



The Newscast

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Anne Lowe Receiving AIS Gold Medal at 2005 National Convention

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Anne Harris Sommerville Lowe
1929 — 2020

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Notes From The Region 4 Vice President

Fall 2020 Meeting RVP Report

Well, my time as the Region 4 RVP has come to an end, but my time with Region 4 has not. Although I now reside in Region 5, I will always be a proud member of Region 4. And I look forward to continuing the friendships I have developed within Region 4 and attending the Regional functions.

My work on the history of Region 4 is not finished. There are a number of projects that I have in the works that I am going to continue working on and publishing via our *Newscast* as I get them in a more complete form. One of those projects is completing the Affiliate chart or list, those Affiliates that have come and gone as the Region grew and changed since 1959. Having the old *Newscast* scanned will allow me to read through them and pick out details that I can add to the chart. I think everyone will be surprised at the number of Affiliates that have been a part of Region 4 and how the Region has evolved.

Additionally, I want to re-visit my desire to have each living hybridizer in Region 4 have a bio of some sort in the AIS Iris Encyclopedia. I think it is important to capture the essence of each hybridizer's personality and hybridizing focus for those who may be enjoying their introduced varieties.

I would like to encourage those who have operated iris businesses to pen, or you could type on a computer if you are out of pens, articles like the recent one in the Fall 2020 AIS Bulletin, "The Story of Winterberry Gardens", by Don Spoon. If you need historical data verified, as Don did, you can ask me, and I very well may have your answer based on research I have already completed. Thank you, Don. I would like to welcome Dan Fetty as the incoming RVP and ask that everyone support him as you have me. It has been my pleasure to have been your RVP. You are not rid of me: I will be your Immediate Past President for the next few years.

Doug



'Endless Sunshine' (Blyth 2015)

Iris from the Miller Garden to be seen at the 2021 Region 4 Convention

April 29—May 1

Registration on page 28.



'Struck Twice' (Lauer 2009)

Iris albertii

photo by Lowell Baumunk

Eupogon, Tall-bearded Iris
A slender lavender to violet flowered species with stems from 12 to 30 inches tall.

General Description: Flowers are lavender to purple-violet veined brownish-red, with whitish or pale blue beards. Stems are 12-28" tall. One of the first tall bearded irises to bloom, and often reblooms in the fall.

Preferred Habitat: Inhabits grassy steppes at an elevation of 1700 to 2000 meters.

Native Range:

Kazakstan, Tien Shan and Fergana mountains, Turkestan, Kazakhstan, Asiatic Russia.

Toxicity: Like many other irises, most parts of the plant are poisonous (rhizome and leaves), and if mistakenly ingested can cause stomach pains and vomiting. Also, handling the plant may cause skin irritation or an allergic reaction.

Reference:

1 SIGNA <http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Iris-albertii>

2. Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_albertii

From The Editor

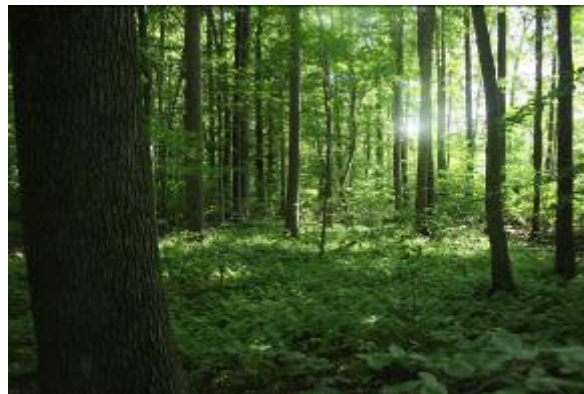
There is a lot that has happened to the World of Irises and Region 4 last year and I hope that the *Newscast* kept you informed and hopefully entertained. When visiting gardens around the Region, a usual entertainment for me, I had to think of other ways to entertain myself during the lock down. There were Zoom meetings for various factors and Garden beds to build. I spent time building and populating new garden beds and investigating my woods for possible shade gardens.

My interest was really peaked when I stumbled onto the Hügelkultur type of gardening. It is a permaculture technique the uses technique where a mound constructed from decaying wood debris and other compostable biomass plant materials is later (or immediately) planted as a raised bed. As soon as I see how it works for various types of irises I will write an article on it.

What have you been working on? Let us know.

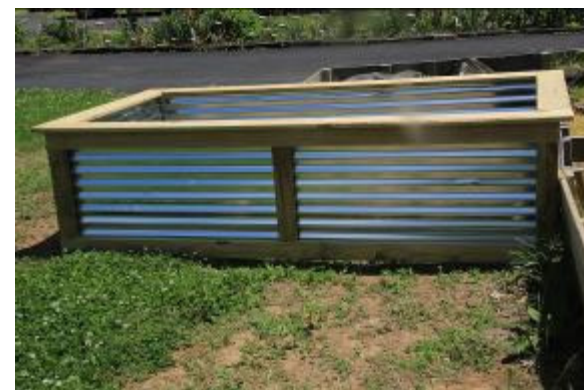


Beds are growing in number at new residence.



Possible future site for a shade garden on the opposite side of the stream.

Hügelkultur



My first Hügelkultur bed. It is now nearly full taking almost a year to fill and allow to compost before next layer is added. Will have 8+ beds come next winter, I hope. Logs are already waiting.

Remembering Anne Lowe

Anne Harris Sommerville Lowe, 90, of Dinwiddie County, died 12 January 2020, comfortably, at home.

Born September 1929 in Rochester, New York, to the late James Harris Sommerville and Perc Virginia Zilles Sommerville, she graduated from McKenney-Sunnyside High School in 1946 and received a BA in Chemistry from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in 1950. She received her postgraduate degree from Simmons College in Boston in Physical Therapy.

She married the late Edward Wilson Smith in 1952, where they lived together in Dinwiddie County until his untimely death in 1957. She is survived by one son from this marriage, Alan W. Smith (Deborah) of Dinwiddie, VA.

She married the late Michael Baxter Lowe in 1960, living in Greenock, Scotland, Virginia Beach, Gaeta, Italy, and settling near Wilsons in 1973, where she lived until her death. Anne is survived by two children from this marriage, Hannah L. Goddard (Charles) of Port Hayward, VA, and Eric C. Lowe (Patricia) of Richmond, VA. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Tom Allen, Amelia Lowe, Margaret Allen, Anne Lowe, and Audrey Lowe. Anne was predeceased by Mike in 2014.

After many years as a navy wife, Anne finished her career as a consulting physical therapist in the Blackstone area, specializing in geriatric rehabilitation. Anne was an inveterate reader, traveler, singer, bridge player, and gardener. She and Mike were long time members of the American Iris Society and the Historical Iris Preservation Society, where she served many years as a judge and in many other capacities for which they were both awarded the AIS Gold Medal. Anne was an active member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in McKenney, VA. She was an avid player of bridge with her dear friends in McKenney. Following a hospitalization for a broken hip in 2016, she returned to independent living in her own home, including cutting acres of grass on her 72" commercial zero-turn mower.

Strength In The Background

I met Mike and Anne Lowe during my first AIS National Convention in 2003 put on by Region 3. Those first two years, especially at Nationals and Regionals, I spent more time with Mike because of our mutual love of photography. It was when I was registering my first irises, it was Anne who called me and helped me to develop a lucid description of the irises I wanted to introduce. Her help was so instrumental in guiding me that I continue to wish I had the talent for descriptions she had. It sorrows me that we lost contact

after the loss of Mike but she remained in my thoughts. Anne was a force in Region 4 and the American Iris Society, even though most of her work was behind the scenes. It is hoped that others could work as hard.

Anita Moran



Freda Martin & Anne Lowe

✿ Anne Lowe was a friend whom I admired for many reasons. She knew about irises and was a discerning judge. She and her husband Mike were judges for several of our ENCIS iris shows. I was so impressed by the careful study that she and Mike did on the show bench as they selected the blue ribbon winners. It was the first time I saw a judge look at an entry all the way around.

I liked finding a chair near Anne when we both tired of walking on an iris tour. We could exchange news about our families and about iris.

In 2006 Mike presented a program on color in the iris family. It was held at our home and I served refreshments before the program began. As I cleared the plates and silverware, Anne followed me to the kitchen. "Where's your dishpan?" she asked.

"I can't have you washing dishes," I responded. "Don't you want to watch Mike's program?"

"I've already seen it," she declared. "I'd rather wash dishes."

So Anne Lowe stood at our sink in the kitchen, washing my china plates and silver. What a gal! What a friend!

