



Region 1 Bulletin

American Iris Society

Spring, 2003

Volume 56, Number 1

REGION 1 SUMMER TOUR

Saturday July 12, 2003

The Region One Meeting is Saturday July 12th or Sunday July 13th in case of rain. The location is the garden of John and Ted White located at Minot, ME. This will be an outdoor meeting. Bring a chair and a sandwich, beverage and dessert will be provided.

We will also have an auction, these are great fun. Please bring a donation to the auction. We will be outside for most of the day, so plan accordingly.

We will be able to discuss the proposed by-laws and other things to do with the Non-profit Tax Exemption status [501(c)3]. We plan to have time to go look at the garden and some of John's Japanese Irises. Also there are Hosta and Daylilies to see. Any of you who have not seen this garden will be impressed.

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 John and Ted for sharing their 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.



Dirigo Black Velvet

*siberian iris John White, 1999,
"Honorable Mention" Award 2002
photos this page courtesy of www.ensata.com*

- 10:00 AM**, Start Meeting General announcements, news, and questions & answers
- 10:30 AM**, Auction
- 11:00 AM**, Visit and enjoy the garden
- 12:01 PM**, Lunch and conversation
- 1:00 PM**, Garden Training for Judges and anyone who is interested
- 3:00 PM** approximate finish

Hope to see you there! Contact Bob Sawyer if you need more information:
lothario@prexar.com

Dirigo Star
japanese iris
John White
1999





REGION 1 FALL MEETING Saturday October 4, 2003

Location: Comstock Ferre in Old Wethersfield, Connecticut. Comstock Ferre Seed Company is a fully equipped modern garden center within the historic setting of the old seed company. Associated with Sunny Border Perennials, there's a wide selection of potted plants. Comstock Ferre is a favorite spot for Connecticut horticultural groups to conduct their meetings. Old Wethersfield should be beautiful, with fall color starting, for our meeting.

Meeting time: 10 AM through 3 PM

John White's recent blue siberian introductions
Above: **Dirigo Ruffled Feathers**, 2001
Middle: **Dirigo Valiant**, 2003
Below: **Dirigo by Design**, 2004

10 AM to 11 AM Business Meeting

11 AM to 12 PM Auction: Please bring things that have something to do with irises, including irises or certificates for irises

12 PM to 1 PM Lunch at the Village Tavern Restaurant, a short walk from Comstock Ferre

1 PM to 3 PM Presentation and judges training by Dr. Roy Epperson, 2nd Vice President AIS, responsible for Awards and revisions to the Judges Handbook.



Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer's Iris Featured in Horticulture

The garden and siberian iris of Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer were featured in the June, 2003 issue of **Horticulture** magazine. *Turn a Phrase (Schafer/Sacks 2000)*, graced the cover of the issue. The article, *Flashes of Color*, was lavishly illustrated with photos of their introductions. Jan and Marty explained how they were introduced to hybridizing by Bee Warburton and how their hybridizing program, started in 1985, evolved through the years. There were many interesting sidebars on how to grow siberian iris, the species behind today's siberian hybrids, and the Society for Siberian Iris. This is a wonderful introduction for the gardening enthusiast to the new and exciting cultivars of siberian iris now available. Congratulations to Marty and Jan!



All photos in this issue can be seen in color at www.irisgarden.org/librarymain.htm

Bob Sawyer's RVP Message

Greetings to you all in 2003. It is hard to believe that I have been here a year and am starting on the second. It has been an interesting time with much learning done on my part. I expect to continue learning and do a better job in the coming year.

I attended the American Iris Society's fall board meeting in Irving, Texas (November 1 through 3) and met several other RVPs and many of the AIS Board members. Some changes that were made during the meeting that I want to emphasize are as follows:

(1) The practice of the new RVP taking office January first, after being appointed the previous November is no longer in effect. In the future, the new RVP will officially take office at the time of his or her appointment. This is something we have been doing, and now it is a matter of actuality by resolution of the AIS Board.

(2) Another resolution was passed lifting the quota for the number of judges within a region. Now there is no limit on the number of judges a region can have. The quota system was put in effect to keep the larger regions from having too strong of an impact on the awards system in the selection of cultivars. It did not work the way it was intended. The smaller regions were going over their quota, pressing against the limit, while the larger regions were not near their allowable quota. We can now vigorously pursue our judges training program.

(3) The Awards and Ballots requirement has been changed. The only required Awards and Ballots hours is now two hours within the past three years. The change will be very helpful for apprentice judges working on the requirements necessary to be appointed as a fully qualified judge.

At this point I would like to express thanks to all the judges of Region One from all of us for your work and judging efforts on behalf of our region.

We have been working on the update of our

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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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**Dirigo Old
Pewter**
japanese iris
John White
1997

*photo courtesy
of www.isleof
viewiris
garden.com*



by-laws and results are posted in this bulletin. This was brought about by the need to complete Tax Exemption status [501(c)3] for our Region. We are one of the last regions in AIS to do this. When we started the work, we quickly realized that our by-laws were out of date. The way we currently carry on our business is not fully supported by our by-laws as they are presently written. So the job was much larger than what we had planned. In addition to keeping us in good with the IRS, there will be benefits.

We can get a better postal rate in mailing our bulletins and other material. It will allow individuals to take contribution deductions from their federal income tax if they itemize deductions and meet all of the requirements stipulated by the regulations. This applies to monetary gifts, the fair market value of property given, or that which a deceased person leaves to the Region. Travel, hotel, and other expenses related to the activities of the Region (attending conventions, judging shows, presenting programs, etc.) are also deductible if they meet certain requirements.

