

THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

Winter/Spring 2023

Journal of the Rebloomers Iris Society

Vol. 100, Part 2



Evgenia Viasova's Professional Photography

Historic Rebloomers

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Cover: Soft Jazz, 37", Schreiners, 1982
Photo Credit: Evgenia Vlasova
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Quaker Lady

TB-Re, Farr, 1909

Farr is considered the first important American hybridizer. His first introductions were in 1909.

Photo: Don McQueen

Map of Areas and Area Directors' Names

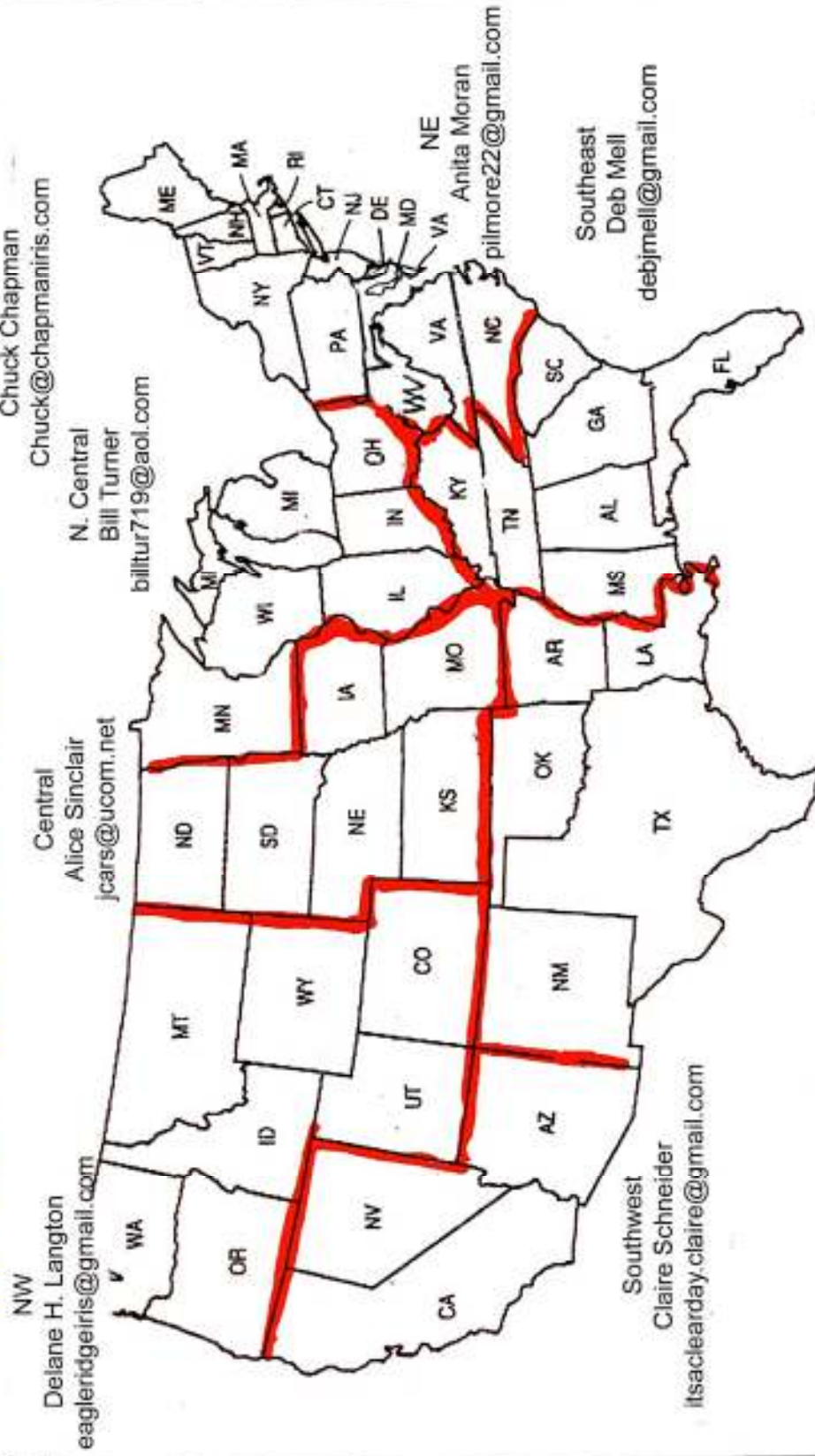


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Riley Probst received Region 14's Larry Gaulter Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the RIS Co-President.

Editor's Note:

Greetings! The Winter 2023 – Part 1, all 61 pages of mostly graphs, required so much effort and time that we needed to take a breather before focusing on Part 2.

As a member, you should have already received the Winter 2023 – Part 1 2022 Rebloom Data Report. Dave, our wonderful IT Consultant, and I had great difficulty in sending the report. Each time we proofed it, a couple of pages dropped out of the document. Dave would reinsert the missing pages, and then a couple more pages disappeared. Our being die hearts, the report was sent out as is after 3 or 4 attempts.

And about a month after its being emailed out, we found 20 pages had disappeared. Plant Zones 5 and 6. We recently resent it out. This should not happen with pdf files such as the Reporter. Much to my dismay and great frustration, I suspect someone's ghost is haunting our efforts.

Please enjoy the historic rebloomer photos, especially those featured by Evgeniya Vlasova. Many folks guided me through the field of historic rebloomers, which I knew very little about. I also researched the history of four of our early rebloom hybridizers.

Mary Platner



Autumn Leaves

34"/Keppel, 1974

Evgeniya Vlasova, Copyright 2023



Vanity, Dykes Medal 1982
36"/Hager, 1975
Photo: Evgeniya Vlasova, copyright 2023

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Editor's Note:

It is safe to say that we all love looking at beautiful photos of irises. Another iris lover strongly recommended that I check out Jenny Rainbow's photography online. Francine understated the beauty portrayed on Jenny's website, jenny-rainbow.pixels.com.

I greatly appreciate Jenny's generosity in giving permission for the RIS Reorder to include some of her photos of historic rebloomers. On another note, the many dozens of Jenny's iris photos were those of early American iris hybridizers. This would suggest sending iris varieties to Europe, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union etc. was much, much easier than today.

All of Jenny's/Evgenia's photos are copyrighted.

Jenny Rainbow (Evgenia Vlasova)

My real name is Evgenia Vlasova, but historically has come that my nick name - Jenny Rainbow. I am also known by my artistic and photographer's pseudonym became my second name. I was born in Russia, but since 2015 I am living with my husband in Czech Republic in the beautiful city of Prague.