Susan Grigg

Membership Report

October 2020

The following is the information from the spring report: As of March 2020, Region 4 has 236 total memberships, 282 total members, down 20 members from this past spring. We are fifth in total memberships in AIS. We were fourth last spring. We have 4 youth members, 72 single annual, 13 dual annual, 59 single triennial, 27 dual triennial, 20 single life, 9 dual life, 7 affiliate memberships and 22 e-memberships.

Presently, October 2020, we have a new AIS Membership Chairman and she is not sending me any statistic reports so I am not sure how our region is doing as far as placement. My database shows 271 memberships for the region with 317 total members showing on the AIS chairman's spreadsheet. The AIS spreadsheet also does not designate whether or not it is an E-Membership or Youth Membership so I am not able to give you a count on these.

There have been some discrepancies in some of the clubs members against the AIS spreadsheet so please check your own club membership with the data that is sent to you at the end of each month and let me know if you find any errors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Spoon
Co-chairman, Membership Region 4

Beardless and Species Report, Carol Warner

The convention for the Society for Japanese Irises in Nova Scotia had to be cancelled due to uncertain ability to cross the border with Canada. It may be rescheduled in July of next year.

In 2021 the convention for the Society for Siberian Irises will be held in late May in Seattle, WA.

At this time the beardless irises are looking great. It is a great advantage that they do not get leaf spot. My bearded irises were looking great and then all of a sudden were hit with a terrible case of leaf spot. They certainly don't look very nice in the landscape. It is also nice that the beardless irises like a mulch, since that helps to control the weeds. I am looking forward to some new varieties in my garden from Dean Cole in Maine. We are evaluating some seedlings for introduction and so far they look very promising.

Median Report

The Median Convention, 2020 Vision(s), that was to be held in Oklahoma City, OK from 4/16/2020, through Saturday, 4/18/2020, unfortunately had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus and the precautions needed to be taken.

The Miniature Dwarf Iris Society will have an online auction of collections donated by their members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Spoon
Median Chairman

Rerun in 2021 Median Iris Trek Registration

This is to all those who are interested in attending the MIS Convention in Oklahoma City in April 2021. After careful assessment of the impact the COVID-19 virus could have on people's health and listening to many suggestions we have decided to still have it but make some changes. We will call this a trek instead of a convention and strongly encourage people to drive their own automobiles to Oklahoma City and to the gardens or plan on renting transportation or riding with someone else. I know this limits the number of iris lovers who can attend but we feel that buses inherently are too confining and could invite COVID spread.

You can use the previous 2021 form sent out or the new one that calls this a "trek". Prices are the same because even though we will no longer have the expense of the buses we will now have the expense of the banquet and auction rooms at the hotel. Previously the hotel was not charging for these rooms because we had to guarantee a minimum food expenditure and number of over-night room registrations. The hotel has allowed us to forego those guarantees but we now must pay for the meeting rooms.

There will be no buses, but we will still have the five gardens. We hope to have all the gardens open from 8-5 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. This will give you added flexibility of spending as much time in the garden that you want or attending your favorite gardens more than once. Box lunches will be provided on Friday and Saturday. There will be two scheduled times for in garden judges training sessions: one on Friday and the other on Saturday.

There will be a Silent Auction that will consist of donated items. If you could bring items for the silent auction, we would truly appreciate it. We will have a live auction consisting of convention iris rhizomes and donated rhizome certificates from hybridizers, to be shipped in the fall.

There will be a Thursday welcome dinner and a Saturday evening banquet, tables arranged to minimize COVID spread.

We know it is a bit late to announce these changes, but we came close to canceling altogether. If we get normal weather from now into April, we are set up for very good bloom. Please join us!

For any questions. Please email Randy Moore
at rmoore6@hotmail.com

AIS REGION 4 Fall Judges Training Report

Region 4 has 31 Judges-2 Emeritus, 5 Retired, 11 Master, 6 Garden/Exhibition, 2 Apprentice and 5 Student Judges. Two of our Master Judges actually participate in Region 5 because of where they live. We have one Master Judge who just transferred from California to the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society so we would like to welcome Alleah Haley, mother of Heather Haley, a student Judge. Judges training is not just for those who are intending to become accredited Judges but is great for furthering your iris knowledge. Of course, we are always looking for new Judge Candidates.

If you are interested in becoming a Judge, please contact me and I will be glad to get you all of the information you need to get started. The annual Judges Training report was sent to the National Judges Training Chairman, Bonnie Nichols. We had several judges participate in the 3 late summer on-line AIS Judges Training seminars. Hopefully, we will be able to have our regular Regional meetings so that we can all get some in-garden judges training soon. If your affiliate club is planning a Judges Training session, please remember to fill out the form to plan the session and let me know so I can notify all other affiliates. The forms are on the Region 4 website (or you can contact me) along with a Class Rooster form that needs to be completed and sent back to me with the tests for that session.

Sue Shackelford
AIS Region 4 JT Chairman

INFORMATION ONLY Judges Training

As we are struggling to find a new normal in this very uncertain world we now are making history by having our first virtual Regional meeting. We have all had more time to be working in our gardens but the fruits of our labor may not be appreciated this year by anyone except ourselves. But next year should be wonderful. In early March, Bonnie Nichols, AIS Judges Training Chairman sent out the following directive:

Because of the government-imposed restrictions on large gatherings due to the coronavirus, The American Iris Society Annual Convention, Median Iris Convention, and the Louisiana Iris Convention have been canceled as well as many (if not all) of the spring regional meetings. This means that opportunities to take garden and class room judges training will be very limited, if not impossible. If your region has trainees that have completed their requirements to move to Apprentice or Garden Judge status, they will move automatically. If you have Garden Judges who have met their requirements to become Master Judges, they will advance automatically.

If your region has Student, Apprentice, Garden, or Master Judges that lack hours for 2020, the decision has been made to extend their eligibility for one year.

I am in the process of evaluating online Judges Training classes and will let you know as soon as they become available for your clubs and regions.

Everyone is charting new ways of doing things. None of us have been through such a horrific event which has impacted our entire world. I appreciate your patience and will be happy to answer any questions you or your judges may have.

Thank you,
Bonnie J Nichols,
AIS Judges Training Chairman

RVP, Doug Chyz, had requested the Region 4 Judges to give their opinions on this just so he could have an idea of what we thought when he was discussing it with the National AIS Board of Directors. If you do have any Judges Training either in-classroom or in-garden, those hours will be counted on your annual Judges Report which IS still due in August.

At this time, I know of two scheduled Judges Training sessions. The first is in-garden training at Winterbury Gardens given by Ginny Spoon on Saturday, May 9 from 10:30 to noon. The second is in-classroom training given by Frances Thrash on Saturday, June 13 at the regularly scheduled FAIS meeting at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library-Salem Church Branch located at 2607 Salem Church Rd., Fredericksburg 22407 at 1 PM. She will give in-classroom training on "Judging the Artistic Division of an Iris Show" for one hour and then she will give 2 hours of in-garden training at a member garden who has beardless iris blooming (TBD) after the meeting for those who want to attend.

Use this time to read articles in the Iris Bulletins that you have put aside and even reread the Judges Handbook. Please let me know if you have ideas for judges training topics that you might like. As always, I am here to help in any way that I can.

Sue Shackelford
AIS Region 4 Judges Training Chairman



WEB SITE REPORT

Since the Region 4 site needed renewal, I was working with Acorn Host to change it to a Non-Profit site. We ran out of time setting it up so for a few days the site was off line and I had to pay the commercial price to renew the site. We finally completed the change and Region 4 website is now a non-profit website with an increase in band width and an increase in storage capacity from 2GB to 4GB. Cost was reduced from \$90.43/year to 67.68/year This will allow even more pictures and publications to be posted on the site.

This winter I will be working on the sight but changes will not be made if I do not receive an email from the Region 4 officers, or president of the affiliate at pilore22@gmail.com with the subject of web page changes. SPIS has already submitted their 2021 schedule and changes. Thanks Ginny.

