



Region 1 Bulletin

American Iris Society

Winter, 2002

Volume 54, Number 1

Region 1 Spring Meeting Saturday, June 8, 2002

The 2002 Spring meeting will be at the garden of Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer, 337 Acton St., Carlisle, Massachusetts. The meeting begins at 10 AM. Marty and Jan expect June 8 to be peak Siberian and perennial bloom. Bring your lunch, coffee and dessert will be provided. The meeting is expected to run until 3 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend any part or the all of the day.

2 hours of judges training on the siberian iris will be offered from 1 to 3 PM. This is a great opportunity to learn what judges look for in siberian iris. Attendees will split into small groups to evaluate irises in the seedling patch.

Directions to Jan and Marty's

From Rt. 128: take Rt. 2 West. At the rotary, take Rt. 2A. Proceed on 2A to the first stoplight. This is the junction of 2A and Rt. 27. Turn right on Rt. 27. ***Go 1.3 miles and turn right on Carlisle Road. Go 1.3 miles and #337 will be on the right, a beige house close to the road.

From Route 495: Take the exit for Route 119 East. Follow Route 119 to the junction of 119 and Route 27. Turn left. Go 1.3 miles and turn right on Carlisle Road. Go 1.3 miles and #337 will be on the right, a beige house close to the road.

Region 1 Fall Meeting October 5, 2002

The Fall meeting will be Saturday, October 5 in Lewiston, Maine at the Ramada Hotel. The meeting will start at 10 AM. Our guest speaker will be former president of AIS, Clarence Mahan, presenting *What Every Judge Should Know: Judging Points Overlooked or Forgotten.*

The Lewiston Ramada Inn is just off Exit 13 of the Maine Turnpike I-95. Follow the signs at the exit to the Ramada which will be your right. The 1999 Fall meeting was at the Lewiston Ramada. The facilities and our lunch were great!

Scenes from the 2001 Median Odyssey. Below left: Iris cristata at Hermit Medlar's Walk. Below right: Perry Dyer's Crystalline Entity



Region 1 and the Internet

The Region 1 web site, www.irisgarden.org is off to a good start. This is a project of Rebecca Wong and Dave Nitka, your regional editors. We added a special section to honor Dr. Currier McEwen on his 100th Birthday: April 1, 2002. There are also pages with the results of the 2001 Tall Bearded Symposium for Region 1 and the 1998 Region 1 Popularity Poll of all types of iris.

This newsletter will be placed on the the web site soon to give iris lovers a chance to see the photos from this issue in color. Check it out at

www.irisgarden.org/librarymain.htm

The next project is to put up culture sheets and information about iris borer control on the web sites. Most of the questions received from the public visiting the web site have been questions about how to divide iris, and "What are those worms I found when I dug them?"

Another project is to include a web page or link to a web page for all of the Region 1 affiliates. The Region 1 web page is very much like a booth at a county fair or garden show that never shuts down. It would be great to have information about all of the Region 1 affiliate societies available there. Our RVP has contacted the affiliates with more details about doing this.

Finally, we hope to have a listing of our region's hybridizers on the page with photos of what they are working on and what their goals are. If you are interested in participating, contact us for more details, our address is on the bottom right of this page.

I would especially like to thank Mike Zuraw and Bob Sawyer for sending us photos for use on the web pages.

The Bulletin is free to all Region 1 members of the American Iris Society. Subscriptions to the Region 1 Bulletins are available to others at cost: \$2.50 per issue, contact the editors at the address on this page.

Advertisements are accepted for publication in the Region 1 Bulletin at a rate of \$30/full page, prorated down for smaller spaces than a full page.

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Editors

David Nitka and Rebecca Wong
 Feeding Hills, MA 01030
kaneonapua@yahoo.com

RVP's Message Robert Sawyer

As your new Region One Vice President I wish you all a great year with many more to come. 2002 should prove to be an interesting year with the situation we find our country facing these days. I hope and pray that the events we are going through will make the world a safer place in which to live.

Technology is moving at an increasing pace and every year we see new things. The use of computers is something to behold and their use increases everyday. I plan to put the ability to pass messages quickly and efficiently to good use. Some of you are already beginning to see what I am talking about. So, if you use e-mail and desire to be on my mailing list, just send your e-mail address to me at lothario@prexar.com (Lothario is the name of a very nice iris).

This year the **Region One Spring Meeting** is going to be at the garden of Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks. The date will be 8 June. Region One June Iris Shows are as follows; ISM the 9th MIS the 15th and WNEIS is the 16th. It was with a lot of thought that the Region One Spring Meeting date was chosen because June is a very busy month. The Iris Shows are all indoors, so we wanted an outside meeting in a garden. We did not want the meeting to interfere with an iris show, so the scheduling is tight, but worth it.