Our judges Training Chairperson, **Dick Sparling** had to step down because of health problems and I was sorry to see him go. I do want to thank Dick for all that he has done this last year. In addition to carrying out his normal duties he has computerized most of the judges training records. It is much appreciated.

Our new Judges Training Chairperson is **Stephanie Markham**. She has already started with her duties and it looks as if we have been blessed with an outstanding Judges Training Chairperson. Thanks Stephanie for stepping in when needed.

I am pleased to note that the Youth Program in our region is on the upswing. More young people have come into the program this year bringing our total to eight. AIS is interested in having youth members because they represent our future and I think that some of them will certainly be present among our future leaders. Their efforts are recognized by the AIS in the youth portion of our shows and the posting at a national level of their successes in the Bulletin.

There is a youth news letter and several contests with monetary rewards. This year a thirteen year old girl has won the Clark Cosgrove Award and she will receive a trophy, a monetary reward, and will be honored at the National AIS Convention. There are many other things of interest aimed at different age levels for youth members. If any of you have young people in your families who might be interested in becoming a youth member you should contact **Ruth Bennett** the **Region Youth Chairperson** in Connecticut, **Norine Veal** the **Maine Iris Society Youth Advisor** or myself and we will be happy to answer any of your questions

Our Web Site has been a big success. It is being noticed and people are putting the information to good use. Region One and several of our societies have experienced an increase of new members because of our presence on the internet. I have received over fifty e-mails asking for more information. Many thanks are due to **Rebecca Wong & David Nitka** for all the work they have done to make it a reality. I have received compliments for the web site, it's contents, and photographs. Again, the credit goes to Rebecca who is the Web Master.

I hope to see some of you at the AIS convention at the Fair View Marriott in Falls Church, VA. It looks as if it is going to be a great convention with all the plantings and gardens on display. Every AIS person should see an AIS convention at least once. You get to rub elbows with so many great iris people and see irises from many regions all growing in the same locality.

Be sure to visit as many other gardens in our region as you can to see irises that you do not grow in your own gardens. Please notice how well they are grown, how healthy they are, and enjoy their beauty. It is really worth the effort, and it will widen the list of irises with which you are familiar. It will, also, increase the number of irises you can vote for when voting the Ballot or the Symposium.

Congratulations are in order for **Lynn Markham** for winning the Beatrice A Warburton Medal with the Tall Bearded Iris "Peignoir". It was first Runner-up last year. Also **Marty Schafer** and

Jan Sacks for First Runner-up with the Siberian Iris "Fond Kiss" and **John White** for Second Runner up with the Siberian Iris "Dirigo Black Velvet". Region One has and continues to produce great irises.

We have some great hybridizers in Region One, who introduce beautiful irises. I would like to list some that have achieved awards in 2002:

"FOUNDERS OF SIGNA MEDAL" (SPECIES)

"Candystriper" I. versicolor by **Bee Warburton**

"AWARDS OF MERIT" (AM)

SPECIES, **"Suslik"** I.pumila by **John Burton II**

SIBERIAN, **"Riverdance"** by **Marty Schafer** and **Jan Sacks**

"HONORABLE MENTION AWARD" (HM)

SIBERIANS,

"Fond Kiss" by **Marty Schafer** and **Jan Sacks**

"Butter and Cream" by **Currier McEwen**

"Dirigo Black Velvet" by **John White**

"Salamander Crossing" by **Marty Schafer** and **Jan Sacks**

There are many more great irises coming in our region. I want to note that if we don't grow them, show them, and vote for them, the world won't ever know them.

I look forward to seeing and talking with as many of you as I can throughout the coming year. Enjoy the spring after a long hard winter, For those of you who need more information you can always be in touch with me:

Bob Sawyer
RVP Region One
lothario@prexar.com



Candystriper by Bee Warburton (I. versicolor) Winner of the 2002 Founders of SIGNA Medal photo courtesy of Joe Pye Weed Garden



Dick Sparling (left) and Bob Sawyer study the membership roster at the 2003 Hybridizers Gathering and regional board meeting.

Region 1 Board Meeting February 9, 2003

The 2003 winter board meeting of Region 1 AIS was held during the Hybridizers' Meeting at David and Barbara Schmieder's.

Over 30 new Region 1 AIS members have been recruited via initial contact made on the Region 1 web-site. We have not yet been able to fill the Assistant RVP position. RVP Bob Sawyer will split out the Region 1 Judges/Training responsibilities from the Assistant RVP job, if necessary. Barbara Schmieder will take over as Region 1 Treasurer when Marty Schafer steps down.

Dr. Roy Epperson will speak at the Region 1 Fall 2003 Meeting on October 4. CIS and WNEIS have been asked to select a meeting site and to host the meeting.

There is a shortage of Youth membership and participation in all the Region 1 affiliates with the exception of the Maine Iris Society. Discussion centered on ways to increase youth participation in the affiliates and in Region 1.

There has been no revision of the Region 1 by-laws in the last 28 years! Work is in progress to investigate and update using Region 6 by-laws as a model. RVP Bob Sawyer has prepared a draft and has already reviewed it with Shirley Pope and Barbara Schmieder. Path forward will be Region 1 Board review, publication in the Spring Reg 1 Bulletin with a request for comments, opportunity for discussion at the July Region 1 meeting, revisions (if any) to be published in the Fall meeting notice.

Region 1 Business Meeting October 5, 2002

The fall meeting of AIS Region 1 was held October 5, 2002 at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston, Maine. RVP Bob Sawyer called the meeting to order. He thanked Joan Moors for arranging the meeting and lunch at such a fine facility.