Anita

Top 10 of 1411 Total URLs By KBytes				
#	Hits		KBytes	URL
1	90	0.41%	347668	7.55% /publications/DEC2019.pdf
2	47	0.22%	175828	3.82% /publications/AUG2014.pdf
3	28	0.13%	167667	3.64% /publications/MAR05.pdf
4	19	0.09%	161121	3.50% /publications/mar08.pdf
5	11	0.05%	130786	2.84% /publications/DEC07.pdf
6	37	0.17%	128452	2.79% /publications/SPR2018_Info.pdf
7	14	0.06%	107228	2.33% /publications/DEC2006.pdf
8	143	0.65%	106049	2.30% /publications/MAR2017.pdf
9	11	0.05%	89693	1.95% /publications/DEC08.pdf
10	11	0.05%	83541	1.81% /publications/AUG10C.pdf

Newscast Report

As of January 2021, the *Newscast* continues to be read nationwide and worldwide. The mid-Atlantic region has a broad range of conditions and we can grow everything from species like *Iris unguicularis* in most southern areas to *Iris setosa* in more northern climes, and if germinated from seed these two usually narrow growing regions expanding into areas not seen before. It is the same with Aril and Arilbred irises. Mike Locatell seemed shocked that his 'Metro Blue' (2015, Locketell) not only thrived in Maryland but was a reliable rebloomer as well. This is information that the rest of the region needs to know. Are you growing an iris that is not usual for your area? Let us know. Did you attend a talk that gave you lots of ideas and plans, please, pass it on. The *Newscast* is your newsletter and I need your input. Let others worldwide know that irises cannot be boxed into a USDA zone but can push the limits.

Reflections on COVID-19 in 2021

- Still haven't decided where to go for Easter -----
The Living Room or The Bedroom.
- * I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage.
What should I wear?
- I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Anonymous

Epperson Awards Committee

Once again it is time to be thinking about nominations for this year's Epperson Service Award. There has been discussion about the Epperson Award and its failure to honor our older members who served AIS well but who may not be as active as they once were. The Board is working on this concern.

At this time, the committee is made up of affiliate presidents and a chairman who initiates the nominations and guides the process until a candidate is chosen and then forwards the name to Susan Grigg so she can get the Award engraved for presentation at the Fall Regional meeting.

Any Region 4 member may make a nomination for this award. Please write a letter to nominate your choice for the award listing the work that your nominee has done and send it to your affiliate President for submission. The criteria for the award have been sent to each affiliate president along with the names of those members who have received the award in past years.

We don't have to award the Epperson Service Award every year, but please don't miss the opportunity to recognize someone who has consistently supported the AIS mission.

Sue Shackelford

Epperson Service Award Chairman

REGION 4 Hybridizers Part 1

Winterberry Gardens 2021 Introductions Don and Ginny Spoon

Don and I are looking forward to another year of introductions from our Winterberry Gardens. We are especially excited about Don's new red, '**Mother of Dragons**' a velvety flag red blend that has rebloomed for us in zone 6. It is out of 'Pop Star' X 'Lest We Forget.' The spathes are purple edged and the foliage is purple base. It is the most prolific grower in our garden this fall.



'Mother of Dragons' TB Don Spoon

Another red that has Don excited is his '**Red Silk**', a flag red with darker cardinal red edges out of 'Maroon Moon' X 'Red Hot Momma'. It also has triple socketed terminals and is a great parent.



'Red Silk' TB Don Spoon

Don has managed another of his long term goals for a green iris with orange beards by crossing 'Teagan' X



'Green Pepper' SDB Don Spoon

'Teal Lines'. '**Green Peeper**' is a lovely SDB that is also ruffled and has a sweet key lime fragrance.

'**Lemon Smoothie**' (Don Spoon) is a greenish-yellow



'Lemon Smoothie' TB Don Spoon

blend out of 'Dream Team' X 'Easy Being Green'. The branching and bud count on this is a hybridizer's dream. It is a personal favorite of mine.

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Winterberry Gardens 2021 Introductions Don and Ginny Spoon

'**American Band Stand**' (Don Spoon) is a peachy pink rainbow of color with a lovely sunburst with purple veins and red orange beards. The parentage is 'Gitano' X 'Jazz Band'.



'American Band Stand', TB Don Spoon

'**Young Patriot**' (Don Spoon) is a tiny miniature tall bearded that is white with purple centers and yellow orange beards(14D) tipped spectrum red (43A).



'Young Patriot' MTB (Don Spoon)

'**Hot Peaches**' (Don Spoon), a peachy pink SDB that Don wanted to introduce for quite a while, but somehow was forgotten in the mad shuffle, made such an impression this past spring we could not forget it any more.



'Hot Peaches' SDB (Don Spoon)

'**Tropical Dove**' (Ginny Spoon) is a lovely lavender border bearded out of (Little John X Orchid Dove) X Selah Christine (Sariel X Orchid Dove). I have been working on the stay green spathes for a while now when I first noticed them in 'Opalescent Dream'.



'Tropical Dove' BB (Ginny Spoon)

'**Ginny's Jewel**' (Ginny Spoon) is an SDB out of my 'Velvet Elvis' that is the jewel of the garden. It is a prolific grower and has ruby red flowers and dark green foliage. I am really proud of this one.



'Ginny's Jewel' SDB (Ginny Spoon)

Last, but not least, is Bryan's '**Buffalo Gal**'. It has yellow standards and a dark greyed orange falls. The parents are interesting, 'Solar Fire' x ('Midsummer's Eve' x 'Solar Fire')

X 'Hot Secret'.



'Buffalo Gal' TB Bryan Spoon

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Future Winterberry Gardens Introductions Don and Ginny Spoon

We have some exciting introductions ahead for the future. Some are already registered and named. **'Sheleheda Sunrise'**. (G. Spoon R. 2019) Sdlg. 2010-G35. TB. 33" (84cm), 7 buds, EM. S. rosy red, erect, domed; ST. rosy red, laced crests; F. rosy red with darker veins and periphery redder (RHS 46A) as flag red and white spike and lavender infusion below beards, arched, ruffled and fluted, crenulated lace, B. solid orange (24A); slight Sweet fragrance. 'Winterberry' X 'Forever Rose'.



'Sheleheda Sunrise' TB (G. Spoon R.)

'Coral Baker'. (D. Spoon, R. 2019). Sdlg. 2012-97CB. TB. 36" (91 cm), 7 buds, ML. S. mauve pink (RHS blend 75 B/C and 73 B/C), erect domed; ST. mauve pink, laced crests; F. mauve pink, wide touching semi-flared, ruffled and fluted, lighter edges and centers with near white zonal around beards, crenulated lace; B. solid red (41B); slight sweet fragrance. 'Cherry Blossom Song' X 'Decadence'.



'Coral Baker' TB (D. Spoon, R. 2019)

'May Day Princess'. (D. Spoon, R. 2019). Sdlg. 2005-8 PK. TB, 35" (89 cm), 7 buds, ML. S. pink (RHS 36A) with green bases and claws, closed domed; ST. pink (36A) with midlines mauve pink blend (36A & 75C), laced crests; F. mauve pink blend (36B & 75C) with pink (36C) edges and white sunburst around beards with greyed orange (N172B) veins, plus peachy pink (33D) hafts and shoulders, wide arched, heavily ruffled and fluted, laced with bubble lace; B. wide and bushy, solid red (43A); slightly sweet spicy fragrance. 'Signal Red' X 'Lycopene'.



'May Day Princess' TB (D. Spoon,

'Butterfly Effect'. (D. Spoon, R. 2018). Sdlg. 2013-81 PLM-WSK. TB, 36" (91 cm), 7 buds. ML. S. bright yellow (RHS 12C) with greyed purple (186C) veins at extreme inside bases; ST. bright yellow with deeper yellow (12A) edges and greyed purple (N187C) midribs; F. light greyed brown (199C/D) with yellow wash on edges, greyed purple (186C) spot with long, dark whisker veins extending down 1/2 of falls, and white (155A) sunburst with greyed purple veins; B. solid yellow orange (23B); ruffled and fluted, closed and domed standards, wide touching semi-flared falls, crenulated lace, laced crests, slight sweet fragrance. 'Treasure Trader' X 'Reckless Abandon'.



'Butterfly Effect' TB (D. Spoon, R.)

'Lacy Dove'. (G. Spoon, R. 2018). Sdlg. 2010-G39 BT/LD. BB, 27" (69 cm), 5-6 buds. LVL. Bitone; S. light purple violet (RHS N82D) with greyed orange (163C) vein pattern at bases; ST. light purple violet (N82C), darker (N82B) midribs; F. light lavender violet (N82B/C) with lighter (N82D) zonal around beards; B. greyed orange (163C) tipped darker (163B) deep in throats; stay-green spathes, ruffled and fluted, closed and domed standards, wide semi-flared falls, laced with bubble lace, laced crests, spicy fragrance, fertile both ways. Sibling to 'Tropical Dove'.

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Winterberry Gardens (cont.)



