



NEWSCAST

REGION FOUR OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

VOL. 49. No. 2

AUGUST 2007



NEARPASS AWARD WINNER

Love At First Sight

Crump 2006

Region 4 Of the American Iris Society Affiliates

ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS IRIS SOCIETY - MARGARET STONE
229 Crowfield Circle, Lewisburg, WV 24901 (304) 647-4395

CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY - DANEE A. HOOVER
133 Horizon View Drive, Horse Shoe, NC 28742 (828) 891-2847

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY - DAVID L. TRAYLOR
7724 Hickory Road Petersburg, VA 23803-1332 (804) 590-1095

CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - JUNE HOOD 11700 Albemarle Rd
Charlotte NC 28227

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY - DAVID STOLL
8119 Martha Street Alexandria, VA 22309-3119

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - SUSAN GRIGG
105 Trotters Ridge Rd Raleigh, NC 27614-0620

EASTERN SHORE IRIS SOCIETY - ANN DUMLER
901 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801-6301

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - DORIS REBERT
152 Leister's Church Rd Westminster, MD 21157 (410) 848-3781

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY - LOIS ROSE
PO Box 30, Partlow, VA 22534 540-582-5799

HAMPTON ROADS IRIS SOCIETY - JOANNE HAMM
304 Beacon Road, Portsmouth, VA 23702, (757) 393-4389

VIRGINIA PENINSULA IRIS SOCIETY - NELDA PRESSLY
111 West Kingswood Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185-3248

NEWSCAST is the publication of Region 4, AIS

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

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

DEADLINES for receipt of NEWSCAST materials by the editor are:

March Issue—01 February : August Issue—01 July : December Issue— 01 November

From The Editor

What a wonderful spring. Ok maybe not so great. Hard freezes, high temperatures, followed by freezes, followed by rot. Listerine, scraping, comet, bleach, weeding, dead heading, weeding, and that was just the fun stuff. I am kidding but Susan Griggs was surely correct when she talked about being a tour garden and I wasn't even in charge of the Regional. My hats off to Carol Warner for all the fabulous work she did to make sure the Region Four Spring Regional was a wonderful experience for all who attended. There was so much attention to detail that those of us who had tour gardens had it pretty easy. Oh we had the physical work but then so did Carol, it was the running and racing, calling and correcting, phone calls, editing, and rechecking just to be sure. Thank you Carol; for all your hard work on the 2007 Spring Regional. Thank you to all of those who have taken on the daunting tasks of chairing a spring regional for Region 4.



Thanks to Dr Roy Epperson for the aide you gave throughout the regional from the show to the encouragement you gave in the gardens, to helping with ballots to the awards presentation. There is so much you do for us all in the background that we do not thank you enough. Thanks to all those who work behind the scene including Dave Bollinger who helped keep the guest iris in order, Maryann Coats who was in charge of the silent auction, Sylvia Deck who did a wonderful job as show chairman, Carl Rebert who was treasurer and so many more.



A special thanks to all those who have had their gardens on tours allowing us in their gardens including Carol Warner, Doris Rebert, Dr. Bruce Hornstein, and Joan Miller. Your dedication to providing this region with not just the guest but much more eye candy than many of us can handle. Thank you for your patience with us and gritting your teeth when we stepped on that one plant you had been nursing in our dash to get to the guest beds.

I also want to thank all those who attended for it made all the work that the garden owners go through worth the time and trouble, headaches and worries. It is your response to our gardens that make it worth it. There are those that put on spring regional shows that also deserve the credit. I still think that the spring show in 2006 was the most awe inspiring show I have yet attended but I am proud of all those that brought stalks to this year's shows many of which were first time show entries and an additional thanks to all those who helped with the teach the new entrants how to prepare their irises and put them on display.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: A color copy of the March, August, and December Newscast are available for download only at www.irisregion4.com/Newscast.html
Follow the directions for downloading carefully. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the file as it is in PDF format, but there is a link near the download area for downloading the viewer. You can also print from Adobe Acrobat Reader. :)

Region 4 Treasurer's Report 2007

Checking Account Balance on October 7, 2006: **\$7,291.88**

Receipts:

Fall Silent Auction:	\$408.00
Fall Auction:	\$1,177.00
Interest:	\$2.85
Total Receipts:	\$1,587.85

Expenditures:

December 2006 <i>Newscast</i> Printing:	\$954.17
December 2006 <i>Newscast</i> Mailing:	\$188.86
Fall 2006 Regional Meeting Expenses:	
Hotel:	\$1,617.29
Guest Speaker:	\$449.20
50% of Fall Regional Profit to Region 3	\$267.68
Global WEB Solutions:	\$239.25
March 2007 <i>Newscast</i> Printing:	\$548.36
March 2007 <i>Newscast</i> Mailing:	\$148.75
Membership Supplies (Mac Shawe)	\$47.11
Total Expenditures:	\$4,460.67

Checking Account Balance on May 25, 2007: **\$4,419.06**

Certificate of Deposit (M&T Bank) **\$10,487.65**

Total Assets: **\$14,906.71**

PROPOSED 2008 BUDGET FOR REGION 4

Expenditures	Dollars
Printing and Mailing Three(3) Issues of Newscast	\$4300.00
RVP Travel Expenses	600.00
Membership Committee – M. Shaw	250.00
Memorials	300.00
AIS Youth Program	100.00
Web Page	300.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	300.00
ENCIS for Hosting AIS Board Meeting	<u>2000.00</u>
Total	\$8150.00

Submitted by:

JACK W. LOVING



GRAPE HARVEST

Spoon 2005
TB RE

Nearpass Award
Runner-up

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Region 4, American Iris Society
Wyndham at Gettysburg, PA
Saturday October 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 9:00a.m. by Regional Vice-President Jerry Coats. The minutes from the May 5, 2006 meeting were approved.

