

Region 1 Bulletin

American Iris Society

Spring, 2004

Volume 57, Number 1

REGION 1 SPRING TOUR

Saturday June 5, 2004

The Region One Spring Meeting will be Saturday 6/5 at Stephanie Markham's Toadland Gardens in Norfolk, MA. This will be an outdoor meeting. Bring a chair and a sandwich, beverage and dessert will be provided.

We are going to have a judges training in the afternoon. This will be a lesson about what to look for in the garden, so it should be of interest to anyone who wants to learn who to recognize a good garden iris. Those of you who are not judges are welcome to participate. Here is a chance to see first hand what judges look for in a garden when they visit.

Many thanks to Stephanie for sharing Toadland Garden with us. A gentle reminder on good garden manners, please don't handle or pick anything for the resident hybridizer

may have made a cross on that flower or may be watching a plant to see how it behaves and we don't want to mess anything up. Most of us are considerate guests but it never hurts to review garden etiquette.

The schedule follows. It is a flexible schedule with room to change as things progress.

10:00 AM, Start meeting: General announcements, news, questions & answers
10:30 AM, Auction please bring items
11:00 AM, Visit and enjoy the garden
12:01 PM, Lunch and conversation
1:00 PM, Training for Judges and anyone who is interested: "Garden Judging MTB's and Evaluating Bearded Iris Seedlings"
3:00 PM approximate finish

Hope to see you there! Contact Bob Sawyer if you need more information:
orelio@suscom-maine.net



A view of Toadland's mostly TB Seedling bed. Stephanie breeds Tall Bearded and Miniature Tall Bearded Iris. She coauthored an article on Miniature Tall Bearded Iris in the 2003 British Iris Society Yearbook.



Above: MTBs in Toadland's lower garden
Below: MTB seedling clumps.



Dirigo Black Velvet
photo courtesy of www.ensata.com

BEATRICE A. WARBURTON MEDAL 2003 by Lynn Markham

For the first time in several years, the balloting in 2003 produced a really decisive win, this time for John White's beautiful pink Japanese iris, **Dirigo Pink Milestone** - not too surprising, given its outstanding performance wherever it was seen! Otherwise, the competition continues to be very lively, with 31 Region one judges casting votes, votes for 33 (nearly half) of the 70 irises eligible. A total of 215 points (4 for each first placement, 2 for each second, and 1 for each third) were awarded.

The winner for 2003 is



37 points **DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE** JI
John White, 2000

First Runnerup:

23 points **DIRIGO BLACK VELVET** SIB
John White, 1999

Second Runnerup:

19 points **SIMMER** BB
Lynn Markham, 1999

Other varieties receiving 10 or more points in the balloting were **Teapot Tempest** (BB - Lynn

Markham 1999) with 14 points, and **Fond Kiss** (Sib - Schafer/Sacks 1999) with 10 points.

As a matter of interest, we thought you might also like to know what other varieties received one or more first place votes, since such a vote indicates the judge's very high opinion of the iris to which he or she gives it. The list includes Barbara Robert's tall bearded **Aurora's Gown**, the Godfrey's standard dwarf bearded **Lemon Curd**, John White's Japanese **Dirigo Blue Plate**, Schafer/Sacks species **Georgian Delicacy**, and the following gang of siberians: John White's **Neat Trick**, and Schafer/Sacks' **Blackberry Jubilee**, **Book of Secrets**, **In Full Sail**, **Pennywhistle**, **Sarah Tiffney**, and **Tom Schaefer**.

Obviously, we have many more great irises in these parts than we have awards to give them. Congratulations to all!!!!



Suslik (I. pumila) John Burton
2002 Species Award of Merit



Ships Are Sailing Schafer/Sacks
2003 Siberian Award of Merit

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*Bulletin is free to all Region 1 members of AIS. Printed Region 1 Bulletin available to others at cost: \$2.50 per issue, contact the editors. **View the bulletin with COLOR PHOTOS plus much more at the Region 1 website:***
www.irisgarden.org/librarymain.htm

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RVP Message 2004

by Region 1 RVP Bob Sawyer

Boy, am I glad spring is here! This winter has been the kind that is hard on plant life where I live. We have had very little snow or precipitation of any kind. The jet stream and storm patterns have diverted the storms to the north or out to sea. The snowstorms have come within 20 miles of us and then were turned away. The result has been really cold weather and very little snow to insulate the ground so it has frozen at least two feet down. I am very anxious to see how well the gardens have fared during the winter.

The Spring meeting for Region One will be at Toadland Gardens Saturday, June 5, 2004. We plan to start at ten A.M. There will be judges training "Garden Judging MTBs " and an auction. The schedule of events will be published elsewhere in this bulletin.

There is a Region One schedule posted at the web site which is www.irisgarden.org for those of you who are not familiar with the web-site. The events of all our societies are listed. I hope it will be of some help.

This will be my last year as your RVP. I don't know where the time has gone. We did manage to get several things done in 2003. Among which is the completed update of our By-Laws. They were voted in at our last regional meeting and a copy resides at our web-site. I am working on the Tax Exemption Status 501 (c) which I plan to complete this summer.

