



The Newscast

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Iris Hills Farm



Winterberry Garden



Sarah's Bird Sanctuary



Opequon Memorial Scatter Garden



Museum of the Shenandoah Valley



State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy

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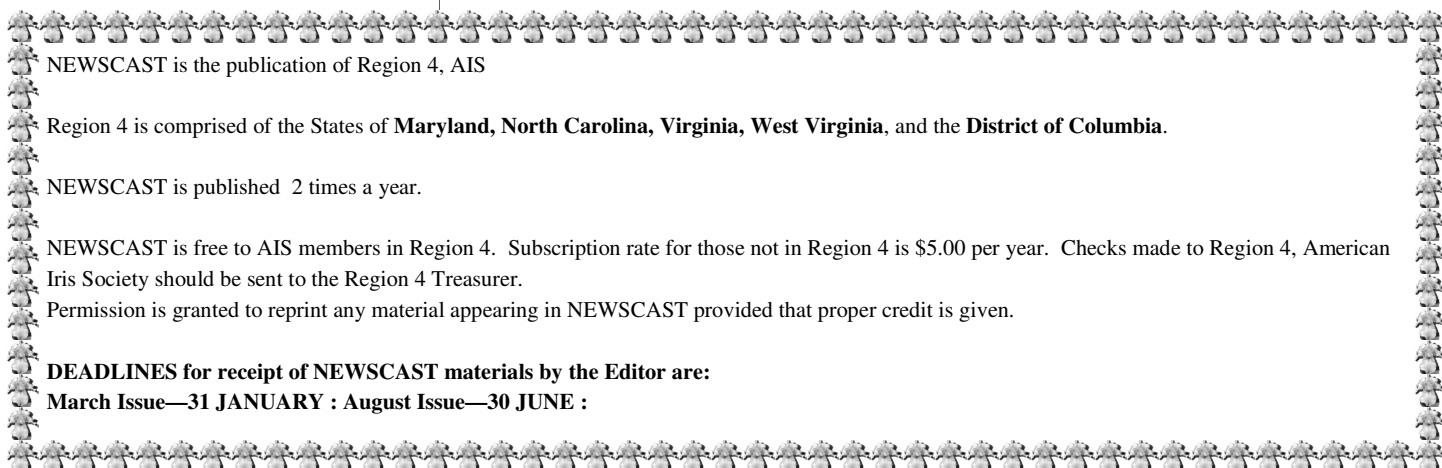
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Notes From The Region 4 Vice President

I cannot believe that it has been three years already but it has. This will be my last report and I want you all to know how privileged I felt being your representative to the AIS Board. I tried since my first attendance at the board meeting to be a quiet little mouse and listened. I failed miserably but I realized that I could not represent my region by being silent.

Of all the plans I had for my stint as RVP I can honestly say that I succeeded in most, but failed in a few. I met people in my tours of the region that I had never met before since they did not attend regional but their love of irises is just as passionate. I got reacquainted with old friends (and no that is not a reference to age, ok maybe a little). I got ideas that I was able to share with the rest of the region and experienced thing I never thought would enter my life. (i.e. the only bee swarm I ever thought I might see was an African bee swarm, not on my bucket list.)

I was able to attend local meetings and met even more members and heard new ideas for the region.

I am joyful that I will be followed by Doug Chyz who was very instrumental in helping me make it through the years. There are more in the region that have also helped so much. Carol as treasurer and former RVP was a great source of support as was Lois Rose, Ginny and Don Spoon, Sue Grigg, Sue Shackelford, Janet Lejuene (my tour buddy), Carrie Winters and many more. Another shout out I need to make is Colin Campbell who reminded us all that the next generation is gowning up fast and we need to get them as much information as possible and allow them to fly.

That's about all I need to say except thank you for allowing me this great Opportunity.
Anita Moran – Outgoing RVP Region 4

FRDM THE EDITDR

In 2004 Dr. Roy Epperson handed the Newscast over to me to helm and in the last thirteen years the Newscast has been a labor of love. I have been writing since I was a young girl in grade school. Thanks to Carol Warner, Dave Bollinger and Lois Rose have all keep my dyslexia in control to a point but pushing deadlines was not helpful.

Sue Grigg has offered to take over managing the Newscast and with the help of the Region I know she will enjoy it as much as I did. At the fall meeting I will be training her but I will always be available.

Sue cannot put out a Newscast that we can all enjoy without your help. I have now be to many of your gardens and there is something in every garden that will thrill and inform if you do not help her with articles. If not articles, how about some questions? A question can help her get information from a variety of sources and then it can be answered in the Newscast.

Thank you for all your support over the years and all your kind comments.

Anita Moran

Iris Hills Farm

Colin started as a Region 4 youth member who quickly gathered information on the varieties of iris, how to plant and grow iris. Then he went further to learn how to judge iris and became an AIS Judge. Then through visits to Winterberry he learned how to hybridize and how to show iris. From a small terraced garden for



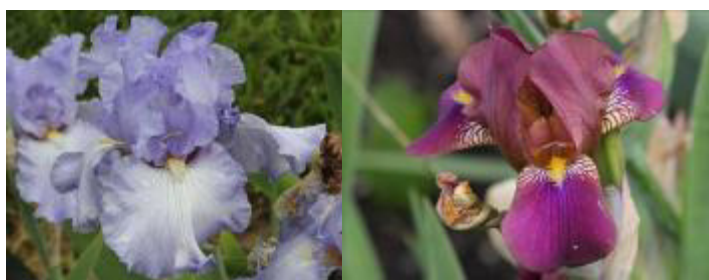
those irises that thrilled Colin. The area has now spread to along the road and in large beds that take up much of the front yard and around the house. Among the beds are columbine with metal hummingbirds and peonies. Across the driveway from the main iris beds are the raised seedling beds.



“Mango Entrée” (Blyth 1996)

“Thundering Ovation” (Black 2007)

Some of the irises I have not seen were “Mango Entrée” (Blyth 1996) and “Thundering Ovation” (Black 2007). Other irises included the Border Bearded “Raspberry Silk” (Spoon 2000), “Sonata In Blue” (Smith 1994) and a favorite MTB of mine “Ozark Charmer” (Fisher 2010). It was nice seeing the other young members touring the garden and taking note of Colin’s success.



“Sonata In Blue” (Smith 1994)

“Ozark Charmer” (Fisher 2010)



Janet Lejuene Enjoying Collin’s
Seedling bed



Campbell Seedling “My Missus Carter

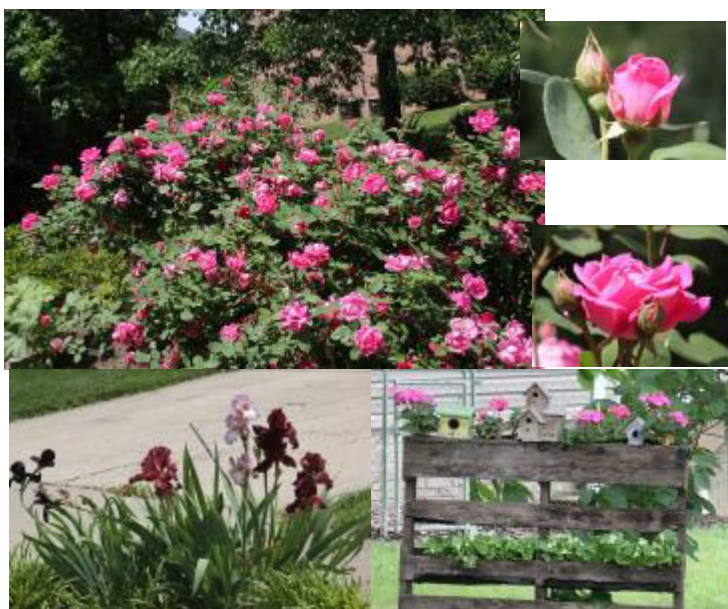
Alice Boulquin Award Winner

The Bird Sanctuary

When I arrived at “Sarah’s Bird Sanctuary” I had a problem getting to the front door at the garden located



at the end of a cul-de-sac. An enormous wall of white roses took up nearly the entire width of the front yard. Each flower and each bud was different and my camera was busy getting as many shots as possible. Along



the sidewalk was a small iris bed between the sidewalk and the road. Although there were no labels but that was not what was important. As I headed toward the door was a broad pink rose bush that was awash with blooms both buds and full blooms begging to have their picture taken as well.