Barbara Schmieder gave the Treasurer's Report (reprinted in this Bulletin). Comments from Region 1 Treasurer Marty Schafer are that our interest income is way down compared to past years. In 2001 we reported that Region 1 did not need affiliates' contributions because there was extra money in the treasury. This is no longer true. Region 1 now needs affiliates to contribute whatever they can. Region 1 is not in financial difficulty, but it cannot function indefinitely without financial help from the affiliates.

Secretary's Report was accepted as printed in the Winter 2002 Region 1 Bulletin.

Obtaining Tax Exempt Status for Region 1 will require our Region to make changes to the by-laws. Moved and passed for RVP Bob Sawyer to work on the by-laws and for Region 1 to vote on by-law changes in a short business meeting at the 2003 Region 1 meeting in July.

RVP Sawyer acknowledged Rebecca Wong's work on the Region 1 web-site. New members have been recruited in CT and ME after learning of Region 1 via the web-site. Moved and passed that Region 1 pay the cost of keeping the web-site, up to \$150/year. Region 1 affiliates are asked to contribute two articles per year to the Region 1 Bulletin in exchange for having information about their affiliated society on the web-site.

For the Region 1 Nominating Committee, Lynn Markham reported that Barbara Schmieder will begin a term on the Nominating Committee. Assistant RVP Dick Sparling has resigned due to health reasons. The Assistant RVP office will be kept open. The Executive Council will fill the slot and bring the nomination to a vote at a future Region 1 meeting. The Nominating Committee recommends that Region 1 by-laws be amended to allow the Secretary to serve more than one term. Moved and passed to keep Peter Young active in the Region 1 Secretary role until a successor is found.

32 Region 1 AIS judges participated in the 2002 Warburton Medal balloting. 62 iris hybridized in Region 1 were eligible this year and half of

these iris got at least one vote. Second runnerup was John White's **Dirigo Black Velvet**. First runnerup was another Siberian iris, Schafer/Sacks **Fond Kiss**. Winner of the 2002 Warburton Medal is Lynn Markham's tall bearded introduction **Peignoir**.

Moved and passed for Region 1 to subsidize our RVP's expenses for attending the AIS Fall Board Meeting up to \$500 per year and for Region 1 to continue paying the RVP's AIS National Convention registration each spring.

RVP Sawyer presented guest speaker Paul Black with a Currier McEwen 100 years/100 iris poster.

The next Region 1 Meeting is set for July 12, 2003 in John White's garden in Minot, ME.



Above: **Peignoir**, L. Markham, tall bearded iris, 1996

Right: John White's japanese iris garden in Minot, Maine.



BEATRICE A. WARBURTON MEDAL - 2002

The Warburton Medal balloting continues to be a horse race. In 2002, 32 Region One judges cast votes for a total of 33 of the 62 irises eligible. A total of 223 points (4 points for each first placement, 2 points for each second placement, and 1 point for each third placement) were awarded. Again, like in 2001, about half of the irises eligible got at least one point in the balloting. Only stiff competition begets this kind of result! Winners for 2002:

WARBURTON MEDAL - 26 points

PEIGNOIR (TB, 1996) Lynn Markham
34-35" tall. Standards light pink, style arms light pink and frilled. Edges of falls light pink paling to near white around the beard. Beards light pink on ends shading to deep pink in throat. Deeply ruffled.

FIRST RUNNER-UP - 18 points

FOND KISS (Sib, 1999) Schafer/Sacks
33" tall. Standards warm white, style arms white and semi-upright. Falls white with a lavender pink central flush. Big extravagant flowers.

SECOND RUNNER-UP - 17 points

DIRIGO BLACK VELVET (Sib, 1999) J. White 40-44" tall tetraploid. Very dark purple overlaid with a velvety black sheen. Style arms dark purple. Prominent gold signal.

Other varieties receiving 10 or more points in the balloting were **PLEASURES OF MAY** (Sib 1995 Schafer/Sacks) and **SIMMER** (BB 1999 L. Markham), 16 points each, and **NEAT TRICK** (Sib 1997 J. White) with 12 points.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Interview: Dr. Warren Hazelton on Dwarf Irises and his Iris Hybridizing Work

Q: What motivated you to give hybridizing a try and when did you make your first MDB crosses?

Initially I just used a few seed pods that were pollinated by the bees, just out of curiosity, and that got me hooked. I made my first MDB cross about five years ago.

Q: Some of us in New England have trouble wintering over our MDB's yet you grow them beautifully in a harsh climate. Can you pass along any MDB culture tips?

I don't do anything with the MDB's in winter to provide special care. I treat them the same as my other bearded irises. I guess that I am just fortunate that MDB's grow really well up here. I don't really have any special tips to pass along.

Q: Have you set specific goals for your hybridizing? Did your goals change as you got further into hybridizing?

I really have not had many specific goals for my hybridizing work. Initially I was trying to work toward a pink MDB and I have had some "burn out". So many of the crosses resulted in SDB's that I have started hybridizing for SDB's: working on the spot pattern, the edges of the falls, and plicatas.

Q: Which cultivars are your favorites to use as parents? What characteristics make them desirable?

I like to work with CHANTED, because it is so incredibly fertile: all I need to do is get near another iris and it seems to set a pod on that iris. Also I like the color and I like the form. Another of my favorites has been PELE, because it passes on the spot pattern and because it's a good grower for me. Another favorite parent is INVISIBLE INK, because it seems to me that there are so few MDB's that are pollen fertile when crossed into the SDB's.

Q: What are your thoughts on "downsized" SDB median iris being introduced in the MDB class. Is this good for the world of dwarf iris?

To a purist, it is probably not a good idea. But frankly I like it, because it gives us two distinct seasons for MDB's. The "pumila' MDB's bloom early, followed closely by the MDB-SDB crosses. Besides the double season, one thing I like is that the flowers out of the SDB-MDB crosses seem to be a lot different than from straight MDB crosses.