There are two things that occurred in 2003 that I do want to note, one pleasant and one sad. We lost Aggie Waite, who was our RVP a few years back. Those of you who knew her will really miss her. I want to impart to

Ken and their family our sympathy and sincerest regards. There is a Memoriam to Aggie written by David Nitka in this newsletter. On the pleasant side, Shirley Pope became an American Iris Society Emeritus Judge. Congratulations to you, Shirley! You certainly have earned it with all the work you have done both at the Regional and National levels, in addition to the affect you have had locally and on the Maine Iris Society.

One of the things I get to do is count the votes for the symposium and I find the results fascinating. I don't totally agree with the way it is set up, but I am sure that in time it will change as many things are these days. One must be patient. As I have said the results are fascinating and I will share several items with you. For Region One in 2003, Stairway to Heaven and Vanity tied for top honors, Before the Storm was second, Jessie's Song and Peignoir tied for third, Conjunction, Dusky Challenger, Immortality and Stepping Out all received the same number of votes followed by Silverado and then Yaquina Blue. On the National level they were Dusky Challenger, Jessie's Song, Conjunction, Silverado and Stairway to Heaven. The rest of the National list is on page 94 of the January AIS Bulletin. Those of you who want to see what the results were over the years can go to

<http://irisarian.dynip.com/cgi-bin/symp.cgi>
There you will be able to display the contents of any symposium, the rankings over the years for a particular iris, or the number one iris over the years. Pick which sort of display you want, select a year or an iris, and hit the Submit button. List iris in one Symposium. List Symposia for one iris. List winners over all Symposia. Have fun! I have the listings for Region One for the last two years if anyone is interested.

This year during the month of March we lost our AIS membership Secretary in the person of Mary Brown. Soon after she started the position she found that she had a problem. After 6 months of chemo treatments things were looking good when she was admitted to the hospital with respiratory problems and died two weeks later.

Needless to say we have had problems with membership and all that goes with it. The April bulletins all had the wrong expiration dates for all the members. Don't worry the records are okay and the correct dates will be in the next bulletin.

We now have an interim Membership Secretary who is Anne Lowe and she can be reached at anne@worldiris.com or at 804-265-8198. She has completed the backlog of renewals, address changes and new memberships. Those who missed the April Bulletin due to Mary's untimely death will receive the April issue in a makeup mailing. Calls to the AIS membership phone number are being forwarded to Anne until we can get a new Memsec. Mail is being handled in the same manner. Anything mailed to that box number will be forwarded to Anne and later to the new Memsec.

Speaking of Mike and Anne Lowe, they will be with us at our regional meeting October second in ISM territory. They will be talking to us about Antique Irises. It should be a fun time and I am sure they will hold your interest, for they are both dynamic speakers.

The 2004 AIS Convention will be in Fresno California, starting the nineteenth of April for the board members. I plan to be in attendance and will pass any new information on to as many of you as I can.

I wish you all a great growing season in 2004,

Bob Sawyer
RVP Region One



Above: **Simmer**, Border bearded iris and winner of the HM Award in 2003, hybridized by Lynn Markham



Left: **Lemon Curd**, Standard Dwarf Bearded iris and winner of the HM Award in 2003, hybridized by Bill and Ada Godfrey.



Three of several 2003 HM Award Winners for Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer.



Above: **Banish Misfortune**, siberian iris.

Above right: **Versicle**, *I. versicolor* (species)

Right: **Summer Revels**, siberian.



Report AIS Fall Board Meeting 2003 by Region 1 RVP Bob Sawyer

The 2003 AIS Board Meeting was held in Tucson Arizona, Nov 7 through the 9th. First I would like to congratulate Shirley Pope, Jim Morris and Everette Lineberger. They were all appointed Emeritus Judges. The Hybridizer's Medal was awarded to Ken Fisher, Larry Lauer, and Graeme Grosvenor of Australia. The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Jean Morris and Mike Lowe.

We have two new Apprentice Judges. They are Michael Zuraw and Hao Chang of the Connecticut Iris Society. Welcome to the world of Iris Judges, Mike and Hao. Also our new National Judges Training Chairperson is Judy Keisling.

Keith Keppel has stepped down as Registrar - Recorder and Mike and Anne Lowe will take up the load the first of December. I believe that they will ask Anner Whitehead to become involved in what they are doing now, though I have no idea what the result will be.

The Chairman of Awards has made two recommendations which were approved by the board.

1. Special Medals. In any given year in which there are fewer than two (2) eligible cultivars for any Special Medal, that Special Medal will not be placed on the Official AIS Ballot for vote until there are at least two (2) eligible cultivars for that Special Medal. Each eligible Cultivar will continue on the printed Ballot for the full three years of eligibility.

2. Award of Merit. In any given year in which there are fewer than three (3) eligible cultivars for any Award of Merit, that Award of Merit will not be placed on the official AIS Ballot for vote until there are at least three (3) eligible cultivars for that specific Award of Merit. Each eligible cultivar will continue on the printed Ballot for the full three years of eligibility.