By my graduation. I'm a Fine Art artist and my specialty was design and painting. But when digital camera's technology started its glorious way, I changed direction and now deal only with photography.

Photography is my passion, and the camera is my great faithful partner, anywhere I go. Actually my photography is kind of language I'm speaking to the world and the way to share the beauty of this planet.



Supreme Sultan
40"/Schreiners, 1988
Evgenia Vlasova, Copyright 2023

I fell in love with Irises' exquisite beauty for first time about 6 years ago when I was visiting Iris collection of Botanical Garden and Arboretum Mendel University (Brno, Czech Republic). It was a true visual impact! I was coming for photography daily during 3 days and could not get enough of huge variety of colors combinations! Lately we moved to Prague and I made the professional garden photography as my main priority. From that time I have been introduced to

the 2 big Irises collections of Prague Botanic Garden and Pruhonice Arboretum and garden (they have the biggest Iris collection in Europe, more than 3000 hybrids, including a rich collection of historical Irises)

In 2020 I won the European Garden Photography Award in worldwide Garden Photographers competition and it made me more confident in my professional field.

Nowadays in my photography preference - Garden/ Botanical photography, Fine Art, Travel photography (I did travel a lot around the world and still do it intensively in the last period) and also the animals.

I tenderly and passionately love the nature! Let's say I am creating the visual poetry about how I sense this surrounding world. Photography for me is a spiritual multilingual way to get in touch with other hearts. I will be truly happy if you will find a work which you would love to put on your walls as my heartfelt message filled with love and harmony!

I do have the website where possible to buy the prints of my photography for the wall decor and many other home decor art products - www.jenny-rainbow.pixels.com

Evgenia Vlasova



Loop the Loop

40"/Schreiner, 1975

Evgenia Vlasova, Copyright 2023



Celebration Song

37"/R. Schreiner, 1993

Premio Firenze
(Florence), 1996

Wister Medal 2000

Dykes Medal 2003

Photo Credit:
Evgeniya Vlasova,
Copyright 2023

Congratulations to the Rebloomers on the 2023 AIS Ballot

We tried to identify which rebloomers are on the 2023 American Iris Society's ballot. Each year AIS registered judges vote for the best of the best in numerous iris classification types. *We are truly sorry if we missed any. If we did, please let us know immediately so we email our members about the missing variety!*

The Dykes Medal (AIS' highest award that is given for any iris variety)

Autumn Explosion



The John C. Wister Medal (Restricted to Tall Bearded Iris, including TB rebloomers)

Berserk



Chihuahuan Desert



Molokini



Royston Rubies



The Knowlton Medal (Restricted to Border Bearded Irises)

Dark Wonder



The Hans and Jacob Sass Medal (Restricted to Intermediate Bearded Irises)

Black Comedy



The Cook-Douglas Medal (Restricted to Standard Dwarf Irises)

Blue Oasis



The Caparne-Welch Medal (Restricted to Miniature Dwarf Bearded Irises)

Black Olive



The Clarence G. White Medal (Aril irises and arilbred irises with at least 50% aril content)

Bold Awakening



The William Mohr Medal (Restricted to arilbred irises with at least 25% but less than 50% aril content)

Signal Butte



The Randolph Perry Medal [Inter-species hybrid (SPEC-X) irises]

Happy Traveler



The Payne Medal (Restricted to Japanese irises)

Red Repeater



REBLOOM 1991

Riley Probst

1991 was a significant year in the world of reblooming irises. Unfortunately, Monty Byers (1945-1991) died at age 46 that year. Monty was my contemporary as I was born in 1946. I never got to meet Monty personally, but I did correspond with him a few years back before e-mail when people utilized the postal system to correspond. I placed and received orders from him. I still remember how generous he was with extra irises. I wish I had not misplaced the Christmas card he sent me one year. It was a picture postcard of a photo of him standing in front of his fields of rebloomers on the front side and handwritten Christmas greetings on the back.



Byers, 1991
Byers, 1991



Byers, 1990
Byers, 1991



Maiden
Byers, 1988



Lilting
Byers, 1991



Zurich
Byers, 1990

Most hybridizers were older than me in 1991. So, I felt camaraderie with Monty. At the time of his death, he was one of the youngest major hybridizers. He had a major impact on reblooming irises, even though his first catalog and introductions were in 1986 and his last catalog was in 1991, only six catalogs. The name of his garden was Moonshine Gardens in Potter

Valley, CA. His catalogs had marvelous written iris descriptions. Sometimes one iris description would be several paragraphs long. Ben Hager was his mentor and Monty was Ben's protégé. Monty during his short career introduced 2 MDB's, 17 SDB's, 9 IB's, 4 BB's and 121 TB's for a total of 153 iris introductions. That was in six years, averaging over 25 per year. If he had lived until now and continued at the same pace he would have introduced an additional 775 irises.



Cantina
Byers, 1990



Tea Leaves
Byers, 1987



Passion Flower
Byers, 1988

Most of his introductions were rebloomers (RE) and/or space age (SA) irises. Unfortunately, the world will never know what we are missing.

In 1991, Monty introduced 4 SDB-RE's, 1 IB-RE, 1 BB-RE, 11 TB-RE's and 5 TB-SA's totaling 22 irises. Eight of these irises I still grow: BARN DANCE TB-RE, DASHING TB-RE, FRAPPE TB-RE, ICELAND TB-RE, LILTING TB-RE, MESMERIZER TB-RE-SA, PASSION FLOWER TB-SA, ROCK STAR TB-SA and STANZA BB-RE which is almost 37% of the year's total. This is a remarkable amount considering they are now 31 years old and are now considered historic irises.

Just today, as I was writing this article, 12-4-2022, we had MAIDEN Byers 1988 TB-RE start reblooming with several stalks and ZURICH Byers 1990 TB-RE has been reblooming since 10-14-2022 also, with several stalks. TEA LEAVES Byers 1987 TB-RE has already rebloomed here this fall. CANTINA Byers 1990 has a bud showing color. I will continue to grow Monty Byers irises for many more years. If you don't grow any Byers irises, I suggest you try some.

Monty did achieve iris fame by his creations receiving three Dykes Medals posthumously. In 1997 THORNBIRD Byers 1989, in 1998 CONJURATION Byers 1989 and in 2002 MESMERIZER Byers 1991 all received Dykes Medals. Even in 2022, THORNBIRD is 5th, CONJURATION is 13th and MESMERIZER is 25th in the current AIS TB Symposium. He also received numerous HM's and AM's for his irises. Had he lived another 30 to 40 years no telling how many more awards he would have won.

Monty Byers received 3 Dykes Medals posthumously.