It will be really nice to have our meeting at a beautiful iris garden in bloom. The judges training will be held in the garden and we do need more of that. The primary duty of AIS Judges is judging irises in the garden. That is why they are classified as "Garden Judges". Also the people who have never seen Marty's and Jan's garden are in for a treat. We must thank them for making their garden available to us.



Ginny Spoon at the 2001 Fall Regional Meeting at the Bedford, Mass. Town Center. Ginny gave judges training on the garden judging of tall bearded iris. Don Spoon spoke on how genetics and biotany can be used in an iris hybridizing program.

On the same topic, the Region One Fall Meeting will be held in Maine on Oct the fifth. The speaker will be Clarence Mahan. It should be fun to be in Maine when the fall foliage is out.

The February Region One Hybridizer's Meeting was held at the Schmeider residence in Mass. It was an outstanding meeting with around twenty people in attendance. There were many pictures of new seedlings shown and future looks really promising. Many thanks to Barbara and David for loaning their home to us for the day.

I was very pleased to see the 2001 Beatrice A. Warburton Medal awarded to John White for his Japanese Iris "Dirigo Debutante" at the Fall Region One Meeting. I understand that the voting was very close and Lynn Markham's "Peignoir" (TB) was a close runner up. Second runner up was a tie between John White's "Neat Trick" (SIB) and John Burton's "Billie the Brownie" (MTB). Congratulations to you all. Let's hope the competition is as keen the next time around.

*Happy Gardening,
Bob Sawyer*

Minutes of the Fall Meeting October 6, 2001 Bedford, Massachusetts

The fall meeting of Region I of the American Iris Society was called to order by RVP Ada Godfrey. There were 51 present including the speakers. She welcomed new members. Jan Sacks introduced the speakers, Don and Ginny Spoon of Winterberry Gardens in Virginia and presented them with a welcome gift. Treasurer, Marty Schafer, gave the treasurer's report. Assets as of October 1 are \$9235.42. He asked that affiliates once again contribute to the Region I treasury as they see fit. It was moved, seconded and passed that his report be accepted. The secretary's report was accepted as printed in the Region I Newsletter.

Lynn Markham gave the nominating committee report as follows: Robert Sawyer, RVP; Richard Sparling, Assistant RVP; Peter Young, Secretary; Marty Schafer, Treasurer. Paul Dostie was added to the Nominating Committee to replace Shirley Pope. He joins Bob Kendall and Lynn Markham on that committee. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of officers as presented. Ada turned the meeting over to the new RVP, Bob Sawyer.

Lynn Markham presented the results of the balloting for the Warburton Medal as follows : Winner, Dirigo Debutante (White, 1994); First runner-up, Peignoir (Lynn Markham); Second runner-up, a tie between Neat Trick (White, 1997) and Billie The Brownie (John Burton) Other irises receiving more than ten points were Elisabeth McEwen (White, 1996) and Riverdance (Schafer/Sacks, 1997).

The date and location of the spring tour will be published in the Regional Spring Bulletin. Jan Sacks spoke on the need to change the date for the Fall Regional Meeting. It was moved and seconded to have



Lynn Markham presents the 2001 Warburton Medal to John White for Dirigo Debutante, a japanese iris. Dirigo Debutante ("Nikko" X Continuing Pleasure) introduced in 1994, has received the American Iris Society award, HM. The Warburton Medal is awarded to irises hybridized in Region I. The results of the 2001 Warburton Medal balloting are included in the Minutes of the Fall Meeting on this page.

the Fall Meeting of Region I on either the first or second Saturday of October whichever does not fall on Columbus Day weekend. The vote passed unanimously. The silent auction for the day is to be handled by Debbie Wheeler and Steffie Markham will be the new auctioneer for the regular auction. Bob Sawyer circulated a sign-up list for e-mail addresses to facilitate his job as new RVP. Rebecca Wong spoke of the website for Region I. It can be found at www.irisgarden.org Jan Sacks quickly moved to adjourn. It was seconded and approved. A wonderful luncheon and an interesting program by Don and Ginny Spoon followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Young, Secretary

Additional photos

The photo below is of the cake presented to Dr. Currier McEwen in honor of his 100th birthday at the Maine Flower Show. See page 15 for more details.