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The AIS Region 1 Nominating Committee (in order to fill the position of Region 1 RVP for Oct. 2004 to Oct. 2007) is searching for volunteers to publish the Region 1 newsletter for the upcoming years 2005 - 2007:

One Spring newsletter and one Fall meeting notice each year, produced and mailed to around 200 AIS members in New England. A system is being worked on to supply articles for publication to the Region 1 newsletter editor. Writing original articles need not be a responsibility of volunteers willing to take on the Region 1 newsletter editorship. If you are interested please contact

Barbara Schmieder or the Editors

Another view of the gardens at Toadland



**IN MEMORIAM
DR. ALFRED KAISER
1919 - 2003**

Dr. Alfred Kaiser of Hatfield, MA passed away and Region 1 lost its member with the most continuous years of membership in the American Iris Society. He joined the American Iris Society in 1955. Born in Rhode Island, Dr. Kaiser was a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Medical School. During World War II he served as a surgeon in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. In 1947 he moved to Hatfield, MA and served the town as a general practitioner working out of his home. He signed on to become the anesthesiologist at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, yet he continued to treat patients with housecalls, as Hatfield had no other physician. He retired in 1984 and pursued his interests in gardening, opera, reading, and travel to over 100 countries. He once noted that he was educated at the finest schools and he could have taken a job anywhere in the country, but settled in Hatfield and would not change that path for anything. Hatfield and its residents became his family. He was doctor to the Hatfield public schools for 35 years. He is remembered for his generosity, his compassion, and his sense of humor.

**IN MEMORIAM
MARIE BRONSON
1925 - 2003**

Marie Bronson, along with her husband Phil, who passed away in 1996, was a founding member of the Western New England Iris Society. They maintained a beautifully landscaped city garden which was a showplace for tall bearded iris: a collection of Dykes Medal winners along with newer distinctive TB's. Besides the iris, her "posies," Marie loved romance novels, country music, and crossword puzzles. Marie was stricken while on her regular Saturday morning shopping with her son, Edward. Shortly before, she had just finished dividing the iris in all her beds, confirming for all that her passing was unexpected.

**IN MEMORIAM
AGNES M. WAITE
1920 - 2003**

Aggie Waite died this past December after battling serious illness for several months with the support of her husband, Ken, and her cherished family. Region 1 and the American Iris Society were made much better through her efforts as RVP, 1983 National Convention planner, tirelessly maintaining the AIS Awards and Ballots responsibilities by hand tabulation, member recruitment at the Big E, founding and supporting the Iris Society of Massachusetts and the Western New England Iris Society, judging countless shows, encouraging and educating new exhibitors and student judges, maintaining a garden showplace featuring all classes of iris: a perfect blend of New England hybridized cultivars with the best from outside Region 1.....many of us could add more accomplishments to this impressive list.....

Aggie's first love was her family. She had an acute interest in genealogy. She was able to trace Ken's family tree back 300 years to the days of the Deerfield Massacre. She would explore gravestones in old cemeteries in search of family extensions or links not yet fully explained. More impressive was her kind care and commitment to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She showed constant interest and support, encouraged their freedom along with accountability, and always had the right gift or comforting word for them. Aggie was quick to fully exploit new technology, witness the Car-a-Mac, still unsurpassed for showing slides of iris in order to attract attention of potential "new members." Before most of us knew what the Internet and E-mail were, Aggie used it to communicate (inexpensively) with a favorite granddaughter across the ocean when her young family was resident in Japan. Every morning when her granddaughter woke up, she had news from home and moral support to help her and her child through another day lived in a foreign culture. Although Aggie was direct and often quick to share her opinions with others, it was without a trace of vindictiveness. Region 1 joins her husband of 65 years, Ken, in mourning her passing.

**2003 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
AWARD WINNING CULTIVARS
HYBRIDIZED IN REGION 1**

Morgan Wood Medal

CARELESS SALLY Siberian, Schafer/Sacks

Award of Merit (AM)

SHIPS ARE SAILING Siberian, Schafer/Sacks

Honorable Mention Award (HM):

TOM SCHAEFER Siberian,
Schafer/Sacks
BANISH MISFORTUNE Siberian,
Schafer/Sacks
STRAWBERRY SOCIAL Siberian,
Schafer/Sacks
SARAH TIFFNEY Siberian, Schafer/Sacks
SUMMER REVELS Siberian, Schafer/Sacks
HARPSWELL LOVE Siberian, Currier McEwen

DIRIGO PINK MILESTONE JI, John White
DIRIGO STAR JI, John White
DIRIGO BLUE PEARL JI, John White

VERSICLE Species, Schafer/Sacks

WILD PETTICOATS SpecX, Lynn Markham

SIMMER BB, Lynn Markham

GLEBE BROOK SDB, John Burton
LEMON CURD SDB, Ada and Bill Godfrey

Congratulations Region 1 iris hybridizers!

***Thanks to the judges for growing, observing,
evaluating, voting and appreciating these
worthy cultivars !***



***Careless Sally (siberian)
Schafer/Sacks
2003 Morgan Wood Medal***



***Glebe Brook
John Burton, SDB HM Award***



***Wild Petticoats, a Species Cross and winner of the HM
Award in 2003 hybridized by Lynn Markham***

REGION 1 BOARD MEETING February 15, 2004

The 2004 winter board meeting of Region 1 AIS was held during the Hybridizers' Gathering at David and Barbara Schmieder's.