Q: How many seedlings do you like to bloom out of a cross? Do you have space in your seedling patch to bloom as many as you would like?

I don't particularly look for any definite number of seedlings out of a given cross. Whatever I get I like to plant and evaluate. I do have room in my seedling patch to bloom as many as I want, although I end up limiting it to about 100 to 150 per year. I'd like to get a lot more than 150, but my kids and my wife think that I am obsessed! But when I tell them that some hybridizers like Keith Keppel bloom 15,000 seedlings, my seedling bloom doesn't seem like very much.

Q: Typically how long is it from when you plant the seeds to when you get to view the seedling bloom?

The seedlings, from the time I plant them until they bloom is usually two years. A few will blossom the next year after I plant the seedlings, but not many.

Q: Are there any diseases that are problematic for your dwarf iris and your seedlings? Have you noticed differences in disease resistance among prospective parents?

I haven't noticed significant differences in disease resistance among my dwarf iris. In fact the dwarf iris seem to me to be less prone to diseases than the SDB's or tall bearded plants that I grow.

Q: Can you tell us about some of your favorite seedlings?

One which is going to be introduced next year as an SDB has buff standards, lilac falls and a buff rim around the edge of the falls. It is going to be named MARIE GRIFFIN.

An MDB seedling which I like very much is pink with a red spot, out of the cross CAMEO CUTIE X PELE. This seedling is much like David and Barbara Schmieder's ENCHANTED MOCHA, but it is smaller and seems to be an MDB, at least at this point.

A second MDB seedling that I particularly like has white standards, pink falls and an orange beard. Its from GYPSY PASSION X INVISIBLE INK.

An SDB seedling that I am pleased with is a clear yellow with a brown eyelash pattern entirely covering the falls. Its from the cross MARGE HAGBERG X INCA DOLL.

Q: Have you selected cultivar names and registered any of your seedlings? Could you share with us how you are selecting names for your planned introductions.

It's somewhat difficult choosing a name, I think. My first introduction will be named in honor of my mother-in-law, who has been dead about ten years. Others will be named for my grandchildren. Since I presently have twenty of these, coming up with names is not a real problem! I have been also planning to come up with some Indian names, and there are plenty of Indian names for lakes and rivers near where we live. Those names can be used.

Q: For a typical year, what dates correspond to your dwarf iris bloom?

On a typical year my dwarf iris bloom is from about mid-May to the first of June. Of course it varies. This year, if the snow stops coming, mid-May to the first of June seems about right.

Q: Can you guide us on how we can arrange to visit your garden?

I have no need for prior arrangements. Anybody can stop by at any time. They are always welcome. We usually are at home and we would arrange to be at home if we knew that someone was planning to visit.

JEFF DUNLOP DISCUSSES HIS WORK HYBRIDIZING SIBERIAN IRIS IN NORTH WINDHAM, ME

Greetings to all. I have been hybridizing siberian irises in southern Maine since 1993. My regular employment is with a local general contractor as a superintendent of building construction. My dear wife Joyce is processes claims in Portland. We have been married over ten years, have 4 cats, and live 1/4 mile from Sebago Lake in a very modest home in North Windham (approximately 18 miles northwest of Portland). In the backyard are 7,000 square feet of gardens containing siberian irises (and a few daylilies), all in uniform rows to maximize efficient management. Joyce leaves the gardening to me, but she does the household support work, especially during the siberian bloom season. This great kindness makes her a candidate for sainthood in my book.

During three weeks each June work shifts from commercial construction to hybridizing and otherwise enjoying siberians. We have 200 named cultivars and we bloom 500 to 700 seedlings,

with roughly 400 of these being new third year seedlings, annually. Usually 75% of my crosses are tetraploids and 25% diploids. Our season runs 5 weeks from first flower (usually *I. typholia* around 5/20) to last flower toward the end of June. All plants are grown in sandy soil with supplemental sprinkling especially during dry spells but no mulch. Peak bloom is often 6/12 to 6/15. Depending on the heat crossing starts around 7 AM and continues through late morning. Afternoons are consumed with seedling evaluations, general observations, cross planning, seeing visitors, and visiting other gardens. I try to take a few photos in the afternoon when the light is better, if the day is not too busy. Often this important task is missed due to the need to simply sit and recharge on such a regimented vacation. When the season is over, final cleanup is done by burning back vegetation, either in late fall or early spring - as dryness of the foliage permits.

The 2002 season was dry and hot again, but not quite as difficult as 2001. In 2001 most of the season had temperatures around 95 degrees F, nearly baking the colored and especially the dark colored flowers. The heat skewed the pollinations severely toward the white flowers,



Looking east from the garden of Jeff and Joyce Dunlop, North Windham, Maine.

Photos used in this article were taken by Jeff Dunlop.



Jeff Dunlop's Seedling 99256-2

which of course stayed a bit cooler. As a result 2004 should be a very "white" year in the third year seedlings up for their initial evaluation. June 2002 started with mild temperatures and good pod set, then very hot for mid-season giving few good pods. Late season was cooler but the pods that set were smaller due to the stress on the plants from the earlier heat. In spite of the adversity, I'm always glad to have the "takes" I get, and I'm glad that we didn't have 30 days of rain.