In the shade area there were benches for ferns and palates for bird houses and tables and branches for feeders, a perfect environment for nesting birds. Along the side of the house to break the monotony of a blank

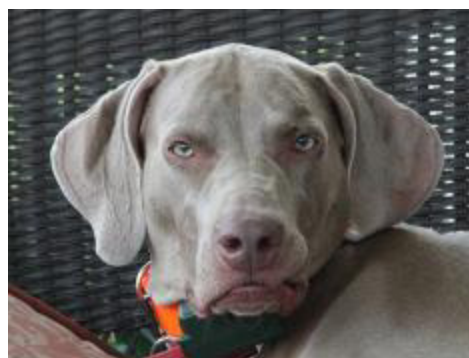


span of siding was enhanced by adding historic doors collection with hangers for ferns and hanging baskets and candles. The son of the house was also very in-



terested in bon-sai so it was nice to impart that the azaleas that had been discarded was a great free resource to learn on play with. In a small front side garden recently planted with beardless iris a calf with a rose collar was protecting a wheelbarrow of annuals.

On the rear garden I was able to trade places in the vegetable garden for bearded and beardless irises. The rear porch was perfect for a rest and a glass of water among the metal and glass chickens, ceramic pigs and a glass bird house. There pup was really not sure he liked what I was doing and when I turned my camera on him, he was positive he did not like my activities.



Opequon Memorial Scatter Garden

Approved in 2008, the Opequon Memorial Scatter Garden (OMSG) is shaped in a Jerusalem Cross with four additional crosses that represent the four books of the Bible (Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John). Planted with irises, evergreens, daylilies, crape myrtles, and a wide variety of annuals and perennials all producing a

The irises donated by Ray and Karen Jones and later medians added by the Spoons were evident as soon as you arrived in the parking lot with “Kaw” (Jones 2014), a bright yellow and white acts like a beacon to beckon you to the garden. Well that was until a Klux like me arrived and slipped on the edging stones and took a header into the iris area. A HUGE NO NO!!!!. Well although Kaw lost a stalk the rest of the plant bounced back along with “Bolder Boulder” (Magee 2000).

To make the visit perfect was that we were in a torrential downpour with thunder and lightning nearly severe enough to make us pull over but the storm was sort lived and we were then treated to a double rainbow.



“Kaw” (Jones 2014)

“Bolder Boulder” (Magee 2000)

beautiful calm area to sit among the flowers and reflect. With the approval to allow members to scatter the remains of loved one to become part of this wonderfully peaceful site.



State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm

Okay no one said a visit to Blandy would morph into an episode of National Geographic Wild but that is what happened. As we walked toward the Walter Flory Memorial Iris Collection, in the middle of a gravel path two black snakes decided it was a perfect



place for a romantic rendezvous. After gathering a large collection of nature lovers the snakes decided to move under the plants and out of sight, or at least they thought so.



With dogwoods in full bloom, we started to walk across the fields to the Walter Flory Memorial Iris Collection and chanced upon the remnant Siberian irises from the 2003 National Convention. The S&P

iris society along with the farm employees brought the garden up to par. With an eclectic collection of a wide variety of irises from Reblooming dwarf like “Baby Blessed” (1979, Zurbrigg) to species like *Iris virginica*.

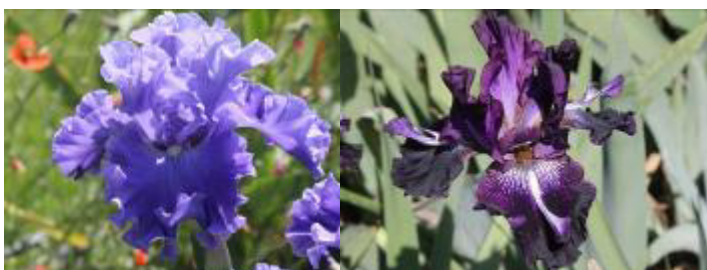


Winterberry Gardens

Nearly every year I go to winterberry Gardens, the home of Don and Ginny Spoon, and each visit there is something new. For those who have never visited

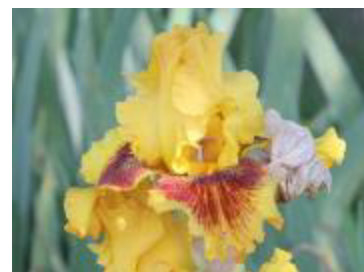
Winterberry represents a perfect scientific farm for region 4 iris enthusiast. It is a dream to walk through the hundreds of seedlings and new introductions by Don and Ginny, like Ginny's Border Bearded "Be Perfect" (G. Spoon, 2017) or Don's completely unusual seedling "2013-81". Winterberry can go from heat of triple digits to freezing temperatures often times within a 24-hour period. For this reason, for me, Winterberry gives me the best information of which introductions survive the Region 4, sometimes brutal, weather conditional stress.

There are more than just the Spoon introductions and seedlings but staples like "Adriatic Seas" (Keppel 2009), or for something unusual "Inky Icon" (Burseen2004) or "Burst" (Blyth 1994). They have to compete with Region 4 irises like "Obi Wan Kenobi" (Mahan 2003) and "My Ginny" (Spoon 2000) the President Cup winner in 2003.



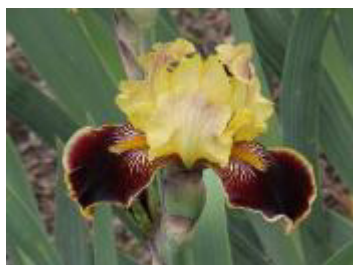
"Adriatic Seas" (Keppel 2009)

"Inky Icon" (Burseen2004)

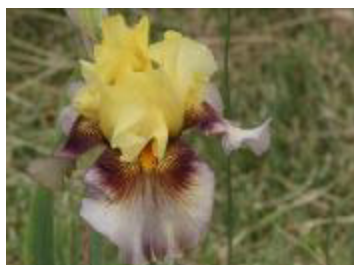


"Burst" (Blyth 1994)

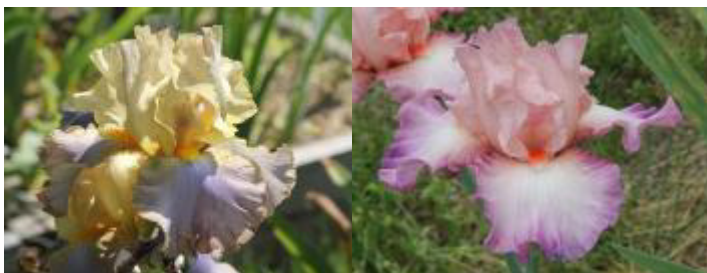
Winterberry at peak bloom anything I write here cannot match walking into an ocean of colors. Waves and waves of blooms from black to white, pastels to bold, miniature to tall bearded to beardless, historic to new introductions. As you walk in the gardens there is more than just the stunning irises.



"Be Perfect" (G. Spoon, 2017)



Spoon Seedling "2013-81"
Spoon Seedling "2013-81"



"Obi Wan Kenobi" (Mahan 2003)

"My Ginny" (Spoon 2000)

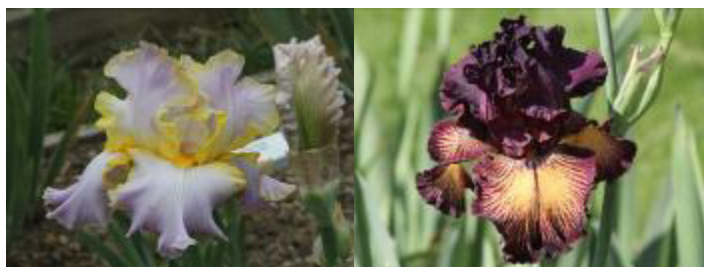
Winterberry Gardens

If your interest are pastels there are selections like “Magical” (Ghio 2008), “Blind Ambition” (Keppel 2016), and the striking “All About Spring” (Kerr



“Magical” (Ghio 2008)

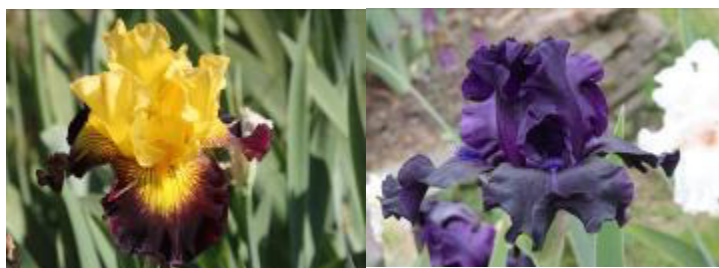
“Blind Ambition” (Keppel 2016)



