



The Newscast

Inside this issue:

Region 4 Board	2
Affiliates	3
RVP Message	4
From The Editor	5
Beardless and Species Report	6
Nominating Committee	6
Result of Symposium	6
Memorial Libby Cross	7
Minutes Fall Regional	9
Rebloom Region 4	11
Gardens of Virginia Part I	13
Visiting Mike Lockett	18
Web Notes	19
Great Rebloom Mystery	20
Late Bloom in Zone 6	21
Affiliate Reports	22
2010 Budget	25
Treasurer's Report	16
JT Report	27

In Memory of Libby Cross



‘Libby Cross’

Don Spoon 2010

Regional Vice President

Carrie Winter CIS
5801 Masters Court
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 542-3812

Assistant RVP

Donald Rude
1051 Nik Ryan Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-0373

Immediate Past RVP

R. Jerry Coates FSK
111 Council Street
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 662-1664

Secretary

Tricia Taylor
11406 Stonewall Jackson Dr
Spotsylvania, VA 22551

Treasurer

Carol Warner FSK
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155
(410) 374-4788
draycott@qis.net

Historian

Lois Rose

Parliamentarian

OPEN

Beardless and Species

Carol Warner FSK
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155
(410) 374-4788
draycott@qis.net

Budget

Jack Loving FAIS
10483 Edgehill Lane
King George, VA 22485
(540) 775-4043
jrloving@juno.com

Judges' Training

Dr. E. Roy Epperson ENC
1115 Delk Drive
High Point, NC 27262
(336) 883-9677

Median Irises

Ginny Spoon C&P
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625
(540) 888-4447

Membership

Mac Shawe C&P
6405 Fairborn Terrace
New Carrollton, MD 20784
urysh_we@verizon.net

Iris Program Resource

William Smoot

Reblooming Irises

Mike Lockett
500 Pantela Drive
Richmond, VA 23235
804-330-2916
CMarti8855@aol.com

Conventions

Don Rude

Youth

Ray Jones
2004 Rosemoor Lane
Fairfax, VA 22031-2129.
703 573 7675

Legal Counsel

Bill Kuykendall
Rte 2, Box 232
Keyser, WV 26726

Webmaster

Anita Moran FSK
www.irisesregion4.com

Auction

Dr. Don Spoon C&P
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625
(540) 888-4447

Editor NEWSCAST

Anita Moran FSK
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132
(410) 937-3388
avmoran1@earthlink.net

Public Relations

Robert Pries
107 Brothers Drive,
Roxboro, NC 27574-9091
336-597 8805

AFFILIATES

Questions

What would we have called the color orange if it wasn't a fruit?

Why does *cleave* mean both split apart and stick together?

If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?

If corn oil comes from corn, what does baby oil come from?

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

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY - VICKI SCHEFFLER
9274 Mars Dr., Mechanicsville VA 23116, (804-730-8693)

CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - JUNE HOOD
1700 Albemarle Rd, Charlotte NC 28227

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY - GINNY SPOON
1225 Reynolds Road, Cross Junction, VA 22625 (540) 888-4447

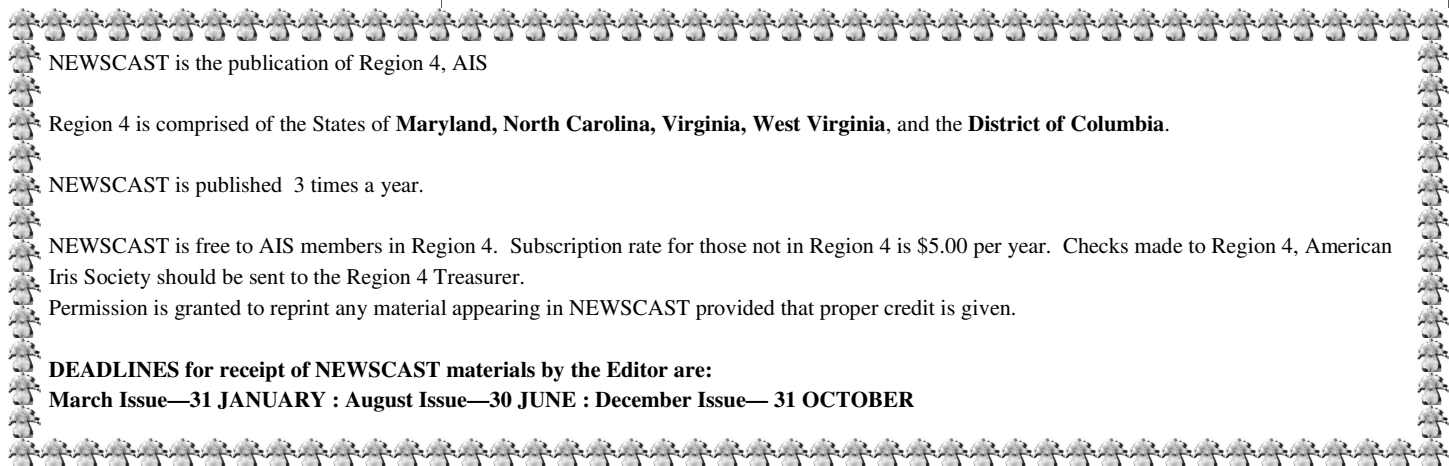
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - SUSAN GRIGG
105 Trotters Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27614-0620

EASTERN SHORE IRIS SOCIETY - DEBBIE CAMPBELL
809 Camden Ave. Salisbury MD 21801-6301

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - CAROL WARNER
16815 Falls Road, Upperco, MD 21155 (410) 374-4788

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY - NICK KENNEDY
4 Kennedy Circle, Falmouth, VA 22405 Phone: (540) 373-0160

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



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The Region 4 Vice President

What a wonderful ending for our regional year with the fall meeting in Richmond. The cooperation of everyone was outstanding

with everything coming together in a delightful way. I hope that you will share with me or Don Rude what you liked about the meeting and what you would like to see changed. The critique from you will be very helpful to the Executive Committee as it evaluates the meeting for purposes of making a recommendation for fall 2010.

Hopefully each chapter is making plans for a super 2010.. Remember a successful iris society does not just happen, but needs nurturing. The love of iris may be the first ingredient along with good programs, but don't forget to include opportunities to build strong and positive relationships between members. The cooperation that comes out of knowing and respecting each other will go a long way toward survival and growth.

Rebloom will probably be gone by the time that you read this, but last year there was some bloom as late as Christmas in Charlotte. Please send your reports to Mike Lockatell. The accumulation of data from all parts of the region is valuable to the individual iris grower as well as helping characterize cultural conditions throughout the region. Please report any differences that you observe between spring bloom and remontant bloom.

The response for the Symposium Count was again very poor. While the fact that the ballot was included in the BULLETIN was given as an explanation, the response was low among members aware of the change. You will find a list of the Top 25 or 26 for Region 4 elsewhere in NEWSCAST.