A sad sight: Digging the iris and finding the borers. See pages 7 - 14 to prevent this needless tragedy



Sold! Auctioneer Stephanie Markham at the Region 1 Fall Meeting in Bedford, MA, October 6, 2001

APOGON AUCTION August 18, 2002

A sale and auction of siberian, japanese, louisiana and species iris. The auction will be held at **Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer's, 337 Acton St. Carlisle, MA.**

Schedule of Events

- 10:00 AM Set up, coffee and conversation
- 11:00 AM Hybridizer's review of recent seedlings and Introductions
- 12:00 PM Lunch (please bring a salad or dessert to share)
- 1:00 PM Sale table opens

When the dust settles from the sale tables, the auction will begin! Contributions of iris are greatly appreciated. Please label all contributions carefully.

Please bring a chair.

Further inquiries: 978-371-0173

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SDB Median Odyssey Guest Iris at Hermit Medlar's Walk

Ada and Bill Godfrey created a new curved bed to display Median Odyssey guest iris for the May 2001 miniconvention. Most of the iris in this bed were SDB's which the Odyssey caught toward the end of their bloom season. It was enlightening to see the variety in flower size and flower color for the SDB class displayed side by side.

Perry Dyer's aptly named **Crystalline Entity** is a floriferous clump of large broad white pearlescent flowers with medium blue beards. The round tailored form adds to the smooth appearance. The clump has aesthetic appeal, despite what we are taught about proper proportion. We must use our imaginations to appreciate this futuristic being from outer space which has invaded the guest bed. In contrast, nearby was Dave Niswonger's **Bordeaux Pearl**, a cultivar which is perfection for a smaller flowered SDB. The color is vivid: burnt violet and light yellow plicata with a light blue beard. The height and foliage are also smaller, in proportion to the flower size. Positioned a bit further down the bed was Chuck Chapman's **Ruby Eruption**, a larger plicata in medium yellow edged darkest violet red. Height is near the top end of SDB's and proportion is good. The flower color is deep and eye catching while the blossoms have substance rarely seen in the SDB class! Nearby but equally beautiful was the lightest of plicata's, Perry Dyer's **Bleached Blonde**. Its colors are white and light pastel yellow, with the yellow intensifying near the hafts. The flowers have a sparkling finish.



Chuck
Chapman's SDB,
Ruby Eruption

MDB
Seedling
97-A-11
of Warren
Hazelton



Among SDB selfs there were newer iris combining beautiful form with intense flower color. Keith Keppel's **Scholar** is an extremely bright and eye-catching yellow self. Paul Black's **Bee Mused** is a shiny red-violet self which has in contrast a matte light blue beard, an appealing combination. Perry Dyer's **Martial Arts** is a glowing violet which has yellow styles. The beard is yellow at the base transitioning to deep blue at the tip. Bennett Jones' **El Torito** is brilliant orange with a broad darker orange beard. Bennett's **Cherokee Daybreak** is lighter orange with the color tending darker toward the center of the flower. The beard is bright orange.

Interesting and unique color combinations and patterns abound in SDB's. The Willott's **Quail Hollow** has well formed flowers with blue-green standards, grey style arms, brown falls, and a bushy medium blue beard. Marky Smith's seedling **96-15A** has light peach standards, white in the center of the falls, distinctive lines running down the falls, and an orange beard. David Schmieder's seedling **96-PL-1** is a warm tan with a dark spot on the falls. There are contrasting yellow marks at the hafts and an orange beard tipped grey. Rick Tasco's **Chocolate Swirl** showed grey-brown standards, red-brown falls with a nearly black spot pattern. This dark color combination virtually glowed in the sunlight. Bennett Jones' **Cameo Queen** is peach colored with a darker peach spot on the falls. The beard is deep orange, almost red in color. Warren Hazelton's MDB seedling **97-A-11** was greyish green with a deep red-brown spot pattern on the falls. It has a distinctive narrow white flash breaking into the dark spot at the end of its light blue beard.

Iris Borer Control: More Choices Today

Rebecca Wong

Macronocture onusta, the iris borer, can pose serious and frustrating problems for the iris grower in the eastern United States. **They will attack all kinds of irises.** These loathsome moths are wonders of iris destruction. They have been found to be cannibalistic in the larvae form. Borer larvae can spin a tiny web and use it to hang-glide off to irises some distance from where their eggs were laid. Oddly enough, the iris borer was first discovered in the 1890's in the northern suburbs of Chicago on some daylilies!

The most effective control relies on an understanding of the borer's life cycle. Borers begin life as eggs, laid on garden debris in the fall. Each spring, starting about the time the tulips bloom into June, these eggs hatch into larvae. These 1/4 inch long larvae crawl up the iris leaves. Near the top they chew into the leaves. Then they eat their way down inside the leaves to the rhizomes, where they gorge themselves until they reach a length of about 1 to 1.5 inches. Borers often will hollow out whole rhizomes causing fans to collapse and the remaining tissue to rot.

