



# Twin City Iris Society

(Continued)

## News and Views

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Too few people have discovered the beauty of Siberian irises and many that have are unfamiliar with the newer ones. The difference between the new Siberians and the older ones is almost as great as the old diploid TB's and the beautiful new tetraploids. 'Dewful' is a medium to dark blue Siberian developed by Dr. MacGarvey. It has wide flaring falls and very wide standards. The foliage is dark green and upright. 'Dewful' would be a welcome addition to anyone's garden. Siberians have exceptional landscape value.

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October is time for the Annual meeting and banquet. In the past this meeting has been used to present a yearly summary of the activities of the Iris Society. We will try to adhere to this practice and have a brief report for you.

We are extremely fortunate to have Mr. Art Nelson, Editor of the Bulletin of the American Iris Society for our guest speaker. I urge all to attend this banquet and bring your friends. I particularly urge our many new members to attend since it is at this meeting that you will get a good background of the Twin City Iris Society's activities. It is also a good opportunity to become acquainted with the American Iris Society since Art Nelson will undoubtedly give us some insights into that organization.

Your iris seeds can be planted anytime now. Some hybridizers like to plant them in rows directly in the garden, others like to plant them in pots and sink the pots in hotbeds for better control of seeds which do not germinate the first year. Whatever your method seeds should now be planted.

We hope to see you all Thursday, October 15th at the Swiss Chalet on Miracle Mile. Let's make our attendance reach 100 -- can we?

- Julius Wadekamper

### CALL FOR 1970 ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. J. Arthur Nelson of Omaha, Nebraska, the distinguished editor of the Bulletin of the American Iris Society, will be the guest speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Twin City Iris Society Thursday, October 15, at 6:30 PM. The place will be the Swiss Chalet Buffet, 5201 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis, and the cost will be \$3.50. Reservations should be made with Mrs. W.G. Sindt, 436-7901 or Mrs. Glenn Hanson, 561-1748, by Monday, October 12.

Dr. Nelson's life work has been in the field of Education. He is the retired principal of Central High School in Omaha and past president of the Nebraska Education Association. In the American Iris Society Dr. Nelson has been on the Board of Directors for

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12 years and served as editor of the Bulletin of that organization. He is also the Registrar for new introductions and chairman of the Awards Committee. Members of the Twin City Iris Society are urged to take advantage of the opportunity to hear one of our better known and loved irisarians and to bring guests. We are pleased that Mrs. Nelson will accompany her husband. MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW.

- Charlotte Sindt

- As added information relative to a discussion that developed at the last meeting regarding the rate of germination of iris seeds - the following is reprinted from the SPURIA NEWSLETTER, July 1969. - - -

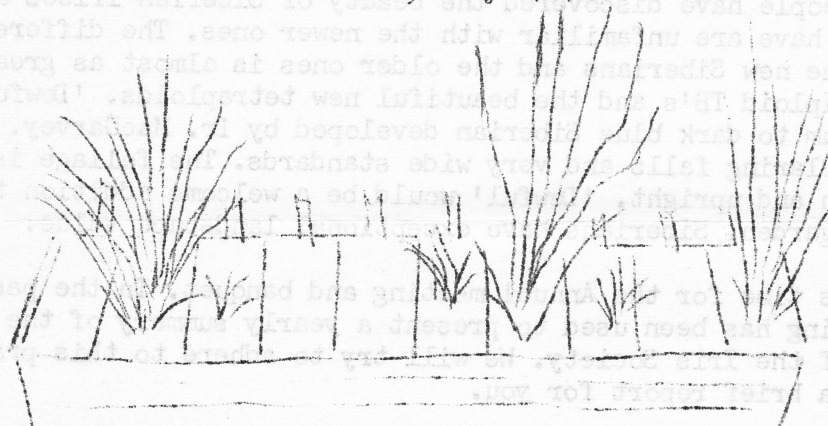


Photo at left (see facsimile drawing) taken in the Editor's garden, shows a planter box which has been partitioned off into separate sections. Seeds of spuria species were planted in the sections - a different species in each section. Results seem to indicate that while seeds of some species germinate much more rapidly than those of other species, there is rather uniform response among seeds of any one species.