A number of affiliates end their year with a Harvest Luncheon-- a great opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude for members who help make a successful year. If the region had such a luncheon, we would want to thank especially those who made our Fall Regional a great one - John and June Rosini , Susan Grigg, Lois Rose, Bill Smoot, Don Spoon, Frances Thrash, and Carol Warner. And of course we want to thank Roy Epperson, Bob Pries, and Ginny Spoon for their excellent judges training. Nor would we want to forget the Spring Meeting with the wonderful show and garden visits. And finally don't forget all the work between meetings i.e. Newscast, the Web site, Membership. Thank you everyone. A great regional meeting reflects strong support from affiliates and individuals. Thanks for a great 2009,

Happy holidays.

Carrie Winter

FROM THE EDITOR

**Thanking all of old and new
Friends we loved and knew
Lost forever or found again
Never less still are friends**

**Gardens are sleeping
Awaiting next spring
Families together
Brothers and sisters sing**

**A moment taken from all the cheer
Thoughts of lost friends so dear
Thanks to the Lord for what we
have
No time for our heart to be sad**

**A loss is but momentary
Living forever in the minds
Of friends no need for sorry
Just think of their finds**

AMF 2009



It was decided at the Spring Regional that the Fall Regional should be held in the same central locations. Now I know there are many who consider the Fall Regional boring for there are no gardens to visit, a minimal show, board meeting and little else [Insert Yawn Here]. With no affiliate responsible for the meeting the entire region 4 membership stepped up to the plate to offer help. With Carrie Winters, our RVP of Region 4, as the chairperson, John and June Rosini (CVIS) stepped up and volunteered to find the hotel, Carol Warner (FSK) was the registrar, show chairman was Lois Rose (FAIS), the speaker was obtained by Susan Grigg (ENCIS), Registration was handled by members of CIS and CVIS, Plant auction was handled by Dr. Don Spoon (C&P), Floral Arrangements chair was Bill Smoot and Francis Thrash (HRIS), and Susan and Glenn Grigg handled the Silent Auction. Well done everyone for this was a fabulous Fall Regional.

Since I had to work I was unable to arrive on Thursday but except for the Washington area it is a wonderful drive from Pylesville to Richmond. When I arrived at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel, I loved that I got the central floor so there was little need to rush around. The people and service was wonderful. After registering I scoped the restaurants and as much as I knew I should not have it you could not go far without facing a picture of a filet of beef just waiting to be ordered, I was good I ordered a sandwich and shared it with Tricia Taylor our Region 4 Secretary for the board meeting was about to

begin which was immediately followed by First of three Judges training sessions, this on by Dr. Epperson on Awards and Balloting. This training is a must for all judges but good knowledge for those who desire to know how the ultimate awards are given.

It was supposed to be dinner on our own but John and June Rosini arranged a dinner at “The Mekong” a Vietnamese restaurant which was a first for me and probably many others that attended. The food was fabulous, and the fellowship equally so. There was a semi rush back to the hotel for Reblooming Judges Training given by Ginny Spoon. What a full day and there was more to come.

Saturday morning was taken up by three different activities. First there was a rebloom show, then Bob Pries (Thank you Bob for moving to region 4) mediated a round table discussion of affiliate issues, and then Mike Lockett graciously opened his garden for people to visit. As with most of our regional meetings there was the greatly anticipated plant auction which offered many unusual plants. Finally it was time for the only included meal of the meeting after which Bob Pries gave a wonderful judges training class on species iris.

I am so glad I did not skimp and stayed the extra night for after two full days it was nice to relax before the long drive home. Thank you all for a great Fall Regional.

Anita

Beardless and Species Iris Report

Fall 2009

The 2009 Society for Siberian Irises Convention was held in Bloomington, Minnesota. A good report on the convention by Terry Aitken can be found in the July BULLETIN. A great variety of colors and forms landed in the 5 most popular irises.

“Swans in Flight” is a ruffled white, “Ginger Twist” is a mottled orange propeller form, S/S 00-52-3 is a pale pinkish lavender with fringed styles, “Trip to Paris” is yellow and white with yellow styles, and “Rosie Bows” is a multipetal rose with a blue wash. Truly the Siberian class of irises has great diversity. The next Siberian and SIGNA convention will be in 2012 in Kalamazoo and Lansing, Michigan.

The next Society for Japanese Irises Convention will be held in late June 2011 in Portland, Oregon. This is beardless iris heaven, so the guest plants should be very well grown.

The new pseudatas from Mr. Shimizu are attracting more attention because of their ability to grow in a large variety of conditions and outstanding landscape qualities. The intermediate bloom period, about two weeks after the end of tall bearded season, fills the space before the Japanese irises begin to bloom.

We look forward to a judges training session on Species Irises tomorrow evening.

Carol Warner, Chairman

REPORT OF THE 2209 REGION 4

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Regional Vice President – Carrie Winter

Assistance Regional Vice President – Don Rude

Secretary – Tricia Taylor

Treasurer – Carol Warner

Submitted by Susan Griggs, Chairperson
Anita Moran
Lois Rose

Result of Symposium

Top 26 in Region 4

- 1 Daughter Of Stars
- 2 Clarence
- 2 Uncle Charlie
- 3 Immortality
- 4 Dusky Challenger
- 4 Secondhand Rose
- 5 Lady Friend
- 5 Thornbird
- 6 Beverly Sills
- 6 Plum Pretty Whiskers
- 6 Queen’s Circle
- 6 Sea Power
- 7 Conjuraton
- 7 Grape Harvest
- 7 Lady Of Leoness
- 7 Mesmerizer
- 8 Jesse’s Song
- 8 Silverado
- 8 Starring
- 8 Tour de France
- 9 Celebration Song
- 9 Edith Wolford
- 9 Explicit
- 9 Huckleberry Fudge
- 9 Mary Frances
- 9 Titan’s Glory

LIBBY CROSS

Libby Cross

Memories from Lois Rose

I was very saddened to learn that Region 4 had lost yet another of its “old timers.” I did not know Libby very well, but she was already an establishment in the Region when I joined way back in 1984, and I had a chance to visit with her off and on since then when she judged our show, and when she attended Regional meetings. I also had the privilege of meeting her daughter, Randi, who was with her at some of the last meetings Libby was able to attend. Libby served Region 4 as a judge and as robin coordinator for years, a job she enjoyed but found discouraging as e-mailing gradually took over.

Carrying on a conversation with Libby was not hard. She was a talker. She loved to talk about her family, her irises, and her garden, Crosspatch Gardens. She was a hybridizer with a number of introductions to her credit. I always loved Cinnamon Fringe, which I grew as a guest for the 1995 Spring Regional. I regret that I never had a chance to visit her garden. Region 4 has lost a faithful member and a friend. We will miss her.

Remembering Libby Cross

Anita Moran

When I first met Libby it was not a happy moment. I had never met her before and I had slipped, well between her laughing and my embarrassment we struck up a conversation but it wasn't until later that we were actually introduced which started us giggling again for her had failed to give each other our names. We were very much alike despite our age difference for she also has started to make crosses a few years ahead of me. While her interest was Rebloomers, mine was Arils, we talked often of the combination of the two worlds which led me to cross 'Daughter of Stars' with 'Persian Padishah'.