Thornbird
Dykes Medal 1997
Byers, 1989



Conjuraton
Dykes Medal 1998
Byers, 1989



Mesmerizer
Dykes Medal 2002
Byers, 1991



All photos are courtesy of Riley Probst except for Conjuraton by S. Addison.

Editor's Note: I poked around here and there to find info on the initial great hybridizers of rebloomers. This nugget of info pertains to Peter Barr's Crimson King, 1893:

<http://historiciris.blogspot.com/2012/04/historic-iris-germanica-crimson-king.html>



Historic *Iris germanica* 'CRIMSON KING'

"Photo taken a couple of days ago, an historic rebloomer from the 1800's that was involved in much of the success the Sass Brothers had with their intermediate reblooming programme in the 1920's and 1930's. Now it's an iris that I can not be 100% sure that the name is correct or that the Iris should be attributed to Peter Barr, yes the above photo is the iris 'Crimson King' considered to be Peter Barr's most well known iris, but there seems to be more than just a little confusion with 'Crimson King's' nomenclature that can't be just swept aside.

There is a contentious description published in the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Bearded Irises Tried at Wisley 1925-1927 where 'Crimson King' is mentioned under the heading

'ATROPURPUREA.' I've copied references below for your consideration. It's probably a popular natural hybrid that some plantsmen squabbled over its name and breeding rights. For the time being, I will go along with the label 'Crimson King' and Peter Barr as the introducer but I think it is becoming increasingly obvious that 'all bets are off'.

"L.F Randolph in the Book 'Garden Irises' notes that 'Crimson King' has a (2n= 44) number of somatic chromosomes, indicating that this variety arose through a cross with a 40 chromosome species and a 48 chromosome species making it a hybrid in the informal classification of early flowering irises commonly referred to today as 'The germanicas.'"

(Peter Barr, 1825-1909, was a famous British hybridizer of irises, daffodils, primroses, and other flowers. Barr imported many beautiful French irises which he introduced to the British public and later to America. He traveled the world looking for rare plants.)

Photo Credit:





Belvi Queen
43"/C. Jensen, 1988
Photo: M. Platner



Crackling Burgundy
35"/Schreiners, 1981
Photo: ?



Ginger Swirl
34"/Schreiner, 1985
Photo: ?



Thrice Blessed
10"/Weiler, 1982
Photo: H. Haley



City Lights
37"/Dunn, 1991
Photo: Brad Evans

And at the beginning of American hybridizing. . .

Bertrand Farr (1863-1924)

Born in Vermont in 1863, Bertrand Farr and his parents moved to Wisconsin before relocating to Webster City, Iowa. After graduating from high school, Farr's life took numerous twists and turns from studying in a seminary where he graduated at the age of 17, teaching, attending the New England Conservatory in Boston, and later opening a music store in Webster City.

Bertrand decided to return to Boston to pursue his love of music but ended up being a traveling salesman for a Philadelphia music company. Next, Farr established a piano tuning business and a store that sold various musical instruments in Reading, PA.

Ultimately Farr and his newly married wife moved to Wyomissing in 1906 and started his nursery business, selling a great variety of flowering plants. His specialties were irises and peonies, his becoming the President of the American Peony Society for 8 years.

Farr's first introduced irises in 1909. Among these was Quaker Lady, a TB-Re. Farr considered Quaker Lady his best iris.

An article in the Historic Iris Preservation Society's publication included Farr's obituary in the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden 1924. It stated, "Mr. Farr had the distinction of being the first important iris hybridizer in the United States."



Quaker Lady
27-30 inches/Farr, 1909

For additional information, please visit:

Historiciris.org/hips-library/notable-irisarians-bertrand-farr/

wiki.irises.org/Hist/Info1924NYBotBertrandFarr

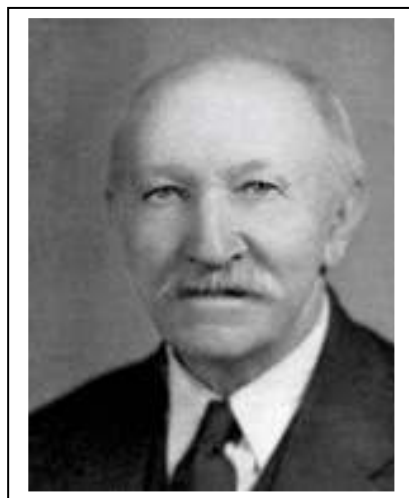
Photo Credit: Jeff Rosen

Copied from "The Hans and Jacob Sass Medal" history by Clarence Mahan in the American Iris Society's Iris Encyclopedia, wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoMedalSass.

The Hans and Jacob Sass Medal

"This medal is restricted to intermediate bearded (IB) irises. It is named in honor of Hans Sass (1868-1949) and Jacob Sass (1872-1945).

"Hans and Jacob Sass were born in Alt Duvenstedt, Germany and immigrated to the United States with their parents in 1884. They settled on a farm in Nebraska, and were interested in breeding garden flowers at an early age. They bred irises, peonies, daylilies, lilacs, gladiolus, lilies and other garden plants. When they became charter members of the AIS, they had been breeding irises for more than a decade. Their irises were famous for being strong growers because they used 'Amas' and 'I. trojana' as tetraploid stud irises instead of the tender 'I. mesopotamica' and 'I. cypriana'.



The two brothers were very close and shared ideas on hybridizing as well as seedling pollen. When someone complimented Jacob on one of his seedlings, he would say: "Wait until you see what Hans has!" If you praised one of Hans's seedlings, he would say: "Wait until you see what Jake has!" They each introduced scores of irises, and what irises! Two of Hans Sass's irises won the Dykes Medal: 'Rameses' in 1932, and 'Prairie Sunset' in 1943. Likewise, two of Jacob Sass's irises won the Dykes Medal: 'The Red Douglas' in 1941, and 'Ola Kala' in 1948. Hans was the first to introduce true reblooming cultivars, the tall bearded 'Autumn King' and the intermediate bearded 'Autumn Queen', in 1926.

Both of the Sass brothers bred all types of irises that would grow in Nebraska, but their early fame as hybridizers came for their work producing intermediate bearded irises. Crossing dwarf irises with tall bearded irises, they were the first American breeders to develop many new colors and forms in the intermediate class. They saw the great advantage of intermediate bearded irises on the windy prairie, and the value of a type of iris that filled out the bloom season between the early dwarf irises and the later tall bearded irises.



Prairie Sunset
Dykes Medal 1943
TB-Re/H. P. Sass, 1940

The Sass brothers were two of the world's greatest plant breeders. Their irises won many awards and are to be found in our gardens. A number of their peony introductions are still considered outstanding cultivars, including Jacob's 'Nebraska' and Hans's 'Elsa Sass', 'Hans P. Sass', and 'Sea Shell'.