This situation contrasts with the fact - known to hybridizers thru experience - that between hybrid seeds (even from the same pod) there is great variability in the period between planting and germination. (Some seeds do not sprout until the third year). The implication is that genetic rules apply to dormancy traits just as they do to color traits. Thus, species seeds might be expected to sprout uniformly - and to come "true" to the color of their parents - while hybrid seeds are variable in sprouting time and may not show coloring of either parent.

#### CLIMATIC DATA

We all wonder how our irises progress beneath the cover of snow and ice of the winter season. Concealed as they are from sight and subject to the vagaries of this climate, it is of great importance to consider winter hardiness in selecting varieties.

The life processes that carry a rhizome through this period cannot be entirely at rest. Perhaps this is the most logical reason for covering the cultivars we grow. The insulating value of the cover we provide can best be illustrated with the tables that follow. Winter variation of soil temperature has always surprised me. These tables show air and soil temperatures for the years 1967-68 - open winter with only natural snow cover or bare soil.

1967				1968											
				Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept.
Air temp.	Max.	84	60	48	40	39	82	87	85	89	90	85	81		
	Min.	19	4	-22	-20	-14	6	21	21	46	47	46	32		
Soil temp.				1967				1968							
(6" depth				Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
Bare soil with	Max.	54	43	31	20	24	45	54	63	94	94	100	88		
	Min.	36	27	14	0	4	19	28	40	49	50	53	41		
natural snow cover)															

Sometime during the spring, the orderliness of nature causes plant nutrition to resume; apical growth of the plant meristem shows through the soil, and floral initiation is brought about with the longer days. It is at this time that we are rewarded for last fall's work in covering.

- Warren Johnson



VICE PRESIDENT AND HIS LADY RECEIVED BY ROYALTY!  
by Ed Holloway

The afternoon was a shining example of golden summer which was being thoroughly enjoyed by the writer. The temperature was firmly entrenched at the 99 degree line, described as "wilting" by my lady Agnes. She was not complaining, for she was enjoying the countryside and its variety show of plant and bird life. The area boasted populations of quail, robins, catbirds, thrush, wrens, cardinals, killdeer, lark, and a host of others. I mentally noted with a touch of alarm the marked scarcity of the beautiful bluebird of my boyhood days. The songs and call notes of all, seemingly faithfully recorded, were constantly being reproduced in remarkable clarity by a talented impressionist called the mockingbird.

We were driving west of the Kentucky border on the eastern side of the coalfields of southern Illinois, trying one of my infamous "short cuts" cross country. But—"Success will come to him who waits", and we arrived at a neat white frame house on Scotsboro Rd in Marion, Illinois, the home of WJ and Georgia Murphy Hinkle. Daylilies blooming in profusion and each clamoring for attention, seemed to say "Welcome, Neighbor!" We were greeted at the door by Mrs. Hinkle, who immediately invited us in, reminding us her name was Georgia. Mr. Hinkle (Jess) was recuperating from an illness and could not visit with us in the garden, but he was a Gallant host, showing us the many honors they had won in the Iris World.

When Mrs. Hinkle invited us to see her garden, we accepted with eagerness. Her iris planting entrance is framed with daylilies, encircled with a fence, and accented by beautiful magnolia trees. The irises showed every evidence of tender loving care. She graciously offered us lawn chairs in the shade, overlooking her garden. I studied this slender charming "young" lady of sixty five years (there Miss Georgia, your secret is out!) as she smiled, and found myself thinking of one of her flower children called 'Eve'. She spoke with the soothing dialect of the Kentucky/Tennessee area, so familiar to me and my forebearers (reminding me of another of her creations, 'Kentucky Hills'.) She entertained us royally, sharing many facets of garden lore and hybridizing experience. She is an apostle of "line breeding" and advised me not to allow "other people's dogs in my garden". This gal should know! She has thirty five introductions (and five more to be introduced) - produced in twenty years of effort. (I found myself thinking of how much I was missing by not having this grand couple as neighbors. Think of the many things I could learn from them!) She informed us that health problems have forced them to reduce the size of their operation to less than one third of their original garden space. She spoke fondly of a young man named Stephen Poole who is infected with Hybridizing Fever, and is attempting to carry on her work with the blues as she continues with her pink line breeding. She promises that the Iris World will recognize this young man in the years to come. The conversation ranged from mutual acquaintances, hybridizing, culture, photography in the Wild's Gardens, her own creations, and the A.I.S. As we rose to leave she presented us with "A gift of remembrance", her 'Gentian Etude'. It is now growing proudly in our garden, a much treasured possession.