The introductions by Libby are: 'Angel's Wink' 1997 MDB, 'Cinnamon Fringe' 1993 TB, 'Door Prize' 1997 SDB RE, 'Nobody's Perfect' SIB 2002, 'Reconsidered' 1997 TB RE, 'Snow-In-Summer' 1993 TB RE, 'Sulphur and Molasses' 2004 TB RE, and 'Tantalizing Tidbit' 1996 SDB RE

Having never seen her introductions I went looking and was glad I was able to get to see at least a few with hopes of having some in my garden soon.

LIBBY CROSS

**Libby Cross
Ginny Spoon**



'Cinnamon 'Fringe', Libby Cross 1993
Photo by Donald Eaves



'Snow-in-Summer' Libby Cross
Photo by Shelly Ayers



'Tantalizing Tidbit' Libby Cross
Photo by Loic Tasquier

I first met Libby in 1991 when I was a new member of AIS. She was the AIS Robin chairman I believe and also was working on a fragrance robin. Libby was the first one to introduce herself to me and was a friend to me from the beginning. Her enthusiasm was contagious. She had a large folder with names of irises and what they smelled like. I got one from her which I still have. I tried to keep a list of irises with the fragrances afterwards. She was a driving force behind their Allegheny Highlands iris society. She was also a hybridizer and introduced several irises. 'Snow in Summer' a nice rebloomer and 'Cinnamon Fringe' 1994, 'Door Prize' SDB, 'Angel's Wink' MDB. I wish I knew more, but the people who knew her best have passed on. Libby passed on the 28th of October



Libby Cross with Jerry Coates at the 2008 Spring Regional at Winterberry Gardens

Minutes of the Board Meeting

**Region 4, American Iris Society
Sheraton Richmond West Hotel
Richmond, VA
Friday, October 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00p.m. by Regional Vice-President Carrie Winter. The minutes from the May 8, 2009 meeting were approved.

Committee Chair Reports:

Carol Warner filed the Treasurer's Report. The Spring Auction, along with donations from FSK and FAIS totaled \$3,812.20.

Dr. Roy Epperson presented the Judges and Judges' Training Report. The entire report is filed. For 2010 Region 4 will have the following accredited judges:

19 Garden/Exhibition (formerly Garden)
6 Master
4 Retired (formerly Master/Retired)
3 Emeritus
1 Apprentice

Chairman, Carol Warner presented the Beardless and Species Iris report for Fall 2009. She noted that there will be judges training session on Species Iris tomorrow evening.

Nominating Committee Chairman Susan Grigg reported that all present officers have agreed to serve an additional year.

Affiliate Reports: Were filed by the following and listed herein elsewhere in this edition of the *Newscast*:

Central Virginia Iris Society
Charlotte Iris Society
Chesapeake & Potomac Iris Society
Eastern North Carolina Iris Society
Francis Scott Key Iris Society

Old Business:

Carrie Winter reported the Top 26 Region 4 Tall Bearded Iris from the Symposium. There were several ties. (See Page 6)

Mac Shaw requested that when affiliates sign up new members to get the list to him and he (Mac) will make sure they are assigned to the appropriate affiliate who signed them up.

Announcements:

Carrie announced all members were invited to visit Mike Lockett's Garden today after the Board meeting.

Additionally, she announced that Paul Black would be speaking in Lancaster PA the weekend of October 24th and registration needed to be in by October 15th. A few flyers were made available.

There will be an informal dinner this evening at the local Vietnamese restaurant, The Mekong. All those wishing to go, please meet in the hotel lobby at 5:45 pm to car pool.

New Business:

Bill Smoot reported that Hampton Roads Iris Society needs help. All the officers have resigned. There are 37 potential members for the Tidewater area, but only eight attend regularly.

It was noted that local members of affiliates who are not Region 4 members who would like to receive the Newscast may do so for a \$5 fee. Anita Moran, Newscast Editor, asks that the affiliates contact her/email her the names of those local members and she will see to it that they receive a copy of the Newscast. The \$5 fee should be collected by the respective affiliates and have checks made out to them as well.

Minutes of the Board Meeting (cont)

Discussion was had regarding whether a regional Guest Iris Chairman should be appointed/created. It was determined that such a position already exists at the affiliate level and was not needed at the regional level because the Spring Regional meeting is hosted by affiliates.

Carrie Winter reported that she had such wonderful cooperation from all persons and affiliates she requested help for this Fall Regional Meeting. No one said “No”. What great support!

Carrie also reported that Bob Pries, recently moved to Region 4, is now our new Public Relations Chairman. Additionally, Ray Jones is the new Youth Chairman for Region 4. Thank you Ray, and welcome and thank you Bob!

On a personal note, Carrie reported that Libby Cross was very ill and sent a card around for everyone to sign. She also received a call from Jerry Coates that Maryann’s health is more hopeful than it has ever been.

Roy Epperson reported that discussions were underway regarding a possible re-alignment/merger of Region 3 with Region 19 into one region.

Bill Pries reported that AIS is starting an iris section in Wikipedia. He noted construction was slowly getting the glitches worked out.

Eastern North Carolina Iris Society (ENCIS) will be hosting the 2010 Spring Regional Meeting in Greensboro, NC. The gardens of Dr. Roy Epperson in High Point, NC, Ruth & Hudson Barker near Greensboro, NC, and Wyatt LeFever near Kernersville, NC will be on the tour the weekend of May 7 & 8, 2010. Hotel headquarters will be in Greensboro. Look to the Newscast for more details in the future.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Taylor
AIS Region 4 Secretary

REBLOOM in REGION 4

By Mike Lockett

Nature can be brutal at times. Freak weather is capable of destroying eagerly awaited blooms in a matter of minutes. After recent seasons of early spring freezes and dry summers, rebloom advocates were looking for a ray of sunshine. If October results are any indication, some Region 4 gardens have found redemption.

Rebloom activity commenced in earnest at my Powhatan County garden by early August. Lloyd Zurbrigg's SDB 'Sailboat Bay' ('01) kicked off the parade. Late in the month, bloom stalks appeared on 'Northward Ho' (Zurbrigg '91) and 'Gate of Heaven' (Zurbrigg '04). The latter was in flower on 9/9. A delightful medium blue TB, it recorded its third consecutive yearly rebloom sequence around Labor Day. Wow!! 'Northward Ho', a cherry red plicata also took a bow at this time along with a number of its offspring.

The effect of a mild summer could be felt by mid September with bloom stalks on 'Sunny Disposition' (Zurbrigg '91), 'Unchained Melody' (Mahan '99) and 'Over & Over' (Innerst '01). Each selection confirmed previous fall performance at Cosby Farm. 'Over & Over', a faint violet blue plicata bloomed on every viable fan in its clump. 'Unchained Melody' continues its record of late September rebloom reliability. Its medium sized ruffled white blooms with an overpowering sweet fragrance were in abundance throughout October. In the midst of all the tall bearded activity, SDB 'Sailboat Bay's' white and baby blue flowers persisted on three clumps. As September drew to a close, Zurbrigg's TB neglecta, 'Twilight Fancies' ('01) made a splashy appearance.