Photo Credit: Nancy McDonald
From the American Iris Society's Blogspot.com, Aug. 15, 2019

**The American Iris Society
Announces the
2018 Hans and Jacob Sass Medal Winner
'Leave the Light On'
Riley Probst**

This medal is restricted to intermediate bearded (IB) irises. It is named in honor of Hans Sass (1868-1949) and Jacob Sass (1872-1945). Both of the Sass brothers bred all types of irises that would grow in Nebraska, but their early fame as hybridizers came for their work producing intermediate bearded irises. Crossing dwarf irises with tall bearded irises, they were the first American breeders to develop many new colors and forms in the intermediate class. They saw the great advantage of intermediate bearded irises on the windy prairie, and the value of a type of iris that filled out the bloom season between the early dwarf irises and the later tall bearded irises.

Leave the Light On is on the Dykes Award Ballot.



Photo: Hugh Stout

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Actress
35"/Keppel, 1976



Autumn Elf
IB-Re/G. P. Brown, 1935



Autumn Rosycheeks
32"/L. Austin, 1963



Avalon Bay
36"/Hammer, 1974



Bang
38"/T. Craig, 1955



Belvi Queen
43"/C. Jensen, 1976



Earl of Essex
35"/Zurbrigg, 1980



Eternal Bliss
35"/M. Byers, 1988




Fall Sunshine
35"/L. Austin, 1961



Leprechaun's Delight, 12", Weller, 1987 Photo: D. Langton



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Venus, TX 76084-3312, Plant Zone 8

Here in north central Texas the summer heat started early in May and didn't let up until Late October. We had some rain, mostly heavy rain for a short period, and then dry again for a long stretch. But the combination of high temperatures and moisture wasn't a good thing.

I belong to three iris societies: Lonestar Iris Society, Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society, and the Fort Worth Iris Society. Many gardeners in these three iris societies mentioned their dealing with soft or rotting rhizomes. I was lucky that this was not something that I had to deal with.

Usually, my rebloomers start sending up bud stalks in late September, but I didn't have any until almost the end of October. I was getting worried there for a minute! I had 19 budstalks: Fall Décor, Autumn Circus, My Friend Jonathan, Autumn Nectar, Rosalie Figge, Golden Road, Autumn Wine, Summer Waltz, Doubleday, Juicy Fruit, Fall Empire, Blatant, September Frost, Renewal, Bolder Boulder, Amp It Up, Golden Immortal, and Plum Pretty Whiskers.

The week before Christmas was very cold for our area. The cold settled in with nights in the low teens and a few days below or at freezing temperatures, definitely not good for my rebloomers.

I had to cut 12 stalks and bring them inside. Most bloomed, but sadly, a few did not. Luckily, I covered all the flowers and did not lose any.



Mountain Blues
38"/Schreiners, 1964

Central Area Director: Alice Sinclair

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, N. Dakota, S. Dakota

Greetings from the Central section of RIS! I hesitated to share any report, but there are some Irisarians that actually did have fall blooms! I did not. Thank you to those who submitted their reports on their successes!

It continues to be hot and dry in Kansas, especially here in the SW corner. Rain clouds, if any, have chosen to bless other areas of the state, but in comparison to their normal precipitation, they are also having a shortage of moisture. Many 100+ degree temperatures this summer and fall baked the soil, even with watering the irises. It has felt like living in the desert with plants that aren't designed for it. We remain in an Extreme Drought in Western Kansas. Even the reliable Cantina failed to send up any bloom stalks. Many of my reblooming irises are in a bed that needed to be redone and soil amended, and I hope they will show off next fall.

On January 21, some of us were blessed with 6" to 7" of snow that mostly remained where it fell. The west counties along the border of Kansas and Oklahoma were deprived of any of that snow. Three days later, the fickle weather tried to make up for the omission of that area, but only with a trace to 2 inches predicted. From experience, winter precipitation serves as a big boost for the iris plants, so the snow is greatly appreciated.

Hopefully, many of you had irises that "Did Their Thing" last fall.



Color Splash
37"/Schreiner, 1980



Brown Duet
34"/R. Smith, 1971



Baby Blessed
37"/Schreiner, 1980



Autumn Circus
34"/Hager, 1990

Photo Credits: Color Splash: ? Brown Duet: M. Hess Baby Blessed – R. Probst Autumn Circus – Brad Evans



Cute Stuff
12"/Boswell, 1985
Photo: D. Langton



Clarence
Wister Medal 2000
35"/Zurbrigg, 1991
Photo:



Fall Festival
26"/R. Smith, 1966
Photo: G. Spoon



Cimarron Rose
14"/Nichols, 1968
Photo: D. Langton

Sontheast Area Director

Deb Mell, Puryear, TN (Zone 7a)

(Editor: I know this is very belated for the newsletter.)

My summer/early fall rebloomers in 2022 were: Blue Suede Shoes, which started blooming August 28 and bloomed until frozen out on November 12. It is listed as a zone 6 rebloomer; Golden Immortal, which started blooming June 17 and went until the end of September. It is a zone 4 rebloomer; Oxmoor Hills, which started blooming on July 2 and went until August 22, then rebloomed again late October until the November 12 freeze. It is a zone 5 rebloomer; Raspberry Frost started reblooming July 22 and continued until the November 12 freeze. It is a zone 4 rebloomer.

Three others that started rebloom October 10 and went until the freeze are: Autumn Breeze, a zone 8 rebloomer, Mountain Sunrise, a zone 6 rebloomer, and Orange Juice, a zone 7 rebloomer. These all had enough bloom time to put on a nice show in the garden. There were others that tried putting up stalks after that first hard freeze, but we kept getting freeze after freeze so none made it except Zee, which was in a pot so I took it inside to bloom.

Photo Credits:

Birdbath – Delane H. Langton

Cherry Supreme – G. Spoon

Marine Wave – S. Addison



Birdbath

BB-26"/Byers, 1989



Cherry Supreme

IB-24"/Zurbrigg, 1977



Marine Wave

IB/R. Schreiner, R. 1942



Foxy Lady
36"/J. Nelson, 1988



Glorious Two Timer
34"/Austin, 1964



Halloween Pumpkin
34"/Kerr, 1986



Hell's Fire
36"/S. Roberts, 1976



I Do
32"/Zurbrigg, 1974



Illini Repeater
34"/Varner, 1972



Jennifer Rebecca
35"/ Zurbrigg, 1985



Joseph's Mantle
TB-Re/T. Craigs, 1948



Limelight
36"/D. Hall, 1952

The Origins of Remontancy

Clarence Mahan

What is the origin of remontancy in modern reblooming irises? If we knew the answer to this question we could use the knowledge to plan our hybridizing efforts to better effect. When I undertook to find an answer, I was surprised to learn how limited past research efforts have been. Instead of finding much speculation, positing of hypotheses, and arguments pro and con for alternative views, I found a few brief comments and speculations. The major work on the issue remains Edwin Rundlett's article "Whence the Remontants" in the March 1971 *Reblooming Iris Reporter*.