Keeping a clean garden is the first step in minimizing borer problems. A sharp eye for borer entry allows some gardeners to catch the borer in the leaf before it travels to the rhizome (simply pinch them in the leaves). If the borer has chewed its way further down the leaf, it maybe easier to remove a portion of the leaf then search for and destroy the borer.

In an article the September, 2000 issue of "Tall Talk", Barbara Nicodemus gives a great description of how recognize borers in your iris. "The presence of the iris borer may first be recognized by the wet stains along the leaf edges, notched out leaves, small pinholes, fine silk threads left from their spinning, and 'sawdust' looking remains at the base of the plant from their waste. Later, the newly developing central leaves will

have larger, more ragged, "saw-toothed" edges, due to the growing borer feeding inside the lower base of the leaf sheaths. The outside base of the plant will become slimy and look water-soaked due to the "bleeding" of the leaves. In the advanced stage, the central leaf may yellow and will be easily pulled out, sometimes even the whole fan. Bloom stalks will topple over and, upon inspection, the base will show the slimy, riddled work of the borer. The preceding two signs might be all that is noticed on smaller rhizomes, like MDBs, etc. This is especially true on some beardless irises, like Siberians.



A large borer larvae that has spent several weeks feeding on an iris rhizome and its siblings. Borer larvae of this size are typically found during division of an iris clump.

Some time in the summer the borer larvae change into pupae with a chestnut brown chrysalis or cocoon. These pupae reside in the soil for about a month and then a moth emerges and lays eggs. Borers in the pupae, moth and egg stages do not feed. Only as a larvae do they eat and do damage. At this stage they are most vulnerable to our efforts to control them.

Gardeners with a lot of iris often find that fall cleanup and removal by hand of borer larvae is not enough to keep borers under control in their gardens. There are several options: pesticides, iris borer repellent, parasitic nematodes and burning the borer eggs in the spring. Each option has its own advantages and disadvantages which will be explored in the articles that follow.

Conventional Pesticide Treatment: Cygon 2-E, Orthene, Isotox

In Massachusetts, many gardeners start spraying *Cygon 2-E*, a systemic pesticide, when the Forsythias bloom followed by a second spray 2 weeks later if necessary. Sometimes a third spraying is required in a severe borer year with a long hatch. Watch your iris for signs of borer to determine how long you need to spray. Spraying must be done on a windless day. Follow the directions carefully.

Alternative pesticides are *Orthene* and *Isotox Formula 4*. Older formulations of Isotox contained *lindane*, a pesticide banned 15 years ago, so be careful with old pesticides labeled Isotox! Many members of the Maine Iris Society now use Orthene or Isotox in place of Cygon 2-E. These pesticides are applied at the same time as Cygon 2-E, followed by one or two more additional applications at two week intervals.

The borer killing ingredients in Cygon, Orthene and Isotox Formula 4 are organophosphate pesticides. Organophosphate pesticides are a large family of broad-spectrum pesticides including Dursban, diazinon, and malathion. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates organophosphates account for 50% of all the pesticides applied in the United States. The EPA is in the process of evaluating the use of organophosphate pesticides so there is new information about these pesticides.

For the last 25 years, Cygon 2-E has been the most widely recommended pesticide for iris borer control. *Dimethoate*, the active ingredient in Cygon 2-E was introduced as a pesticide in 1956. The name Cygon is a play on words since dimethoate was introduced by American Cyanamid. Cygon 2-E was used on a wide variety of plants for many different pests with effective results. Cygon 2-E was popular with many daylily enthusiasts. However recent research has shown that Cygon 2-E is not as safe as previously thought and there are significant risks associated with its use.

Dimethoate is highly toxic to bees and moderately to very highly toxic to birds. The EPA found there are some uses of dimethoate pose acute risks to humans and the environment.

Dimethoate (Cygon 2-E) will **not** be re-registered by the EPA for use in home gardens by agreement of the EPA and the manufacturer after review. The EPA discovered in 1999, that in **residential use**, dimethoate had one of the highest rates of poisoning per million containers when compared to other organophosphate pesticides. Most of the cases of dimethoate poisonings were caused by mishaps handling or diluting concentrated Cygon 2-E. Dimethoate will no longer be sold for garden use or used in areas where the general public could be exposed to it.

Orthene and Isotox use the same chemical, *acephate*, to kill iris borers. The EPA review of acephate is almost complete. The *preliminary* results indicate that the EPA will continue to allow garden use of acephate except on lawns. It cannot be used indoors. The lawn and indoor use ban is to protect children from exposure to the pesticide. The use of acephate on food crops like lettuce, celery and mint can continue. Based on studies of agricultural workers exposed to acephate, the EPA will probably tighten the agriculture useage rules. The EPA will not present its final decision on the use of acephate until the organophosphate pesticide review is completed.