Eight of the seedlings from '95 to '98 were dug and lined out for final review in 2003 before potential registration and future introduction. All of these are tetraploid crosses derived from Currier's seedlings and introductions. These seedlings generally have a pleasing, quiet beauty, with no vibrant signals. Three have TIFFANY LASS as one parent, which often gives a blaze of darker and more intense color at the signal area. Brief descriptions follow. 95099-5 is a taller dark blue; 95117-1 is a 24" tall light to mid yellow with white standards and styles; 96040-2 is a lovely plum color with a touch of wine red; 96086-1 is a medium blue with large ruffled flowers and two branches; 96094-2 is mid-blue with darker veins and a small chalky yellow signal and brown hafts, a flower of special merit; 97251-2 is a pleasing white with yellow buds and superior plant habit; 98294-1 is a medium height light blue, while 98333-1 is a tall and upright light blue. Two of these seedlings, 96086-1 and 96094-2 won blue ribbons at the June 2002 Maine iris Society Show. In addition

about 25 other seedlings through '98 have been saved for further consideration and for use in breeding.

Of the '99 crosses, up for initial review this past June, many were interesting. Probably 80 out of 400 made the first cut while 320 were dug, dried and burned. Descriptions of seedlings blooming for the first time I consider tentative and subject to the possibility of change. That said, two seedlings which immediately come to mind as outstanding are both tetraploids. First, 99256-2 is a blue violet with a small bright yellow signal 32" tall and so far somewhat fertile. Parents of this one are a wine red (somewhat polychrome) seedling 96102-3 and STRAWBERRY FAIR.

The other beauty is 99402-3, a 28" near mustard yellow, looking almost identical to Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks (diploid) SUMMER REVELS. This deeply saturated yellow has green veins enhancing the depth of the yellow, which is intriguing for a tetraploid. Initially this has not been a very fertile seedling in spite of heavy use both ways. Its background is a cross of two of Currier's good yellow seedlings.

Here's to lovely and striking new phenotypes of exquisite beauty in gardens everywhere! All of this would be incomplete without thanks to my



Jeff Dunlop's seedling 99402-3

dear friend, Dr. Currier McEwen. His pioneering work has brought us superior new siberian and japanese iris for some forty years. In the sixteen years that I have known him, the contributions that he has made to my hybridizing and many other's have been substantial. Currier has always been generous with gifts of seeds, pollen, plants, advice, and his time. Most people in contact with him have been recipients of some or all of these gifts, to their advantage. He speaks occasionally of "McEwen Luck" in his iris work, but is far too modest to mention McEwen intellect, determination, resourcefulness, and generosity, among other attributes. At nearly 101 years young, he is ready to pass the torch along to the many beneficiaries of his prodigious accomplishments and great generosity. The fact is that many people have been helping to continue his breeding work for nearly forty years already. Thanks, Currier, for all that you have done to improve and promote these beautiful flowers!

Rhizome or Bulb? M.D. Faith

"We hear some members of the club calling rhizomes 'bulbs', as though the words were interchangeable. What is the difference between rhizomes and bulbs?"

This is a very pertinent question, since many people and a lot of home gardeners indeed very often use the terms interchangeably, and with some justification for that use.

Certainly members of a specialty plant society, such as an iris society dedicated to the growing of iris, or members of a daffodil society, who are equally dedicated to their favorite plant, all with some years of seniority in their respective fields, would not use the term in this loose broad general manner. Experienced gardeners would instinctively know and appreciate the difference between the terms, as well as the inherent nature of the underlying structures to which they refer, that is in particular the make up of a rhizome and a bulb.

A daffodil grower of experience would no more refer to the underground structure that produces his or her favorite plant as a rhizome, as an iris grower would call a rhizome a bulb. The

Wanted for Crimes Against Maples: The Asian Longhorn Beetle

Have you seen the Asian Longhorn Beetle? This is a serious threat to trees in New England. It has been found in New York City, New Jersey and Chicago. **This insect kills trees.** Maple trees are its favorite host. Almost 7,000 trees have been cut down in the infested areas to eradicate it. It is easy to recognize. It is a large (3/4 to 1 1/2 inches long) shiny black beetle with white spots and long black and white banded antennae. We must limit its spread. **Call 802-656-5434 if you see the beetle.**

Visit: www.uvm.edu/albeetle to learn more.



term "bulb" has been used for centuries to refer to all the under ground storage structures that plants use to store nutrients for future use. Most reference sources use the term to denote a class of plants that produce underground storage structures. When used to denote a class of plants it should not be considered an incorrect usage of that term.

Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary has it right, it defines the term first as: "(a) a resting stage of a plant (as the lily, onion, hyacinth, or tulip) that is usually formed underground and consists of a short stem base bearing one or more buds enclosed in overlapping membranous or fleshy leaves (b) a fleshy structure (as a tuber or corm) resembling a bulb in appearance (c) a plant having or developing from a bulb."

To me a bulb contains the complete life cycle of the plant within itself. Amaryllis and paper white narcissus demonstrate this succinctly by growing vigorously from stored reserves when being anchored in a non-nutrient containing medium and supplied moisture only. They bloom quite vigorously from the nutrients stored within the bulb from the preceding year's growth cycle. The nutrients were stored during the primary growing season, which mostly occurs after the bloom of the previous year. Bulbs forced in this way are truly spent after being forced to bloom without additional nutrients being supplied during the forcing period, and they should be discarded and not planted in the garden.

True bulbs are comprised of two distinct types, tunicate and imbricate bulbs.

Their tough paper like tunic distinguishes the tunicate bulbs, and this covering protects them from drying out, and thus the bulbs can be stored in a cool dry place for several months. From the bulb basal plate, from which the roots develop, there are concentric fleshy scales that surround the short stem and bud that arises from the base through the center of the bulb. The onion, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip, amaryllis, and other bulbs with a tunic or paper like covering, are well known examples. Iris growers are familiar with iris reticulata, iris danfordiae, and the Dutch and English iris, which are also tunicate bulbs.