Present were RVP Bob Sawyer, acting Treasurer and Nominating Committee member Barbara Schmieder, newsletter co-editor Dave Nitka, Jan Sacks president of ISM, Mike Zuraw president of CIS, and Debby Wheeler representative for WNEIS.

RVP Sawyer reviewed the status of AIS affiliation paper work with CIS, ISM, and WNEIS. He assigned followup items to make sure that applications for continued affiliation will meet deadlines.

An early to mid April mail date for the Region 1 newsletter was agreed upon. This will provide 6 - 8 weeks advance notice to Region 1 members of our Saturday June 5 Region 1 Spring Meeting at the garden of Stephanie Markham and Larry Wilson.

RVP Sawyer described the usefulness of the Region 1 website for attracting new members to AIS and to the affiliated societies. Affiliates can have their own pages on the Region 1 website, www.irisgarden.org, free of charge in exchange for submission of an article to the Region 1 newsletter each year. This arrangement has benefitted both MIS and CIS so far.

The first update of the Region 1 Bylaws in 28 years was voted on and approved at the Fall 2003 meeting. For the next steps Bob Sawyer will write a letter and include Treasurer's expenditures to demonstrate that Region 1 is tax-exempt. Bob will then apply for a Tax Exempt number. Target date for completion is July, 2004.

On behalf of Region 1, our Treasurer Barbara Schmieder has made a gift to AIS in memory of Aggie Waite, who passed away in December. Lynn Markham has written a tribute in memory of Aggie Waite in the AIS

April national bulletin.

The Fall 2004 Region 1 Meeting will be sponsored by ISM. The site has not yet been determined. Speakers will be Ann and Mike Lowe.

Ruthy Bennett has agreed to take over the Region 1 Treasurer's job from our acting treasurer, Barbara Schmieder. Ruthy is strongly endorsed by CIS, which she has served as Treasurer for many years. Mike Zuraw has offered to become the Assistant RVP to Bob Sawyer's successor as RVP, and to be the RVP after the term ends for Bob Sawyer's successor. There was discussion of qualified people to approach to be the next Region 1 RVP, taking over in the fall of 2004. Bob Sawyer promised to go out of his way to provide assistance to his successor as RVP.

A discussion was started to begin identifying additional expenses which Region 1 should incur in order to more smoothly function as a Region of AIS.

REGION 1 FALL MEETING October 4, 2003

The meeting at Comstock Ferre garden center in Old Wethersfield, CT was called to order by Region 1 RVP Bob Sawyer. A count showed that a quorum was present. Bob thanked the Connecticut Iris Society for setting up the regional meeting. Special recognition was given to Steve and Carol Ann Rogers for their effort securing the meeting site and making lunch arrangements for all. All attendees introduced themselves to the group.

Barbara Schmieder presented the Treasurer's report for outgoing Treasurer Marty Schafer. In summary, the region finances are in good shape. For the last fiscal year income exceeded expenses, due to Region 1 auction proceeds and affiliate contributions. The Treasurer's report was accepted as handed out (and as published in this newsletter).

The Secretary's report, as printed in the April 2003 Region 1 Bulletin was accepted.

As a reminder, it was announced that the Region 1 Bulletin is posted on-line on the internet at www.irisgarden.org

In October 2002, Region 1 voted to take the path needed for Region 1 to become a non-profit organization. Bob Sawyer's hard work produced a draft of By-Law revisions which were distributed, comments received, recommendations made, and changes effected. The result was published with the Fall 2003 Meeting notice. An amendment was made to delete the word "affiliation" in Article 1 Section 2. The by-laws as amended were voted on and approved by the quorum present. The next step will be to pursue tax-exempt non-profit status, through use of Bob's daughter, a professional writer.

RVP Sawyer and all present thanked Stephanie Markham for assuming the Judge's Training leadership for Region 1. Noreen Veal is being asked to take over youth chairmanship for Region 1. She has grown the Maine Iris Society youth membership to eleven. RVP Sawyer encouraged ISM, WNEIS, and CIS to activate youth programs to expose young people to irises.

The family of Currier McEwen requested memorial donations to the Society for Japanese Irises and the Siberian Iris Society. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for Region 1 to donate in memory of Currier \$50 to SJI and \$50 to SIS. Ada Godfrey and Bob Sawyer will investigate initiating a scholarship in memory of Dr. Currier McEwen.

Nominating Committee Report: Dick Sparling will replace Lynn Markham on the Nominating Committee when Lynn's term expires. Barbara Schmieder takes over as acting Treasurer until October 2004, when Ruthy Bennett is willing to assume the duties of Region 1 Treasurer. There was discussion of the RVP and Assistant RVP responsibilities. Mike Zuraw will work with the Nominating Committee to learn more before committing to one of these positions in October 2004.