“All About Spring” (Kerr 2006)

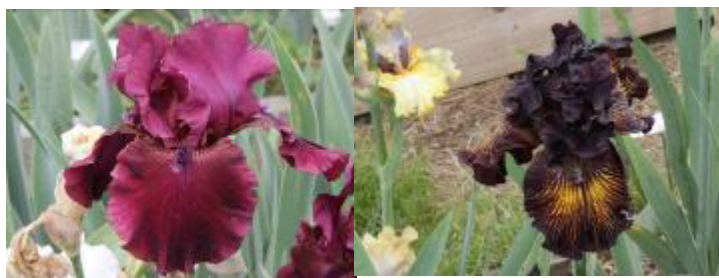
“Drama Queen” (Keppel 2003)

2006). The bold colored irises are represented with the likes of “Drama Queen” (Keppel 2003), “Snap Shot” (Johnson 2008), “Yosemite Nights” (Sutton 2004), “Rio Rojo” (Hager 1998) and “Dark Energy” (Keppel 2016).



“Snap Shot” (Johnson 2008)

“Yosemite Nights” (Sutton 2004)



“Rio Rojo” (Hager 1998)

“Dark Energy” (Keppel 2016)



Spoon Seedling

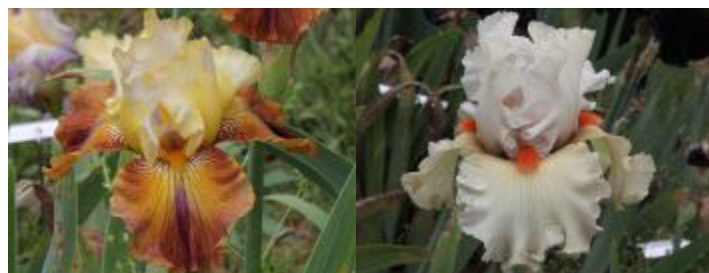
“2003-103B6 X SS”



Spoon Seedling “2013-49”

Spoon Seedling “2013-54”

Don’s and Ginny’s Seedling beds had standouts like the blue “2003-103B6 X SS” and a choice of red seedlings that would be tough to choose between “2013-49” and “2013-54” were both exquisite in their coloring and the stalks were perfect.



“Mayan Mysteries” (Van Liere 2012)

“Stuffed” (Burseen 2013)

Other standout irises included “Mayan Mysteries” (Van Liere 2012), “Tuscan Summer” (Keppel 2010), “Stuffed” (Burseen 2013) (WHAT A Beard!!), and the stately “Heavenly Host” (Ghio 2014). Winterberry is a place that everyone in Region 4 needs to visit and visit often. Are you planning a new garden? This is the place to see what survives in our unusual often brutal weather.

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

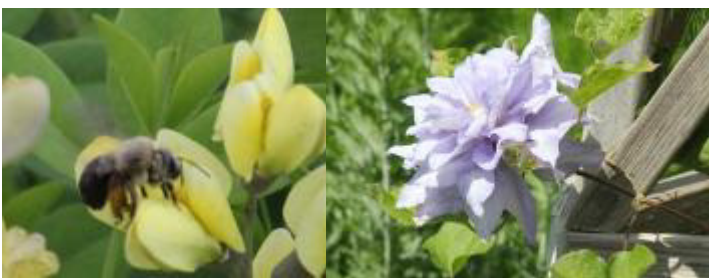
I have been to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV) many times in the past but never toured the entire garden. From what I saw from the parking lot it did not look like much, boy was I wrong. During the Spring 2017 regional we were treated to a guided tour of the gardens. The group split into two groups and



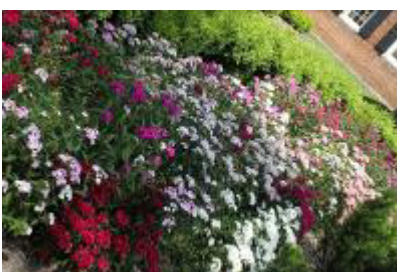
Colin Campbell, Lois Rose, Dean and Diana Richards, Ginny Spoon
Katherine Steele enjoying the tour in the boxwood garden



we followed our guide and our first stop was the rose garden. Although there were few in bloom they



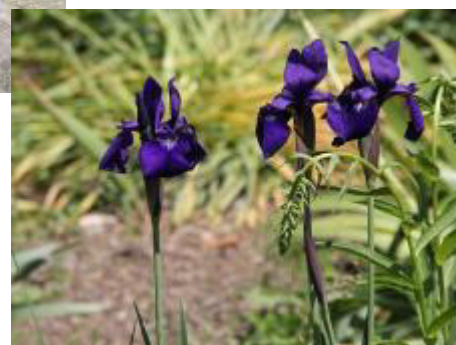
ranged for delicate pinks and corals to bright reds with white centers. Some of the perennial garden was having statuary repaired and moved. Walking through the unusual and common plants the bees were busy collecting and the ants were working hard on the peonies.



A dianthus bed lines along one side walk giving off their soothing fragrance but displayed in a riot of colors and patterns. As we walked along I no-

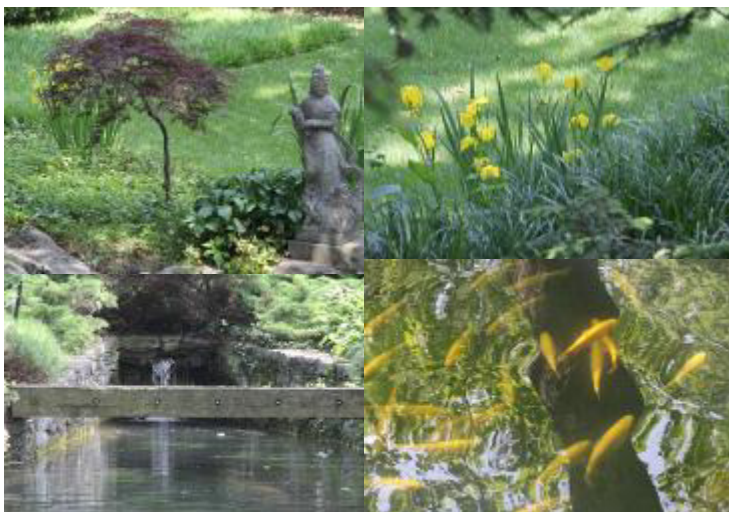
ticed an area that looked to be in the process of setting up for a wedding and what a perfect setting for such an event.

The statues throughout the garden were the usual to the mystic like the one of Neptune which was awaiting the finishing touches to the pond it was not setting next to. Thankfully there were plenty of benches in the gardens to take a rest in the shade. The first irises I saw was the Siberian "Caesar's

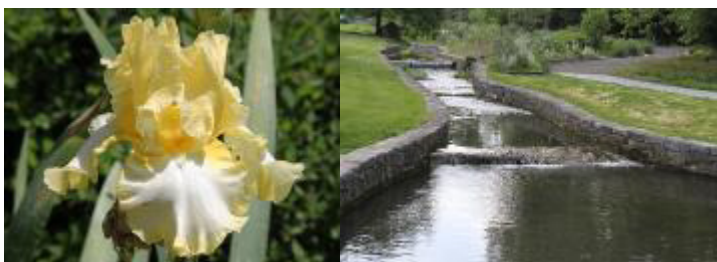


Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Brother” (1932, Morgan) and *Iris tectorum alba* just before we entered the Japanese Garden. Another shaded seating patio was decorated with stone dragons



and large pots with annuals. As you stepped down into the garden area that was a goddess statue shaded by a small Japanese red maple and offset by a large clump of *Iris pseudocorus*. The waterway through this part of the garden was sealed enough to create a pond and to keep the Koi that survived here from entering natural water ways. Small springs fed the area allowing for a continuous flow and give that soothing sound



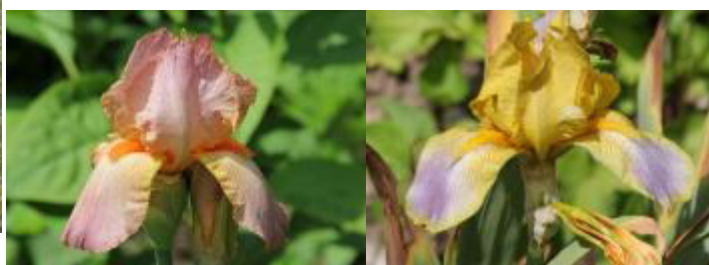
“Well Endowed” (Ghio 1979)

of water tumbling over rocks.