Imbricate bulbs do not have the tunic and must be kept from drying out during the period of time that they are out of the ground before resetting into the garden. They are stored in a slightly moist medium during storage and shipment. Like the tunicate bulbs the roots develop from the basal plate, while the fleshy scales where the nutrients are stored are overlapped around the circumference of the bulb with the stem-bud rising through the center of the bulb, which is composed of these overlapping fleshy imbricate scales. The bulbs of the lily family are prime examples.

Corms are often lumped together, in the minds of some people, with tunicate and imbricate bulbs and referred to with the general term bulbs. There is quite a difference in their make up, though. The base of the corm from which the roots develop is topped with the short stem-bud, which is surrounded with a storage structure of undifferentiated substance covered with a thin brownish paper-like tunic. If you cut it in cross section you do not see the concentric rings or imbricate scales of which true bulbs are composed. The new corm each year is formed just above the old spent corm with a lot of little corms around its base. This results in it becoming nearer to the surface of the soil each year, if they are not re-set on a regular basis. Crocus and gladiolus with which everyone is familiar develop from corms.

Tubers are a third type of underground structure often referred to with the general term bulb. They differ from the true bulb, and from the corm, by not having a stem-bud base from which the roots develop. Instead they have buds, which are scattered over their surface from which the plants sprout a shoot and from which the roots develop. The familiar Irish potato, which we all know very well, as well as the caladium, anemone, and oxalis, are good examples of tubers.

The tuberous roots of dahlias differ from the other tubers by having the buds confined to that area at the top of the swollen elongated root where the stem from last year is attached. A portion of this stem base must be included in any division of the tuber to provide a place from which the new plant bud and shoot can develop. In tuberous rooted begonia the new buds all

develop from the top of the round flat tuber. These nutrient storage structures are significantly different from rhizomes in that they are true roots, whereas the swollen elongated rhizome's storage structure is a true stem.

A rhizome, although it derives its name from the Greek term rhizomat or rhizoma meaning a mass of roots, is not a root, as all irisarians should know, but a stem that grows along the soil surface. Either just below the soil surface or it, as we know, will crawl out and grow along the surface of the soil. Contrary to true roots which never have buds or shoots, the rhizome puts up true leaves and buds along the top of the stem (rhizome) into the lighted atmosphere above the soil with true roots growing into the moist nutrient rich soil of the rhizosphere below.

In an aside it might be worth noting that the tendency to grow out upon the surface of the soil by the rhizome might be a survival technique that evolved over time to protect it from the myriad of rot fungi and bacteria, which attack it with disastrous results on occasion. We are all aware of the beneficial effects of the open air and sunlight in stopping rot. It just may be that those on the surface survive better than those beneath the soil in adverse soil conditions.

Like the bulb, the rhizome does store plant nutrients within it by elongating and swelling in diameter. These reserves are for the purpose of feeding the new sprouts until they can develop a rhizome and roots of their own, also supplying some of the nutrients for early spring growth and bloom. But unlike the true bulbs, I do not feel that the rhizome stores nearly the entire nutrients that are necessary for the spring bloom season. Experiments that I have made with Louisiana iris rhizomes indicate that a well-grown mature rhizome supplied with water only, will bloom from the nutrients stored in the rhizome producing a fairly nice flower. The bloom though does not begin to approach the standard that the same plant exhibits when properly grown in a well-enriched soil.

Finally, let us sum it up, the true bulbs both tunicate and imbricate as well as the corm, have one thing in common with the rhizome: they are all considered to be modified stem structures, as opposed to the tubers and tuberous fleshy root which are modified true roots.

(M. D. Faith lives in Searcy, Arkansas. He writes the "Iris Doctor" column for Region 22 where he provides scientific and comforting responses to questions from troubled irisarians. He hybridizes Louisiana Iris, see his introductions at www.irisnut.homestead.com)

**The February 9,
2003 Hybridizer
Gathering:**
Seated clockwise
from the left -
Lynn Markham,
Kathy Marble,
Sharon Hayes
Whitney
Dean Cole,
Barbara Schmieder,
John White,
Stephanie Markham
and John Burton.
Standing from the
Left:
Jeff Dunlop, Dick
Sparling and
Marty Schafer



The Knowlton Medal

by Clarence Mahan

This medal is restricted to border bearded (BB) iris. It is named in honor of Harold W. Knowlton (1888-1968). [Mr Knowlton lived in Auburndale, Massachusetts at 32 Hancock Street, which is now a block away from the Mass Pike between the intersection of I-90 and I-95/128 and Lasell College]

Harold Knowlton was a tireless promoter of the border bearded class of iris. Bennett Jones wrote in *The World of Iris*: "Harold Knowlton was among the first to make deliberate selections of smaller plants. Two of his introduction, *Pearl Cup*.. and *Cricket*.. display the desirable features we still seek in modern border irises."

He was the seventh president of AIS (1953-55) and served the society in several important positions. He was highly regarded as a leader, planner and organizer. He was reorganized the AIS awards system and instituted the first Handbook for Judges and the handbook for new members, *What Every Iris Grower Should Know*. He compiled and edited the 1959 Checklist whose hallmark is the comprehensive listing of every AIS award winning iris from 1920 - 1959. The AIS awarded him the *Distinguished Service Medal* in 1955.

The Wister Medal

by Clarence Mahan

This medal is restricted to tall bearded (TB) irises. It is named in honor of Dr. John Caspar Wister (1887 -1982).

John C. Wister led the organizing meeting that created the American Iris Society and became its first president, a position he held for 14 years. He guided the society through its formative years. He was widely recognized as a man of rare management skill, leadership ability and the highest ethical standards. R.S. Sturtevant wrote of him: "Probably few current members realize that the AIS started through the efforts and initiative of one man, John C. Wister...."