Carol Warner filed the Treasurer's Report. A profit of \$1,300.00 was earned from the auction.

Carrie Winter gave the Assistant RVP report. At this time future designated meeting include only Spring 2007. She recommends that an assessment of the affiliates ability and interest to host either spring or fall or both meeting be done. The collected information could be used to assist in developing recommended actions to maintain the status quo or change to facilitate participation by affiliates and individuals in supporting the meetings.

The spring 2007 meeting will be May 25-26 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Baltimore North, Hunt Valley, Maryland. Rooms are \$129.00 per day with complimentary breakfast and cocktails 5-7 p.m.

Carol Warner reported that there would be five gardens on tour, 230 varieties of guest iris, judges training on Friday and the delightful speaker will be Rick Tasco. School buses will be used for transportation because the price is right and they are easier to drive to the garden areas.

Since no plans have been made for fall 2007 meeting Carrie Winter asked for volunteers for future meetings.

The membership report from Mac Shawe shows 451 memberships as of September 1 2006, 71 of which are dual (therefore 522 people). Mac encourages everyone to work on expiring members. Fredericksburg Iris Society is the largest in Region 4.

There was much discussion concerning the Newscast format, seedling photos for the Newscast, money for advertising etc. Anita Moran will do two more formats by Spring 2007 then one can be chosen.

Ginny Spoon made a motion to increase the budget by \$1000.00 to enhance the newsletter with seedling photos (created in Region). Jack Loving seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chapter reports were files by June Hood for Charlotte Iris Society, Susan Griggs for Eastern NC Iris Society, Carol Warner for Doris Rebert – Francis Scott Key Iris Society, and Lois Rose for Fredericksburg Area Iris Society.

Submitted
June Hood
Secretary

2007 AIS Award Winners For Region 4



According to ancient legend...
Shenandoah means "Daughter of the Stars"

After the great spirit had made the world, the morning stars came together on the shores of a quiet silver lake bordered with blue mountains, the most beautiful place they could see.

Hovering above the quiet waters and lighting the mountain tops with their robes of fire, the stars sang their songs of joy and pledged to gather here every thousand years. One time when the stars were singing, there came a mighty crashing! A great rock in the mountain wall tore asunder, and through the deep opening the lake waters began to pour out and rush to the sea.

As time passed the stars looked over the earth for another place to meet. They finally agreed upon a lovely valley through a winding river ran.

Suddenly the stars saw this and realized that the valley had been the bed of their beautiful lake and the blue mountain around it were the same ones upon which they had cast their robes of light in ages past.

The stars were so joyous they placed the brightest jewels from their crowns in the river where they still lie and sparkle. And ever since that day the river and its valley have been called... "The Daughter of the Stars"

From: <http://www.shenandoah2000.com/shenleg.htm>

American Iris Society Awards for REGION 4

John C. Wister Medal (Tall Bearded)

DAUGHTER OF STARS (Don Spoon)

Runner -Up

MY GINNY (Don Spoon)

Founders of SIGNA Medal (SPEC)

Runner-Up

SYLVANSHINE (Clarence Mahan and Carol Warner)

Award of Merit

Tall Bearded

LADY OF LEONESS (Don Spoon)

Honorable Mention

Border Bearded

TWIGGY (Don Spoon)

Intermediate Bearded

Runner-Up

CAT'S HAT (Don Spoon)

Standard Dwarf Bearded

SPIDERMAN (Don Spoon)

SPIDERBABY (Don Spoon)

TUTU TEAL (Don Spoon)

Inter-Species

Runner-Up

Kinshikou (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner)

Congratulations To all the Region 4 Winners!

Taking Digital Iris Photographs

Part I: The Equipment

By Anita Moran

Note From the Author: Please bear with me as this article ended up being much longer than I anticipated. Since I put so much information in it, I decided separate it into two sections, Part I being the equipment and functions and part II being the actual picture taking and care of those photographs.

General:

The Digital Age has arrived! Yes, ladies and gentlemen, we are in the digital age and everyone is getting in on the act. How special is this? Well, you no longer have to settle for those pictures that are just mediocre. No longer do you have to pay \$4.00 for 23 poor photographs and 1 decent one. You do not have to wait even that one hour to see if the photo you took is acceptable or whether you need to take another. You do not have to waste time digitizing new photographs or slides in order to share them on the web. Remember those boxes of photo albums with their irreplaceable photographs? Well, that is no longer a worry. We can now digitize and store these precious photos, reprinting them as we desire. We can even repair, colorize, or sharpen these old treasures depending on the equipment and programming we purchase.

One of the largest groups of people to benefit from the digital age is gardeners. This includes hobbyists, professionals, masters, hybridizers, enthusiasts, etc. Here is the best advice I can give you: The pictures are for you first and foremost. Second, it is for those you wish to share them with. What pleases me may not please you but might please the guy down the street. The exceptions to this are those photographs that will end up in catalogs, commercial websites, and checklists. Those photographs must be of the highest quality and are usually mug shots.

On average I take about 10,000 pictures at Conventions and at least that many throughout the year in my own garden. Does that make me an expert? Of course not, just an enthusiast. All those people who win awards for their photographs, or sell them, well that's their job, their livelihood, they are the experts. No one can tell you what you like in a photograph. Of all the pictures I take, half are discarded, as they identify the picture before or after it. Of the remainder about 50 percent of them end up in the recycle bin. It costs me nothing to dispose of them because I am using a digital camera. I cannot remember how much money was wasted on photographs that were horrible but were printed anyway. With all the photos I take I still miss taking pictures of a lot of irises due to weather, trips, timing (there is never enough time in the garden), bloom cycle, and any number of other factors. I am not a professional photographer, and you do not need to be one either in order to get the photos you want.