'Lacy Dove' BB (G. Spoon, R. 2018)

'Pretty Snappy'. (G. Spoon, R. 2019). Sdlg. 2012-89BSS TB. 37" (94cm), 7 buds, ML. S. yellow (RHS 2 C/D), darker (2B) at bases, closed domed; ST. yellow (2 C/D); F. blend of flag red (46A) and cardinal red (53A); 1/16" creamy pink border; prominent yellow (2B/C) sunburst, wide touching, arched, ruffled even in hafts and fluted, crenulated lace; B. solid orange (29A); slight sweet fragrance. 'Snapshot' X 'My Ginny'.



'Pretty Snappy' TB (G. Spoon, R. 2019)



'Autumn Star'. (name reserved) reblooms

Garden of Tom Silvers

About ten years ago, rebloom hybridizer Mike Lockett brought me some seedlings and named reblooming Tall Beardededs to test out in my zone 6b garden. Mike knew that I wouldn't give any special care to them and that only the best of the best would rebloom for me. One of the most reliable repeat bloomers has been 'Northward Ho'. It also makes plentiful pollen that seems to be effective on many different pod parents. So, it shouldn't be a surprise that several of my most promising reblooming lines have been coming from 'Northward Ho' crosses. Mike has had success with 'Northward Ho' also. As a prime example, consider his 2019 registration, 'Autumn Shower' which is from 'Northward Ho' crossed with 'Double Vision'. 'Autumn Shower' started reblooming here this year on September 6 and continued for many weeks.

In Spring of 2020, I lined out some small suffering seedlings from their communal milk jug bottom pots. A seedling from 'Belvi Cloud' x 'Northward Ho' grew so vigorously that it was in bloom by October 5.



Silver Seedling —
'Belvi Cloud' X
'Northward Ho'

Two seedlings from 'Pink Attraction' x 'Northward Ho' grew so vigorously that they made bloomstalks by Fall. One didn't open before killing frost, but the other one opened October 30. While these two seedlings might not be quite good enough to register and introduce, they promise to be eager rebloomers and should be excellent breeders.



Silver's seedling 'Pink Attraction' X 'Northward Ho'

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Garden of Tom Silvers (Cont.)

I have another older seedling from ‘Northward Ho’ pollen, under evaluation for possible introduction. The pod parent is a Lloyd Zurbrigg seedling named “NN2”, that is from ‘Clarence’ x ‘Matrix’. “NN2” has never rebloomed for me. I had done the cross mostly as a test to see if “NN2” breeds like a glaciata. “NN2” is mostly white but has flushes of violet on the outer sun exposed petals. I only got one seedling that I raised to maturity and it is a plicata, which would be supportive of “NN2” being a glaciata. I repeated the cross this season to get more seedlings. Regardless of what I find out about the color status of “NN2”, the plicata ‘Northward Ho’ seedling has rebloomed several years in a row now.

On a different note, one of the other encouraging lines I’ve been working is developing some dark purple repeat bloomers. The pod parent of this line is a seedling from ‘Rosalie Figge’ x aphylla ‘Wine Red’. While it does not rebloom for me, it has rebloomed farther south in Virginia. It blooms very early in the Spring and has no pollen, so has been challenging to work with. One season, ‘I Repeat’ bloomed early enough to supply pollen to put on this ‘Rosalie Figge’ x aphylla ‘Wine Red’ seedling. From that cross, I’ve selected 3 dark purple



Silvers seedling - (Zurbrigg seedling)NN2 X ‘Northward Ho’ rebloomers. The line needs some refinement but is showing a lot of promise.

In parallel to the tetraploid TB rebloomer breeding, I also am still working with diploid reblooming MTB lines. MTB’s ‘Cricket Song’ and ‘Easy Smile’ reliably rebloom here every year, as does an unregistered volunteer seedling from dropped seed of ‘Easy Smile’, that I call “Pink Volunteer”. From these, I’m getting a trickle of new reblooming seedlings. A cross of ‘Pink Volunteer’ x ‘Cricket Song’ gave a pale purple (almost white) seedling that has rebloomed two years in a row now.

A new rebloomer this year showed up in a short row of seedlings from ‘Cricket Song’ x ‘Merit’. ‘Merit’ has been reported to rebloom on the West Coast but has never rebloomed for me. I dug the seedling before the bloom stalk opened and relocated it to a better location. In the clump picture, you can see how vigorous it is (red arrow) compared to three siblings below it. I

can’t say I love the color, but it should be a nice addition to the reblooming diploid MTB



Silver Seedling (‘Rosalie Figge’ x aphylla ‘Wine Red’) X ‘I Repeat’

Silver Seedling ‘Pink Volunteer’ X ‘Cricket Song’



Silver Seedling Cricket Song X Merit

breeding stable.

Unrelated to rebloom, I feel like I’m making some progress on intensifying purple-based foliage (PBF). Working with Anna Cadd’s TB ‘Lady In Purple’ and a PBF line of my own,



‘Lady In Purple’

Silver Seedling ‘Lady In Purple’ X [‘American Sweetheart’ x(‘Honky TonkBlues’ x aphylla ‘Balascuta)]

I’ve selected several more intensely purple seedlings. I have other PBF lines in development but this is one of the most impressive to me so far.

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Pat McNeal

Hybridizing is a mutation of the “Iris Virus” – and like other viruses, it can quickly overwhelm your defenses! After all, the “Iris Virus” is really just a nicer name for “Iris Addiction!”

While many hybridizers are working on “goals,” it is easy to get sidetracked when you walk through your irises and imagine the many possibilities of crossing specific cultivars. However, I do now have a few goals that I am working on, yet in spite of my best efforts, I’ve not been able to restrict myself to those few goals! Yup, a mutated Iris Virus!



‘Harriet Tubman’ McNeal 2021

I don’t remember how, but somehow, I learned about hybridizing and gave it a try with my y first purchased irises (as opposed to the freebies I had grown for decades) that bloomed in 2008. I didn’t have any goals except to create something different or pretty. Out of 50 crosses I made, 20 were successful. How exciting it was to see those first crosses bloom in 2010! Of course, I thought they were ALL beautiful!

I joined The American Iris Society in 2008 when I won a membership in AIS for having a wining entry in the AIS Photo Contest that year. Since then, I have learned what to look for in considering parents and selecting seedlings suitable for introduction. In spite of my ignorance, I did manage to get some nice irises from that first effort, one of which – ‘Harriet Tubman’ – will be introduced this year.

In 2010, as I was working outside, I noticed a group of people stopped on the road, looking at my irises. I went over to introduce myself and found that they were an exploratory committee for the State of Maryland’s Harriet Tubman project, an initiative to promote tourism in the state. I don’t

recall their official name, but they had mapped out the “Harriet Tubman Byway” and were exploring the area where Harriet’s father lived on a plantation and worked at a sawmill about a half mile from our property. I was told that our property was part of the original plantation where Harriet’s father lived (as did she for a time) and she ran her underground railroad. (It later was determined that our property likely was NOT part of the plantation, which is believed to have started about where the sawmill was.) The Harriet Tubman Byway, as it turned out, would run right by our property!

As the committee admired my irises and learned that I was hybridizing (the irises were in bloom and my first crosses were blooming for the first time that year), they asked if by any chance I might have a brown iris that I would consider naming ‘Harriet Tubman’ since she likely had travelled on our property as she led slaves to freedom. It turned out that I did – a blended cocoa pink iris that blooms well above the foliage and holds up well except in the most extreme weather. The colors of HT are difficult to photograph accurately, typically coming out more pink than in real life. The intensity of the color is also affected by the weather, being darker, more brown, in colder weather, and aging just a bit lighter by the second day regardless of weather conditions.

The bloom itself holds a fair amount of symbolism, too. The beard is yellow, reminding us that Harriet was a ray of light to her people; the yellow spills over onto the shoulders, signifying that she shouldered the task of freeing the slaves; and below the beard there is a wash of blue violet, the color of the Union Army, for which she was a scout! Her coloration comes from the cross of ‘Cuss A Blue Streak’ x ‘Home Fires Burning’.

I expected ‘Harriet Tubman’ to be my first introduction, but efforts to increase her suffered a couple of mishaps along the way, even though HT is a good grower and increaser. Those are stories best left untold for now, but at last I have enough increase to intro her this year. Even so, I expect her to sell out quickly due to local demand.

I have one more introduction coming out this year – ‘Golden Princess.’ GP is a cross of (‘Queen’s Circle’ x ‘Reality’) x ‘Pirate Ahoy’, one of several nice irises I got from that cross. The bloom is a golden yellow with a small, blended white area below the beards and a brownish maroon rim on the falls. GP increases well, has nice stalks (3-4 well-spaced branches) and flower form, with up to 11 buds, though 7-9 is the norm. She is popular with garden visitors and I used her heavily in breeding last year. One of my most hopeful crosses is GP with ‘Rim of Fire’, the goal being to produce a cultivar exhibiting the coloration of ROF with the improved plant habit of GP!