Acephate may be a less hazardous pesticide than dimethoate (Cygon) but it is not totally benign. It is highly toxic to bees and other beneficial insects. It is hazardous to birds. Many agricultural workers have been poisoned by acephate while on the job. A healthy, young man who spent the day mixing and spraying acephate **without safety gear**, collapsed and died. Follow the label directions and apply it carefully!

Isotox Formula 4 contains acephate and an additional pesticide, Vendix (hexakis), that kills mites. It does

not do anything to iris borers. Unless you need a miticide for other uses, it probably would make more sense to use Orthene.

Cygon is already difficult to find and is not available in some states. When looking for a replacement pesticide, ask for a **systemic** such as Orthene or Isotox (applied two or three times a season) or the newer systemic, *imidacloprid* sold as **Merit** or **Marathon** (applied once a season). Remember there are risks associated with **all** pesticides so be sure to follow the warning use labels. There are alternatives to pesticides for borer control. The articles that follow in this newsletter have more information about the new borer repellent spray, parasitic nematodes and more on the systemic pesticide imidacloprid.

Special thanks to Ted White and to Bob Sawyer for their contributions to this and the previous article

New Iris Borer Deterrent Available To All Iris Gardeners .. Ted White

In the April 2001 issue of Bulletin of the American Iris Society, Garden Shield announced the availability of their new product, *Iris Borer Deterrent*. (The advertisement may be found on the outside back cover of the publication.) Following twenty years of research, Garden Shield is marketing this non-toxic, 98%+ effective, and environmentally safe iris borer spray. The spray comes in a one-quart size plastic spray bottle and sells for \$24.95, less an AIS member introductory discount. You probably will not find it in garden stores this season because of the very recent marketing of this new product. You can, however, read all the details about Iris Borer Deterrent at the Garden Shield online website. The address is www.gardenshield.com. You can also call the company toll free at 1-866-690-4000. You can order either online or over the telephone.

Garden Shield reports that *Iris Borer Deterrent* is extremely effective against iris borers in all stages.

They recommend that it be used at any time throughout the growing season from the first warm days of spring; whenever you are transplanting; and whenever new growth appears. The directions indicate that you should spray only on cloudy days or during dusk or dawn to prevent possible leaf spotting. You may spray leaves, rhizomes, and even the soil in which the irises are growing.

Garden Shield conducted five years of intensive field testing with the Iris Borer Deterrent before it became registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. The following is a brief summary of the results of field-testing. In year one of the trials no borers were found in the Iris Borer Deterrent treated plot. In a plot of equal size that was left unprotected, 49 borers were found. In year two the figures were 1 borer in the treated plot and 56 borers in the non-treated iris plot. In year three 2 borers were found in the treated plot, while 52 borers were observed in the unprotected plot. In the fourth year 3 borers were noted in the sprayed plot with 57 in the unprotected plot. In year five no borers were found in the treated plot, while 75 were observed in the untreated plot. These results are, indeed, rather impressive.

One question remains to be answered relative to your use of the Iris Borer Deterrent, and that is, "Is this right product for me to use?" First, the product appears to meet all the EPA's safety and effectiveness requirements, and presently is in a patent pending process. However, we should mention that \$24.95 is a fairly high price to pay for a one quart bottle. If you have a very large iris garden Iris Borer Deterrent could prove to be rather expensive compared to other forms of iris borer protection and treatment. On the other hand, if you have a small iris collection and using non-toxic sprays is important to you, then Iris Borer Deterrent might be a good choice for you.

At the present time many members of the Maine Iris Society who have large iris gardens are using Isotox or Orthene two or three times a season to prevent

borer infestations. These are systemic insecticides. Using these chemical controls would certainly be more cost-effective than using Iris Borer Deterrent. However, Isotox and Orthene are both toxic and come with warning use labels. Therefore, if you are gardening organically, you would not want to use either in your garden. Instead, you might find that Iris Borer Deterrent provides the protection you need, while not subjecting your plants or your garden to toxic chemicals. Obviously this is an individual choice. We suggest that before purchasing Iris Borer Deterrent that you read all the information that's available at the Garden Shield website to see if this is the right product for you.