I am ignorant of the many names registered with the archives of our A.I.S. and do not know if what I am about to propose would be valid, but I would enjoy seeing some hybridizer (local or AIS) name a worthy iris 'Queen of Egypt' in her honor. This may not make sense to many of you, but I am sure Miss Georgia would know and understand, for I mentioned this to her by telephone. Her smile came back over the wire in her voice, "You remember! This area of Illinois is known as Little Egypt". I wonder if some enterprising individual will pick up the idea? I think of the alarming number of leaders and hybridizers lost to our Iris World in the few short years since I became interested in the iris society. This brings a word of admonition. Listen, and learn from those with years of experience, as well as search for new knowledge; and as our senior members must eventually lay down their working tools, the younger generation must be ready to pick them up and carry on... There is still much work to do.

MEDIAN COMMENTS  
By Maybelle Wright

Again this year my early things added over three weeks of extra pleasure to my iris season. Although I originally planted them to use for breeding in the hope of getting better sized BBs, I continue to grow them because I like them. Most of them bloomed on huge clumps across the length of my 110 foot-long main bed and it really was a sight. The SDB and IB seedlings I bloomed were also enjoyable because I had time to evaluate each one. I highly recommend planting irises in as many classes as possible both for pleasure and to help us become better all-round irisarians and iris judges.

The following are brief notes I made on some of them; if no comment on fertility, I didn't try SDB breeding them. 'Fuchsia Gem' - startling bright fuchsia with darker spot, nice if you like the color. 'Irish Lilt' - creamy white stands and really green falls, nice, No luck either way. 'Gingerbread Man' - This is great. The beard isn't blue here but bright violet - gorgeous. Pollen is very fertile. 'Russet Dot' - a nice spot pattern that isn't russet here, but nice anyway. 'Blueberry Muffins' - another nice one with blue or violet beard. 'Little Blackfoot' - a darling little black from the purple side. 'Lenna M.' - pink stands, buff spot on pink falls, a bit large and a rampant grower. The pollen is wildly fertile on everything (well almost) in all classes, and it will pod, at least it did for a bee. 'Snow Elf' - A creamy white with a few greenish markings and surprisingly wide falls. 'Sparkling Cloud' - a blend of tan and blue with wide falls, a bit large but nice. 'Dark Spark' - a nice purple with a darker spot. Makes a lovely clump. 'Fine Print' - A nice clean lightly marked plic, blue on white. 'Foot Note' - a little large for this class, but the best I've seen of its type. 'Sky Baby' - a beautiful sky blue of nice form and size, but I've had no luck with it as a parent. 'Arrangement' - a strange little flower with antique gold stands and brown falls. Arrangers love it. 'Elfin Antique' - odd but interesting brownish blend. 'Meadow Moss' - strange and lovely little flower with a nice blue beard, produced a pod from two tries. 'Just So' - A mass of neat looking cream-colored flowers with yellow spots. 'Royal Fairy' - a fine deep purple with almost white beard. 'Golden Fair' - one of the older ones but still one of the most attractive clumps in the garden. Set bee pods. 'Cherry Garden' - charming - being cherry color with matching beard. Very fertile both ways. 'Little Lane' - white with yellow spot, one of the cleanest-looking SDBs in the garden. 'Baria' - old now but a light yellow mass of bloom and fragrant. 'Pink Cushion' - A nice little pink with quite good form and surprisingly wide falls for one of the first pink SDBs.