During a visit in 1922, Wister encouraged his many English friends to establish the British Iris Society. His contribution to the founding of the British Iris Society was formally recognized by his election as an Honorary Member and the award of the Foster memorial Plaque. The American Iris Society awarded John Wister the Gold Medal in 1930, stating: "All Iris growers in America recognize Mr. Wister as their leader and will certainly approve the action of the Board of Directors in conferring upon him the highest recognition in their power to bestow."

Wister was a member of a prominent Philadelphia area family, which included the 18th century physician Caspar Wister, after whom the wisteria was named. Wister was a pioneering landscape architect who envisioned the modern arboretum as a mixture of both wild and cultivated areas. He graduated from Harvard University and studied at the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture and the New Jersey Agricultural College. He served in Europe during WWI, and in his spare time visited gardens and leading horticulturalists. He was secretary of the American Rose Society for many years, a charter member of the American Hosta Society and a member of some fifty horticultural societies and thirty scientific and conservation organizations. He was simultaneously the first director of the Arthur Hoyt Scot Horticultural Foundation at Swarthmore College and the Tyler Arboretum. He designed and created the 240 acre public garden at Swarthmore College and was noted for developing extensive collections of daffodils, herbaceous and woody peonies, rhododendrons, azaleas, ornamental cherry, crabapple, lilacs and magnolias.

One of John C. Wister's endearing qualities was his modesty. He always denied that he was the founder of the American Iris Society, saying that it was the work of many people. Of himself, he said: "But I know I'm just an ordinary fellow who happened to come along at the right time.". An ordinary fellow he was not. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude. John C. Wister, to a remarkable degree, created the American Iris Society's traditions.

*BYLAWS Proposed 01/25/03

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY - REGION ONE

ARTICLE I - Name and Affiliation

- Section 1. Name: The name of this organization is REGION ONE. of the AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY.
- Section 2. Affiliation: Region One is a region of the American Iris Society, (AIS) operating within the AIS.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1. Region One shall be organized and operated exclusively for the purposes described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 2. The purposes of Region One shall be to carry out the purposes of the American Iris Society in the following manner: to develop the science of horticulture and any activities related to the study, propagation and culture of the genus Iris; to stimulate and foster interest in horticultural pursuits, conservation and protection of these plants; to cooperate with other organizations, public and private, in education in the science of horticulture of all those interested in learning any phase of the genus Iris, by any and all means which may be determined from time to time by the Executive Council of Region One, within the geographical area consisting of Region One of the American Iris Society as presently or in future constituted. These shall include, but are not limited to:

(a)Encouragement and support of scientific research, including those pertaining to the solution of diseases related to but not necessarily exclusive to the genus Iris, and investigation and conservation of the genus in the wild;

(b)Collection, compilation and publication of data concerning the history, classification, breeding, hybridizing, and culture of Irises; and

(c)Education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging, and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public.

Section 3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, Region One shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by an organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4. No Substantial part of the activities of Region One shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation except as otherwise provided by section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, and Region One shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign , on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Section 5. Inurement of income . No part of the net earnings of Region One shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that Region One shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these articles.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any individuals who are members of AIS, including youth members, and who reside within the boundaries of Region One as established by the AIS, shall be members of Region One without payment of additional dues. Membership privileges and years shall conform to those of the American Iris Society.

ARTICLE

IV - MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be at least two general meetings of Region One membership each year held for the purpose of Iris education, appreciation, and culture, one held in the spring /summer and the other held in the fall. These meetings shall be rotated around the area comprising Region One insofar as possible. Local societies may extend invitations to host these regional meetings; the invitations shall be submitted to the Executive Council for final decision on acceptance.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall meet prior to the general meeting and at such other times as the president shall designate.

Section 3. A business meeting dealing with financial and/or administrative affairs of Region One shall be held in conjunction with the fall general meeting. A business meeting at the spring general meeting may be called by the Regional Vice President (RVP).

Section 4. Additional meetings, general or business, may be held when deemed necessary by the RVP with approval of the Region One Executive Council, or upon petition by ten percent of the individual members of Region One. Notice of time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be mailed to each member at least ten days in advance of such meeting.

Section 5. All meetings shall be called by the RVP and shall be conducted in conformity with procedures established by the Regional Executive Council.

Section 6. Committees shall meet as needed at the call of each chairman.

Section 7. Roberts Rules of order, Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers shall consist of the following: President - RVP, Vice President - Assistant RVP, Secretary, and Treasurer .

Section 2. The President - RVP shall preside all meetings of Region One and of the Executive Council and shall have general supervision of the work of the organization, and shall appoint the chairmen of standing and special committees, with the exception of the nominating committee. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all appointive committees. He/she shall fulfill duties as published in the AIS Handbook for Regional Vice Presidents, shall represent Region One at the annual meeting of the AIS, and shall fulfill all duties as published by the AIS and imposed by these bylaws. Attendance at the fall meeting of the AIS Board is not mandatory.

Section 3. The Vice President - Assistant RVP shall perform the duties of the RVP in case of his/her absence from a meeting and shall fulfill other duties as determined by the Regional Executive Council. He/she shall fill the un-expired term of the President - RVP in case of a vacancy, and it is expected but not mandatory that the Vice President - Assistant RVP shall be nominated for President - RVP for the succeeding term.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of membership business meetings, Executive Council meetings and submit copies of the membership business meetings to the Region One Bulletin Editor for publication. He/she shall conduct all correspondence referred to him/her and shall perform all other duties as determined by the Executive Council.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall keep account of and report on all monies of Region One. He/she shall receive and disburse all Region One funds as directed by the RVP. An annual financial report shall be submitted for publication in the Region One

Bulletin, but is not to be published on the internet.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1. The affairs and business of Region One shall be managed by an Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate Past-RVP, The President of each affiliate. The following committee chairpersons shall be affiliate members and will not be able to vote, the Judges Training Chairperson (JTC) (if the JTC position is not currently held by the Assistant RVP), the Bulletin Editor, and the Regional Youth Chairperson. The Executive Council may adopt rules and regulations governing its meetings and methods of transacting its business.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall have the authority to conduct business via electronic mail, provided there are adequate standing rules in place to protect the integrity of the deliberative process.