The first bearded iris I saw was “Well Endowed” (Ghio 1979) in a bright spot between the Japanese Garden and Kathie’s Spring Garden. Another waterway that was used for watering the garden and flood control was bordered by a wide expanse of green lawn and a perennial garden where most of the



bearded irises were located. In the water geese, ducks and bass completely ignored us as we moved down the gravel path. Historic irises were the most

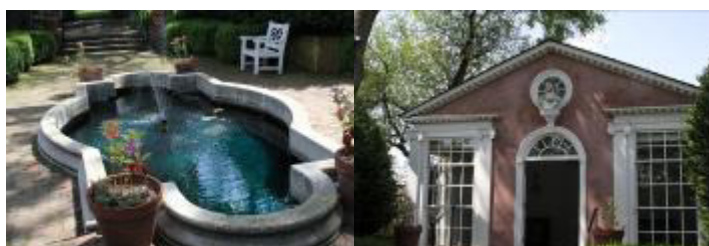


“Cashmere” (Fay 1959)

“Ochracea Caerulea” (Denis 1919)

abundant such as “Cashmere” (Fay 1959), “Ochracea Caerulea” (Denis 1919), “Pink Plume” (Schreiner 1951), and the IB “Vingolf” (G&K 1924) were among many others including “Song of Norway” (Luihn 1977) and “War Chief” (Schreiner 1992).

At the end of the garden was a very large greenhouse that we were not allowed in (darn!), but we forgave our guide when he took us to the “Pink House” with its shaded area filled with small ponds and more statuary and places to rest out of the sun. This was a perfect place to end the tour but it took us a while to leave as we enjoyed the bird song and slight fragrant breeze.



Beardless and Species Report

By Carol Warner

I would still like to gloat a bit on the fact that the Siberian Iris, 'Swans in Flight' was the first beardless iris to win the Dykes Medal. It won the Cook Cup for the best out of region iris at the Portland Convention in 2015. We were fortunate to have it as a guest when FSK hosted the Regional Meeting and it grew very well in all of our gardens.

There is a great opportunity for Japanese iris lovers to visit four gardens in the Seattle area when the Society for Japanese Irises holds its triennial convention from Friday, June 23rd through Sunday, June 25th 2017. This should be a prime Japanese iris growing area.

Of course, FSK is looking forward to hosting the 2018 Siberian/Species Convention in connection with the Region 4 Regional Meeting on May 25th and 26th. The Siberian irises are growing well in four gardens and we are finalizing plans for a very informative and interesting convention.

Judges Training Report

Report for Region 4 JT Chair

May 19, 2017 Winchester VA

The reporting year for AIS JT will end July 31, 2017 which means Activity Reports are due August 15, 2017. As soon as our training is completed for August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017, please complete the Activity Report found on the Region 4 web site under Judges. Remember you do not have to wait until July 31 to complete the report – some reports have already been submitted. Currently we have 3 Emeritus Judges; 11 Garden/Exhibition Judges. 8 Master Judges; 7 Retired Judges and 1 Apprentice Judge. We have officially 3 Student Judges with possibly others who have failed to complete the formal application. Due to some pending changes from active to retired status, these numbers will decline for 2017; consequently it is important that affiliates encourage some members to begin the process of going from Student to Apprentice to G/E Judge. It is through the judging process with the ballot (which is completed only by Judges) that quality irises are identified and promoted by the garden industry and subsequently introduced to the public at large.

Affiliates, please encourage the training and development of additional judges. You may find that a mentoring program would enhance the progress of the student.

Happy Training!

Carrie Winter

Region 4, JT Chair

Silver Siberian/Species Convention



The Francis Scott Key iris Society is pleased to be hosting the Convention for the Society for Siberian Irises, the Species Group of North America and the Region 4 Spring Meeting of the American Iris Society in Maryland on Friday and Saturday, May 25th and 26th, 2018. We have been very fortunate to receive a total of 494 guest rhizomes from 15 different gardens / hybridizers which are growing in our four tour gardens. These Siberian, laevigata, species and specX irises will be blooming on third year clumps.

We are also planning to have a show on Friday morning with entries permitted either Thursday evening or early Friday morning at the hotel headquarters: Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD, 21031. We encourage attendees to bring specimens for the show so that we can see a cross

section of irises that are blooming in late May in different sections of the region and the nation. The AIS 2018 National Convention is very early this year and is in New Orleans. We are hoping that many visitors from other AIS regions will be able to attend our meeting. Additional information and the registration form can be found on the Region 4 website, <http://www.irisregion4.com/>.

Joan Miller's Garden, Dogwood Hill near the Maryland- Pennsylvania Line in Northern Baltimore County is a plant collector's garden with a cottage garden plan. In addition to over 300 varieties of tall bearded irises, 75 IB's, MTB's and SDB's, and over 50 Siberian, Japanese and pseudata irises, there are over 600 varieties of day-lilies. A wooded pond garden with azaleas, rhododendron and hostas adds spring color. Throughout the garden, many bulbs, and companion plantings extend the bloom season from late February to Mid-November. A taxidermy museum with a collection of animals from around the world collected by Bob Miller will be available for viewing by interested visitors.

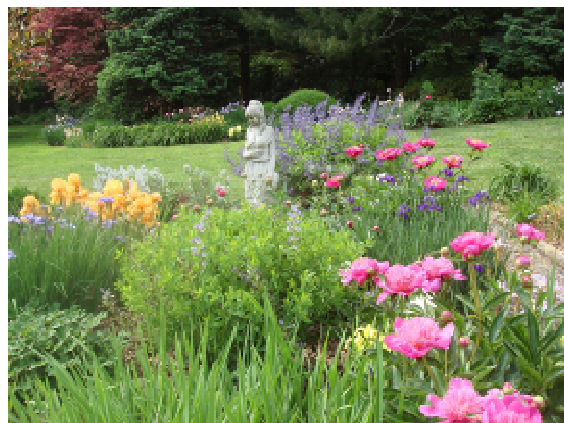


The Piasecki-Stewart Garden is a picturesque setting of gardens, which include a mixture of annuals, perennials, flowering trees and shrubbery, are located in the rural region of northern Harford County, Maryland. The owners, Dave Piasecki and Vicki Stewart, established these gardens on 2.2 acres overlooking Geneva Farms Golf Course in 2003. Numerous varieties of tall, standard and miniature dwarf bearded and Siberian iris fill the beds with color throughout the spring. Soon after, several hundred varieties of day-lilies steal the show with a dazzling display of color, while mixed beds of perennials and annuals keep the show going until frost. For those who like foliage, our shade gardens feature more than 150 varieties of hostas.



Silver Siberian/Species Convention

Carol Warner's Draycott Gardens, located in north western Baltimore County, will be on tour Friday morning. The rolling property consists of ten acres, about half of which is wooded. The landscape gardens feature collections of peonies; herbaceous, Itoh hybrids and tree peonies; bearded irises and a large collection of beardless irises; two rock gardens featuring dwarf conifers and many specimen trees that have been maturing over the past 45 years. An almost complete of Morgan Award and Morgan Wood Medal winners will be on display. A one hour Judges Training session will also be held in this garden.



Alan Summers Garden. The five-acre garden of Alan Summers, host of the Garden Club radio show for almost 30 years and owner of Carroll Gardens mail order nursery (now closed) welcomes your visit.