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Pat McNeal (cont.)

Attempts to make the cross and get mature pods met with setbacks of one kind or another for several years. Then last spring, ROF put up 4 stalks and I crossed it both ways with 'Golden Princess'. Finally – SUCCESS! I got a couple of pods on 'Rim of Fire' and 5 on 'Golden Princess'! Out of 200+ seeds, I expect that I will get at least one seedling that will meet my goal!



'Golden Princess' McNeal 2021

So those are my two intros for this year – 'Golden Princess' and 'Harriet Tubman'. I have some future intros that are increasing, and I expect that next year I will introduce



McNeal Seedling 'Lavender Lustre'

'Lavender Lustre' and 'Marie Stewart'. Other future intros include 'Melissa's Smile' and 'Kim's Keeper'.

'Lavender Lustre' is a ruffled and serrated cross of a NOID white by 'Louisa's Song'. The bud is BRIGHT GREEN just prior to opening to a light lavender with an unusual sheen, or glow. The shoulders are washed with a pale olive green, and the falls are lined olive green. Styles are a lemon yellow and the beard is tangerine with tip hairs lavender capped with mustard yellow. LL has a LOT of substance, is

38" tall with 2 branches plus a spur and some triple sockets for 8-9 buds. Haft's touch or overlap, and it blooms Midseason with a light citrus scent!

You may have noticed that several of my future intros have human names. One of the things I do is offer customers the opportunity to have an iris named for someone. For a price (which varies with the size), customers can pick a seedling for introduction and choose the name. I do all the work of growing the iris to introduction and paying the registration and advertising fees. When the iris is introduced, they will get three fans of the iris, and other members of their family can purchase the iris for half price during the introductory year.

Three of my future intros were selected by people who wanted an iris named for a loved one who had passed away: 'Melissa's Smile', 'Marie Stewart' and 'Kim's Keeper'.

'Melissa's Smile' was chosen by Kathy Ireland to be named for her daughter, Melissa, who loved flowers. She wanted a purple one because Melissa's favorite color was purple. And she wanted to name it 'Melissa's Smile', because her daughter was always smiling a great big smile!

It took me a few years to find the perfect iris to be named for Melissa. There are so many purple irises, how could I come up with one that would be unique? My problem was that I was looking for a wholly purple iris, while I was overlooking the perfect one – a purple amoena that I had admired for several seasons and was evaluating for introduction – a purple amoena with a great big SMILE on the falls and a standout, bushy, yellow beard! When I finally made the connection last spring and sent her a picture, she was thrilled! She came out to see it in the garden and agreed that it was the perfect one!



McNeal seedling 'Melissa's Smile'

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Pat McNeal (cont.)

'Melissa's Smile' is a sister to 'Golden Princess'! She is 40" tall with 5" x 5.5" flowers, 3 branches plus a spur and 7-8 buds. Standards and falls are ruffled, serrated, diamond dusted and laced; hafts touch. Early to Midseason.



McNeal Seedling 'Marie Stewart'

'Marie Stewart' was chosen by Lynn Henderson to be named for her mother, whose favorite colors are displayed in the bloom. 'Marie Stewart' is a Border Bearded and is very late - one of the last irises to bloom for me - with lots of substance! Parents are 'Kiss of Kisses' x 'Ever After'.

'Kim's Keeper' was chosen by Eric Presley to be named for his wife who lost her battle with cancer. A luminata cross of 'New Leaf' x 'High Master', KK is illuminated with an orange glow in the center!

Only one of the above-mentioned introductions and future intros came from working on a "goal." I already mentioned my goal of coming up with a better 'Rim of Fire' type seedling. I have high hopes of realizing that goal when plants from last year's seeds come into bloom.

Another goal I'm working on is to produce a BLACK luminata worthy of introduction. I might see the realization of that goal from last year's seed crop as well. I have another goal I'm working on that's probably still two or three generations away if even ever, but many, if not most, of the crosses I've made are of cultivars that just seemed like a nice cross to make, whether to improve the plant (such as in GP x ROF), to make a new color combination, to improve the flower form or to come up with new patterns. And no

matter what the goal is in making a planned cross, you always end up with irises that you didn't anticipate and that open up a whole new bag of possibilities! Before you know it, you have THOUSANDS of seeds and you're wondering what's WRONG with you, WHAT are you going to do with them all! That's when you finally understand that you need help! You wonder if there is an IAA (Iris Addicts Anonymous) group that you can join. Because, after all, hybridizing IS a mutation of the iris virus (iris addiction) and is best not attempted by those with addictive genes!



McNeal Seedling 'Kim's Keeper'



This is what can eventually happen if you let the "Iris Virus" get out of control and mutate into hybridizing - more than 120 bags of seeds from my 2020 crop! What was I thinking?! And what am I going to do with them all?

For more information contact Pat McNeal at thegoodlife4all@verizon.net,

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Roan's Garden - Anita Moran

Hybridizing in Maryland

I have been lucky since joining Region 4 in 2003. Luckier still that I met hybridizers from all over the world that year. It was also the same year I was introduced to the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA) thanks first to Ginny Spoon, then the SIGNA presentation at the 2003 National Convention in Virginia. Arils and Arilbreds first piqued my interest in hybridizing since I was told Arils and their like did not survive in the Mid-Atlantic states. For the next ten years I proved them wrong. I was so fortunate in my learning to hybridize by being able to walk gardens with Don and Ginny Spoon, Rick Tasco and Roger Duncan, Keith Keppel, and Paul Black among others. The ability to listen to presentations at national, regional and local meetings of their goals by Tom Johnson, George and Michael Sutton, Bob Hollingworth, and many others allowed me to know the enormity of what I would be getting into.

Suggestions by those in the know that growing arils and Arilbreds from seed might be the way to go, I got seed of mixed Arilbred parentage and potted them out. Taking three years for the first three to bloom Arilbreds taught me patience. Excitement pulsed though me and I was hooked when my first seedling opened, 'Lakeside Elf' (Moran 2007).

After spending time with Don and Ginny Spoon at Winterberry Gardens, I was eager to get started. I ordered more from SIGNA, collected bee pods and of course my new crosses. Having extra pots, I decided to pot up extra species seeds sent by SIGNA. I was on a roll. I now have 58 registered irises in nearly every category and 35 introductions.

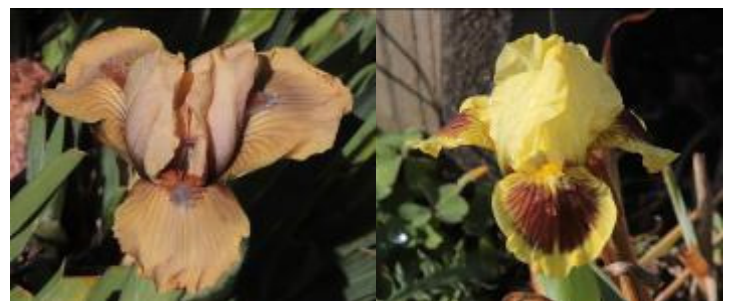
Because of a disaster, I lost much of my stock and many of my seedlings including those that were registered. Although I continue to love Arils and Arilbreds, my fascination with the dwarfs took precedence. After three years of being in pots, my seedlings were finally in beds and able to spread their roots and all but one or two thrived. One set of seedlings surprised me by reblooming. A bee pod on 'Sea Monster' was planted even though I was not a fan of the iris. When the seedlings bloomed all but one of the yellows, all the white and all the purples were composted. The re-

maining four pinks were kept. The first to be registered was named by James Stover 'Bee Monster'. It's unusual mango coloring with bright blue beard was as captivating as its 4 to 5 buds. The siblings three pinks and a yellow and red all remained and all rebloomed. They all will be used as future parents.

'Senorita Frog' has always interested me and with its reliability as a rebloom for me I crossed her with 'Baklava'. Unfortunately, only two seedlings survived the move and years in pots, but both were so intriguing.



Moran Seedling 'Bee Monster' R2020



Moran Seedlings—'Bee Monster' Siblings

Introduced this year, 'Tiger On The Green', from 'Senorita Frog' X 'Baklava' showed no signs of rebloom yet, but its fascinating color changes intrigued me. Dark olive green yellow when it opened, it lightens within hours to display a golden yellow halo around a light-yellow fall, but maintaining its green and brown spot. Its sibling 11SFb04 does rebloom but is not as proliferative as its sibling. Its dark blue thick beard is wonderful to see; we continue to watch it to see if being planted in a garden bed will multiply its increases.