Section 3. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Executive Council shall appoint a successor to serve until the next annual meeting and until his/her successor is elected and qualified.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

Section 1 There shall be the following Standing Committees, the chairperson of each appointed annually by the President: judges' training and appointment of judges; youth program; exhibitions; finance; and auction ; membership; publications; and Warburton Medal program.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee, shall nominate a slate of officers and one Nominating Committee member each year. In the event of a premature vacancy in the Nominating Committee, the remaining members shall also nominate a successor to fill the unexpired term.

Section 3. The Judges Training Chairperson (JTC). The JTC shall maintain records of each judge and prospective judge, approve all judges training schools in advance, and obtain copies of all school rosters and exam papers following training. The JTC will send a judge's activity report form to each judge annually. He/she shall send recommendations to the AIS Chairperson of Judges Training no later than September One annually, with a copy of the report to the RVP.

Section 4. The publications committee shall have charge of editing and publishing such material as is directed by the Executive Council.

Section 5. Regional Youth Chairperson (RYC), Shall provide youth news to the regional Bulletin Editor, write youth nominations for awards, and work to assure the continued interest of those in this age group.

Section 6. The program committee shall plan well-balanced programs for the general meetings, based the purposes, interests, and needs of the membership.

Section 7. Special committees may be appointed by the President as the need arises.

Section 8. Chairmen of other standing and special committees shall preside at meetings of their committees and shall stimulate and carry on the work for which the committee is responsible.

ARTICLE VIII - Elections

Section 1. The nominating committee, of three members, shall be elected annually by a show of hands at the annual meeting, one member each year, each member serving three years and during his third term acting as chairman. The first nominating committee shall be elected at the meeting of organization, with one member to serve for one year, one for two years, and one for three years.

Section 2. Officers and members of the nominating committee shall be elected by a show of hands at the annual meeting, following presentation of the nominating committee's report containing the proposed slate of officers.

Section 3. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting, followed by a show of hands or, at the request of a majority of the members present and voting, by secret ballot.

Section 4. The proposed President shall be recommended to the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society for appointment as Regional Vice-President.

Section 5. No person shall be elected to the same office for more than three consecutive years, except the secretary and the treasurer.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCES

Section 1. No funds of Region One shall be used for salaries or other compensation for officers or members of Region One except that a payment to the RVP (one person) as partial reimbursement of expenses incurred in representing Region One at the spring and fall meetings of the AIS are to be made as follows: the registration fee for the AIS convention, and travel and lodging expenses for the fall AIS Board Meeting up to an amount voted by the membership. To be eligible for such reimbursements, the RVP must attend the respective AIS Board of Directors meeting and the Board of Counselors meeting.

ARTICLE X - QUORUM

Section 1. Twenty Members present and voting at a meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Four members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum, one of whom must be the President - RVP or the Vice President - Assistant RVP.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any general meeting of the organization. Notice of such proposed amendments having been given at a previous meeting and sent in writing to each member at least ten days before the general meeting in which action is to be taken, provided a quorum is present.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon the dissolution of Region One, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of Region One shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to the American Iris Society or organizations of the American Iris Society if they are exclusively organized and qualify as an exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code .

Region One AIS and Affiliates' Events for 2003

- May 24 MIS Median Iris/Spring Flower Show, South Paris ME 1:00 - 5:00 PM
- May 31 CIS Iris Exhibition West Hartford CT
- May 31 ISM Iris Show at Waltham Field Station, Waltham MA 1:00 - 4:00 PM
- June 01 ISM Garden Tour, Toadland Gardens and Martha Hutcheson's garden
- June 01 WNEIS Iris Show at the Buckland - Shelburne Community Center, Shelburne Falls MA
- June 01 CIS Garden Tour: Gregory garden, Boroch garden, and Hao/Zuraw garden
- June 08 MIS Bus Trip to visit Gardens in Massachusetts
- June 12 - 15 Siberian/Species Convention Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
- June 14 MIS 43rd Annual Iris Show, Auburn ME 2:00 - 6:00 PM
- July 06 WNEIS JI Show at the Buckland - Shelburne Community Center, Shelburne Falls MA
- July 12 Region One Meeting, Minot ME Judges Training: JI Garden Judging
- July 19 MIS Auction (Tall Bearded & Siberian) Gorham ME 1:00 PM
- July 27 ISM Club Sale and Auction, members and friends, Norfolk MA 1:00 PM
- Aug 02 CIS Iris Auction at the Bennetts' in East Haddam CT
- Aug 02 WNEIS Picnic at Steve Smith's in Orange MA
- Aug 10 MIS Swap Day at Peter Young's in Buckfield ME
- Sep 09 MIS Auction Daylilies and Irises (Siberian & Japanese), Auburn ME 7:00 PM
- Oct 04 Region One Fall Meeting at Comstock Ferre in Old Wethersfield CT
- Oct 14 MIS Annual Meeting in Auburn ME

Regional Affiliates Presidents

Connecticut Iris Society -Mike Zuraw, MJZuraw@aol.com

Iris Society of Massachusetts - Jan Sacks, jpwflowers@aol.com, Also, bheim@charter.net

Maine Iris Society - Peter Young, irjers@aol.com

Western NewEngland Iris Society - Nancy Gluek, ngluek@attbi.com