The garden is designed in the modern English manner – island beds of perennials and flowering shrubs between meandering grass paths. Planting began about 20 years ago. Extensive renovations of the house and grounds took place 8 years ago, with the most intensive planting during the last five years. The goal of continuous flower color from March into October has been largely achieved. Each year over 100 varieties are trialed for garden performance, low maintenance and durability. The main displays are from multiple varieties of narcissus, azaleas, peonies and hemerocallis, with particular emphasis on late blooming daylilies. Mr. Summers has developed and introduced three perennials that are still available: New England Aster 'Honeysong Pink', Stokesia 'Honeysong Purple' and Veronica 'Giles Van Hees'



Ladew Gardens consists of 22 acres of formal gardens and reflects the style, elegance and sense of humor of Harvey Ladew. The garden has two cross axes to allow for long vistas with "garden rooms" off each axis. The axes meet at his oval swimming pool, placed in the center of the Great Bowl. Garden rooms are devoted to a single color, a single plant or a single theme. Ladew was among the first Americans to create this type of garden on this side of the Atlantic. In addition to garden rooms including the Iris Garden, Pink Garden and Yellow Garden, to name a few, there are over 100 topiaries on the property. Visit www.LadewGardens.com to see lots of pictures of this incredible garden.



**TREASURER'S REPORT
A.I.S. REGION 4
May 13, 2016 to May 19, 2017**

Checking Account Balance on May 13, 2016: **\$19,120.96**

Receipts:

Spring 2016 Regional Auction:	\$546.00
Fall 2016 Regional Auction:	\$512.00
Balance Correction:	\$29.88
Newscast Subscription:	\$10.00
Checking Account Interest:	\$1.64

Total Receipts: \$1,099.52

Expenditures:

Spring 2016 Newscast Printing:	\$398.00
Spring 2016 Newscast Mailing:	\$140.62
Zurbrigg-Mahan Bowl & Epperson Award:	\$244.55
Zurbrigg-Mahan Bowl - Engraving:	\$25.60
Loving Award:	\$94.77
Mailing - Region 4 Seedling Cup:	\$24.70
August 2016 Newscast Printing and Mailing:	\$605.62
RVP AIS Board Meeting Travel Stipend:	\$600.00
Epperson Service Award:	\$118.87
Spring 2017 Newscast Printing and Mailing:	\$588.96

Total Expenditures: \$2,841.69

Checking Account Balance on May 19, 2017: **\$17,378.79**

Carol S. Warner, Region 4 Treasurer

Newscast Report Spring 2017

The Newscast continues to be a big draw not only in the region but all over the world as they see what is happening within the most difficult area to grow irises. The members in Region 4 have gardens with a large diversity of irises both cultivars and species. I have done my best to tell the stories of Region 4 and the wonderful people within its membership.

I have been editor since it was given to me by Dr. Epperson in 2004 and it is with great regret that I must give up the editorship of the Newscast. I am hoping the board can find someone who can use publisher, can write, and attends local, regional and national meetings. I will be more than willing to train anyone selected by the board. I think using the same printers is great for the Region as all that is needed is to send them a pdf of the issue and the list of members who receive a hard copy they handle everything from there for GREAT Prices for the region.

I will do the summer issue as my last issue as I want to include the SPIS, CIS and ENCIS gardens in the issue. I had a wonderful time in North Carolina and wished I could have spent more time.

Thank you for the opportunity of serving my region in such a way.

Respectfully
Anita Moran
Newscast Editor

Top 10 of 1064 Total URLs By KBytes				
#	Hits	KBytes	URL	
1	24	0.15%	285352	7.15%
			/publications/DEC07.pdf	
2	31	0.20%	282428	7.08%
			/publications/mar08.pdf	
3	41	0.26%	239524	6.00%
			/publications/MAR05.pdf	
4	45	0.29%	218792	5.48%
			/publications/AUG2016.pdf	
5	26	0.17%	192547	4.83%
			/publications/AUG2006.pdf	
6	23	0.15%	183537	4.60%
			/publications/AUG10C.pdf	
7	84	0.54%	183120	4.59%
			/publications/MAR2017.pdf	
8	30	0.19%	171713	4.30%
			/publications/AUG08.pdf	
9	42	0.27%	152275	3.82%
			/publications/AUG2013.pdf	
10	24	0.15%	150692	3.78%
			/publications/AUG09.pdf	

Proposed 2018 Budget For Region 4

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Printing and Mailing two (2) Issues of Newscast	2,000.00
RVP Travel Expenses	600.00
Membership Committee - Ginny Spoon	100.00
Memorials	300.00
Zurbrigg-Mahan Award	300.00
Epperson Service Award	125.00
Sunshine Fund	100.00
AIS Youth Program	100.00
Web Page	150.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	300.00
Total	4,000.00
Submitted by: JACK W. LOVING	

Website Report Spring 2017

Locales (Top 25) - Full list			
Locales	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
United States	us	121	513
Ukraine	ua	96	97
Poland	pl	53	75
Canada	ca	29	29
China	cn	13	43
Russian Federation	ru	5	6
South Korea	kr	4	4
Germany	de	3	5
Norway	no	3	3

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
May 2017	345	238	128	55	402	246604	279	641	1192	1729
Apr 2017	522	363	204	89	2325	3989648	2685	6141	10919	15666
Mar 2017	572	413	236	90	2070	7340050	2795	7323	12815	17746
Feb 2017	464	335	198	95	1645	4051240	2687	5550	9397	13001
Jan 2017	473	341	210	87	1558	3618215	2716	6514	10590	14682
Dec 2016	544	402	241	107	1712	4431324	3319	7475	12469	16876
Nov 2016	586	248	338	136	1402	1565266	4106	10162	7460	17588
Oct 2016	525	370	218	86	1595	2560313	2679	6786	11485	16292
Sep 2016	692	437	202	72	1375	3555454	2163	6088	13112	20784
Aug 2016	362	250	157	69	1211	2734353	2153	4882	7760	11241
Jul 2016	364	267	161	65	1372	3017739	2037	5010	8280	11288
Jun 2016	386	275	177	80	1262	2933568	2413	5323	8251	11583
Totals						40043774	30032	71895	113730	168476

The website of Region 4 continues to connect to the world. Not only to the world but because we use CSS (Cascading Style Sheet) we can reach the blind as well. It does not matter what technology is used nor is what internet operating system used Region 4's website visible and viable to be used by all.

Ginny Spoon asked that I take over the webpage eight years ago and it required some quick learning on my part to learn how to make it available to everyone and then to rewrite all the code needed to make it a viable site. I have to thank Lois Rose for her taking the time to try and break the site as her help was invaluable to us all.

As with the Newscast I need time to concentrate on my health, my home and my garden I have too much in my life that I cannot dedicate the needed hours needed by the site. I recommend the "Who Is It" the auto payments remain as they are for it is a pain to change everything and also is major structural repairs are needed these I can do easily in the winter without changing content. The new webmaster will need some training but it is very easy they will also need a licensed copy of Microsoft Expression Web. EW is the easiest web assembly software for CSS available that does not put extraneous data on the pages thus making them slow and unwieldy.

Whoever takes the website should also be someone very involved in the Local, Regional and National. I will be more than happy to train anyone for it would take literally minutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn and expand my knowledge in serving the Region it has been a great source of pride and peace that I was able to create something that told the world how wonderful the gardens and te people of Region 4 area.

Respectfully
Anita Moran
Webmaster Region 4

Affiliate Reports

Charlotte Iris Society

Although CIS operates on the Calendar Year, it would be remiss if it was not noted that we hosted the Region 4 Fall Meeting. While we never seem to do something as efficiently as others, we were pleased that we had this experience and it was an opportunity to introduce some additional CIS members to Regional Activities. Then in November we closed out the year with our Traditional Harvest Luncheon featuring Roast Turkey with all the trimmings and delicious salads, sides and desserts. Our first meeting of 2017 was dedicated to developing a local Calendar for the planting and care of irises. This will be edited, printed and made available at our Annual Rhizome Sale and other events. Our April Meeting provided information to assist new members (and review for others) in preparing iris for the show, including successful transportation. This training has expanded our base of participants with entries of newer members showing up on the "11 Queens Table". Unfortunately Mother Nature was not excited about prospects for the show. Bloom was EARLY, EARLY with some TB's starting in early March. So as not to disappoint the Venue where we have our shows, we had a lovely Iris Display that pleased the Public and Blacklion. The winner of The People's Choice Award was Classic Look entered by Betty O'Linger.

We were pleased to host Anita Moran, RVP in late April and enable her to visit a number of Charlotte gardens and Knox Haven, the garden of Shirley Spoon Knox, which is located in an adjoining county.

Later in May one of our members arranged a tour at the Duke Mansion, which included a history of the home as well as a tour of the home and a tour of the various gardens led by the Staff Horticulturist. The home is now a Conference Center and Bed and Breakfast managed by the Lynwood Foundation.