Further Comments on Garden Shield Iris Borer Deterrent Rebecca Wong

The new Iris Shield is a very interesting new product. It is a byproduct of research by Peggy Azad, PhD who lived on a lake in Minnesota near a wild life refuge. She began searching for a broad spectrum repellent for all types of critters that would be safe and nontoxic. In 1978, Azad began to work with Methyl Nonyl Ketone (MNK), which was used to treat ulcers in the 1950's and is used in cosmetics and perfumes to enhance specific aromas. She discovered that iris borers were repelled by MNK. Unfortunately for Azad, MNK breaks down in sunlight quickly and it took 20 years to develop a way to stabilize MNK for garden use. Garden Shield Borer Deterrent only contains about 1.9% MNK.

The EPA Pesticide division regulates repellents including nontoxic ones. Garden Shield is only registered for use with iris borers so it is illegal to use it for other purposes. The manufacturers of *Garden Shield* are working on other products with MNK that would be useful for repelling deer, rodents, domestic animals and other insect pests.

Garden Shield Iris Borer Deterrent should be applied during the growing season starting in spring just before the air temperature reaches 70 degrees. Borer hatch usually begins after the first two days of temperatures 70 degrees or greater. Apply *Garden Shield* every 7 - 10 days during while the borers are hatching (about a month) and then every 10 to 14 days after that. Spray mist on surfaces of leaves, exposed rhizomes, and soil between plants and rows. Avoid spraying the blooms since there is some alcohol in the product that can cause spotting. *Garden Shield* should be reapplied after drenching rains or during periods when the iris are putting out a lot of new growth. The borer moths begin laying their eggs in August, so the misting schedule goes back to every 7 - 10 days. Good garden cleanup in the late fall is strongly recommended.

Garden Shield also recommends using Iris Borer Deterrent during replanting. Physically remove and dispose of any borers found during transplanting. Before replanting, thoroughly spray one side of the rhizome and allow drying. Turn and repeat on the other side and allow drying. Liberally spray the soil into which the iris rhizome will be planted. Spray the leaves and any exposed portions of the rhizome and the surrounding soil after replanting.

Imidacloprid (Merit): a New Systemic Pesticide

Imidacloprid is a systemic, persistent pesticide manufactured by Bayer Corp. with low toxicity to mammals. **Merit** is the brand marketed for home use while **Marathon** is used in the nursery trade. Imidacloprid is also the active ingredient in *Advantage*, Bayer's spot-on flea killer for dogs and cats. It is a member of the class of insecticides called chloronicotinyls and it is an analog of nicotine sulfate, the pesticide naturally found in tobacco and petunias. It was first synthesized in Japan in 1987 and registered for use in the United States in 1994.

To control borers, Merit only has to be applied **once**. As with all pesticides, read the directions carefully and follow them. Do not apply near vegetables or plants that will be eaten. The recommended dosage is 60 pounds per acre but the Don and Ginny Spoon have successfully controlled borers with 30 pounds per acre, half that dose. Wear rubber gloves and long pants during the application. Use a granular applicator to sprinkle the Merit granules in the soil in spring, ideally before the borer hatch which occurs after two consecutive days of air temperatures 70 degrees or greater. The Spoons often apply Merit after the hatch has begun because they like to observe which cultivars are borer resistant and they still get good borer control. Water deeply after application or apply it before a drenching rain so the granules can dissolve quickly. Once the imidacloprid enters the soil, it will be taken up into the iris through the roots.

Merit comes in a granular form, which is an improvement over Cygon 2-E that had to be sprayed. There is less risk of the pesticide being carried off the unintended locations and less risk of inhaling the pesticide. Merit is much less toxic to humans than Cygon-2E, Orthene or Isotox Formula 4.

Imidacloprid works by interfering with the nervous system of insects. Its primary effect is paralysis of the insect mouth parts resulting in starvation. The half life of imidacloprid in soil is 48 to 190 days according to Bayer but other research reports of half lives as long as 282 days to a year. It breaks down faster in soil with ground cover.

Unfortunately French and Canadian sources contend that imidacloprid maybe implicated in "Mad Bee Disease". In France, the beekeepers contend that the trouble began when a form of imidacloprid, *Gaucho*, was used to treat sunflowers seeds. In response, Bayer has research that shows no link to imidacloprid and "Mad Bee Disease". Bayer contends that "Mad Bee Disease" is caused by a virus or a spiroplasm that produces similar symptoms. However, we all should

be aware that the chemical is known to be highly toxic to honey bees based on laboratory studies at very low exposure dosages. Since it is a systemic pesticide, imidacloprid can enter the pollen and nectar of treated plants. Studies in Canada of canola (rapeseed) have shown very minute trace residues of imidacloprid residues in 13 of 70 pollen samples and all were less 20 parts per billion. Further research is underway in Canada.