The 2003 Warburton Medal was awarded by Region 1 AIS Judges to **Dirigo Pink Milestone**, the Japanese iris hybridized by John White of Minot, Maine. First runnerup was John's sibe-

rian iris **Dirigo Black Velvet**. Second runnerup was Lynn Markham's BB, **Simmer**.

The 2004 Spring Meeting will focus on MTB's and judging at Stephanie Markham's in Norfolk, MA. Dick Sparling offered to open his garden in northeastern Connecticut to visitors on the same day. ISM will host the 2004 Fall Region 1 Meeting in October. The meeting was adjourned and the Region 1 auction of irises and iris treasures commenced.

respectfully submitted,
Dave Nitka
Acting Secretary



Above: Fall 2003 Region 1 Auction of Iris and Plant Treasures at Comstock Ferre. From left, Ruth Bennett, Stephanie Markham and Andrew Wheeler. Below: Lunch at the historic Village Tavern in Old Wethersfield, Connecticut. From left: Ron Capozzi, Rebecca Wong, John Heimler, Phil Cook and Dave Nitka.



Accomplishments and Progress Reported by New England Iris Hybridizers in February 2004

David Schmieder of Concord, MA has been making crosses for SDB's, MTB's, and TB's, although most effort and focus has been on the SDB's. Among the SDB's there are some interesting plicata seedlings from differing lines. He continues to breed with his **Enchanted Mocha** to produce seedlings of red coloration. He also is evaluating seedlings which have excellent SDB flower form from the cross (**In Limbo x Marge Hagberg**). Some of David's MTB seedlings have brown/violet/yellow "peanut butter and jelly" color. He also has an interesting 40 inch tall variegata from diploid breeding which is proving to be an excellent garden plant but falls outside current AIS iris classifications.

Dick Sparling of Pomfret Center, CT is working to produce iris in the dwarf and median bearded classes. One miniature dwarf bearded (MDB) seedling is pastel colored: light orange and light blue. Another shows a serrated flower edge, which is a step toward producing laced flowers in the MDB class. He also has SDB, MTB, and BB seedlings.

Lucy Burton of South Hamilton, MA continues to watch closely a sibling of her 2003 SDB introduction, **Lemon Chill**. The sibling is close to being a reverse yellow amoena. One of Lucy's goals is a red amoena SDB. A red amoena seedling with a light rim on the falls can be viewed in her garden and has been sent as a guest iris to the 2006 AIS national convention in Oregon. Lucy has a 1/2 aril iris which blooms every few years and she has used its pollen on **Smart**, an SDB with a large spot on the falls. Results are 1/4 arilbreds, each seedling of differing "aril character." For 2004, her MTB **Elfin Shadows** is being introduced through Hermit Medlar's Walk. This iris has a smoky color which varies with the soil its planted in and with the age of the blossom. It opens deep red violet and fades to a pink lavender. Lucy continues many faceted efforts to produce Border Bearded iris. She is using her past

BB introductions, other select BB's and smaller TB's, as well as I. aphylla based Border Bearded's.

John Burton of South Hamilton, MA enjoys working with the small early blooming bearded species I. pumila. Several years ago he introduced **Suslik**, an I. pumila variety which "doesn't peter out like other pumilas" and multiplies to create a ground cover which blooms in mid-April. Other I. pumila seedlings include a sib to **Suslik** which is nearly black in flower color, a dark purple with white beards which stand out when viewed from afar, and a vigorous yellow with almost no pumila spot pattern. A mystery of the 2003 pumila bloom was the later emergence of tall stalks (up to 17") from inside established clumps of the dwarf I. pumila. On another front, John obtained seedlings by pollinating a white bearded SDB iris with pollen from the beardless species I. verna, these are being called "Pogerna."

Martha Hutcheson is pleased to introduce in 2004 through Hermit Medlar's Walk, her beautiful golden yellow IB **Lucky Old Sun**. Region 1 admired this iris when touring her garden in 2000, and a wider audience admired it during the 2001 Median Odyssey.

In 2001 *Mike Zuraw* resumed his MTB hybridizing after using the 2000 season to move from eastern Massachusetts to western Connecticut. Seedlings from 2001 crosses include one with brown standards over white falls veined purple, an off-white self, and a multicolored flower with a "Romeo pattern."

Bob Sawyer of Harpswell, Maine is working to develop tall bearded iris which can thrive in harsh garden conditions which include salt moisture and slugs. One approach is to cross old collected diploid bearded iris with MTB's. Another approach is to work with old hardy proven tetraploid TB's and work for improved form and color, while maintaining the plant's toughness and reliability.

Lynn Markham of Lunenburg, MA is progressing on multiple defined projects involving Border bearded and Tall Bearded iris. For "Dark Beards on Light Colored Flowers", crossing with dark flowers is producing more

seedlings closer to the goal than crossing with varieties which already have dark beards on light flowers. Another project is to produce "minimalist plicatas", flowers with plicata markings confined to the hafts on the falls, and faint plicata markings on the standards: only a "haze." A third project is the Red Project, an effort to produce a truer red color by going back to very old red TB iris which may contain the pigment malvidin. Seedlings from crosses of the old iris are being selected for the absence of any purplish component in their red color, as seen by observing faded older blossoms in the sunlight.