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Roan's Garden - Anita Moran



'Tiger On The Green' Moran 2921, freshly opened and 12-hours



Moran Seedling
11SFb04

'Rosalie Loving' continues to be one of my favorite reblooming dwarfs. Crossed with 'Red Rabbit', 'Jack Loving', and 'Bordeaux Pearl' produced some nice SDB and MDB single blooming and reblooming seedlings.



Moran SDB rebloom seedlings 'Rosalie Loving' X 'Red Rabbit'



Moran SDB rebloom seedlings 'Jack Loving' X 'Rosalie Loving'



Moran MDB Rebloom seedling
'Bordeaux Pearl' X 'Rosalie Loving'

A sibling of my introduction 'Voldy's Mink' was just a plain yellow with red spot and I never registered it, however with five buds I used it to increase bud count on my seedlings. One cross with 'Panther' produced a sweet shell pink SDB, 'Nymph's Shell' which is also being introduced this year. Its sibling, a port colored early-bloomer is under evaluation. Two other MDB registrations came from a bee cross on 'Dinky Circus'. Future introductions 'Elven Maurelle', a 2021 introduction, and 'Elvish Circus' came from those



'Nymph's Shell' Moran 2021, and sibling 04SSTM9 ('Sunstrip' X 'Touch of Mink') X Panther

seeds and have performed well in all the conditions they were exposed to.

Another source of seeds I enjoyed receiving was from Loic Tasquer from Europe. The MDBs produced from several of his crosses gave me two nice miniature dwarfs, reblooming 'Corliyn Rose' and this years introduction



'Elven Maurelle', Moran 2021



Moran Seedling
'Elvish Circus' R2020

'Gnome's Garden'. Out of a cross (Tasquer seedling B38A ['Hot' x 'What Again'] X 'Double Life'). Both proved to be fertile and hope to see great things from them.

REGION 4 Hybridizers

Roan's Garden - Anita Moran



'Corliyn Rose'



Gnome's Garden'



Iris variegata var. *reginae*
'Pixie's Paths'



Iris variegata var. *pontica*

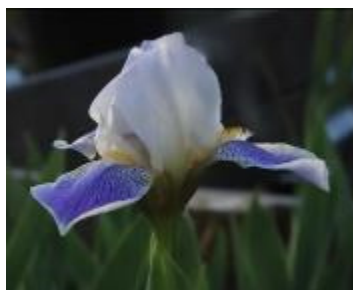
Another Tasquer seed set was a cross between Tasquer Seedlings C107A ('Hoodlum' X 'Negra Modelo') X s B083A ('Dark Vader' X 'Devil Baby').



Moran Seedling
11C107XB089a05

Tasquer Seedlings
C107A (Hoodlum X
Negra Modelo) X Tas-
quer Seedling B083A
('Dark Vader' X 'Devil
Baby')

Seeds from SIGNA continue to provide surprises and irises worthy of introduction. My future MTB introduction 'Sky Angel' R2020, came from open pollinated seeds of 'Anna's Angels'. I am still evaluating her sibling



'Sky Angel' SIGNA
12MB027 bee pod on 'Anna's
Angels'



Moran Seedling 17AAop02
SIGNA 12MB027 bee pod on
'Anna's Angels'

Iris variegata seeds Collected Cserhát Mountains in Hungary produced two seedlings that I kept. The first was *Iris variegata* var. *reginae* which I registered as 'Pixie's Paths' the second *Iris variegata* var. *pontica*

which I have been working with on other MTB diploid seedlings.

After losing my 5 bud SDB parent in the move, I was thrilled when two SDB seedlings of unknown parentage bloomed. Seedlings from SIGNA seeds were nearly identical in form with just slight color variations. The taller had 5-6 buds on 15" stalks and the second have 4-5 buds on 12" stalks. Both had diamond dusting. I used both on a variety of SDBs, MDBs, MTBs in two-way crosses and both proved to be fertile both ways.



Moran Seedlings 18BGop01 and 18BGop02 from SIGNA Seeds

Now it was a matter of seeing what they produced.

I do have some Tall Bearded seedlings in the works and hope to see them bloom in the spring, including crosses of 'Winterberry' X 'Haunted Heart', 'Tobacco Chew' X 'Winterberry' and 'Tobacco Chew' X 'Haunted Heart'. I also have two survivors for weed control damage out of 'Dark Drama' X 'Walkara' but being placed in pots has delayed their recovery and they have yet to bloom correctly



Moran
Seedlings
'Dark
Drama' X
'Walkara'



REGION 4 Hybridizers

Roan's Garden - Anita Moran

A surprise JI seedling from SIGNA (11Eop01 (SIGNA 10LV111 Enkaishu J04/03 (Rodionenko 99/3/6) x var pink) appeared. I was hoping for pink but instead got nearly black.



Moran JI Seedling 11Eop01 (SIGNA 10LV111 Enkaishu J04/03 (Rodionenko 99/3/6) x var pink

Two additional beardless seedlings are siblings out of SPEC-X 'China In Springtime' and versicolor 'Angel of the Pond'. They are completely different from each other and unlike their parents both are sterile.



Moran Seedlings SPEC-X 'China In Springtime' X I. versicolor 'Angel of the Pond'.



Moran Versicolor Seedling 02VMx04



An I. versicolor sibling of 'Angel of the Pond' survived and also reblooms occasionally. Placing it in a new bed we will watch how it progresses.

This year I am hoping my Siberian seedlings from SIGNA seeds 10SB327 ('Salamander Crossing' OP) and SIGNA 10SB317 ('Asilah' OP) open this year. The fifteen surviving potting did well in their new garden bed this year, so here's hoping they all bloom and something nice shows up.

Iris Program Resources

Info Only

While everyone is stuck at home you can continue to learn about irises by accessing the free digital resources through the AIS website www.irises.org.

Ordering Programs: Send an email to the Image Coordinator at images@irises.org listing the programs you would like. Programs will be delivered as an attachment to an email or you will be sent a link to the program(s) you request. If you are really savvy with Zoom or Skype you might even figure out how to do "share screen" so that several of you can watch the presentation at a time while one of you talks about each slide. Don't call me for the tech-savvy part.

Here is a listing of all the available programs:
<http://irises.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/07/Digital-Programs-Available-2019-rev-4-8-191.pdf>

Sheryl Campbell

Region 4 Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee continues to mail cards to members of Region 4 to celebrate awards, offer encouragement and prayers, and give condolences from the Region. In addition to mailed cards I have begun using an online, animated and musical, card service to send periodic general encouragement to members during the pandemic since we've had so little opportunities to see each other. I intend to continue that service this next year as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Campbell



Iris 'Bottled Sunburst'
Don Spoon
2017 TB
from the
Grigg Con-
vention Gar-
den 2021

Affiliate Reports

Charlotte Iris Society Carrie Winter Monitoring Award

Dear Iris Lovers,

As you know the Board decided to go ahead with bestowing the first Carrie Winter Monitoring Award on November 14, 2020. Prior to the ceremony, the committee accepted anonymous nominations. I am glad to state - Nomination was Unanimous.

Saturday, November 14, 2020 only a few of us could meet at the Council House. I would like to share with you my presentation of the CARRIE WINTER MENTORING AWARD. The recipient of our first Carrie Winter award is a Lady who has served Charlotte Iris Society in many capacities. She has been President 3 times. She is a hybridizer. In 1996 the American Iris Society awarded her the Williamson-White medal for her MTB cultivar 'Petit Monet'. She has been an accredited AIS judge for many years. Last year she saved our Spring Iris Show by stepping in to judge after designated judges had to cancel at the last minute. Those of us who served as clerks benefited from her knowledge and comments.

She has attended numerous AIS and Regional meetings. If it were not for her and Carrie's encouragement to attend the Region 4 meeting - I might have not become so enthused about irises. But more than anything - she has been most generous with her time, plants and advice. Many who nominated her considered her their mentor. She guided us through the rough time after Carrie passed. I could always bounce off a new idea, doubt, thought - and every conversation resulted in her patiently listening, advising and encouraging, when asked.

Even if she met our grandchildren, she most graciously guided them through the show or garden.



We think of no one who deserves this award more than KATHARINE STEEL.

Charlotte Iris Society Report

Hello Everyone,

This has been an interesting year for the Charlotte Iris Society. I personally spent a lot of time in the spring registering for different meetings and conventions, only later to cancel them one by one. But nature was not in a lockdown. Irises and other flowers gave us a spectacular show. Our members enjoyed the pictures sent by e-mail. More courageous and curious members ventured into the gardens, masked and safely distanced. Our Board was working on the Carrie Winter Mentoring Award criteria. It was introduced to the members and accepted in September. As Chair this year I am already accepting nominations (anonymous) for this award, and the winner will be announced November 14, 2021 during our annual Harvest lunch, if possible.