Be judicious in your use of imidacloprid. Some whitefly species and the Colorado Potato have already developed resistance to it. Imidacloprid is persistent so if you apply Merit carefully, you should only need to treat once a year to control borers.

For more information on imidacloprid, refer to two articles in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society. On page 96 of issue 317, April 2000 in an article by Don & Ginny Spoon who have used Merit in their large iris garden. The most recent scientific study on iris borer control was done by the University of Maryland at College Park and was supported by The American Iris Society Foundation. It is summarized in the AIS Bulletin on pages 35 -37 of issue 309, April 1998.

Parasitic Nematodes: Invasion of the Hermaphrodite Body Snatchers

Entomopathogenic parasitic nematodes are microscopic roundworms. These nematodes feed on insects and have used successfully control insect pests. In a study reported in the April 1998, Bulletin of the American Iris Society, parasitic nematodes were shown to equal or more effective than Cygon 2-E or Merit. Cygon and imidacloprid (Marathon) both showed a reduction in borers of 87% while nematode *Steinernema carpocapsae* had a 100% reduction and nematode *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* gave an 87% reduction.

Entomopathogenic nematodes pose no threat to

humans, wildlife or plants so they are exempt from EPA regulation. Nematodes kill borer larvae within 48 hours and are easy to apply because no safety equipment is required. *S. carpocapsae* nematodes are now mass produced in large industrial fermentation tanks and a partially dried form is available that has a shelf-life of several months. Both species are very effective against moth larvae including iris borers but *H. bacteriophora* does not store as easily. There are now many suppliers worldwide and nematodes are now a cost-effective method to control iris borers. The most popular use of parasitic nematodes by gardeners is to control Japanese Beetle larvae.

It is important to apply nematodes correctly to get the best results. In the study the nematodes were applied in the spring when the soil temperature was above 50 degrees. The irises and the surrounding soil was drenched with water (2 quarts per square foot) to allow the nematodes to swim close enough to the borers to kill them. The nematodes are most effective against the borer larvae so application should be done in the spring. The Wisconsin Cooperative Extension has found that a nematode treatment is effective for 4 to 5 weeks. They have treated iris as late as June or early July and still got some success controlling borers which suggests that the nematodes can successfully attack borer larvae that have moved down into the rhizome and pupae located in the soil.

Ten million nematodes treat about 225 square feet of soil or 60 linear feet of conventional garden row. Application rates vary so it is important to follow the manufacturer directions. Nematodes are available in packs of 1 million juvenile nematodes or more. Spraying is not as effective as drenching the area. Nematodes can also be added to irrigation water. The nematodes will not over winter in most of New England so they will need to be reapplied in the spring. Rain or watering every 4 days will increase the effectiveness of the nematodes. Ultraviolet light is hard on the nematodes. Ideally application should be done on overcast or rainy days. If there are none in

the weather forecast, try late afternoon or early morning. If the soil is very dry, water the area ahead of time.

Gardeners can purchase their nematodes in several forms: a nematode impregnated sponge, gel, a clay like residue or a "sawdust" like material which can be shaken on the iris and then wetted. Nematodes delivered on a sponge usually have to be stored in the refrigerator. When the soil temperature exceeds 50 degrees, the sponge is just tossed into a bucket of lukewarm water and allowed for to sit for a few minutes to let the nematodes swim out. Gently squeezing the sponge is helpful. The bucket is then poured out on the iris. If you are treating a lot of iris, it is helpful to wet the plants and surrounding soil with water ahead of time so you can use less water to apply the nematodes.

Entomopathogenic nematodes are sold as juveniles since they are more voracious at that stage of their life cycle. *S. carpocapsae* nematodes stand on their tails in an upright "J" position, waiting to ambush their victims while *H. bacteriophora* actively cruises about seeking out prey. The nematodes used in the study have a mutualistic relationship with the insect killing bacteria in the genus *Xenorhabdus* or *Photorhabdus*. The bacteria live in the gut of the juvenile nematodes. Later in the life cycle, the bacteria will provide food for the nematode.

Nematodes hunt borer larvae by detecting the carbon dioxide released by the larvae. *S. carpocapsae* nematodes enter the larvae through their mouths, anus and spiracles, a series of small "breathing holes" in the abdomen of the borer. *H. bacteriophora* enters through soft cuticles on the larvae. After entering the borer, the nematodes release the insect killing bacteria into the body of the borer. Death follows within 48 hours. The nematodes feed on the multiplying bacteria and the liquefying larvae cadaver. They quickly mature into adults, producing the next generation of juveniles who leave the larvae cadaver seeking out

new victims. The nematode life cycle is complete within a few days. Curiously, the *H. bacteriophora* nematode adults are often hermaphrodites.