Lynn is encouraged by a cross which has produced Border Bearded seedlings which have an orange beard on a metallic deep violet flower. She is also building stock of an iris with the garden name "Kitchen Sink." The flower is beige with a tan beard, but this coloration hides much of the genetic potential from the backgrounds of its parents: including more vivid color, plicata markings, and red beards.

Stephanie Markham of Norfolk, MA has a 2004 MTB introduction through Hermit Medlar's Walk named **Daemon Imp**. Its a red-violet bitone with white stripes extending halfway down the falls. Among other MTB seedlings are "freckled plics" where the plicata markings are all specks, no lines. She has a 12 inch tall and proportionally tiny flowered creation out of MTB breeding which stands outside all of the AIS classes for introduced iris. Also some interesting MTB's from crossing a small stature, small flowered "mini-mizer" MTB with a 40 inch tall, old diploid TB. For 2004 she is introducing a TB plicata, **Star Stitched**. This one's a shorter TB with excellent vigor and bud count. Flower coloration is bright white with deep red-violet solid plicata markings. Other TB seedlings include a "ghost plicata" and vigorous small flowered oranges which are bright and shiny.

Phil Cook of Underhill, VT is working to create japanese iris cultivars which have an earlier season of bloom than what is currently available. He is crossing early bloomers together, some are iris hybridized in Japan and others include Lorena Reid's "Springtime" series of named introductions. Among the early

blooming progeny there are more 3 Fall flowers than 6 Fall flowers. One promising seedling is a 3 Fall red-violet self with flared form which has the garden name "Maiden Aunt." Since the earlier blooming JI's are mostly 3 Fall, Phil is also breeding for early blooming 6 Fall iris in order to create greater variety at the start of bloom season. He is also working on dwarf Japanese iris, attempting to bring more variety to what's available under 20 inches in height.

John White of Minot, ME is working toward a non-fading pink Japanese iris. He is crossing sibs and children of his breakthrough introduction, **Dirigo Pink Milestone**. Another japanese iris seedling that is being considered for introduction is a late blooming 6 Fall white with a lavender rim. John has created outdoor Maine hardy Pacific Coast Native iris by crossing named PCN introductions with one of the pacific coast species, *I. tenax*. The flower size of the first generation seedlings is smaller, about halfway in size between a modern PCN cultivar and the *I. tenax* species. These seedlings have been crossed together and it will be fascinating to see the flowers and the hardiness of the next generation!

Among siberian iris seedlings John has his eye on a child of his **Neat Trick** which is 50 inches tall. He is working with colchicine to create tetraploid versions of his **Dirigo Tiffany Pink**. Stock is being built up for introduction of **Dirigo Black Night**, a very dark siberian with a big gold signal.

Andrew Wheeler hybridizes at Fox Brook Iris Farm in Colrain, MA. He has created some siberian iris seedlings with a "fade to edge" color pattern. He continues to breed for better flower form to complement the "fade to edge" coloration. For broken pattern innovations he has crossed **Appaloosa Blue** with **Neat Trick**. Out of these seedling he has seen "half tones" among the broken colors. Andrew is now focusing on multi-petaled siberians. These cup shaped blossoms with multiple petaloids have no ovary. Thus they cannot be line bred.

continued next page.....

However over 50% of seedlings from crosses of multi-petal siberians with conventional siberians are turning out to be multi-petaled. The multi-petaled siberians are uncommonly vigorous and the flowers do not close up because of the absence of an ovary. The flowers stay open for five days. If cultivars can be created where the progression of flower opening is slowed, there's potential for an exceptionally long time in bloom.

Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks of Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, MA continue their multi-faceted diploid siberian iris breeding programs. Their 2004 introductions include a blue siberian, a bright yellow bitone, a multicolored red-violet, a ruffled white washed with red, and a light blue/pale yellow bicolor. These and previous Schafer/Sacks introductions can be viewed at www.geocities.com/jpwflowers/ Most of the 2004 introductions are from crosses made in 1997. Seedlings from 1999 crosses which show promise involve an effort to make a truer colored red siberian by displacing the bluish tone with yellow. There's also a ruffled purple with light blue style arms which has everything that one would want in a siberian and has been given the garden name "bells and whistles" by a garden visitor. Another 1999 cross produced seedlings of a new color, salmon-apricot. These are being used in further breeding to get new colors and color combinations.

There are many good blues from crosses made in 2000. There's a dark colored blossom, almost black, with yellow flecks on the falls. Another is almost black in color and comes from a cross of two parent which have different overlay colors: "blue over yellow" x "red over yellow". Some 2000 seedlings show new and fascinating color combinations: White-blue standards with yellow-tan falls; Pink-red standards, purple falls, and light blue style arms; Light red standards, darker red falls with an orange glow around the signal and light yellow styles. There's another 2000 seedling which has little color but great impact, a "gothic" look. It is an almost transparent white which has dark brown veining.

The 2004 bloom season will display the aforementioned plus new surprises from the first bloom of crosses made in 2001. Marty and Jan invite all to visit their gardens this year!