Our Annual Rhizome Sale is scheduled for July 15 at The Charlotte Charlotte Regional Farmers Market. August means another Annual Picnic (with Price's Chicken) which will be held in the garden of one of our members with plenty of time to stroll the garden, ask questions, get lots of answers, enjoy time with friends plus good food.

September brings a Plant Exchange (irises only) plus a program TBA. Then we will have come full circle with a close out of 2017 with our Harvest Luncheon.

We believe Charlotte has more beauty because of CIS.

Carrie Winter
President, CIS

Affiliate Reports

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY'S AFFILIATE REPORT

The present membership of our society is 37 and 14 are members of the American Iris Society. Our meetings are held every other month starting with January of each year. We still meet at Stranges Garden Center in Richmond.

For the past several years we have had spring iris shows, the size of the show varies from 50 to 85 stalks. The show this spring was one of the smaller shows. Most of the shows are held at Stranges Garden Center in the Richmond area. We feel that the show is well attended by the public shopping at the nursery.

Each September we hold an iris rhizome sale at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in the Richmond area. The sales have been good for us as this is where most of our money comes from. Most of the iris that are sold are the bearded type but we do sell some beardless types also. Our membership contributes the rhizomes that are sold.

Each year we hold a club picnic and these have been well attended and the membership seems to enjoy this event along with our annual Harvest Dinner which is held in November of each year. Our goal is to try to increase our membership with members that are interested and active within our group but as usual this seems to be a "big" task.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Diggs
President

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society

Since our last report we in the Fredericksburg area, as well as probably most of our other Region 4 Affiliates, have experience the craziest Winter weather that I can remember. The roller coaster temperature swings and higher average temperatures appears to have gotten our iris bloom slightly out of sync.

FAIS ended 2016 with our annual Harvest Dinner and Awards Presentations, what a nice feast and fellowship time it was. We rested thru Dec to Feb; I went Ice Fishing in February, the ice was marginal and thus the fishing opportunities were not that great. We got back to business in March with some great programs set up by Janet LeJeune; Planting for Pollinators in March and Attracting Bluebirds to your Garden in April. FAIS hosted a smaller than normal but nice Iris Show on May 13th and had a number of gardens open to the public on May 14th, Mother's Day. Abby Glasgow's gardens were featured in the Free Lance Star this year, what a wonderful collection and variety of plants and flowers she has. We are proceeding with our two \$500.00 scholarships, one to Virginia Tech and the other to J. Sargeant Reynolds, and our Guest Iris Program to purchase Iris to grow and share with our members. Till next time.

Doug Chyz

Affiliate Reports

Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society

Over the past several years, our Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society has been working hard to make the spring regional meeting in Winchester a success. We have named our event "Beautify the Valley" and that is an appropriate name since we have donated and planted irises in both the state arboretum in Boyce, Virginia and at the museum of the Shenandoah Valley as well as our own gardens.

Our group has gone several times a year to work in the planting of irises at Blandy along with their curator and afterwards we held a meeting and a potluck lunch. We have enjoyed talking to the public while working there and their enthusiasm for the iris planting was encouraging to our efforts. The irises at Blandy are mapped and also have signage, and so far have remained intact. The signs for the irises at the museum of the Shenandoah Valley have been pulled up by some garden visitors taking photographs, unfortunately. The curator there did not make a map so the historic irises remain without their names at the moment. We will help them at a later time to match up their signs with photos if they wish, or just enjoy them as they are, planted along with the lovely plantings in the mansion gardens.

Our club sale will be held at the Octoberfest at the state arboretum at Blandy on October 14th and 15th, since the activity we usually hold our sale in at the museum of the Shenandoah Valley has been cancelled. It is late in the year for an iris sale, however, if it is as warm as it has been the irises will still be fine to be planted that late in the year. The later date will also be a welcome time to enjoy the fall

weather and the plantings around the arboretum also. There should also be some reblooming irises to see then.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Spoon

President,

Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society

Iris variegata

It was described in 1753 by [Carl Linnaeus](#) in 'Species Plantarum' (on 1 May 1753). Hundreds of hybrids exist representing every colour from jet black to sparkling whites. The only colour really missing is bright scarlet. Many modern garden bearded irises are crosses of 'Iris germanica' and *Iris variegata*.

'Iris variegata' is found in the [Pannonian](#) (ancient Roman province) region of central [Europe](#). It occurs in southern [Moravia](#), southern [Slovakia](#), south-western [Germany](#), southern [Romania](#), [Bulgaria](#), western [Ukraine](#), [Croatia](#), [Serbia](#) and [Vienna](#). It prefers to grow in open stony areas and amongst scrub and light woodland, and also on the sunny slopes of the steppes and beside forest margins.

Iris variegata var. *Reginae* is a white flowers with purple and violet veining which was collected in Hungary in 1947.

'Iris variegata' has often been confused for [Iris pallida 'Argentea Variegata'](#), which has variegated leaves. But 'Iris variegata' has variegated flowers. It has stout rhizome with roots that can go up to 10 cm deep in the ground. It can be variable in height in the wild (30–45 cm).^[16] Generally, it grows up to 45 cm (18 in) high.

The branched flowering stems can be as tall as the leaves. There are normally 2-3 flowers per stem. The scentless flowers appear in early summer, May – June. The flowers are yellowish-white, with brown-purple veins on the falls. The flowers are generally about 5–7 cm wide. The falls are obovate-oblong shaped and nearly 2 cm wide, yellow with purple or chestnut brown veins, which are darker closer to the apex. It has a yellow beard in the centre on the lower part of the fall, the standards are erect.

<http://wiki.irises.org/Spec/SpecVariegata>

<http://encyclopaedia.alpinegardensociety.net/plants/Iris/variegata>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_variegata



Moran Seedling Iris Variegata From SIGNA Seeds

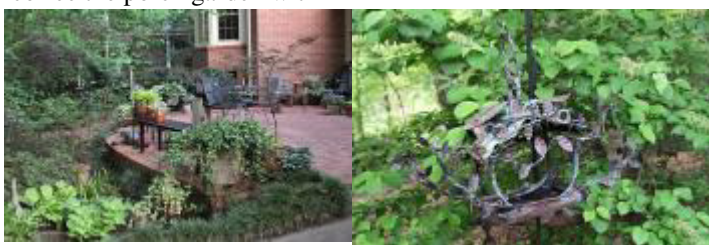


Moran Seedling Iris Variegata var. Reginae From SIGNA Seeds

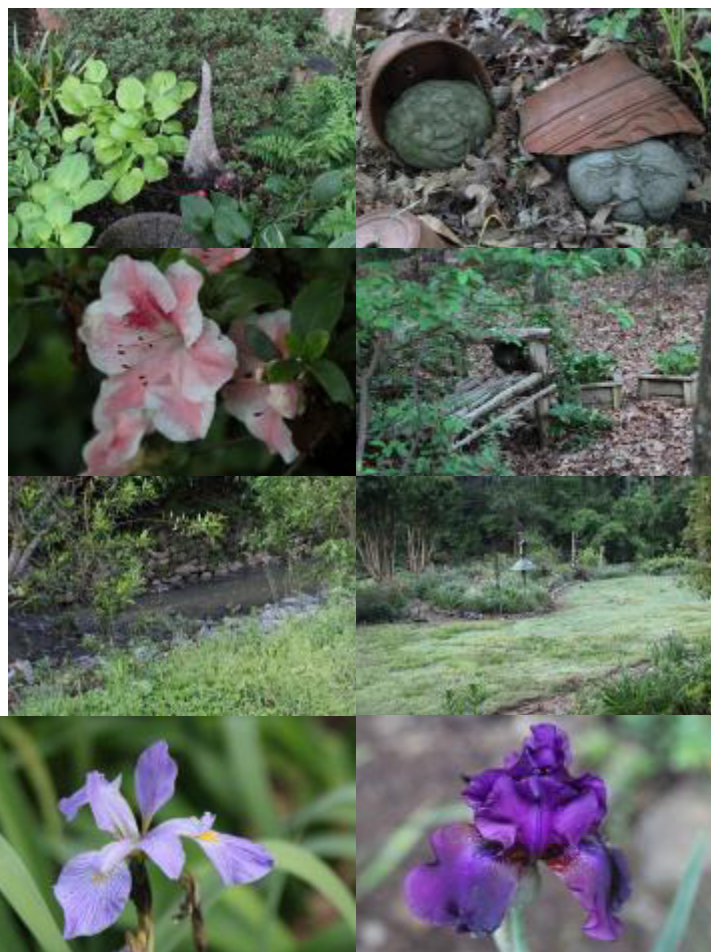
The Gardens of The Charlotte Iris Society