Since we could not have our regular meetings, CIS members participated in the rhizome and plant sale at the Council House parking lot on Sept 19, as well as joined Charlotte Garden Club sale on Sept.14-16. I am very proud to announce that CIS raised over \$1700.00. That allowed us to make a donation to CPCC scholarship fund, make a donation to Council House, not to charge membership dues for 2020/2021. Also, looking forward to sending a large group of our members next year to Raleigh to participate in the Region 4 meeting.

Currently a committee is working on: -- Crafting an improved Facebook or website page that will be presented to the Board. -- Encouraging new member interest in becoming judges, growing other irises besides bearded, etc. -- Opportunities to increase knowledge and love of irises -- Promoting Webinars on AIS Website .

Warmly
Ingrid Bray

ENCIS Society Report

We have had several ZOOM meetings since last March to continue plans for hosting the 2021 Region 4 convention. Now that vaccines are widely available, we look forward to greeting you in our masks.

Both our Iris Show and the two sales were canceled last year. Before the shutdown of events we did a ZOOM meeting with members "show and tell" about their favorite garden tools.

Susan Grigg for Diana Dudley

Affiliate Reports

Central Virginia Iris Society

Central Virginia Iris Society members had to postpone two of our events in the beginning of the year. We had to postpone the “Blooming Day” and our Central Virginia Iris Society Show set for April 25, 2020 at Strange’s Florist. But since this was postponed, our club members have been posting on Facebook, so we still enjoy Iris from their gardens. As president I would like to thank each one for stepping up on their posting of Iris pictures to Facebook. Also I have been sending out cards and calling members to see if they are doing fine and if they need anything.

We hope to get back in order after all this is over, so we can see our Iris friends and family members. We are working on scheduling other things for this year and next year too.

Central Virginia Iris Society members would like to send their love and hope everyone will be safe at this time.

Kathy Huneycutt
President

Francis Scott Key Iris Society Report,

Carol Warner

Like everyone else in these challenging times, F S K had to cancel our Spring Meeting and our Spring Show. It remains to be seen if we can have our regular sales this year.

We are looking forward to hosting the Region 4 meeting on October 10th at Hunt Valley. Our hotel accommodations are booked and we will soon be getting out a schedule and registration materials for the meeting. It will be a one day meeting. We will have to see what happens in Maryland as far as loosening restrictions on how many people can gather so right now everything is on hold.

Here’s hoping that we will have a good bloom season. There should be plenty of time to enjoy our own gardens this year since we have nowhere else to go.

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society

FAIS had a busy year despite the challenges of the pandemic.

A Virtual show was done on Facebook. Pictures of our iris and gardens were also posted on plantsmap. Leisa Mullen, Abby Glasgow, and Barbara Backus did a wonderful job in putting both Facebook and plantsmap together for us to view and enjoy online.

In July we had a very successful Iris sale complete with COVID-19 precautions in place. Our sale chair, Tricia Taylor did a great job of putting the precautions in place with a lot of input from members. Attendees response was positive

and much appreciated. Tricia’s team of volunteers worked very hard to make this happen. The sale will allow us to continue our scholarships for horticulture to Virginia Tech and Reynolds Community College. We were even able to increase them for this following year due to this successful sale. We also had a good response in sign ups for new members at the sale.

To be sure that the new members had an opportunity to learn how to plant and properly take care of their new irises, an Iris Basics program was held in August. (again with COVID-19 precautions in place) Lois Rose did a terrific job of presenting the program.

To close the year, a picnic was held in the yard of Leisa Mullen. A good time was had by all. It included a plant exchange and guest irises were handed out. Again, COVID-19 precautions were in place.

The officers of FAIS, board members, committee chairs, and members all did an awesome job in pulling together to get these things done during a very challenging year. They were all absolutely awesome!

Beth Orndorff
FAIS president

Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society

The Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society cancelled their spring show and their fall sale due to the COVID-19 restrictions and also our concern for our member’s safety. We did have a garden training in May with several members and some of us also participated in the classroom training online. Several members also visited Colin Campbell’s Iris Hills Farm and our own Winterberry Gardens in May and we practiced safe distancing while enjoying the blooms. The rest of our year consisted of staying home and enjoying the time in our own gardens.

In spite of the pandemic and wildfires my own summer was just as busy as last year taking iris orders and shipping them all over the country.

This fall our members voted to have our current officers continue until the next election cycle. We have only had one board meeting in person and that was in March. All other business has been done online.

We have our dates set for our spring show in 2021 and also our fall sale next year. We hope that next year we will have a vaccine for the virus and things are back to some kind of normal. Our prayers are also for the people out west who have been affected by the fires. Even now our eastern skies are gray from the smoke and keep the sun behind the haze.

Ginny Spoon, President
Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance on April 30, 2020	\$17,548.68
Receipts:	
Donation - S&P Iris Society:	\$300.00
Checking Account Interest:	\$0.65
Total Receipts:	\$300.65
Expenditures:	
Doug Chyz - Scan Newscasts:	\$540.06
Total Expenditures:	\$540.06
Checking Account Balance on September 22, 2020:	\$17,309.27
Carol S. Warner, Region 4 Treasurer	

Region 4 2021 budget

Expenditure	Contact	Description	Dollars
Printing and Mailing	Anita Moran	Two issues of Newscast per year	\$ 1,500.00
		March 2021	
		Fall 2021	
RVP Travel Expenses	Dan Fetty	\$600/yr. for AIS Conventions stipend	\$ 600.00
		Spring Meeting 2021	
	2021, 2024, 2027	Fall Meeting 2021	
Membership Committee	Ginny Spoon		\$ 100.00
Memorials	Dan Fetty/Board	In Memory donations	\$ 300.00
Zurbrigg-Mahan Award	Susan Grigg	Engraved Cup (\$300)	\$ 300.00
	Awarded to:		
	Shipping:		
Epperson Award	Sue Shackelford	Engraved Silver Bowl	\$ 140.00
	Awarded to:		
Sunshine Fund	Sheryl Campbell	Get well and sympathy cards	\$ 100.00
AIS Youth Program	Colin Campbell		\$ 100.00
Region 4 Website	Anita Moran	Costs associated with website	\$ 100.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	Dan Fetty/Board		\$ 300.00
Total			\$ 3,540.00

Minutes

Region 4. 2020 Zoom meeting minutes from October 14,2020

Attending included Doug Chyz, Carol Warner, David Bollinger, Lois Rose, Bonita Masteller, Diana Dudley, Anita Moran, Ray Jones, Patsy Van Etten, Ginny Spoon, Sue Shackelford, Heather Haley, Alleah Haley and Beth Orndorff

- 1) At 6 pm, the meeting was called to order. A quorum was met as long as a person with multiple titles (President of an affiliate and secretary for example) was present.
- 2). Patsy Van Etten introduced herself.
- 3) Minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted after Carol Warner made a motion to accept them as written. Lois Rose seconded the motion.
- 4). Doug Chyz presented his RVP report touching on new membership development, AIS webinars that were developed during these challenging and unchartered times. Doug will have more information at the Fall meeting.
- 5). ARVP report was not presented since Dan Fetty was unable to attend this meeting.
- 6) secretary report— there is nothing to add.
- 7) Carol Warner presented the Treasurer's report. The biggest expense is the copying/scanning of old Newscasts. This will be a limited expense since the majority of editions have been scanned.
- 8) Van Ferguson will present the budget at the fall meeting. There is \$2500 set aside for the newscast and \$600 for RVP travel.
- 9) Past President Report— Anita Moran is asking for more information on the budget and confirmation that Dan Fetty is willing to step up to become the 2020-2021 RVP. Apparently, Susan Grigg tried to contact him with no success. Doug will call him within the next few days to confirm.
- 10). Legal— open
- 11). Membership— Ginny Spoon has nothing new to report.
- 12) judges training— Sue Shackelford will add more at the fall meeting.
- 13) Conventions - We all must hope and pray that life will normalize soon and we can enjoy meeting again in the Spring 2021 with ENCIS hosting and the Fall 2021 Meeting will be hosted by FSK.
- 14) Youth Report— nothing to report.
- 15) Webmaster—Anita asked that any changes be sent to her ASAP.
- 16) The latest edition of the Newscast is being edited at this time.
- 17) Iris Program Resources— Sheryl Campbell noted that our Region may wish to set up our own Zoom account.
- 18) Historian Report— Lois stated that this has been put on the back burner.
- 19) Public Relations— Bob Pries was absent.
- 20) Sunshine Report— no report
- 21) Auction report— no meetings, no auction
- 22) Parliamentary Report—open
- 23) Beardless and Species— Siberian meeting will be (hopefully) held in Seattle in 2021.
- 24) Median Society—no report
- 25) Reblooming Society— no report
- 26) Epperson Award— Sue Shackelford stated that the award was not given this year since we held no meetings this year. Anita reminded everyone to send nominees to Sue.
- 27) Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers that will be voted on at the Fall meeting. RVP Dan Fetty. ARVP is Anita Moran. Treasurer is Carol Warner. Secretary is Diana Dudley. Lois made a motion to accept the report and the motion was seconded by Anita. There was unanimous agreement.
- 28—35) Affiliate reports.
ENCIS President Diana Dudley announced the dates of April 29—May 1 for the 2021 regional meeting. She asked that affiliate presidents tally the number of members who plan or think they may attend next year's meeting. Then, please email her at doggievet@aol.com.
- 36). Unfinished Business. Carol Warner announced that Region 4 made a donation in Anne Lowe's memory to the AIS Foundation, which was Ann's wish since a similar donation was made in memory of her husband, Mike.
Carol made the motion and it was seconded by Anita. There was no objection.
- 37) New Business— the Fall meeting will be held on Zoom on November 10, provided Dan Fetty can attend.
The motion was made to adjourn by Anita, seconded by Ray and agreed by all at 7:15 pm.