First, what do you want to get out of your pictures? Do you just want mug shots or do you want to see everything about that iris? These are important questions. Understand that you cannot make a decision on the quality of an iris through pictures. You must see it in a garden setting or grow it yourself to make a decision as to the quality of the plant. Can photographs help you? Yes. Reviewing well-taken photographs can remind you of how that iris grew in the garden and its health, and can also show you something you may have forgotten or missed while you were in the garden. Good photographs can also help hybridizers describe a flower more accurately, making it easier to write distinctive descriptions of seedlings for potential registration. What do you want to see? Be prepared to take lots of pictures of a single plant.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part I (cont.)

Second, Know Your Camera!!! Every camera comes with a book to tell you how to work your camera. Read it! I know many are written so that you need a Doctorate in engineering but try very hard to get as much out of these books as possible. I do not mean read it at one sitting-- take it one step at a time. Learn how to do the basics by the book and then experiment with the basics. Learn another function and work with that function by the book and then experiment and so forth. Make yourself cheat sheets that give you quick information on what your camera is capable of achieving. I have a Digital Rebel. Many of you have seen me at conventions where I am clicking away, sometimes without bringing the camera to my eye. That is because I am very comfortable with my camera and know where and how to shoot. If I am in a hurry this make it expedient to take many shots of an iris, people etc., which I can later review, delete or use as needed. That does not mean it will work in all situations. I recently purchased a wonderful new lens to give me better Macro shots and still maintain my zoom capabilities. I now have to learn my new distances and positions all over again.

Digital photography is getting better and more powerful all the time. The Canon Digital Rebel is the camera I am comfortable with. I know its capabilities and I also know that even if blurry, the color of a flower will be nearly identical to what I see in the field. The one exception, and it is an exception with both digital and film cameras, is the blue or near blue colorations. Even with that, my camera has come as close as any camera I have used. I have had seven different digital cameras-- all have had their downfalls and the Digital Rebel is no different. It is up to the photographer to know the drawbacks to his camera and compensate for them so that he can produce the best quality photograph possible.

Does that mean you have to run out and spend a lot of money on a digital SLR? Absolutely not!! If you have a digital point and shoot camera that takes good quality photos (greater than 4 mega pixels (MP) you can do very well taking photos of your favorite irises, bugs, pets or just about anything else you want to take a picture of. This brings use to the **#1** reason to go digital, DELETIONS. You can take those horrible photos, delete them on the run and keep on clicking so that you do not waste time or memory. With a film camera you might go through rolls and rolls of film to get a few good pictures and one exceptional picture. Using a digital camera will save you money by allowing deletion of poor quality photos.

Equipment and Features:

There are so many good digital cameras that to select one for support here is unwise and unfair. Things to remember about cameras: they are as different from each other as people. Digital point and shoot cameras run from \$125.00 to \$500.00 depending on the options you want. Digital SLR cameras can run from \$800.00 to \$5000.00 for only the BODY! Make sure your camera is always set to the highest quality photo option available on it. Yes I know that means fewer pictures can be put on a memory card but with memory cards now selling for \$30.00 for 1 GB (gigabyte) it is worth it. As a side note, due to the popularity of digital cameras the SLR film camera you always wanted is more reasonable than ever before. However, support for these cameras may be lacking in some areas.

For any digital camera you usually can not go wrong if you buy a brand name. You will pay a little more but it is well worth it in support and features. Off-brand named cameras can sometimes be a good buy, but if something goes wrong you may be looking at getting a replacement instead of having it repaired. Digital cameras have software and updates that are usually available from the manufacturer's websites with free downloads. These updates will usually not affect how the camera is operated but the results are usually an improvement, and in some cases may add new functions to your camera.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part I (cont.)

Of the Point-and-Shoot cameras the Canon Powershot® cameras are very popular and inexpensive, running from \$120.00 to about \$250.00. They are from 5-8 MP, meaning they take a high quality photo and some like the TXI also take video. The line of Minolta DiAMGE® are also popular--the Z3 has 5 MP a large view screen. Unfortunately many of these cameras are discontinued but can still be found. The Nikon Coolpix® series are also good quality. The Nikon L11 which is 6.0 MP runs about \$150.00 and has a large view screen. Kodak Easy Share® C703 is 7.1 MP and is about \$150.00 but requires a docking station for about \$99.00. Sony Cybershot® cameras DSC-W90 is 8.1 MP runs about \$250.00 and also has a large display. All of these cameras a reliable and most can be purchased either locally or online for reasonable prices. (Table1). There are more expensive point-and-shoot cameras from those listed here that have greater versatility, greater resolution, and more features. It all comes down to what you want your camera to do and the money you want to spend.

Comparison of Point and Shoot Digital Cameras					
Manufacturer	Model	Megapixels (MP)	Zoom	Special Feature	Cost
Nikon	Coolpix®	6.0 – 10	3X	Converter lens available (zoom, wide angle)	\$115 – \$300
Kodak	Easy Share®	6.0 – 10	3-6X	Most need docking station (~\$99)	\$150 – \$300
Sony	Cybershot®	7.0 – 10	3-6X		\$130 – \$450
Canon	Powershot®	5.0 – 10	3-6X		\$130 – \$450
Minolta	ƒDiAMGE®	5.0 – 10	3X	ƒ See notes	\$120 – \$300 *

ƒ Most in this product line are discontinued and manufacture support is questionable

* E-Bay

TABLE 1: A comparison of the most popular point and shoot digital cameras.