The Garden of Kathleen Steele

Aberdeen Maryland to Charlotte North Carolina I knew I was not going to make it at a decent hour so a quick call I told my host Katharine Steele to get some sleep. Finally arriving I was rewarded with a wonderful bed and a quick nap. There was an insistent bird that demanded attention but since it was too dark to take pictures I made my coffee for the day and waited for the sun to rise listening to the birds waking. Katharine's gardens has so many pieced you never knew where to look but as I drake my coffee the porch garden with



potted hostas and other plants the bird continued to demand attention. Making a decision I walked outside and took my luggage out to my car then grabbed my camera. Still too dark to take good pictures I went back to my coffee. When Katharine finally joined me she gave me a tour for Even though I had walked through the forest garden I had not gone far enough or seen all that the forest had to offer. Hellebores were everywhere as we moved to discover hidden benches, metal trees, unusual bird feeders, and of course the pot people. Katharine led me deeper and into a sun garden on the edge of a stream. The areas that flooded had clematis, *Iris virginica*, "Rosalie Figge" (McKnew 1993) a Steele MTB seedling ("Petite Monet" x "Rayos Adentro") and the spuria "Sunny Days" (Sass R1931). A Steele seedling ("Richards Joyous Love" X "Sylvanshine") was blooming profusely and seemed as happy as all the other plants in the area. As we took a different plant though the forest we saw bird houses, and other yard art that often was results of well placed wood, stone, or a cross member of treated lumber inviting you onto a path. In the side and front of the house prior to my arrival there was a late freeze that killed the new leaves of the azaleas throughout the yard. A testament to these plants they were blooming beautifully and with new leaves beginning to show. So involved in seeing everything I forgot Carrie Winter was supposed to meet me for breakfast at seven. Oops forgot phone in car so when we reached the front of the house guess who was waiting. Sorry Carrie. Quick hugs and its off on adventures with Carrie



Iris virginica

"Rosalie Figge" (McKnew 1993)



Steele Seedling Richard's Joyous Love X Sylvanshine



The Gardens of The Charlotte Iris Society

June Hood's Garden

Living on property that has been in her family for generations, June met us at her house as we looked over lines and lines of beautiful blooms. We drove by the house the first time for the explosion of color we were now looking at had been hidden from the road in the shared of large trees and bushes. The garden was guarded by her cat who put herself between the garden and me every time I moved. This activity only ceased when I went after kitty and petted her thoroughly.

Each pile was weighted down with stones or blocks. Such an ingenious idea.



While Carrie and June visited I went investigating. Irises like 'Rosalie Figge' (1993, McKnew) and

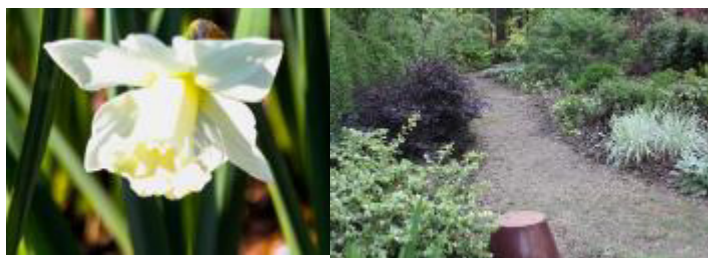


Thornbird (1989, Byers) and hundreds of others seem unaffected by the shade. There were no labels in the garden since June relied more on her garden map than signs which can be moved. It was the most blooms I had seen since I arrived in North Carolina especially since peak bloom was two weeks before. I enjoyed walking through the plethora of blooms but apparently this was not the end. Given directions we were sent to another piece of the property.

Among the oaks and other large trees making up part of a forested area was edged by even more iris blooms like "My Ginny" (Spoon 2000). Walking among the iris planting were piles of flattened boxes being used for preparing for new planting areas and new paths.

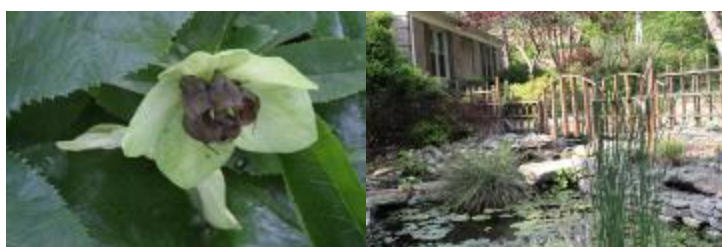
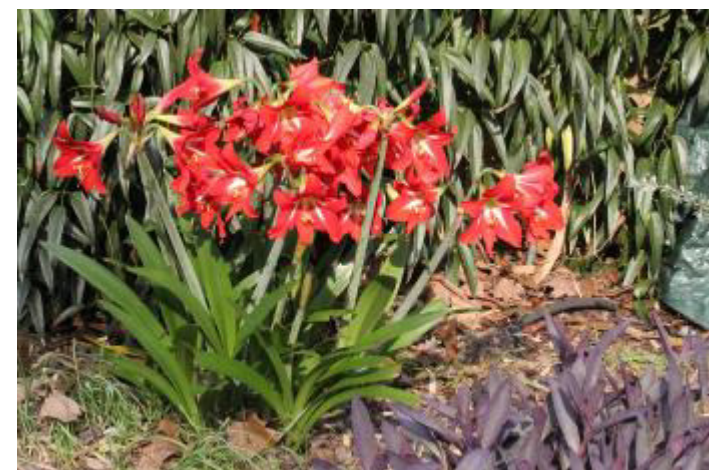
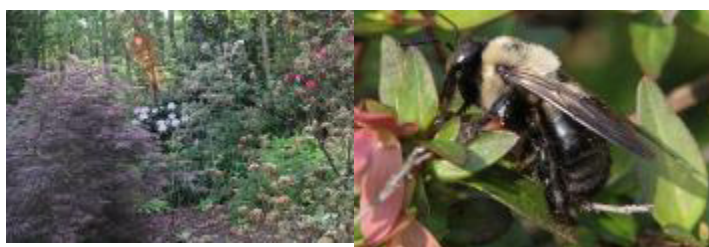
The Gardens of The Charlotte Iris Society

Dave Hall's Garden

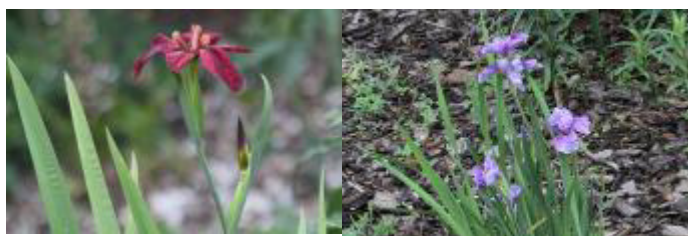


Dave Hall's garden is a collection of "Wow" and "Where to look next." Dirt and gravel paths along with grass paths made choosing a way to go difficult. Well best start at the front where daffodils and other spring bulbs were blooming as you reached the drive-

nored my presence along with the bees. In the rear of the property it was obvious that Dave was working on a new project that included huge logs. It would be interesting to see the final outcome.



way. A mixed planting was fading but beautiful. The pond along the drive edged with several types of bamboo. On the entrance to the rear gardens the paths were edged with oxalis and hellebores. Blooming azaleas and rhododendron provided some of the color with Japanese maples adding the breaks in greens.



A huge clump of *Iris fulva* and several Siberians pulled you to one path where Jack-In-The-Pulpit (*Arisaema*) were hidden everywhere causing me to smile and add

them to the list of things I need for my garden. It was so calm that the birds were signing profusely and ig-

The Gardens of The Charlotte Iris Society

Pat Rodgers Garden

One of the reasons I love going on garden visits is to see how others use plants and populate their gardens with natural and not so natural materials and decorations. It also gives me an idea of what irises grow and bloom in various conditions.