More Region 4 remontants sported flowers leading up to this year's fall meeting in Richmond. SDBs 'Baby Blessed' (Zurbrigg '79) and 'Sweetheart's Again' (Hill '04) had attractive individual stalks. Another SDB 'Rosalie Loving' (G. Spoon '04) however stole the show!! A delightful white with a maroon thumbprint over yellow on its falls, it bloomed throughout October. It should continue to enjoy favor with AIS judges in future awards balloting.

As November arrived, fifty-five named varieties and seedlings were flowering at my Central VA garden. 'Northward Ho', 'Gate of Heaven', 'Sunny Disposition', 'Unchained Melody', 'Over & Over' and 'Matrix' were a dazzling sight in the tall bearded class. Absence of a late October hard freeze plus unseasonably warm temperatures made the difference. Another thirty-seven named varieties and seedlings were "waiting in the wings." With a little luck and a nod from the weather, some would make it to flower.

Lois Rose decided to divide and replant her rebloom bed during summer 2008. One hundred plus clumps were reset with various organic soil amendments added to the soil mix. The strategy seemed to play handsome dividends. She had nine tall bearded



'Northward Ho' Zurbrigg 1991
Photo by Chris Darlington



'Baby Blessed' Zurbrigg 1979
Photo by Anita Moran



Rosalie Loving Spoon 2004
Photo by Anita Moran



Liquid Amber Spoon 2003
Photo by Ginny Spoon

REBLOOM in REGION 4 (cont.)

selections bloom during the summer. 'I Do' (Zurbrigg '74), 'Immortality' (Zurbrigg '82), 'Total Recall' (Hager '92) and 'Rosalie Figge' (McKnew '91) were the standouts in the group. 'Lady Emma' (F. Jones '86), an MTB was the top median bearded iris during this span.

Lois continued to see rebloom on tall bearded varieties during the September- October period. Sterling Innerst's 'Over & Over', 'September Replay' (F. Jones '92) and 'Golden Encore' (F. Jones '72) were delightful after Labor Day. October performers were 'Perfume Counter' (Zurbrigg '74), 'Pink Attraction' (Hall '88), 'Tawny' (Pray '74), 'Iceland' (Byers '91), 'Matrix' (Hall '91) and 'Lunar Whitewash' (Innerst '03) in tall bearded class. Late October median bloom was seen on 'I Bless' IB (Zurbrigg '85), 'Sweethearts Again' SDB (Hill '04), 'Sailboat Bay' SDB (Zurbrigg '01) and 'Hot Glow' IB (Tasco 05).

Other FAIS members sending in results were Tricia Taylor plus Rosalie and Jack Loving. The Lovings indicated 'Rosalie Figge' had been in bloom for three weeks. Tall bearded in flower were 'Over & Over', 'Queen Dorothy' (Hall '84), 'Mariposa Autumn' (Tasco '99), and 'City Lights' (Dunn '91). Their median bloom was dominated by standard dwarf bearded irises. Bloom was found on 'Dark Crystal' (Byers '88), 'Willow Mist' (Weiler '83), 'Baby Blessed' (Zurbrigg '79), 'Senorita Frogg' (Spoon '02) and 'Purple' (Spoon '09).

Tricia Taylor enjoyed persistent rebloom on a long-time favorite, 'Harvest of Memories' (Zurbrigg '84). Tricia reported two bloom sequences on 'Feedback' (Hager '83). The mid violet bloomed in early August and resumed flowering in mid September. She enjoyed outstanding rebloom on Monty Byers' 'Iceland' ('90). The white and glacial blue amoena tall bearded produced eleven bloom stalks in September. It was still blooming in late October. 'Liquid Amber' (G.Spoon '03), an interesting laced amber tan contributed a bloom stalk in early October. Despite digging part of her bearded iris plantings for the summer FAIS rhizome sale, her results were still top notch and a big plus for rebloom.

Finally, Don Rude sent me an early November email reporting results. The Blacksburg, VA resident and Region 4 Assistant RVP was enjoying fall flower on 'Rosalie Figge' (McKnew '91) and Autumn Circus (Hager '90). He also mentioned bloom on 'Blatant' (Byers '90) and 'Twice Thrilling' (Osbourne '84). A peachy pink tall bearded space ager, it is in the parentage of Sterling Innerst's 'Lunar Whitewash'.



'Rosalie Figge' McKnew 1991
Photo by Anita Moran



Sweethearts Again Hill 2004
Photo by Anita Moran



Autumn Circus Hager 1990
Photo by Anita Moran



I Do Zurbrigg 1974
Photo by J. Griffin Crump

Gardens of Virginia Part I

By Anita Moran

The largest numbers of members in Region 4 are in Virginia, and though I wish I could have visited each and every one there just was not time, but there is always other years. Many associate the Spring Regional with visiting gardens and they would be right, however there are usually more gardens than are listed on the schedule. During the 2009 Spring Regional I decided to visit several Virginia gardens some I had seen before, some I have always wanted to see and some as with this year's regional I had never heard about. Those I had been to before were visited during the 2003 Notational Convention and included the gardens of Lois Rose, The Loving's Garden, Jim Schroetter's garden and Winterberry the garden of Don and Ginny Spoon.



The Loving's Garden



"pepper" Loving's bundle of Joy

The Loving's Garden

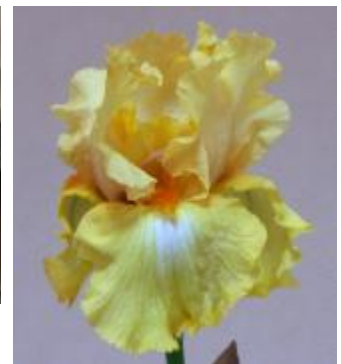
was the first Iris Garden I had ever seen on the National and was the first I saw before the start of the Regional. In the midst of an oncoming severe thunderstorm, Tricia Taylor and I arrive just in time to take a couple of shot and head for cover. After playing with Pepper (the dog) until the thunder that shook the house and great lightening that illuminated the entire area eased and the sun was bright again, it was out to the gardens. In 2003 as this May it was walking from a gentle country home to a sudden burst of color. Historic and new introductions were tucked next to each other in wonderful rows of color. Irises were in edged beds and in a tucked away rock garden, to encircling the shed. It

was easy to spend hours not only because of the garden but the wonderful hosts as well. Jack and Rosalie share everything with their guest from the hospitality to the jokes as we traveled the beds. Even after such a storm there was plenty to see including a riddle. There was a very large clump on the front side of the house that was missing a name. When Tricia and I entered the Show we were immediately drawn to 'Grateful Heart' as a ringer for the Mysterious Iris.