IB

'Little Bit Blue' - very nice in light blue with a deeper blue spot. Not a fast grower here, but it remains healthy. 'Lillipinkput' - puts on a fine show every year, a mass of apricot-orange bloom over a long period. I've had no trouble podding it and have bloomed some nice seedlings from it in both pink and yellow. 'Pixie Skies' - a nice flower and a fine splash of blue as a clump. 'Proper Lemon' - growing next to 'Pixie Skies' and 'Maroon Caper', its refreshingly clear lemon yellow contrasts beautifully with its neighbors. 'Maroon Caper' - a beautiful dark red-purple, a rampant grower and a sure winner at the early show. 'Little Angel' - delightful small-flowered white, fine proportions. I have never managed to produce seed from it, but this year a bee proved it possible. 'Cloud Fluff' - an old white, but still nice and one of the most prolific bloomers. 'Light Cavalry' - the best red IB I've seen and it bloomed well into TB season. 'Gadget' - a nice shade of red-violet with a beautiful beard, but too narrow by today's standards. 'June Prom' - the best IB I've seen. I ordered it immediately when I saw it in Alta's garden, 1968. 'Rose Harmony' - a lovely shade of rose with a deeper spot, but unfortunately the flower was too large here. 'Drummer Boy' - still one of my favorites in light blue with rays of darker blue around the beard.



(Con't - Median Comments)

'Barbi' - lovely frilly yellow, nice in a clump and has given me some nice seedlings. 'Bee Bop' - a good blue amoena with oval falls and nice proportion. 'Preamble' - clean-looking lavender and white plicata-amoenae. 'Happy Mood' - lavender and white, the best IB plic I've seen. 'Brownie Troupe' - a rather nondescript brown of nice proportion. 'Kiss Me Kate' - refreshing greenish white with blue border on the falls. This year in good proportion. Sometimes the flower is too large. 'Galaxy' - a subtle blend of blues with a light blue beard, very nice and a good grower. 'Cutie' - a nice white with blue rays. 'Sing Again' - very nice clear yellow bi-tone, good proportion. Podded by 'Small Favor'. 'Sea Patrol' - beautiful wide medium blue with texture veining.

BB

'Little Dude' - a blue of fine proportion and very pleasing in the garden as well as being a fine pollen parent. 'Little Dolly' - has the finest pink color of any BB I've seen, but the flower gets too large here and form is poor. 'High Hopes' - after four or five years it finally bloomed and formed a nice clump of ruffled gold bloom. 'Little Lynn' - a very nice little pink that keeps its perfect BB size. No pollen, but I have 12 pods on it this year; produces small pinks. 'Lace Valentine' - a very nice frilly pale pink that keeps its good BB proportions. No pollen, but pods easily and produces nice small pinks. 'Ruffled Cherub' - (not introduced yet) ruffled white with yellow beard, extra heavy substance and very fine form, pod fertile. A bit taller than 'Miss Ruffles'. 'Chocoleto' - Nice brown color, fine proportion, but too narrow by today's standards. 'Pagoda' - very small in all proportions, intense apricot pink with a heavy tangerine beard; perky. Some nice seedlings from it by 'Yellow Dresden'. 'Jungle Shadows' - a strange blend of greys and browns, good proportion, always grows well. My husband calls it the "Hippy" iris. 'Little Reb' - odd plic with purple stands white falls bordered purple and brown hafts, always grows well, good proportions. Some nice small seedlings from it by 'Blue Petticoats'. 'Glacier Bay' - a nice clean blue and white amoena, grows well, good proportion. 'Blue Miller' - a beautiful light blue flower with striking dark blue beard; flower gets too large here for BB but I crossed it with 'Timmie Too' because of that gorgeous beard. 'Timmie Too' - dark blue with deeper blue beard, nice and always stays BB. Fertile both ways. 'Little Mark' - nice little plic with different coloring, red violet on white. 'Frenchi' - pinkish lavender stands, velvety purple falls and heavy tangerine beard, very attractive and keeps its good BB size and proportion. 'Yellow Dresden' - a lovely frothy yellow, certainly not BB size here, but has given me some of my best small things. 'Dark Topic' - the most intense velvety black I've seen in BB, with antique gold beard. 'Bride's Pearls' - lovely little pearly white with lace, keeps its good size and proportion. 'Pink Darling' - very flared pink with heavy red beard, nice. Flower a bit large for height as it grows here. 'Botany Bay' - medium blue with nice flower, fine stalk, and above all good proportion. I like it. 'Crystal Bay' - white with blue border on falls, the stands crinkle in the manner of 'Easter Holiday', fine proportion. 'Rain Pool' - real quality! A lovely ice blue that has not only very fine form, but an almost perfect stalk and fine proportion. 'Miss Ruffles' - stays small and in proportion and provides a mass of blue ruffles for about three weeks, the most satisfying parent I have ever used; fifty pods on it last year. Pollen somewhat fertile. 'Carnival Glass' - very lovely and lively blend of browns, reds, and copper, a nice flower in good proportion to the plant. 'Pebbles' - on a one year plant it was a very charming, small, ruffled blue reverse bitone; however, I have seen it elsewhere when it was too large for the class. 'Small Favor' - not a finished flower, but a good approach to a pink amoena. I have two pods by 'Sing Again'. Also pollen fertile. 'Olive Cocktail' - golds and browns blend to produce an exotic effect; you either like it or you don't. Proportion was good on a one year plant.