At the home of Pat Rodger a set of large stones in the center of an area of ground cover made the area more of a garden than a weed bed. Small blooms brought color and the rocks added their own. On the side of the house as we followed a path into the back yard was a stone garden with a dragon sculpture. With no other



artifice it was a way to point to the path that led to a koi pond. The path ended at a Japanese style bridge or a small pond seemingly attached to the rear of the house. With several sculptures in and around the water which were completely ignored by the fish. A narrow tree lined path led down through a forested area edged with hellebores and ferns and several of the trees had clematis (not yet blooming) encasing the lower trunks. The path led to a low lying area that looked like a flood plain in miniature. Crosses with multilevel Japanese bridges crossed the area and



6" X 6" wood walkways crossed the small stream. At the culvert pipe for the beautiful stream was a very happy

Iris pseudocorus was blooming in profusion. As I walked back to the path I noticed several stray siberians blooming.

The uphill side of the path had occasionally continued up on the opposite side of the property. A metal egret was tucked away along with pottery jars and a split log bench. At the top of the path next to the potting shed was a beautiful stand of Iris foetidissima. The path continued into a flat area that had a small natural pond surrounded by blooming azaleas and Japanese maples.

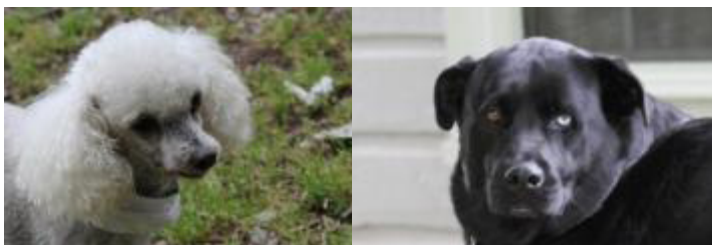
What was unusual for Pat's home was that each bathroom had its own small garden to enjoy with the sliding glass door open or closed for winter.



The Gardens of The Charlotte Iris Society

Shirley Knox

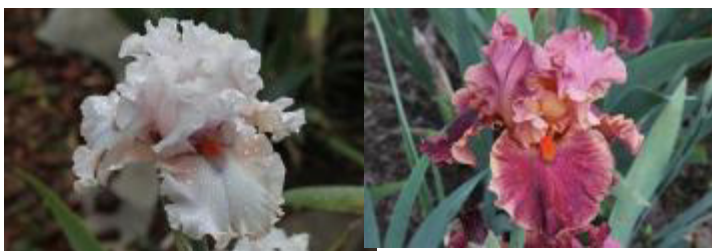
Shirley and her daughter Beth were still rescuing dogs, most with severe health concerns but will end their



lives in a loving environment. Then there were two ponies who were standoffish at first then in the rain began to pose for pictures. The back yard I noticed a large pile of shavings where a large majestic tree once

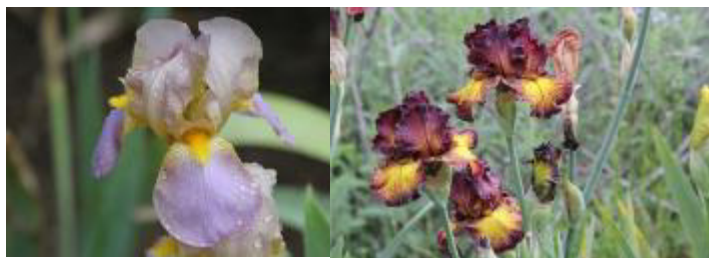


stood. After the tree service was done the loss led to the advent of more sun and thus more iris blooms. In the back yard 'Best Bet' (1988, Schreiner), 'Beth Marie' (2001, Spoon), and 'Double Platinum' (2011, Ghio) were spectacular and wonderfully offset by the dark blooms of 'Drinks At Sunset' (2002, Blyth) and



'Hearty Burgundy' (2012, Keppel).

Waiting for the rain to stop we went in for a fabulous cup of tea. As soon as there was a break Shirley and I went out front to the golden brick road garden. 'Obi Wan Kenobi' (2003, Mahan) was at peak bloom. Near by the historic 'Quaker Lady' (1909, Farr) was so delicately beautiful especially next to 'Shivaree' (2015, Keppel) which seemed to enhance the color of



'Quaker Lady'. 'Tuscan Summer' (2010, Keppel) had so many blooms it demanded attention from where ever you were in the garden especially since it was among so many pastels.

A last visit to the ponies and it was off to the next garden which was a long drive to Raleigh.



CELEBRATE FALL WITH REBLOOMING IRISES and REGION 4 HYBRIDIZERS

SATURDAY, OCT. 28, 2017

At this special fall regional meeting we will be honoring all Region 4 hybridizers. Our region has a long history of innovative and distinguished irisarians who have advanced the development of the iris. We hope to have many of the Region 4 hybridizers with us during this meeting and for a special panel discussion on Saturday night.

Our location in the Hilton Garden Inn, 4620 South Miami Blvd., Durham, NC will offer you warm hospitality and food in the hotel. The location is near Interstate 40 and adjacent to the Research Triangle Park.

Enjoy a new King bed or two new Queen beds in rooms equipped with complimentary wireless high speed internet access, coffee/tea maker, refrigerator, microwave, new Hi-Def TVs, iron and ironing board. Most rooms are accessible and some feature a roll in shower. If you have a special need for an accessible room, be sure to make your reservation early. All rooms and the hotel are non-smoking.

The fitness room is available to keep you in shape, even after a cooked-to-order breakfast or full American breakfast buffet each morning. In the Garden Grill you can enjoy a delicious meal for breakfast or dinner or have after-dinner drinks at the bar. On Saturday lunch and dinner will be served in the hotel for those registered at the meeting.

Please make your hotel reservation before **October 14** by calling the hotel directly at (919) 941-6066 and mention **Eastern NC Iris Society group code IRIS** or go online to <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/R/RDUGIGI-IRIS-20171026/index.jhtml> and book using the **group code IRIS** to receive the group rate of \$99. + tax. The same rate will be available on Thursday October 26 and Friday, October 27 if you'd like to arrive early. We plan to have a meal together on Friday night at the Cracker Barrel (1005 Airport Blvd., Morrisville) if you let Susan Grigg (919-870-8345) know you will be arriving by 6:30 pm. Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 6:30 pm or meet us at the Cracker Barrel.

Don't forget to bring your iris stalks for the reblooming show and your donations for the Regional Auction that benefits Region 4. Send Anita Moran a list of your auction donations so she can have a picture ready to show. Her email is anita.iris@pilmore.com.

We look forward to your visit, to honoring our hybridizers, and to seeing reblooming iris in North Carolina!

REGISTRATION for REGION 4 FALL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017

NAME 1 _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

NAME 2 _____

ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT) _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL (IF DIFFERENT) _____

SATURDAY JUDGES' TRAINING: How Many? _____

Full Registration fee -- \$80. per person (includes lunch and dinner on Sat., Oct. 28)

Youth Registration fee -- \$70. per person (includes lunch and dinner on Sat., Oct. 28)

Dinner Saturday night **only** -- \$35. per person, number of persons _____

Special meal needed? Check one. Vegetarian _____. Gluten free _____. Other _____.

Payment enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: ENCIS

Mail this reservation form and check to: Glenn Grigg, ENCIS Treasurer

105 Trotters Ridge Dr.

Raleigh, NC 27614-9620

***Make hotel reservations before **October 14** directly with the hotel, Hilton Garden Inn, Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle Park, 4620 S. Miami Blvd., Durham, NC 27703.

Phone: 919-941-6066 or go online to <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/R/RDUGIGI-IRIS-20171026/index.jhtml>. **Use group code IRIS and mention Eastern NC IRIS SOCIETY** to get the special rate of \$99. + tax. The same rate will be available for Friday, October 27th if you'd like to arrive early. A few rooms will be available at the special rate for Thursday, October 26 also.

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REGION 4 FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

**Hilton Garden Inn, Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle Park
4620 S. Miami Blvd., Durham, NC 27703**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Registration, outside Moore and Davis Rooms
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Show entries accepted in Moore Room
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Regional Board Meeting in Davis Room
9:45 – 11:30 a.m.	Judging Iris Show in Moore Room
11:00 – Noon	Registration, outside Moore and Davis Rooms
11:30 a.m.	Show Open for Viewing in Moore Room
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (provided at the hotel) Garden Grill
1:30 – 3 p.m.	Judges Training in Davis Room
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Regional Auction in Davis Room
5:30 p.m.	Break down iris show
6:30 p.m.	Awards Dinner at the hotel in T.W. Alexander Room

Anita Moran
Newscast Editor
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132

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