(continued from page 6 AIS Fall Board Mtg)

I have the locations and dates for the AIS Conventions through 2007 for any one who is interested. They are listed in the Bulletin and I will also give the information to anyone who is interested.

AIS Insurance. There will be an article about AIS insurance in the January Bulletin for those who are interested. When requesting a certificate of insurance, be sure to specify if it is a single or annual event. A club may hold annual shows/sales, the dates and sometimes venues, change so this would be considered a single event. An example of an annual event would be a club meeting in the same place on the same day of the week. Such as the third Thursday of the month. I have a page explaining the coverage which I will copy for those who are interested.

Recommendations of the Handbook Revision Committee, approved by the AIS Board:

All page and chapter references are to The Handbook For Judges and Show Officials, Sixth Edition, 1998.

1. Chapter 22: Selecting the best Specimen of the show, page 206.

Replace Paragraph 2 with the following:

A candidate for Best Specimen of Show must be a named, introduced variety or properly identified Species (SPEC) or Interspecies Cross (SPEC-X) which best exhibits the characteristics most typical and nearly perfect in its classification. The choice is made from single specimen classes. The candidate for Best Specimen of Show must have won a blue ribbon and Best of Section (when Section requirements are met) and should be displayed within the size limits of its official registration. All youth horticultural entries are equally eligible as adult entries for Best Specimen of Show. Should two specimens be judged equal after point scoring all characteristics, the newer variety by year of introduction should be placed higher because it represents to the public the closest current standard of perfection.

Replace Paragraph 3 with the following (these are the current guidelines)

The following are **not** eligible for Best specimen of Show:

English Box or individual blossom entries.

Bulbous entries

Seedlings, including named and registered but non-registered Collections

2. Chapter 24: Collection Classes, p 212. (paragraph 2):

The ideal collection will consist of three to five stalks of the same type (but not necessarily the same cultivar) of iris. All of which are of **blue ribbon** quality. Stalks should be identical in all physical respects. I.e., size, form, freshness, etc. All stalks should be cut to the same length. **Only one blue ribbon may be awarded per collection, if warranted.**

3. Chapter 1: Accreditation of judges, p 5, The student judge, paragraph 2.

Insert in paragraph 2 after sentence 1, the following:

The ten (10) hours of required training must have been completed within the three year period immediately preceding recommendation for appointment as an Apprentice Judge.

4. The question was asked. The Handbook appears to be silent on reinstatement of judges who have been dropped for failure to vote a timely ballot for two consecutive years. Is it the intent that these judges cannot be reinstated ? Or do we need to craft guidelines for reinstatement? **The board voted yes to crafting guidelines for the reinstatement of these judges .**

5. Reinstatement of Judges , page 11, Paragraph 1. Extend paragraph one with the following: after the words "in his/her region," add **who are familiar with the activities of the accredited judge seeking reinstatement.**

6. The board approved the intent to **recommend** to the Board of Directors of the Dwarf Iris Society **that on page 115, all references to potted MDBs be removed from the handbook**

7. There continues to be strong sentiment in the Median Iris Society for the maximum height for MTBs to be 25" rather than 27 ½". **The board voted to get this resolved. This was done because of metric measure which affects the rest of the world.**

Historical Research Committee Report. Mike and Anne Lowe are stepping down from the chair the of committee to become AIS Registrar/Recorder. They would like to recommend that Anner Whitehead be offered the Historical Research Committee Chairmanship.

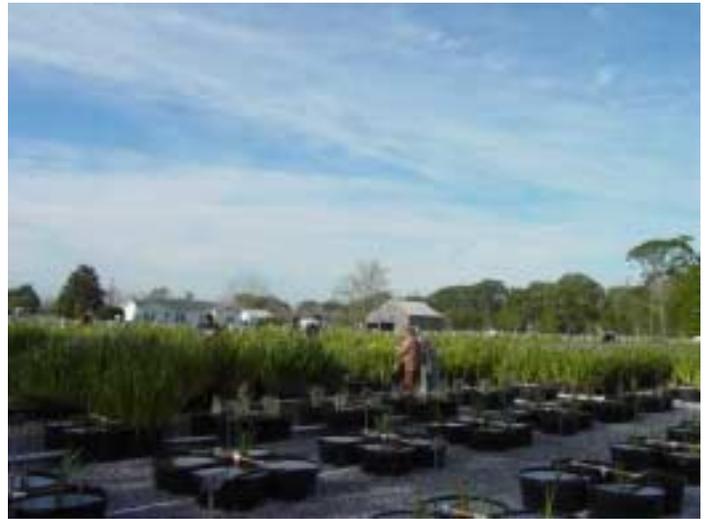
Public Relations and Marketing. In the Jan Bulletin there will be an article asking for help from members to start an information database of publicity contacts. This will help get news of awards, conventions (big and small), and local flower shows to the people who can spread the word of it over a large area of the population effected by that event. Gift subscriptions will be sent to people who promote irises on a regular basis in the major venues. If they could receive newer information about new introductions, awards and general culture they might highlight irises even more. If we keep our contacts well informed and up to date it will benefit all of us.