After playing with Pepper (the dog) until the thunder that shook the house and great lightening that illuminated the entire area eased and the sun was bright again, it was out to the gardens. In 2003 as this May it was walking from a gentle country home to a sudden burst of color. Historic and new introductions were tucked next to each other in wonderful rows of color. Irises were in edged beds and in a tucked away rock garden, to encircling the shed. It



Jack and Rosalie Loving showing us



On the left the mysterious Iris and on the right 'Grateful Heart' as shown by Linda Laing at the Spring Show

Gardens of Virginia Part I (cont.)



Lois Rose

Across a hay field the bus traveled to the **garden of Lois Rose**. Along with the azaleas and a red maple coming into leaf were the horses which I thought made a perfect back drop. Little had change in the garden except for the flowers on display. Set in curves and lines filled with tremendous bloom was a garden with wide walks between the double widths of irises. The curvature of the gardens filled with blooms as we left the bus to explore. There



Blackbeard's Daughter
Crump 2009

were plenty of seats to sit and enjoy the view of seedlings and introductions as we ate the wonderful box lunches. The wonderful array that made judges training easy to accomplish especially with so many people. The roomy aisles allowed for photographers to get that perfect shot on most of

the flowers including tall bearded 'Stunning Serenade' and 'Obi-Wan Kenobi' and miniature tall bearded 'Crafted' and 'Spect So' and Griff Crump's 'Blackbeard's Daughter'. The seedlings were marked with numbers and since no one knew the code was interesting but identifying them after wards required "The Code".



The Rose Garden
(no not THAT Rose Garden)

Gardens of Virginia Part I (cont.)

The biggest change I saw was at the **Schroetter Garden** where trees had disappeared and in its place was

‘Winterland’ (Byers 1989) which put on a great show. The seedling beds were filled with wonderful prospects including an interesting reselect ‘02H3’. Collections of Space Age, dwarfs near the cabin made moving through the various gardens areas a joy with each new discovery.



Hill Of Iris Schroetter Garden

now an incline of iris. The remaining trees on the hill were surrounded by a variety of hostas in a circular pattern ranging from miniatures to the very large.



Hosta and Rebloom Gardens at Schroetter Garden

The stream that was at the lowest point of the walk from the road to the log cabin was now a pond edged with Japanese and Louisianas which had yet to bloom. Still the walk was such a pleasure from the road over hung with branches and a variety of flowering wild bushes. At the top of the drive was an extensive bed of Reblooming iris including Istanbul’ (Byers 1989), ‘Mac Shaw’ (Spoon 2005), ‘Misty Lady’ (Sides 1994) ‘Misty Twilight’ (Byers 1988) and



◀ ‘Istanbul’

▼ ‘Mac Shaw’



◀ ‘Misty Lady’

▼ ‘Misty Twilight’



Gardens of Virginia Part I (cont.)



Sue and Ray Shackelford

The **Shackelford garden** of Sue and Ray Shackelford was set in a park like setting with one obvious theme; someone really liked ‘Indian Chief’. This 1929 historic by Ayers was in nearly every garden plot and often in wonderfully large clumps and blooming everywhere. The gardens were wonderfully laid out that would have allowed a much larger group easy access to all the irises allowing several people plenty of room to discuss the various cultivars in bloom. Along with the iris were wonderful garden art which included a small brick buildings that added charm to the garden scene. As I looked away from the guest, we were treated to a family of geese line in a row headed for the pond at the bottom of the hill with a perfect sitting area to enjoy



Karen Jones walking among Indian Chief



Shackelford Garden Art

the view. This quiet garden was perfect to reflect on the iris available to view and the serenity to be able to get away from the crowd.



Geese walking to Pond



Ginny Spoon John Rosini Don Rude and Don Spoon in Shackelford Garden.



Attendees enjoying Shackelford Garden



Shackelford Pond



Marilyn Duncan there to help the Shackelfords

Gardens of Virginia Part I (cont.)

The Garden of Tricia and Paul Taylor is set in a wooded area of Spotsylvania Virginia. Tricia asked that I be her and her husband Paul's guest and I was



Taylor Garden at Sunrise



Conner, the Sheltie

and anything else that struck their fancy. The Taylor gardens are quiet and peaceful where it draws you out in the morning with a hot cup of tea just to enjoy the sights especially 'Plum Pretty Whisk-

ers' (Spoon 2003) which bloomed profusely along with 'Cascadian Rhythm' (Schreiner 2007) or at least until Conner (their sheltie) decided it was his turn for affection and made walking around the garden a laugh.



'Daughter Of Stars'

delighted. Her iris garden was set against a backdrop of a small lake that gave off a small amount of fog as the sun began to rise what a wonderful site to wake up to see. 'Daughter of Stars' (Spoon 2001) bloomed beautifully my entire stay and every time I went out for a small garden there was something new blooming. But there was more than the iris to entertain. A squirrel had decided that the bird feeder was a wonderful place for a morning meal and despite the reprimand of the red headed woodpecker, he was right at home. Also out the kitchen window the deer went through the neighborhoods sampling bushes, grasses



'Cascadian Rhythm'



Taylor Wildlife



through the neighborhoods sampling bushes, grasses

VISITING MIKE LOCKATELL'S GARDEN AND SOME OTHER MEMORIES

By Don Spoon

It was a beautiful, sunny Friday afternoon at the 2009 fall regional meeting in Richmond, VA when iris hybridizers Jim Schroetter, Griff Crump, and I arrived at Mike Lockatell's garden at about 4 p.m. There were reblooming bearded irises in many different classifications for us to enjoy. I was overjoyed to see glorious seedlings of Mike's from crosses with my 'Daughter of Stars' that were very robust growers with tall, well-branched stalks with 7-9 buds. Most of all, I was amazed at the tall pink seedlings of his that were among the best reblooming pinks I have ever seen. He had large clumps of Lloyd Zurbrigg's 'Gate of Heaven' with some beautiful stalks. I believe that it is the best light blue TB rebloomer currently available in commerce. We were also glad to see many of Lloyd's seedlings growing well. We are so grateful that Mike saved Lloyd's remaining work with the hope that some seedlings will be introduced. The upper part of the garden had an expanse of large clumps of siberian irises. The garden was immaculately weeded and obviously well cared for in every detail.

There was an old grayed bench with lots of items on it including a gnome with a pointed hat and white beard lying on his side on the bench as if he were taking a nap. By the woods was a tall historic barn, and there were several giant shade trees scattered about. This slender garden was about the size of a football field and every sunny space was used to the hilt. Obviously, Mike had lots of landscape projects going on to make his garden uniquely beautiful. We were so glad we took the time to visit. We followed Mike in his pickup truck back to where we could easily find our way back to the hotel. It was a very informative and a delightful experience.