The facts presented in "Whence the Remontants" are sound. One of Rundlett's contributions to increased light on the subject was the development of a pedigree chart for G. Percy Brown's *Autumn Twilight*. From this pedigree and other research facts, he hesitatingly hinted that *I. variegata* might be a source of remontancy.

Another possible origin of remontancy mentioned in Rundlett's article is the true *I. pumila*. *Twice Blessed* (Dennis, 1966) derived from a cross of *Clear Sailing* X *Schacht* true *pumila*, *Brighteyes* (Darby, 1958) came from Welch H503 (a true *pumila*) X *Missouri Night*. Hans Peter Sass's use of the 40-chromosome *I. chamaeiris* (now designated *I. lutescens*) to get a race of remontant but sterile intermediate irises is also mentioned by Rundlett.

In an article in *The Garden* in 1918, W. R. Dykes described a number of irises which bloomed for him in the autumn. He wrote: "In any large collection of irises it frequently happens that here and there an odd flower spike appears in August or September. This year I have already seen flowers of the Balkan *I. reichenbachii* and of the wild form of *I. variegata*, and I remember once having a number of spikes of *Gracchus*, a garden *variegata*, late in September." The remainder of the Dykes article concerns two irises that dependably rebloomed in his garden.



I. APHYLLA PLATE 21 *HANDBOOK OF GARDEN IRISES*

One of the irises Dykes cited as reblooming every year was a form of *I. aphylla* that came from Hungary. He described this iris as "remarkable for the vivid dark-purple coloration of the base of the leaves and also of the whole of the inflorescence when this first appears among the leaves." The iris was "much branched" and of a deep purple color with a bluish beard.

The second iris that Dykes described as being a regular rebloomer in his garden was a hybrid of a purple "*chamaeiris*" and *I. trojana*. This iris was 20 to 24 inches tall, with two lateral branches "arranged as in typical *I. germanica*." It bore four or five flowers of dark bluish purple.

In *The Genus Iris*, Dykes described *I. subbiflora* and explained that this iris was first observed by Clusius in Portugal about 1565, and subsequently referred to as *Iris lusitanica seu biflora*. Clusius gave it this name because he discovered it blooming in November, and observed that it regularly bloomed in both spring and autumn. An error in the *Hortus Eystettensis* led Linnaeus to confuse this iris with *I. aphylla*, leading to much subsequent confusion among students of the genus *Iris*.

Also in *The Genus Iris*, in describing *I. lurida*, Dykes wrote: "It has the additional advantage of sometimes flowering a second time in autumn,

which is a further argument in support of the theory of its hybrid origin. In cultivating a large collection of Irises, it will be found that hybrids are much more apt to flower a second time in the autumn than are species." On the subject of *I. lurida*, Dykes also observed: "The colour and shape of the falls seem to point to *I. variegata* as one of the parents and the theory of its hybrid origin is supported by the fact that it appears to be sterile. The only difficulty is that it flowers early, about a month before *I. variegata*." If one of the parents of *I. lurida* were a dwarf species, the early flowering habit would be what one would expect.

As a source of remontancy in modern bearded irises, *I. lutescens* (syn. *I. chamaeris*) is not a likely candidate. The Sass sterile intermediates, such as *Southland* and *Eleanor Roosevelt*, are



LUTESCENS (*I. CHAMAERIS*) GARDEN IRISES
PHOTO BY L. F. RANDOLPH

grown in collections of antique irises; but this route to remontancy in modern irises was, as Rundlett pointed out, a blind alley. The prolific, reblooming *Lieutenant de Chavagnac* (André, 1926) and *Jean Siret* (André, 1926) are most probably hybrids of *I. lutescens*. Although they have been widely grown in gardens ever since their introduction, they do not appear to have played a role in modern rebloomer development.

The difficulties one faces in keeping *I. subbiflora*

alive and happy in wet cold winter climates was well documented by Dykes. It is not likely that this species has contributed to remontancy in modern bearded irises. I do not know of any authority who has suggested it as a remnant progenitor.

Is it likely that *I. reichenbachii* has contributed to rebloom in modern irises? Paul Cook's use of a species presumed to be *I. reichenbachii* to create Progenitor is well known. The research of Walter Welch provides a rather convincing case that the Progenitor ancestor was actually a form of *I. mellita*. In cold weather areas, at least, Progenitor descendants are not noted for a proclivity to rebloom. There are, however, some modern reblooming irises, such as *Violet Miracle* and *Earl of Essex*, which have some Progenitor heritage.

The possibility that *I. mellita* might have some remnant breeding potential is suggested by the fact that Dykes at one time grew a clone of *I. rubromarginata*, a form of *I. mellita*, which flowered for him quite regularly in September and October. He reported this in an article in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* in November 1910. Interestingly, he does not mention this iris in his 1918 article on autumn blooming irises. One might suspect that the "reblooming" clone either stopped blooming in the fall or that it disappeared altogether from his garden. Many of us who have undertaken growing *I. mellita* would suspect the latter, for this is not an easy iris to keep content.

I have found no convincing evidence to support a case for either *I. reichenbachii* or *I. mellita* being sources of remontancy in modern irises.

How about *I. aphylla*? Has this species brought remontancy to modern eupogons? This species is in the background of some tall bearded remnantants.

In 1972, Bee Warburton wrote an article for the *Medianite* entitled "Is Iris Aphylla Remnant?" and concluded: "It is much more natural that the southern European plants, which have a natural summer dormancy and are winter evergreen, should bloom for a second time in late fall, than that a northern plant, which becomes dormant quite early in fall should make haste to

put up some belated stalks before it goes to sleep for the long, cold winter. Too be sure, just enough reports of such behavior come in to leave an open question, but on the other hand, there is no guarantee that such reports are not due merely to belated first flowering of plants that failed to show in their usual spring season. But then, there is the example of *I. Balkana* [generally considered a form of *I. reichenbachii*], which is also a deciduous species and doesn't ordinarily rebloom; but the Darby form nearly kills itself every fall with excessive second flowering. It certainly is possible that an occasional clone of *I. aphylla* might do this, too. Does anybody know of one? Apparently no one has ever responded positively to this question.