AIS Slides, 2003 fall report by Bill Mull. He stated that with more and more people switching to digital, slides are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. If it were not for the few hybridizers that recognize the importance of getting their product before an audience of iris growers, this would have been the last year for the 2003 Introduction Set. Bill has made several digital sets on CDs and gave copies to several people, myself included to review and report any problems. I returned home on the 13th and presented the 2003 Introduction Set to the Maine Iris Society on the 14th . With a few corrections it will be an outstanding presentation.

This is a highlight of some of the work of the 2003 fall board meeting. The results of this meeting will be posted in the Jan Bulletin. If anyone has any questions regarding the meeting, I will be carrying the reports given at the meeting that I will share with you.

Sincerely,

Bob Sawyer
RVP Region One



Western Louisiana Travelog

The 2003 Society for Louisiana Irises Annual Meeting featured a bus trip to gardens in western Louisiana, well inland, near the border with Texas. First stop along the way was Louisiana Nursery, growers of daylilies and rare choice perennials. Unlike most of the nursery (top left) the water loving Louisiana iris were grown in pots, and thousands of pots were massed together (top right). In bloom were older cultivars of enduring quality (clockwise) like **BLACK WIDOW** and great newer introductions like Ron Betzer's **HONEY GALORE** and Dormon Haymon's regal **LONGUE VUE**.





The bus drove an hour north to Alexandria then another hour west toward the giant reservoirs located near the Texas border. The landscape changed from open to pineywoods. The bus went miles down dirt roads through cleared land and finally down a long driveway to a peninsula on the edge of a lake (top left). The beautiful home of Julian Wells and Larry Anaya is located on high ground in the center of the peninsula. Along the lake the conventioners examined the iris beds which stretched away toward a tiny island accessible by a foot bridge. Iris in bloom included (continuing clockwise) Heather Pryor's aptly named contrasting bicolor PEACHES IN WINE and Charles Army's timeless 1979 pastel bicolor introduction EASTERTIDE





The bus trip continued south through farmland, small towns, past a parade down a Main Street in one town, before reaching the larger "paper mill town" of DeRidder. A turn off the main highway took us to the Copenhaver Garden, a farm that has over decades been converted into paradise for Louisiana Iris, daylilies, bamboo, and many other perennials. Louisiana Iris naturalize alongside a barn which is now a working ceramics studio (top left) and extend around a closeby pond (top right). Walkways through the property lead to other ponds (right). Louisiana iris are planted alongside the paths in clearings that receive sufficient sun. As we boarded the bus to leave, a neighbor stopped his truck and told all of us that we should plan to return in a few weeks when the daylilies are in bloom.



Region One AIS and Affiliates' Events: May - December 2004

- May 02 Western New England Iris Society meeting
- May 12 Maine Iris Society Spring Perennial Plant Auction Auburn, ME
- May 15 Connecticut Iris Society garden tour Pomfret Center, CT
- May 16 Maine Iris Society Bus Tour of Massachusetts gardens (MIS members only)
- May 22 Connecticut Iris Society Iris Exhibition Elizabeth Park West Hartford, CT 12 - 4 PM
- May 22 Maine Iris Society Median Iris/Spring Flower Show Oxford Hills Middle School So. Paris, ME
1 - 5 PM
- May 30 WNEIS/ISM Iris Show Buckland/Shelburne Community Center Shelburne Falls, MA
- June 05 Region 1 AIS Meeting at Toadland Gardens, Norfolk, MA Judges Training in MTB Iris Garden
Judging (details in this newsletter)
- June 12 44th Annual Maine Iris Society Iris Show Auburn Middle School Auburn, ME 2 - 6 PM
- July 17 MIS/WNEIS Japanese Iris Show and Maine Hosta Society Cut Leaf Show Auburn Middle School
Auburn, ME 1 - 5 PM
- July 24 MIS Auction (Tall Bearded & Siberian) Gorham ME 1:00 PM
- July 24 ISM Iris Rhizome Sale Waltham Field Station Waltham, MA
- July 31 CIS Iris Auction at the Bennetts' in East Haddam, CT
- Aug 01 ISM Auction of newer iris introductions Toadland Gardens, Norfolk, MA
- Aug 01 MIS Swap Day (members only)
- Sep 14 MIS Auction Daylilies and Irises (Siberian & Japanese), Auburn ME 7:00 PM
- Sep 18 CIS Meeting Meriden, CT public library
- Oct 02 Region One Fall Meeting hosted by the Iris Society of Massachusetts
- Oct 12 MIS Annual Meeting/Show Awards Presentations Auburn ME 7:00 PM
- Oct 16 CIS Meeting Meriden, CT public library
- Nov 09 MIS Meeting Auburn, ME 7:00 PM

Regional Affiliates Presidents (contact them for details of scheduled events)

Connecticut Iris Society(CIS) - Michael Zuraw, email: MJZuraw@aol.com
Iris Society of Massachusetts(ISM) - Jan Sacks, email: jpwflowers@aol.com
Maine Iris Society(MIS) - Peter Young, email: irjers@quixnet.net
Western New England Iris Society(WNEIS) - Nancy Gluek, email: ngluek@attbi.com