This first trip to Mike's garden brought back memories of visiting the garden of Charlie Nearpass for the first time about 25 years ago. At one of my last visits, Charlie told me that in all the years he tended his one acre garden only one AIS garden judge visited him there. For the life of me I could not understand why more AIS garden judges did not made the effort to see Charlie's seedling and cultivar plantings. I guess it takes a hybridizer to appreciate the garden of a hybridizer. Personally, I find seeing the diversity in seedlings and their promise as interesting as gardens of only introductions. Hybridizing is a process with its special labors, frustrations, and joys. The introductions are just pro-

gress reports. It is the process that enthralls hybridizers. But you don't have to be a hybridizer or garden judge to enjoy visiting a hybridizer's garden. All it takes is a love of iris and appreciation of their amazing beauty. You might even see a great new seedling that is bound for glory opening its first blossom.

In 1955, 54 years ago, when I was a high school student I helped my mother, Lilla Edwards Spoon, then President of the Charlotte Iris Society put on an iris show with her other club members at the Charlottetown Mall. The next year, I made my first tall bearded iris crosses and planted them in a large seedbed alongside Mom's vegetable garden. The little green plants were growing beautifully the summer before I went off to college. Unfortunately, my brother unknowingly mowed them to the ground the next spring. I did not hybridize again until I was 40, about when I joined AIS. Now at 70, I have grown and appraised over 200,000 seedlings and selected about 200 to introduce. Our 2008 seedbeds should have their first flower stalks in the spring of 2010. Ginny, Bryan, and I can hardly wait.

Surely the greatest day in my life as a hybridizer was the Saturday of our 2008 Spring Regional where over fifty AIS Region 4 members came to see our Winterberry Gardens and with Perry Dyer helped us appraise our seedlings. It was especially grand to have my son Bryan there with his border bearded seedling in full bloom introduced in 2009 as 'Tina Louise' from the cross of 'Tennessee Vol' X 'Fiery Temper'. We cherish these memories of your visits to Winterberry Gardens and hope you will visit us again.

After searching the whole garden at that same meeting, Libby Cross discovered a tall bearded rose pink amoena seedling with a very pleasant fragrance. She accepted my offer that it be named for her. In 2010, it will be introduced as 'Libby Cross' to honor her enormously meaningful contributions to our Region as a grower, garden judge, and hybridizer as well as national AIS robin chairman and fragrance organizer. Libby was a great irisarian and wonderful friend who lived a great and good life!

VISITING MIKE LOCKATELL'S GARDEN (cont.)



Mike Lockatell's seedling 20224B-1



Mike Lockatell's seedling 20224B-1



Lloyd Zurbrigg seedling PP61

WEB NOTES

Finally the Aril bed is complete and waiting for pure Arils to grow in Maryland. This project has taken all my extra time and the Region 4 web page has suffered in updates. Now however there will be time as the seeds go in pots today and the beds are ready for winter.

Do not be surprised this winter if you receive strange e-mail from the Region 4 site, it is just me tampering. Just send me a note that you received it and ignore it until the next one comes. Once this last part is completed updating will begin and as always any errors is greatly appreciated.

There is a publication section and if there are any articles from past Newscast that you would like maintained in this area please let me know. Those from 2004 to the present are all in digital format and easily made into PDF files for viewing and down loading. Articles older than 2004 will require that you send me a copy so that I can scan it into a PDF file.

Julia Hindle wanted a bulletin board or other forum and I am looking into but these type pages require the approval of the web hosting service and right now they do not accept chat rooms. I am looking into a response blog but that may be above me so it will take time to learn about these.

To make things easier I may be giving e-mail address to the Board and the Affiliate presidents which will make contacting interested parties a lot easier. These e-mail should all be accessible through Mail2web but again this is a work in progress.

Have a great winter and remember take pictures for your web site.

Anita Moran

The Great Rebloom Mystery

by Ginny Spoon

This past October, I received a phone call from Tom Allen, a customer in Charles Town, WV. Tom and Mary Allen live about 45 minutes northwest of our garden and they have purchased irises from us in Cross Junction, VA for the past four years. The mystery was that their iris bed was in full bloom (the first week of October) with yellow irises and they wondered if all



Mary and Tom Allen

their irises had reverted to all yellow. Tom said that during the spring that same bed was all different colors ranging from purple to orange and some plicatas. They also told me that they had enlarged the bed and spread out the irises they had purchased in previous years. I pulled their orders from the last several years and did not find any rebloomers in their order. However, I



Spring bloom 2009 at Allen garden

sometimes give away rebloomers to our customers as extras and forget to write it down on the order form. After talking with them further I asked if they had any photos. Tom put some photos in the mail and after looking at them I could hardly believe my eyes. I called Tom and Mary and asked if I could come over and look at their garden myself. They replied that they would love for me to see it and so I drove over the next weekend.



Same bed at Allen garden in early October 2009

Their beds were still in full bloom with lovely tall bearded yellow irises of the same cultivar. On further inspection I noted that the plants that were reblooming all had slight purple base foliage. I also saw there were still plenty of irises not in bloom with no purple base foliage. The name tags were in front of the irises, and they were the spring only bloomers they had purchased over the past several years. They said that there had been more rebloom stalks and that they had cut over 30 of them and brought them in the house to enjoy. They had also given some to admiring neighbors. I told them that I was sure that in the spring the once bloomers would bloom true and that they must have spread out the rebloomer unknowingly among the rest when they enlarged the bed. The yellow rebloomer that was spread out must have been too small to bloom in the spring but made up for it in the fall.

However, after looking over the photo of the spring bloom, there was one plant blooming of the unknown yellow. I eliminated several yellow rebloomers as suspects because of no purple base foliage, but 'Sunny Disposition' is one possibility. Both irises have purple base foliage, and if my memory is correct, the blooms both look alike. I would need to see them both in bloom to be sure. Sue and Tom gave me a plant before I left their lovely garden, some homemade jam and a lot of camaraderie. It was a lot of fun and the mystery of the identity of the iris will have to wait until they bloom next spring. Tom and Mary said they are happy with their fall garden and pleased that they will see the spring bloom in all the colors they were expecting with some additional yellow irises mixed in between. For myself, I was overjoyed to see such a prolific display of rebloom in a very impressive bed of extremely well grown tall bearded irises.



Close-up of mystery reblooming iris

Late blooming bearded irises in zone 6 Winterberry Gardens

Our peak season was the 3rd week in May of 2009 and these were still blooming in late May and some into the second week of June.

Towering Finale	Hager 1992
Sari's Dance MTB	G. Spoon 2008
Opalescent Dream	O. Brown 2003
Crazy	D. Spoon 2006
Conjuration	Byers 1989
Peppermint Cream	Ernst 2001
Signal Red	D. Spoon 2006
Kooza	D. Spoon 2009
Orchid Dove	D. Spoon 2007
Jaime Delgado	D. Spoon 2009
Pied Peach BB	G. Spoon 2009
Judy Mogil (flat top)	McWhirter 1997
Fiesta Flirt MTB	Fisher 2001
Barbara Jean	Mullin 2005
Silver Trumpets	Zurbrigg 2003
Midnight Oil	Keppel 1998
Lady of Leoness	D. Spoon 2000
Earth Song	Kegerise 1993
Corps de Ballet	Hager 1998
Peach Bouquet	D. Spoon 2008
Enchanting	Hamblen 1987
Haut les Voiles	Cayeux 2000

Affiliate Reports

CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY FALL REPORT 2009

May 2009 until November 2009

During the month of May we participated in a local event called Garden Jubilee. This is where nursery vendors sell from booths along Main Street. With the approval of the officials, a brave member took a bucketful of blooms to this event transporting them in a cart and distributing flyers which listed CMIS's Japanese Exhibit and Annual Sale. About 100 flyers were distributed and the blooms seemed to be well received. People would stop us and ask questions.