As to the *I. aphylla* clone that rebloomed for Dykes, I can find no subsequent mention of it in iris literature. On the same basis that Dykes speculated that *I. lurida* is of hybrid origin, i.e. that it rebloomed at times, one might suspect that Dyke's reblooming *aphylla* was in fact a hybrid too. The hypothesis that *I. aphylla* has been a source of remontancy in modern irises does not seem to have factual support.

The idea that *I. trojana* might be important in the development of reblooming irises was first suggested to me by the extraordinary branching of many tall bearded irises that rebloom in areas with cold winters. This branching is often even more pronounced in the autumn inflorescence than in the spring. The branching habit also suggests *I. variegata* and *I. aphylla* as ancestors. Although some rebloomers have an *I. aphylla* heritage, most do not. But many modern tall bearded irises have *I. variegata* in their background. Branching alone would, therefore, be insufficient evidence to make a case for *I. trojana* as a remontancy source.

When I discovered that **Morning Splendor** (Schull, '23) was an

occasional rebloomer in warmer climate areas, the case for *I. trojana* as a source of remontancy seemed a distinct possibility. **Morning Splendor** came from a cross of *I. trojana* X **Lent A. Williamson**, and is in the genetic makeup of many modern rebloomers. One fact that did not immediately impress me, but which may be of even more significance in the search for remontant origin, is that **Morning Splendor** was an exceptionally wide cross. The pod parent of **Lent A. Williamson** was **Amas** (*I. macrantha*). **Lent A. Williamson** and **Morning Splendor** were two of the first modern garden tetraploids to gain popularity in this country.

Research into the backgrounds of modern tall bearded remontant irises which effectively perform in cold winter areas reveals that certain ancestors appear more than any others. Perhaps the four most prominent of these remontant "studs" are **Autumn King**, **Autumn Elf**, **Autumn Sunset**, and **Gibson Girl**. Records on the early Sass irises, including **Autumn King**, are incomplete and not dependable. But the cross that produced **Autumn King** is believed to be **Amas** X a blue tetraploid seedling with perhaps **Honorable** and **Mme Chereau** in its background. The source of tetraploidy in the pollen parent was most probably **Amas** or *I. trojana*.

Autumn Elf resulted from a cross of **Gertrude** X **Gracchus**. **Gracchus**, which dates from 1884, has the distinction, which it shares with **Honorable**, of having survived the infamous AIS blacklist of the 1920's. It is a hybrid of *I. variegata* and some other iris. It does not evidence *I. pallida* characteristics, but its open standards and short height might suggest a dwarf parent. Both **Autumn Sunset** and **Gibson Girl** have backgrounds involving *I. trojana* and *I. variegata*.

Sometimes omission is as important as inclusion in gaining understanding. When one examines modern



I. TROJANA THE GENUS *IRIS*

PLATE 37

remontants that perform in colder areas, what one does not find is much of a heritage from *I. cypriana* or *I. mesopotamica*, whose huge flowers and dislike of England and the eastern and northern U.S. as growing environments so frustrated early iris hybridizers in those areas.

Anyone who gardens on the East Coast who has tried to grow certain warm weather rebloomers such as **Red Polish** or **Jaunty Texan**, irises with *I. mesopotamica*, in their backgrounds, can attest to what Dykes said about the tender Middle Eastern species: "...they suffer by reason of their habit of beginning to grow in the autumn, only to have the growths battered and broken, if not destroyed, by rough weather in the winter. The plants are then too feeble to flower in spring."

Jaunty Texan was growing in my garden for 4 years before I saw a bloom, but it tried to bloom in the fall every year. It never succeeded in blooming in the spring. It was exhausted from the beating it received every December. When one goes back to the pedigree charts for the warm weather rebloomers, one usually finds a strong inheritance from *I. mesopotamica*. Most of the irises reputed to be strong warm weather area rebloomers are fairly vigorous growers in Virginia, which is not the case of many "once bloomers" from a *mesopotamica* or a true *cypriana* lineage. (An iris that was frequently grown in England and the U.S. and called *I. cypriana* was actually *I. trojana*, resulting in a confusion of these two species. *I. trojana* thrives in the English type climate and soil; *I. cypriana* does not.)

Baby Blessed (Zurbrigg, 1979) is the most dependable reblooming iris I grow. It seems to produce dependable rebloom in all except the harshest climates, and even produces bloom stalks in the far north from time to time. Its pod parent, **Baby Snowflake**, comes from **Blue Sapphire** X **Welch H503**, a form of *I. pumila*. It certainly would be difficult to believe that the **Snow Flurry** and **Chivalry** genes of **Blue Sapphire** could provide a source of remontancy. Did the occasional remontancy of **Baby Snowflake** come from the *pumila*?

The pollen parent of **Baby Blessed** is **Twice Blessed**, which as Rundlett pointed out is

derived from **Clear Sailing** X **Schecht** true *pumila*. **Clear Sailing** is not a remontant, but it does derive a strong heritage from *I. trojana* and *I. variegata* from such ancestors as **Tiffany**, **Rameses** and **King Tut**, named cultivars that often appear in the pedigrees of remontants and remontant parents. Is the *Schecht pumila* the source of **Twice Blessed's** remontancy? Unless the *pumila* is itself a remontant, or unless it is assumed that a mutation is involved, it is difficult to answer positively.

Both **Twice Blessed** and **Baby Snowflake** are



PUMILA THE GENUS IRIS W. R. DYKES

occasional rebloomers in cold climate areas. They cannot be depended upon to rebloom every year. Both are first generation offspring of very wide crosses involving tall bearded irises with *I. pumila*. **Baby Blessed** has rebloomed every summer and autumn in northern Virginia, and done so with abandon even when the weather made it "a bad year for rebloomers." It is a second generation product of two very wide crosses.

Based on the foregoing facts, there appears to be four "strains of remontancy" in our garden eupogon irises. First, there are the remontant intermediate irises resulting from various tall bearded irises crossed with *I. lutescens*. It has been known that *I. lutescens* is not a homogeneous form, but rather is a differentiated hybrid with two pairs of apparently unrelated kinds of chromosomes. The offspring of crosses involving

tall bearded irises with this dwarf amphidiploid are sterile. If we classify remountants by origin, these irises comprise the lutescens strain.

The second strain of modern remountant irises are what we have come to call, in common parlance, cold climate tall bearded rebloomers. These irises are all hybrids. *I. variegata*, *I. trojana* and *Amas* are common ancestors of these irises. Tetraploidy in these irises came through *I. trojana* and *Amas*. This group of remountants may be referred to as the variegata-trojana strain.