2021 – A SPRING WORTH WAITING FOR IN NORTH CAROLINA**April 29 – May 1**

You are cordially invited to the Raleigh/Cary area the first weekend in May for the 2021 Region 4 Convention. Our special guest for this meeting will be our AIS President, Jody Nolin, who will be our guest speaker for the Saturday Awards Banquet.

Every effort is being made to make you safe during this meeting: our meeting rooms are spacious, tables will be far apart with fewer seats at each table. According to State and CDC guidelines at the time, you may be required to wear a mask. Food will be either plated, boxed, or wrapped for your safety. The garden tour bus is the large 55 passenger one; we will cut seating to 25, so that there is plenty of space on the bus. If you prefer, you may drive your own car on the garden tour on Saturday, May 1.

On Thursday night, April 29, there will be a special session given by Anita Moran on photographing irises, so be sure to bring your camera, your phone and all your photographic equipment.

Friday there will be a Regional Iris Show, so bring your stalks and take home ribbons. Hopefully, there will be a wide spectrum of varieties to see in the show from dwarf irises to tall bearded ones. We invite all hybridizers, hoping for that Exhibition Certificate, to bring your seedlings to be judged. Also on Friday, the Region 4 Board will meet and all are invited to attend that meeting. There will be time for Judges' training and the Region 4 Auction, so let Anita Moran (pilmore22@gmail.com) know what plants you will be bringing, so she will have pictures ready. There will be two special items for a raffle and many have-to-have items in the silent auction, so bring lots of extra cash or checks. (We are parting with some of our iris treasures.)

On Saturday we will visit four gardens, all within 40 minutes or less of each other. Three of the gardens have not been on a regional tour, so you will see gardens you have not yet explored.

Our convention hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn-Raleigh/Cary, 131 Columbus Avenue, Cary, NC. This is a full service hotel next door to the DoubleTree Hotel, where the 2014 Fall Meeting was held. The hotel phone number is 919-377-0440. Use the group name Region 4 Iris Convention to get the reduced rate of \$114. That rate is also good for Thursday night, April 29. **Be sure to make your hotel reservation before April 15, the cut-off date for the discounted special room rate.**

Expect a warm welcome and the chance to see the **four** gardens being groomed especially for your visit!

RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

Wait until you see the silent auction tables at the Spring Meeting! You just thought that you had all the iris items you wanted. We can't reveal to you yet all the one-of-a-kind items that will be on the sale tables, but I can say that the items come from several irisarians' treasures and that you will be interested in seeing some items that are rare.

The raffle items are outstanding: an iris quilted bedspread and a jacket covered with irises.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. So please come ready to purchase tickets for the raffle, bid on silent auction items, and it may be your lucky day.

Schedule of Events

Region 4 Spring Meeting, April 29 – May 1, 2021

Thursday, April 29

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Registration	Pre-function area
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	“Photographing Irises” Anita Moran, Instructor	Bradford Ballroom D

Friday, April 30

7:00 a.m.	Free Breakfast	Garden Grille and Bar
7:00 a.m. – noon	Registration	Pre-function area
7:30 a.m.	Set up silent auction	Bradford D
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Show entries	Bradford C
9:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Judging the Show	Bradford C
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Judges’ Training (Ethics) Regional Judges Panel	Bradford D
11:00 a.m.	Silent auction open	Bradford D
11:00 a.m.	Show open	Bradford C
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Garden Grille and Bar
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Region 4 Meeting	Bradford D
2:45 – 4:30 p.m.	Region 4 Auction	Bradford D
4:30 p.m.	Dismantle Show	Bradford C
6:00 p.m.	Social hour	Pre-function area and Bar
7:00 p.m.	Welcome Dinner	Bradford D

Saturday, May 1

8:00 a.m.	Bus arrives at the Hilton Garden Inn-Raleigh/Cary.	
8:15 a.m.	Leave Hotel for the Richards Garden.	
9:10 a.m.	Arrive at Richards Garden, 3102 Hester Rd., Creedmoor.	
11:30 a.m.	Lunch in the Richards Garden.	
12:45 p.m.	Leave Richards Garden.	
1:15 p.m.	Arrive at Myers Garden, 8621 Barrett Ridge Rd., Wake Forest.	
2:00 p.m.	Leave Myers Garden.	
2:15 p.m.	Arrive at Grigg Garden, 105 Trotters Ridge Dr., Raleigh.	
3:15 p.m.	Leave Grigg garden.	
3:45 p.m.	Arrive at Miller garden, 7613 Hazelhurst Cir, Apex.	
4:45 p.m.	Leave Miller garden.	
5:15 p.m.	Arrive at Hilton Garden Inn, 131 Columbus Ave., Cary.	
6:00 p.m.	Social Hour	Pre-function area and Bar
7:00 p.m.	Silent Auction closes.	
7:00 p.m.	Awards Dinner	Bradford D

AIS Region 4 Spring 2021 Meeting, April 29 – May 1

Hilton Garden Inn, Raleigh – Cary, 131 Columbus Avenue, Cary, NC 27518, Phone: (919) 377-0440

Registration Form:

Name (1): _____ Chapter or Region: _____

Name Preferred on Nametag (1): _____

Name (2): _____ Chapter or Region: _____

Name Preferred on Nametag (2): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration is limited to the first 55 received. Please send your registration early.

How many will attend the Photography Session on Thursday night, April 29? _____

How many will attend Judges’ Training on Friday, April 30? _____

How many will want Judges’ Training in the gardens on Saturday, May 1? _____

Full Registration: \$125.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Youth Full Registration: \$80.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

After **April 1st** the Full Registration will be **\$135.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____**

Full registration includes all activities: Thursday night session, Friday lunch, judges’ training, Welcome dinner, charter bus transportation to the gardens on Saturday with lunch, and Saturday night Awards Banquet.

Registration for Saturday events only (bus tour, lunch, dinner): \$90.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Registration for Saturday events only after **April 1** will be **\$95.00**.

Registration for Saturday night dinner only: \$50.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Registration for Saturday night dinner only after **April 1** will be **\$55.00**.

Total amount enclosed for registration(s): \$ _____ . NO REFUNDS AFTER April 30.

How many wish to take part Saturday in the glass blowing at the Richards’ farm? _____

Special Dietary needs? E-mail or call Susan Grigg (see below) before April 15th.

Send completed Registration form with **check** payable to **ENCIS** to:

Glenn Grigg, Registrar, gggrigg@att.net	For additional information contact:
105 Trotters Ridge Drive	Susan Grigg, irismom1@att.net
Raleigh, NC 27614-9620	Phone: (919) 870-8345

Hotel Booking

The convention hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn-Raleigh/Cary, 131 Columbus Avenue, Cary, NC. This is a full service hotel. The hotel phone number is 919-377-0440. Use the group name **Eastern NC Iris Society** to get the reduced rate of \$114 for single or double room. That rate is also good for Thursday night, April 29. **Be sure to make your hotel reservation before April 15, the cutoff date for the discounted special room rate.**

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Anita V Moran
630 Third St
Aberdeen MD 21001

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