Our Japanese Iris Exhibit was June 5th and 6th. Cool weather delayed our season by one week preventing our usual large display. As a result multiple blooms were used of each variety to give a nice effect, presenting 15 varieties total at the Opportunity House Lobby. This presentation is always identified as Carolina Mountains Iris Society affiliate of The American Iris Society.

Our Iris Sale was August 15th at the First Congregational Church. We were pleased with the results. The last two years have generated poor revenue just covering our operating expenses. It's hard to supply all our table rhizomes from membership forcing us to buy and creating a delicate balance. We managed to offer a nice variety of irises; Siberian, Japanese, species, arilbreds, and bearded from historical to rebloomers to SDB, along with some new varieties. We created a display/ educational table showing how to divide a large clump to why it's beneficial to purchase from our sales. Through this educational table we picked up six names of interested parties on "How to Show a Bloom". It is our hope that enough interest will enable CMIS to have a Spring Show after 4 years of cancellation.

Presentations given this year as follows:

Title: "Those Other Irises for Your Garden...Iris enstata, Iris virginica, and Iris versicolor"

January 8 th	Mountain Laurel Garden Club	Asheville NC
March 14 th	Florence County Master Gardeners	Florence SC
September 12 th	Rux Garden Center	Waynesville NC
October 7 th	Foothills Master Gardeners	SC Botanical Garden, Clemson SC
November 2 nd	Greenville County Master Gardeners	Greenville, SC

Our fall meeting was Oct. 24th at the Henderson County Public Library. In 2010 we have an opportunity to create a display at the Henderson County library for the month of April.

Our 2010 schedule is as follows:

March 20th Spring Iris Meeting, 1:00pm To 3:00pm,
Business Meeting Slide Presentation, Henderson
County Library
May 13th Bearded Iris Exhibit At Opportunity House
June 10th & 11th Japanese Iris Display At Opportunity House
August 14th Annual Iris Sale, First Congregational
Church
October 6th Fall Iris Meeting, Henderson County
Library

Regards,
Dane Hoover

Central Virginia Iris Society 2009 Year in Retrospect

CVIS meets bi-monthly on Saturdays for scheduled meetings at LaPrade Library in Richmond Virginia. Below is a bulleted review of our covered agenda for 2009:

- January – CVIS had an informal meeting at IHOP for brunch. We discussed future ideas for guest speakers and shared iris information.
- March – We were honored to have two very interesting guest speakers from Presby Memorial Iris Garden. Linda Sercus, the new director and Laetitia Munro, who oversees the volunteers, gave us a visual tour and history of the gardens, via a Power Point presentation, including heirloom photos and memorabilia. Wonderful job! Our club also manned an informational table at two separate local plant centers that month, adding new members to our club.
- April – We participated in the annual spring Master Gardener Sale in Ashland, Virginia, selling potted iris and answering questions on iris. This allows us to use leftover rhizomes, which we pot up from previous fall sales and add new members.
- May – There was no scheduled meeting in May in lieu of visiting the open gardens of several of our members. Two of our members made a trip up to New Jersey to visit Presby Memorial Iris Garden and were welcomed with open arms. The AIS Convention and the Region 4 meeting were both in May. Due to my father's death last year and having to travel home again this year, I did not attend either one. The Rosini's graciously filled in for me at these.
- July - We had a scheduled meeting, which included our annual picnic/barbeque, an iris rhizome plant swap, and a round table discussion on irises as our program.
- September – Our club had a scheduled meeting. June and John Rosini were our guest speakers and discussed "Digging and Dividing Irises, in preparation of our fall plant sale. For the second year in a row, we have continued our Guest Iris program. The irises were handed out at this meeting. Also, we had our primary rhizome sale at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond in mid September. This was a two day sale that was well attended, added several new members, as was very successful. Thank you John Rosini (who served as chairman), June Rosini, and your team of CVIS members for your gift of time, talent, and treasures. Without them it would not have been a success.
- November – This is our final meeting of the year. Our main focus is celebrating our annual Harvest Dinner and gift exchange. It will be Saturday November 21st at Stranges Greenhouse and Garden Center. If anyone is interested in attending our Harvest Dinner, please see me afterward.

This will end the two year term for me as president of CVIS, along with my board of Officers, Mike Kenrick, Wayne Bryant, Van Ferguson, and Anne Robertson, and Newsletter Editor, June Rosini. It has been rewarding and fun two years, and I have learned much. I owe our success as a club to a wonderful supporting board, committee heads, and all those who volunteered to help at each function. I am honored to have served at the president of CVIS. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted October 9, 2009
By Vicki Scheffler, CVIS President

Affiliate Reports

Charlotte Iris Society Report

A highlight for CIS members was a tour of the Elizabeth Lawrence Garden. Ms. Lawrence was an eloquent author and longtime contributor to the Charlotte Observer, and used her home garden as research for these works. After her passing, the garden and home were bought by a fellow CIS member and noted plantswoman Lindie Wilson. She recently turned the property over to the Garden Conservancy and Wing Haven Gardens to ensure its future.

May Day found CIS members among their Irises, choosing those which might be cut for the May 2 Iris Show. Ruth Holbrook and Carrie Winter chaired this beautiful and expansive display of color and charm.

On July 18, with plenty of heat and humidity and an occasional gentle breeze under the open shelter at the Charlotte Regional Farmers' Market, CIS members conducted a very profitable sale of iris rhizomes and other plants for the public. At the September 19 meeting a successful plant auction was held. The combination of our "Master Auctioneer" Pat Rogers and the large contribution of extraordinary plants made the bidding exciting and very lucrative.

The loyalty and dedication of CIS members "make it happen" and enable the organization to thrive. A new biennium approaches and new leadership has been elected to continue CIS progress.

President	Nancy Moore
Vice-President	Carrie Winter
Secretary	Robin Glover
Treasurer	Julia Hindle

June Hood, President

C & P Iris Society Report October 9, 2009

We have had a great year at the C&P Iris Society with a lovely show in May and a successful sale in July, garnering new members at both occasions. The only negative note in our year has been that we have not received our medals, ECs or Rosettes from the AIS exhibition chair despite numerous attempts to contact her both by telephone and e-mail over the past three months with messages left on all occasions. Our October 17th show may have to be cancelled due to this problem and the scarce Rebloom in our area. We will make a judgment on this issue closer to our show date. Our remaining schedule for the year is as follows:

Saturday Oct 17th Fall Reblooming Iris Show, Meadowlark Park
Vienna, VA

10-12 set-up, 12-1 judging, 1-3 open

to the public.