A HAUNTING FRAGRANCE

by Gladys Reynolds

The perfume that we consider uniquely IRIS, distinctive and delicious, comes from the German iris, *I. germanica*, the purple flags that crowd banks and driveways of old country places the first part of May. We have tried for years to find a rhizome, the memory of that scent stays with us, and we want to experience it again and again.

Heralding the long iris season in late February or early March is the bulbous yellow *danfordiae*, *I. reticulata* (purple), and the blue *Cantab* so fragrant with their strong violet scent - very welcome.

As spring moves along we have the Miniature, Dwarf, and Standard Dwarf - each has its own pleasant or sometimes unpleasant fragrance.... some have none. The majority duplicate fruit aromas and other flower fragrances.

Many claim that iris perfume belongs to the TB blues: 'So Sweet', 'Blue Valley', 'Chivalry', 'Violet Harmony', 'Sapphire Sea' and 'Symphony' to name a few. All have incredibly fine fragrance.

The type of perfume is certainly handed down with other hereditary characteristics; The grape perfume goes with the deep red-purple flowers. Often perfume becomes very faint or disappears altogether as the line recedes from the original strongly fragrant plant. Should two of these original species be crossed we would have a third type of perfume, caused by the combination of the two.

In the book The Fragrant Year by Helen Van Pelt Wilson and Lonnie Bell, we read "the fall bloomer 'Black Magic' is redolent of anise and Zebra *I. pallida variegata*, has a sweetness that no other has."

Of the thousands of named clones almost every one has a characteristic odor, but the best way to find what you like is to visit an iris garden at peak bloom, especially in the evening. Stand and let the breeze bring you the mixed fragrances, blended into one delightful but unforgettable smell.

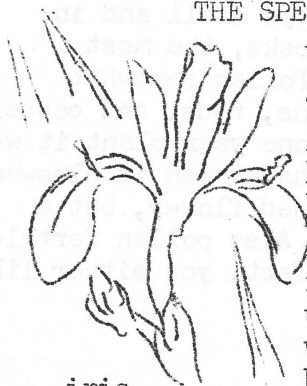
If your irises multiply beyond the scope of your garden, something delightful can be done with them:

In August remove all roots and leaves and pare, slice, and dry the rhizomes in full sun or bury in a pan of clean sand and keep in a slow oven overnight. The resulting chips can be ground to coarse powder for orris, or added as is, to dry potpourri for fixative.

The fragrance develops after about two months and varies according to the scent of the flowers.

THE SPECIES -

IRIS VERSICOLOR



iris  
versicolor

While showing slides of irises that grow in Minnesota gardens to my garden club, I asked the members to identify a slide of iris versicolor, our native Blue Flag. Surprisingly, not one member could identify it - worse, some had never even heard of it, let alone seen it blooming in the wild. Since it was a very common wild flower near my home, and I picked bouquets of them as a child, I didn't realize it isn't necessarily well known by everyone. One of our tallest native irises, it is found in abundance in the lowlands of Minnesota, usually along stream or pond margins, in the marshes or low meadows where the ground is normally quite moist. It is a beardless iris, blooming during late spring and early summer, having white-veined purple blossoms with a well defined orange lance shaped mark on the falls. The slender leaves, sometimes two feet long have an intriguing yellowish cast which blends beautifully with the flowers.

- M. Duvall