The third fairly distinct type of reblooming iris is the warm climate rebloomer. These irises usually have a strong legacy from *I. mesopotamica* or *I. cypriana*, as well as from *I. variegata*. In areas of mild and dry winters, they are fairly reliable rebloomers. Only rarely do these irises rebloom in climates such as the East Coast of the U.S. or England. These irises constitute the mesopotamica strain. A number of hybridizers have worked to combine this type with the variegata-trojana type rebloomer to get improved flower size, form and color; but the resultant progeny have usually not shown strong remountant tendencies. One of the best cultivars of this "mixed" type is *Earl of Essex*.

A fourth strain of rebloomers involving tall bearded hybrids crossed with *I. pumila* has emerged in the last few years. *Baby Blessed*, *Third Charm*, and *Little Bishop* are examples of this type of iris. So are the older *Little Blackfoot* and *Baby Snowflake*. We might call these irises the pumila strain.

The intermediate iris *I Bless* (*I Do X Baby Blessed*) is an example of an iris that combines the genes of the variegata-trojana strain with the pumila strain. If, as I suspect, this type of iris offers outstanding potential for improved remountant irises that rebloom in various types of climates, we will be seeing more and more representatives of this group.

Probably all modern reblooming irises, including our modern remountant dwarfs, have some heritage from *I. variegata*. Most have some heritage from *I. trojana*, but this heritage is least in the warm climate rebloomers. In one strain of rebloomers, remountancy did not appear until *I. pumila* influence was introduced. In another strain of irises, *I. mesopotamica* figures prominently as a forebear; and this strain, while normally vigorous in nearly all parts of the U.S., does not rebloom often in cold climate areas.

For years I was amazed that Rundlett concluded "Whence the Remountants" with the assertion that remountancy is not caused by genetic factors but rather by "special climatic influences." Climate is an important factor influencing rebloom;

but to deny the probability of genetic causes on this basis seemed to me to be an extreme conclusion. Based on the facts at hand I would not rule out a genetic origin for remountancy. However, as Rundlett undoubtedly believed, there may be no specific gene for remountancy.

A hint as to what causes remountancy is very likely to be found in the observation of Dykes: "...hybrids are more apt to flower a second time in autumn than are species." All who have experience growing reblooming irises know that they are as a group, the most vigorous eupogons. To accept the importance of hybrid vigor, or heterosis if you prefer the scientific term, as a major cause of remountancy, does not require a denial of the role played by genetics. The genes of *I. variegata*, *I. trojana*, *I. pumila*, and *I. mesopotamica*, when merged in different combinations, create something new and wonderful. But this product is "greater than the sum of its parts" because of heterosis. When very strongly expressed, the result may be an iris that reblooms under favorable climatic conditions.



I. VARIEGATA IRIS FRITZ KOHLEN



September Buttercup

25"/Brown, 1962

Photo: G. Spoon



Lilting

34"/M. Byers, 1991

Photo: D. Langton



Autumn Explosion

34"/Hager, 1990

Photo: D. Fetner



Coronation Anthem

Morgan-Wood Medal 1997

Siberian-Re/Hollingworth, 1990

Photo: Hollingworth

Mike Sutton

Sutton's Iris Garden
Meridan, ID
Plant Zones 6b, 7a

June 2022

Blueberry Tart
Bolder Boulder
Coastal Blues
Double Shot
Revitalize

July 2022

Adventurous3
Again And Again
Autumn Circus
Bibbidi Bobbidi Blue
Blatant
Blueberry Tart
Bold Move
Bolder Boulder
Coastal Blues
Color Shift
Cordoban Leather
Double Shot
Dual Function
Faithful
Flirtini
Glitzy
Golden Immortal

Hawaiian Sunrise

Iron Eagle

Mammoth Orange

Mulligan

Raspberry Frost

Snow Day

Summer Waltz

August 2022

Adventurous3
Again And Again
Autumn Breeze
Autumn Circus
Autumn Rain
Autumn Ring
Berry Ripple
Bibbidi Bobbidi Blue
Blatant
Blueberry Tart
Bold Move
Bolder Boulder
Coastal Blues
Cordoban Leather
Double Shot
Doubleday
Dual Function
Dueling Bands
Edged Out

Faithful
Fall Empire
Fall Line
Flirtini
Focused Energy
Golden Immortal
Hawaiian Sunrise
Huckleberry Pie
Innocent Star
Iron Eagle
Mammoth Orange
Molokini
Mountain Sunrise
Mulligan
Next In Line
Ocean's Edge
Open Ocean
Pastel Point
Pumpkin Cheesecake
Recharge
Revitalize
Ruby Fusion
Snow Day
Spot On
Struck Twice
Summer Waltz
Tahitian Treat

September 2022

Adventurous3
Again And Again
Autumn Breeze
Autumn Circus
Autumn Rain
Autumn Ring
Autumn Thunder
Autumn Tryst
Bibbidi Bobbidi Blue
Blatant
Blueberry Tart
Bold Move
Bolder Boulder
Coastal Blues
Cordoban Leather
Debutante's Lace
Definition
Double Exposure
Double Shot
Doubleday
Dual Function
Edged Out
Faithful
Fall Empire
Fall Line
Flirtini
Focused Energy

Golden Immortal
Hawaiian Sunrise
Huckleberry Pie
Innocent Star
Interstellar
Iron Eagle
Mauve Mistress
Molokini
Mountain Sunrise
Mulligan
Next In Line
Ocean's Edge
Open Ocean
Pastel Point
Pumpkin Cheesecake
Recharge
Revitalize
Ruby Fusion
Snow Day
Spot On
Struck Twice
Summer Waltz
Tahitian Treat
Viking Lore
Yonkers
Yosemite Star



Zurich

34"/M. Byers, 1990

Photo D. Langton

Robin Shadlow's (Salem, OR – Plant Zone 8b) 2022 Rebloom Data

It has been hotter and dryer in the summers and my methods of replanting every year do not help. Here's what rebloomed in 2022.