Saturday Nov 14th Board meeting, home of Ray and
Karen Jones, 11-3

Our new schedule for 2010 will be decided next month at our board meeting. So far our shows and sales at Meadowlark Park have been successful and enjoyable so we plan to continue holding them at that location. Our Officers for 2010-2011 are as follows:

Ginny Spoon	President
J. Griffin Crump	Vice President
Ramon Jones	Treasurer
Marilyn Naylor	Secretary
Mac Shaw	Membership

For more information contact Ginny Spoon at vspon@aol.com or 540-888-4447

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Spoon

Affiliate Reports

EASTERN NC IRIS SOCIETY REPORT OCTOBER 2009

On Saturday, July 18th our 4th Annual Iris Sale was held at an unplanned location. Two days before the 18th we learned that the site we had advertized in publicity for the sale was double booked and we were out. Fortunately, a friend arranged for us to use her aunt's unoccupied home across the road from our original sales location. We put up signs directing the public to the new location and hoped to have persistent customers. The alternate site worked well, had plenty of parking spaces, and we had a steady stream of customers most of the day. Our profit for the day was over \$1,700 and we gained three new AIS members! We had customers from Chapel Hill, Rocky Mount, Roanoke Rapids, and Greer, SC (a lady visiting her friend in Raleigh), as well as from Raleigh, Cary, and Apex.

Our next meeting will be in the home of Rosemary and Bob Pries in Roxboro on Saturday, October 19th at noon. We'll enjoy our usual Delicious pot luck lunch and Bob will present a program on Species Iris.

We hope everyone has already saved May 7 ad 8, 2010 for the Region 4 Spring Meeting at the Embassy Suite Hotel in Greensboro, NC. Headquarters in the Embassy Suites Hotel Greensboro at the intersection of I-40 West and Hwy. 68, at the rate of \$99.00 plus tax. You will have complimentary full cooked-to-order breakfast daily. Coat of Registration has yet to be determined. We'll visit Kirklee, the established garden of Dr. Roy Epperson in High point, the newer garden of Ruth and Hudson Baker near Greensboro, and the several-acre, park like garden of Wyatt LeFever near Kernersville, NC. Bring your Best Blooms from 9AM to noon on Friday, May 7th for the Regional Iris Show and Your Items for the Silent Auction and for the Live Regional Auction. One hour of Judges' Training will be offered on MTBs at the Baker Garden and one hour on Siberians at Kirklee. Y'all come!

Susan Grigg, ENCIS President.

Francis Scott Key Iris Society Report

Fall 2009

FS.K. Iris Society had a very good year. Our two shows were well received. Combining the artistic classes with the beardless show has given us more exposure with designers. A few of the garden club members joined our Society and joined us for our picnic in August. .

F.S.K. tried buying some collections of newer iris introductions from hybridizers and sold them at a price that would just cover the cost. Several \$50.00, \$35.00 and other similar priced irises were sold for \$7.00 each for tall bearded and \$5.00 for medians. Our members bought all of the irises and we look forward to hearing how they perform and hopefully seeing some of them in our shows.

Our fall meeting will be held on October 24th in Union Bridge, MD with a program on Pseudata Irises by Carol Warner.

The schedule is set for 2010 and includes two shows and two sales Our membership has

increased and we hope that many of the new ones will be active if the high attendance at the summer picnic is an accurate indication.

Carol Warner, President

2010 Budget

PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET FOR REGION 4

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Printing and Mailing Three (3) Issues of Newscast	\$4300.00
RVP Travel Expenses	600.00
Membership Committee – M. Shawe	250.00
Memorials	300.00
AIS Youth Program	100.00
Web Page	300.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	300.00
Total	\$6150.00

Submitted by:

JACK W. LOVING

October 9, 2009 TREASURER'S REPORT**TREASURER'S REPORT
A.I.S. REGION 4**

May 8, 2009 to October 9, 2009

Checking Account Balance on May 8, 2009 **\$2,414.36****Receipts:**

Spring Auction: \$592.00

Donations:

Charlotte Iris Society: \$200.00

Francis Scott Key Iris Society: \$500.00

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society: \$880.00

Interest: \$0.20

Fall Regional Meeting Registrations: \$1,640.00

Total Receipts: \$3,812.20

Expenditures:

August 2009 Newscast Printing and Mailing: \$1,064.62

WEB Site URL Name Renewal (5 years): \$46.25

RVP Expenses: \$600.00

Total Expenditures: \$1,710.87**Checking Account Balance on October 9, 2009: \$4,515.69****Certificate of Deposit (M&T Bank): \$7,171.47****Total Assets: \$11,687.16**

Carol S. Warner, Region 4 Treasurer

REGION 4 JT REPORT

REGION 4, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY JUDGES AND JUDGES TRAINING REPORT

E. Roy Epperson, Chairman

October 9, 2009

For 2010, the following changes occurred in the Roster of Region 4 Accredited Judges:

- Two removed for insufficient required training hours: June Hood, Jim Schroetter
- One advanced from G/E to M: Frances Thrash
- Four advanced from A to G/E: Karen Jones, Ray Jones, Anita Moran, John Rosini

For 2010 Region 4 will have the following Roster summary of Accredited Judges:

- 19 Garden/ Exhibition [formerly Garden]
- 6 Master
- 4 Retired [formerly Master/Retired]
- 3 Emeritus
- 1 Apprentice

Of these 33 judges, 28 are fully accredited (Garden/Exhibition, Master, Emeritua); 4 are Retired

2010 Roster of Judges, Region 4

<p><u>Garden/Exhibition</u></p> <p>Ms. Ruth Barker Ms. Pat Bowen Mr. Randell Bowen Ms. Glenna De Quoy Ms. Karen Jones Mr. Ramon (Ray) Jones Mr. Daniel Laing Ms. Kristen Laing Ms. Linda Laing Mr. Michael Locketell Ms. Anita Moran Mr. Bob Pries Ms. Marian “Bea” Rogers Mr. John Rosini Mr. Don Rude Mr. Merrick “Mac” Shaw Dr. Donald Spoon Ms. Ginny Spoon Ms. Carrie Winter</p> <p><u>Master</u></p> <p>Dr. L. Bruce Hornstein Ms. Anne Lowe Mr. Mike Lowe Ms. Frances Thrash Mr. William C. Smoot Ms. Katharine Steele</p>	<p><u>Emeritus</u></p> <p>Dr. E. Roy Epperson Mr. Clarence E. Mahan Ms. Carol Warner</p> <p><u>Apprentice</u></p> <p>Ms. Lois Rose</p> <p><u>Retired</u></p> <p>Mrs. Glenn Grigg, Jr. (Susan) Mrs. Paul D. Kabler Mrs. Nancy Karriker Mr. Dennis A Wilkie</p>
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Anita Moran
Newscast Editor
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

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