Using a SLR camera is generally more of an expensive hobby than the point and shoot cameras, mainly due to the cost of the interchangeable lenses. Functionally they give you greater adaptability in that you can change lenses and go from wide angle to macro to zoom lens often exceeding 16,000 mm. The Nikon D80 had a color matrix meter which is their attempt to correct color problems, ISO to 1600 (ISO denote film speed and is used for digital cameras to denote the equivalent. For example ISO 100 needs bright sunlight or flash, ISO 1600 can be used in heavy clouds, twilight conditions) without flash but is proprietary for lenses which means you can only use Nikon lenses for the most part. Canon Digital Rebel (EOS XTi) can be less expensive than the Nikon and can use less expensive lenses (i.e. Sigma) and is fast taking 3 shots per second in one mode and Canon continues to use Compact flash cards. The Sony Alpha SDLR has image stabilization can take burst shots of 3 picture per second as well. Olympus Evolt 500 is only 8 MP compared with 10 for the other SLR cameras, and the price shows. There are very few features on this one it is just a work horse. Pentax K10D also has image stabilization and can be purchased at a reasonable price (Table 2).

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part I (cont.)

All the SLR cameras can be placed in full manual mode for those more comfortable with setting each function as is required with film SLR cameras. They can be set to fully automatic so it essentially becomes a point and shoot, but looks real complicated--and they can be. The newer SLR digitals now come with manual and automatic focus and white balance. Most lenses come with hoods to shield from bright sunlight and most are auto-focus which can be switched to manual. Lens technology has improved to the point that macro and telephoto options can be used in the same lens. That wonderful new lens I have is just such an animal. The 28-200 mm lens allows you to get macro photos and telephoto shots in mere seconds. There are a lot of options on the different Digital SLRs. The professional models (used to be \$3000 - \$4000 for just the body) are hard pressed to hold their prices, as the general public is demanding and buying the lesser expensive models that do the job just as well.

Comparison of SLR Digital Cameras					
Manufacturer	Model	Megapixals (MP)	Zoom	Special Feature	Cost
Nikon	D80 – D200	10.2	Lens	Body + 1 lens	~\$1200
Canon	EOS XTi	10.2	Lens	Body + 1 lens + memory	\$700 – \$1200
Sony	Alpha DSLR	10	Lens	Body + 1 lens + memory	\$700 – \$1000
Olympus	Evolet 500	8	Lens	Body + 1 lens + memory	\$700 – \$800
Pentax	K10D	10.2	Lens	Body + 1 lens + memory	\$600 – \$1000

TABLE 2: Digital SLRs vary in price, resolution (MP), and acceptance of generic (less expensive) lenses.

Some options you want to look for are Zoom and Macro capabilities in the camera you are considering. Macro photography is the ability to take very close photos of an object and have them clear. Most cameras and/or lenses have a minimal focal distance, which is the distance you must be away from an object in order to take a clear picture. **Know what that distance is** so that you do not waste your time trying to get a macro shot with a lens that needs to be five meters away from an object to get a clear shot. Many cameras will have a MFD of 18 mm, which is less than an inch. I will guarantee that if you get that close you will not get a good shot without special filters. Many SLR cameras often are more flexible as they have lenses or lens attachments which allow very good macro photography (Figure 1).

If you look at the above pictures (Figure 1) is a newly emerged Japanese beetle (A). Most gardeners could care less about the structure of these pests but with a Macro shot you can even see the small tufts of hairs that surround the wing plates (B), or how about a fly’s wing (C) or just a look at your pollen (D). (Note: no insects were injured in the production of these photos) Macro photography can enhance your view of the veining on the hafts, a minuet horn on that seedling or some other small structure that you need to identify. Remember the closer you are to a flower the larger the end picture will be and the less distortion from reducing the picture down for sharing on the internet.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part I (cont.)

