which divides the country into zones based upon the average number of days per year on which the temperature exceeds 86° F (30° C). *American Gardener* 82 (3): 30-35.

The new map is based on temperature measurements from 1986 - 2002. As global warming has increased, climate change is occurring and you will probably find that the temperature zones are slowly creeping northward.

Rebloom in my garden this fall has been the following: OVER AND OVER (Innerst), DAUGHTER OF STARS (Spoon), CHRISTIANE ELIZABETH (Mahan), SUNNY DISPOSITION (Zurbrigg), and FIRE BEARD (Sutton). Please note that the more reliable rebloomers in Region 4 are those that have been hybridized in Region 4 on surrounding regions. FIRE BEARD was a surprise as it sent up two stalks after Thanksgiving and these were destroyed by frost/freeze. DAUGHTER OF STARS sent up three Best of Show stalks. These were cut to avoid the frost/freeze and greatly brightened my kitchen for several days. The only time that I cut stalks for use in the house is in situations like this as I prefer the bloomstalks on the plants in the garden.

This is my last issue as Editor. I urge you to support Anita Moran, our incoming Editor and supply her with timely articles and information about Affiliate activities. The *NEWSCAST* can not exist without such input.

ANITA V. MORAN
5351 Park Road
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