As Beauty Does

Aunt Mary

Blueberry Tart

Cold Hands Warm Heart

Double Shot

Echo of Spring

Inner Space

Patty Ann

Repetition

Rosalie Figge

Violet Moon



Eleanor Roosevelt

IB/H. P. Sass, 1937

Photo: G. Spoon

Linda Mann's 2022 Rebloom Report

Kingston, TN

Plant Zone 7a

1	2022 REBLOOM	HYB	YEAR	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV*
2			REG.	E M L	E M L	E M L	E M L	E M L	E M L
3	COCONUT RUFFLES RETURN	MANN	2016						
4	I DO	ZURBRIGG	1973	(Linda noted that Remembering Lloyd was the only rebloomer she watered during the summer. It was obviously the only one that rebloomed.)					
5	NORTHWARD HO	ZURBRIGG	1990						
6	NOVEMBER SUN	MANN	2021						
7	OXMOOR HILLS	ENNENGA	2003						
8	REMEMBERING LLOYD	MANN	2018			X	X	X	X
9	RENOWN	ZURBRIGG	1992						
10	RETURNING CHAMELEON	WILKERSON	1995						
11	SUMMER HONEY	WILKERSON	2012						
12	SUGAR BLUES	ZURBRIGG	1984						
13	UNBELIEVABLE LOVE	GRISE						b	
14									
15	Sdlg. 17-skit10THT5-2re yellow	MANN	2022						
16	Sdlg. 17-skitDrN3-1re yellow	MANN	2022						
17	Sdlg. 19-cocoskityAC-1 re	MANN						b	
18									
19	*freeze,								
20	b = in bud								

Please note that Janis' Jan.-June data should have been in the 2022 Rablcom Report.

Plant Zone 10

Jan. - June

Rablcom in warm, very warm climates tends to occur from late Oct. into Jan. and Feb.																	
El Cajon is located 17 miles east of San Diego and is in a microclimate with extremes in temperatures.																	
Janis Shardsford		El Cajon		CA			92021										
Plant Zone 10a		E (the 1-10 of the month) / SE (the 11-20) / L (the 21-31 of the month)															
page: _____ Year: 2023		HTG		YEAR		JAN		FEB		March		APR		MAY		JUNE	
All TEs unless otherwise noted.						E M L		E M L		E M L		E M L		E M L		E M L	
1	Lady Jean	T. Burns	1997														
2	Gettysburg Sunset	J. Roberts	2013														
3	Cold Creek	M. Sutton	2011														
4	Broke Again	W. Tyson	2012														
5	Winesap	M. Byers	1989														
6	Gene Machine	T. Burseen	1993														
7	Hawaiian Sunrise	M. Sutton	2013														
8	Cobra's Eye	D. Spoon	2000														
9	See My Etchings. BB	K. Vaughn	2013														
10	Crimson King	R. Barr	1893														
11	Harvest Butterfly	F. Kerr	2001														
12	Harvest Butterfly	F. Kerr	2001														
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100	Harvest Butterfly	F. Kerr	2001														

Reblooming Iris Society

Financial Statements

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Balance Sheet

Cash	
Checking	5,642.55
Savings	-
Total Assets	<u>5,642.55</u>

Funds	
Beginning	4,843.54
Change	799.01
Total	<u>5,642.55</u>

Income Statement

Sources	
Memberships	2,356.00
Programs / CDs	109.00
Checklists - Flash	540.00
Checklists - Paper	1,030.00
Recorder Issues	28.00
Advertising	120.00
Plant Sales	60.00
Donations:	
General Donation	800.00
Other Income	-
Total Sources	<u>5,043.00</u>

Uses	
Copies - Recorder	988.16
Shipping - Recorder	134.08
Checklist	2,111.00
ITJ	-
Supplies	316.50
Postage	586.48
Web Site	-
Bank Fees	51.41
Square and Pay Pal Fees	56.36
Other	-
Total Uses	<u>4,243.99</u>

Net Change	<u>799.01</u>
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Donations for 2022:	
Iris Growers Of Eastern Indiana	700.00
Lurene Foreman	100.00
	<u>800.00</u>

Jesse's Song	17	Williamson	1983
Jewel Tone	7, 12	Schreiners	1966
Joseph's Mantle	14	T. Craig	1948
Latin Lover	12	Shoop	1969
Lemon Pop - IB	9	Lauer	1990
Licorice Stick	9	Schreiners	1961
Lime Fizz	11	Schreiners	1968
Little Much	12	Ghio	1985
Little Snow Lemon - I	9	Gaddie	1984
Loop the Loop	6	Schreiners	1975
Olympaid	5	Ghio	1984
Olympic Challenge	8	Schreiners	1985
Palm Springs - IB	4	Byers	1990
Palomino	12	Gatty	1952
Pass the Wine	3	Blyth	1985
Patina	5, 7	Keppel	1978
Pink Taffeta	13	Rudolph	1968
Priceless Pearl	4, 7	Schreiners	1972
Quaker Lady	13	Farr	1909
Rancho Rose	16, 17	Gibson	1975
Raspberry Ribbon	12	Schreiners	1951
Rosette Wine	15	Schreiners	1989
Shipshape	3	Babson	1969
Sky Hooks 1	2, 3, 4, 5	Osborne	1980

Stellar Lights	3	Aitken	1986
Sunny Dawn - IB	9	B. Jones	1989
Sunset Sky	7, 12	Roe	1969
Sunshine Boy - IB	9	Fostert	1986
Supreme Sultan	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 15	Schreiners	1988
Sweet Musette	8, 15	Schreiners	1986
Temple Gold	3, 5	Luihn	1977
Tiffany	14	Sassy	1938
Tiger Honey	14	Kasperek	1993
Vamp - IB	8, 10	Gatty	1972
Vanity	13	Hager	1975
Vitafire	8, 13	Schreiners	1968
Wild Ginger	6, 7	Gibson	1965



2022 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises

Why should you buy a copy?

It has been 10 years since the last edition. The 2022 publication includes entries for over 4200 varieties of rebloomers in 360 pages. Lots and lots of info.

The Checklist is “the” source to provide you with information as to whether a variety is a rebloomer.

Why is the Checklist “the” source?

First, many rebloomers are not listed as such in their registration info. This is especially true for more recent introductions.

Second, some commercial iris growers deliberately do not list varieties as rebloomers. This is because some customers, especially those in colder climates, mistakenly think a variety is a rebloomer in their plant zone. Most rebloomers in these cold zones get frozen out before they have a chance to rebloom.

But please note, though, there are rebloomers for cold climates, including those in the top tier of states that border Canada.

Third, some commercial growers do not grow varieties long enough before selling them to determine whether a variety reblooms and then reblooms in subsequent years. Is it a reliable rebloomer?

And finally, most growers do not test for rebloom in other plant zones before marketing these varieties. So how would you know if a variety should rebloom in your plant zone? This book frequently gives plant zone and/or state info where the rebloomer actually reblooms. This information usually comes from our many recorders who report bloom data from across this Society's Recorder.

Before you purchase irises, buy the Checklist to know if a variety is a rebloomer and if it is a rebloomer in your plant zone.

To order your Checklist, go to:

The American Iris Society's Storefront,

<https://www.irises.org/aismembers/ais-storefront/>

The Reblooming Iris Society's website: rebloomingiris.com

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