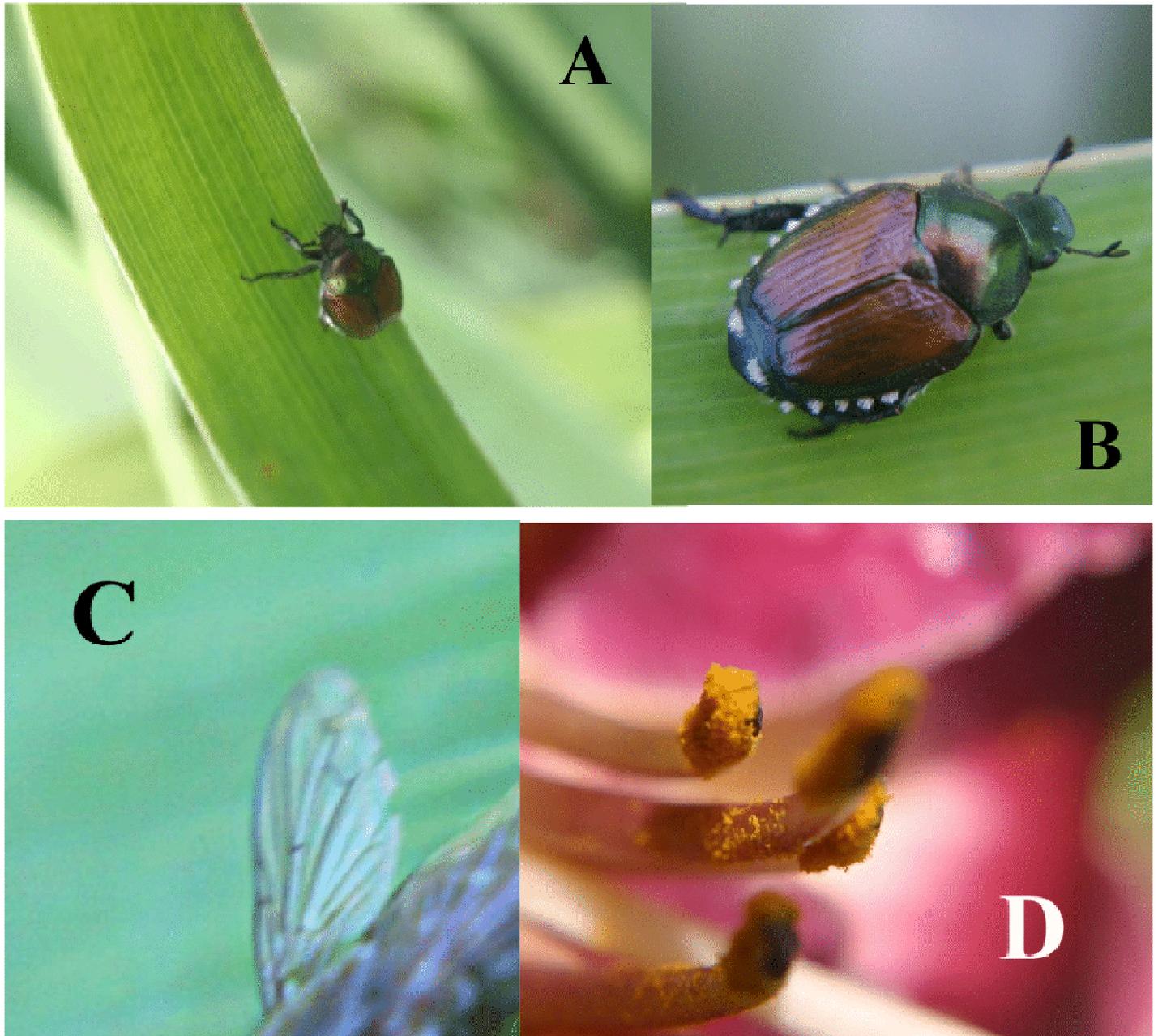


Figure 1: Marco photography. Up close you can see what is not always obvious with point and shoot cameras without Macro capabilities. A zoom picture of a newly emerged Japanese beetle (A) with Macro (B), Fly Wing Macro (C) and daylily pollen (D).



Figure 2: Macro photography with zoom combined Macro filters. Normal (A), Zoom with +4 Macro, Zoom +10 Macro (C).



Figure 3: Zoom photography can bring an object thought not picture worthy into focus and can allow a good picture even if you can not get close to the subject. (A) 28-200 lens normal (B) Full Zoom 30' away. (C) 75-300 lens normal, (D) Full Zoom 60' away.

Macro photography with SLR cameras can get even more detailed. In the above figure (Figure 2) a quarter is shown with a stock lens that came with the camera and no zooms and no filters (A). Adding +4 macro filter and maximum zoom for this 17-50mm lens you get a little closer (B). With the same zoom setting and a +10 macro filter details that may be missed in the previous photographs are obvious such as the “D” in the lower right of Washington’s neck. An even closer shot can be taken in all macro filters are combined. For my filter set that would be +10, +4, +2, and +1. This combination requires bright light and no flash. Flash with most macro photography washes any detail from the picture.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part I (cont.)

Using zoom capabilities can assist you in getting that picture you want (Figure 3). Without zoom you might be able to take a shot of the flower bed (A) but by adding zoom you can get a picture of a flower that may be in the middle of the bed (B) or at conventions and other garden tours you do not wait until you can get close enough to get your shot. Another positive for zoom photography is wildlife. Without zoom capabilities you can get a shot of a birdhouse or feeder within a garden bed (C), but with zoom capabilities (D) and this is just 300mm) you can get a shot of birds feeding from that feeder.

For those who are used to film SLR cameras that have a lens for every situation, you may be more comfortable with the digital SLRs with the same capabilities. Many of the AF (Auto focus) lenses for Film SLRs can be used with Digital SLRs. Those with point and shoot digital cameras can investigate the web site for your camera manufacturer. Many point-n-shoot cameras manufacturers, especially the more upscale brands (Sony, Cannon, Minolta, Nikon) are now coming out with lens adapters to increase the functionality of point-n-shoot digitals. These adapters include zoom multipliers, macro attachments and filters.

Memory will determine the number of photographs you can take. Many cameras are now using SD cards which are very small and take little room but can hold up to 16 GB (Gigabyte) of photographs, which even at the highest setting is thousands of shots. The cost of these cards is also tumbling as newer technologies are being released. A 1GB compact card when I first got into digital photography was about \$200.00 +, and now they are about \$38.00 - \$58.00. Have some smaller memory cards as well for taking pictures in your own garden. Using smaller memory cards (128 KB to 512 KB) you can go out to the garden and photograph several times a day, download quickly to see if you got the picture you want and have time to go back into the garden for more shots. The smaller cards are cheaper to replace as well. Keep the larger memory cards for trips, visiting other's gardens, Conventions, and other situations that will give you little time to check what shots you have gotten. Always keep several memory cards with you--you never know what situation will arise. If a memory card fails or fills more quickly than you expected you will always have more memory on hand. If you do not have a laptop to travel with to a Convention, Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreens, Rite-Aid and other places with one-hour photo capabilities also have a process to copy the pictures from your memory cards to CDs. This will allow you to empty your memory card and start fresh the next day.

There are many programs out there for manipulating photographs. **NOTE: You can manipulate size of photograph, crop, sharpen, even extract a portion of a photo; you should not disturb the color of the photograph.** What is the use? The same photograph will look different on ten different computers and 10 different monitors. You probably could not adjust it to match exactly what you saw in the garden for every monitor or computer so why try except for your own needs. How many of us have looked at pictures only to see that the foliage is blue? "Ahh, hmmm that is not right!" This means that that sight or catalog is not trust worthy for what will end up in our gardens. Often you will find that using contrast and lighting will give you what you want and need. Probably the cheapest, most powerful program that is easy to run is Microsoft Picture It. I know many do not like Microsoft but for me it is so much easier than Adobe, which requires several Degrees to figure out. There are a lot of good programs that just need time to learn, but it is well worth that time. The minimum you want a program to do is crop, resize, correct contrast, and sharpen a slightly blurry photograph.

Taking Digital Iris Photographs:Part I (cont.)

Sources:

Camera Manufacturers:

Canon: <http://www.usa.canon.com/consumer/controller?act=ProductCatIndex1Act&fcategoryid=101>

Nikon: <http://www.nikonusa.com/template.php?cat=1>

Sony: <http://www.sony.com/index.php>

Olympus: <http://www.olympusamerica.com/>

Pentax: <http://www.pentaximaging.com/>

Hewlet Packard: http://www.hp.com/united-states/consumer/gateway/dig_photo.html

Reviews:

<http://www.dpreview.com/>

<http://www.dcvIEWS.com/>

<http://www.imaging-resource.com/DIGCAM01.HTM>

Purchasing Cameras-

<http://stores.ebay.com/Cameta-Camera> CAMETA CAMERAS - (800) 991-3350

<http://stores.ebay.com/DigitalCorp> Digital Corp - 1-800-807-4171 Ext 226

<http://www.walmart.com/> Wal-Mart Yes Walmart

<http://www.bestbuy.com> Best Buy (Shop you might get it cheaper)

Memory –

<http://www.flash-memory-store.com> Good place for cheap memory cards of all types.

Part 2 will be published in the Fall Newscast Watch for it.

New Members Area

Section Awards

John C. Wister Memorial Medal

By Clarence Mahan

This medal is restricted to tall bearded (TB) irises. It is named in honor of John C. Wister (1887-1982).

John C. Wister led the organizing meeting that created the American Iris Society and became its first president, a position he held for fourteen years. He guided the society through its formative years. He was widely recognized as a man of rare management skill, leadership ability, and the highest ethical standards. R. S. Sturtevant wrote of him: "Probably few current members realize that the AIS started through the efforts and initiative of one man, John C. Wister...."

During a visit to England in 1922, Wister encouraged his many English friends to establish the British Iris Society. His contribution to the founding of the British Iris Society was formally recognized by his election as an Honorary Member and the award of the Foster Memorial Plaque. The American Iris Society awarded John Wister the Gold Medal in 1930, stating: "All Iris growers in America recognize Mr. Wister as their leader and will certainly approve the action of the Board of Directors in conferring upon him the highest recognition in their power to bestow."

John Wister was the author of four books: *The Iris*, *Lilac Culture*, *Bulbs for American Gardens*, and *Four Seasons in Your Garden*. He was the first to receive four major American horticultural awards: The Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal presented by the American Horticultural Council; the Scott Garden and Horticultural Award; the American Peony Society's A. P. Saunders Memorial Medal; and the Honor and Achievement Award of the International Lilac Society. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden presented him its Garden Medal in 1966, and that same year the Royal Horticultural Society dedicated its *Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook* to him, the first time an American had been so honored.

Wister was a landscape architect. He graduated from Harvard University and studied at the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture and the New Jersey Agricultural College. He served in Europe during WW I, and in his spare time visited gardens and leading horticulturists. He was secretary of the American Rose Society for many years, and was a member of some fifty horticultural societies and thirty scientific and conservation organizations. He was the first director of the Arthur Hoyt Horticultural Foundation, and designed and created the 240-acre public garden at Swarthmore College.

One of John C. Wister's endearing qualities was his modesty. He always denied that he was the founder of the American Iris Society, saying that it was the work of many people. Of himself, he said: "But I know I'm just an ordinary fellow who happened to come along at the right time." An ordinary fellow he was not. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude. John C. Wister, to a remarkable degree, created the American Iris Society's traditions.

SANS SOUCI NURSERY, LLC

Sans Souci is French for care free and conveys a feeling of relaxation and freedom to enjoy oneself. It is our fondest wish that visitors to this tranquil place experience its atmosphere and enjoy its vistas. Sans Souci the home of Bruce Hornstein, a retired veterinarian and Lee Dorman, a contractor, is a diverse property encompassing 13 acres which include open fields, woodlands and wetlands which includes a crystal clear half acre pond. It lies in Monkton in prime Maryland Hunt country famous for its fine horses and rolling countryside.



The area approaching the house has numerous display flower beds which are easily accessed from the driveway. In the corner of this area to the extreme left of the gazebo is a passage through the trees to a paved lane which leads up hill to an overlook of the production area with (we hope) peak bloom of tens of thousands of Bearded Iris.

The guest irises for this regional convention are towards the back (towards the woodlands) of this area marked by large clumps of Artemesia (Powli's Castle).

If time permits, try to meander down to the pond where irises grow up out of the water and listen to the sound of frogs and red winged blackbirds. Observe dragonflies flitting over the surface of the water and myriads of butterflies that congregate on the wild flowers.



The Miller Garden: Joan's garden has evolved in stages over the course of forty years. The site was a cornfield accessible only by a woods road through other farm fields on Joan's parent's farm. Before Joan and Bob built their house, they had to go to considerable expense to build a road and bridge across the stream. The hill in back was terraced, subsoil excavated and 18 inches of topsoil put into the lower terrace and into two rose beds on either side of the driveway. These areas became the first flower gardens.



Twenty years ago, a pool was installed, along with a retaining wall. More decking and a gazebo were added several years later. Eight years ago, a second retaining wall was installed and topsoil filled in behind it, doubling the flower garden space. During this time, along with more grading, a twenty-five foot holly tree and several ten foot spruce trees were relocated. In the last four years, several huge walnut and oak trees were cut down from the surrounding woods to let more light and air circulation in, a pond garden was added, landscaping along the driveway and side yard was completed, and a picket fence installed. Lastly, an old orchard on the upper terrace was removed, along with a lilac hedge, to allow for more garden area.



Since her retirement from teaching, Joan has become a collector of irises, daylilies, and hostas, along with companion perennials, and bulbs.

Her garden, which once consisted mainly of annuals started from seeds each year, has become a perennial garden complimented by annuals. The third garden area on the upper terrace, where the guest irises are planted, was once a huge vegetable garden supplying Bob, Joan, and their three children with produce for the entire year. Lately, the only vegetables grown are a few tomato and pepper plants. However, a berry garden is in progress, mainly for the six grandchildren, who also have their own play area.

While Joan was preoccupied with her garden, Bob, also a teacher, was building up his taxidermy business. After retirement, the business became a full time job, interrupted by frequent trips around the world, with a focus on Africa. The museum was built to house his customer's mounts as well as his own growing collection of animals. Bob and Joan welcome you to their garden and invite you to visit the museum if you wish. Please watch your footing on the uneven ground.

Photograph by Ginny Spoon

Pilmore Gardens: The garden of Ben Pilcher and Anita Moran is still a young work in progress with most of the beds less than 3 years old.

Located on ROCKS road in northern HARDford county gives you an idea of what we have to work with. What began with a single iris blossomed into a garden containing 665

different bearded and beardless cultivars from Aril to Siberians. There are also seedling beds in the front and rear of the house that currently have day-lily and iris seedling. The iris seedling also have a wide variety to include beardless and bearded species. There are guest iris from Region 4, and the Aril Society along with those for the regional from all over the US. You can tell that many of the beds are test for Ben's plans for others in his landscaping business, but he tries it out at home first. One of these tests includes a wetland area in which the down spouts empty into a single bed that currently contain Louisiana's, versicolor and siberians cultivars and seedling. In the rear of the house is a mixed bed with the majority of those planted there being historic. Currently we are working on a shade garden right now just generic hosta are contained there and a few other plants. Recently Ben cut a woodland path that is still very much a work in progress. There are some steep inclines from the top entrance but there are a total of five different entrances into the woodland area. If you decide to take a stroll down these paths please use caution.



← **Alice Bouldin Award**
Winner Moran Seedling
02VSu01 "Pond Angel"
Versicolor

Alice Bouldin Award ⇒
Runner up Moran Seedling
02NVMFu01 "Bloodlines"
Versicolor



IRIS HAVEN Iris Haven, the garden of Doris Rebert and the late Owings Rebert located in Westminster, Maryland, consists of one of the largest collections of named older irises in the country. The innumerable iris collection (begun in the mid 1950s) consists of Tall Bearded, Median, Dwarf, and Siberian, with an emphasis on the historic varieties. Guesting iris has also been an essential part of this garden and Owings was



preparing the guest bed for this spring convention when he passed away in September, 2005. The convention bed was lovingly completed in his memory and will feature primarily Tall Bearded, Median and Siberian; bordering the guest bed is a collection of the Siberian irises registered and some were introduced by Owings. The Rebert Garden also features a complete collection of both the American and English Dykes Award winners.

Even with the many irises, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs are married into the landscape creating a beautiful picture to behold. Anyone who has ever visited this garden will share with you that the first glimpse of the hundreds of iris, which march up and disappear over the crest of the hill, provides a never to be forgotten visual treat. So, if you enjoy historic iris, visual



treats, and seasoned gardeners, the Rebert Iris Haven should be a part of your garden tour.

DRAYCOTT GARDENS

Welcome to Draycott which means “peaceful retreat” or “secluded spot”. I’ve had the pleasure of living and gardening here for 37 years and still keep changing the gardens and adding new things. I hope that you will walk up the hill and enjoy the view from the new cast iron gazebo added last spring. A new double waterfall was also added to the existing fish pond near the barn last summer. The added sound of running water and bathing areas for the resident birds have added much to the enjoyment of the garden.

Tending to the five stock beds at my mother’s adjoining farm became difficult so last fall David and I cleared, plowed, harrowed and leveled all five beds and planted them back into grass. My new stock area is located on the top of the hill and can be seen from the new gazebo. A large quantity of the plants growing there are Mr. Shimizu’s new pseudatas, a cross between iris pseudocorus and iris ensata (Japanese Iris).

The gardens have been developed over the years for landscape purposes and all contain other perennials interplanted with the irises. Carol’s interests in peonies, hosta, rhododendron and rock garden plants are evident. Noteworthy trees include: *Stewartia*, *Franklinia*, *Stryax japonica* and *abassia*, *Acer griseum*, *Tamarix*, *Helesia*, *Kousa Dogwood* and a collection of conifers.

The formal garden in back of the house was extended to hold the 131 guest irises. Beardless guests are in the area closest to the barn and the bearded guests are planted along the entire length of the garden. We had bloom on almost 90% of the guests in the first year and hope that all will give good bloom for you to evaluate this season. The guests are all planted in soil which has never grown irises before so growth has been outstanding.

Marriage to David Bollinger on December 2, 2006 has brought lots of new joys and dreams. He encourages me and helps with some of the larger projects and has helped greatly with the job of guest iris chairman.



Region 4 Affiliates

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY

President: Dave Stoll

C&P Activities by Ginny Spoon

Our year started out with a barbeque and slide show on Iris Basics in March. We honored our long time member and membership chairman, Mac Shawe. Our Spring Show was held on Saturday, May 19 with garden tours and a picnic on Sunday, May 20th. We started our tour at the garden of Ray and Karen Jones where Don showed Ray how to hybridize irises. Ray and Karen came to our garden a week later and Ray resumed



some crossing which Karen said was becoming addictive. The next stop on the tour was the lovely garden of Margaret Thomas. The garden was bursting with bloom and there were many people there who come every year to purchase irises and to see the garden. We then visited the garden of Mike and Diana Nichols in Gainesville. Their garden had many different perennials and a lovely water garden. Next stop was the garden of Frank and Marilyn Naylor in Purcellville, VA where we had a great visit and a picnic.

After the Regional meeting in Hunt Valley, Don and I stopped to see Ron and Jane Hamelink's garden on the way home. They are C&P members but live in Laurel, MD which is quite a drive from Winchester, but we drove by their garden on the way home. Jane has collected over 1,000 varieties of irises, all named, and planted them all around their home. Even the chicken house has irises surrounding it! It was such a treat to see this garden.

Region 4 Affiliates

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

Danee Hover , President

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: DORIS REBERT

THANK YOU

It is with great pleasure that I wish to extend , in behalf of Francis Scott Key Iris Society , a big **Thank You** to all who participated in our Region 4 Spring Meeting, which was held during the Memorial Day weekend. It was so good to reminisce with the many long standing members and meet the newer garden enthusiasts. Thank You to all who took part in the bearded show, regional meeting, judges training, auctions, awards presentation, banquet, and those who have “ The Iris Virus”. F S K is very grateful to all of you.

Sincerely,
Doris Rebert
President ,Francis Scott Key Iris Society

Region 4 Affiliates

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Lois Rose

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society Chapter Report

Due to complications in my personal life which required my absence from home for most of the winter and spring, the new year for the Fredericksburg Area Iris Society got off to a bit of a bumpy start. We had to cancel our first meeting of the year in March, as well as our show scheduled for May 12th.

Only one FAIS member, Jim Schroetter, was able to attend the AIS National Convention in Oklahoma City this year, but it is gratifying to see so many of our newer members in attendance at this spring Regional meeting.

We had hoped to capitalize on the tremendous success of last year's "Open Garden Day" with a somewhat scaled back repeat this year, but those plans had to be slightly altered. Instead of five gardens open on one given day, as we did last year, we had one garden open for nearly two weeks. Jack and Rosalie Loving opened their Edgehill Garden to the public from May 8th through May 20th. With good publicity in the local newspapers, including a full page article with color photos on the front page of the "House and Home" section of the Fredericksburg *Free Lance Star* on May 18th, public response was gratifying. We gained several new members, good exposure for the Society, and publicity for our Aug. 18th sale.

Our next meeting will be a program on "Bearded Iris Rebloom in Central Virginia" presented by Mike Lockatell on June 9th at the Salem Church Library. We have received approval for judge's training credit for this program and invite those around the Region who are seeking judge's training credits to join us.

We have a full slate of activities planned for the rest of the year, including our sale on Aug. 18th, our picnic and plant exchange on Sept. 8th, and our annual Harvest Dinner on Nov. 10th. At the Harvest Dinner this past November we voted to host the Region 4 Spring Meeting in 2009, the 25th anniversary year for our chapter. So we have a busy time ahead of us.

Submitted by Lois Rose
President, Fredericksburg Area Iris Society
May 25, 2007

WEB NEWS

Writing the Photography Article made me think that there have been several articles written in past Newscast that are still important today so:

HELP WANTED: The newscast editor is looking for help in compiling articles printed in previous Newscast that are important enough to place on the website for all to revisit as needed. Look into your old Newscast and send me electronic copies or copies by snail mail those articles YOU deem are important and I will add a publication area for the Region 4 web page

Your Region 4 Web Address
www.irisregion4.com

What Burning Question would you like to know about Iris?

Send question electronically to: avmoran1@earthlink.net or by snail mail to Anita Moran 5351 Rocks Rd, Pylesville, MD 21132

I will make certain your questions are addressed.

FALL MEETING 2007

Region 4, American Iris Society

Holiday Inn, 900 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, Virginia

Room Reservations: 1-540-552-7001

Room

Rate: \$99.00

Mention AIS when requesting this rate.

Through

9-21-07

Activities

Friday (October 12, 2007)

10 a.m. to 12 noon Submit Entries in Flower Show & Photo Contest

1 p.m. Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dinner & "Remembering Lloyd Zurbrigg"

Saturday (October 13, 2007)

10 – 12 noon: Tour Hahn Horticulture Garden on the VT Campus
We will take personal autos to the garden

12 noon – 1 p.m. Lunch and shopping (on your own)

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Judges Training

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Plant auction

4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Business meeting

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 Dinner with featured speaker, Don Spoon

8:30 p.m. -- ? Close silent auction and continue plant sales

Registration

\$90.00 per person (includes dinner both nights)

Registration

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

—
Address _____ City _____

State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____ @ _____

—
Food Preferences (indicate number of persons)

Friday

Chicken _____

Pork _____

Vegetarian _____

Saturday

Turkey _____

Beef _____

Vegetarian _____

Payment enclosed: \$90 x number of persons = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Region 4, AIS

**Mail reservation to: Carol Warner, Treasurer, 16815 Falls Road,
Upperco, MD 21155**

Anita Moran
Newscast Editor
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

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