A summary of the study on the effectiveness of parasitic nematodes appeared in the Bulletin of the American Iris Society, series number 309, (April 1998), pages 35 to 37. Amaze your friends and colleagues with a beautiful nematode life cycle poster! Single copies are free. The poster can be ordered from Prof. Randy Gaugler,
Department of Entomology, Blake Hall,
93 Lipman Dr.
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8524

Fire: burn, borer, burn!

In the March, 2002 issue of *Tall Talk* (Tall Bearded Iris Society), Opal and Henry Wulf of Lincoln, Nebraska, describe their experiences with using controlled burning to control borers. The Wulfs learned about their technique from Alan Ensminger who showed them how to construct a burner attached to a 20-pound tank of propane on wheels since they both have large commercial iris gardens. **The irises are burned in the spring** to remove the dead foliage from the previous year contaminated with borer eggs. The key to successful burning is to burn when the debris is dry enough to burn quickly so the rhizomes will not be damaged. The Wulfs treated the few damaged rhizomes by digging them and giving them a Chlorox soak.

The Wulfs clean their beds of leaves in the fall and cut the iris back. Their spring burning removed the residual iris leaves, any tree leaves that may have blown onto the iris and a few early weeds. Burning should only be done on windless days. It could be difficult to find enough days to complete the burning in a windy and/or wet year.

The Wulfs are emphatic that burning is a job for **two**

responsible persons: one person to control the burner and one person to watch for unruly flames that threaten to get out of hand. A small hand held weed burner should work well for small gardens but it still would be essential to have two people present for safety's sake.

If you can't locate a copy of "Tall Talk", an issue can be order for \$5 from TBIS, P.O. Box 555, Pawnee, OK 74058. The March, 2002 issue is well worth the \$5.

A Partial Source List for Parasitic Nematodes

*The following is a partial source list of companies in the northeast that carry parasitic nematodes. See the next page for more comprehensive lists that are available on the internet. This list is included to help gardeners find the nematode, *S. carpocapsae* and get more information on how to use them in our region. No endorsement is implied.*

Better Yield Insects

44 Bristol Road, Narragansett, RI 02882,
Tel: 800-662-6562, 401-792-3416

Extremely Green Gardening Company

44 Lookout Lane
Portsmouth, NH 03801 Tel: 603-427-0299
www.extremelygreen.com

Heath's Organic Pest Control, Greenhouse & Nursery

Route 18 #750
Sugar Hill, NH 03585 Tel: 603-823-8500
<http://www.ecobugs.com>

Johnnys Selected Seeds

Foss Hill Rd., Albion, ME 04910
www.johnnyseeds.com
Tel: 207-437-9294

Mellingers, Inc.

2310 west South Range Road
North Lima, OH 44452-9731
www.mellingers.com
Tel: 330-549-9861 800-321-7444 (orders/catalog)

Sources for parasitic nematodes *continued***The Green Spot Ltd.**

Department of Bio-Ingenuity
93 Priest Road
Nottingham, NH 03290-6204
Tel: 603-942-8925
email: Info@GreenMethods.com

Thermo Trilogy Corporation

9145 Guilford Rd, Suite 175

Columbia, MD 21064, USA

www.thermotrilogy.com

Tel: 301-604-7030

800-847-5620

Worms Way Inc.

7850 N. State Highway 37
Bloomington, IN 47404-9477 USA
www.wormsway.com

Tel: 812-876-6450

800-274-9676 (mail orders)

800-284-9676 (MA)

For More Information on the Internet

These links will be available on the internet at www.irisgarden.com/borers

Cygon 2-E (dimethoate)

More information on the new EPA restrictions on the use of dimethoate is available on the internet at www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/dimethoate.htm

An international review of dimethoate published by the World Health Association in 1989 is available at www.inchem.org/documents/ehc/ehc/ehc90.htm

Orthene (acephate) and Isotox Formula 4 (acephate and hexakis)

Results of the EPA review of acephate with references:

http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/acephate_ired.pdf

Cornell University's reference on hexakis (Vendex):

<http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/insect-mite/fenitrothion-methylpara/hexakis/insect-prof-hexakis.html>

Bees and Imidacloprid

Canadian Bee Council at www.honeycouncil.ca/chc-ccm/gaicho.html

Bayer Corp has www.agro.bayer.com/index.cfm?PAGE_ID=271

Click on the link that refers to *Gaicho and the Health of Bees*

Control of borers in Iris using Cygone Imidacloprid and Entomopathogenic parasitic nematodes

Another version of the article in Arpil 1998, AIS Bulletin can be found on the internet at

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/ipmnet/98-2nmn2.htm>

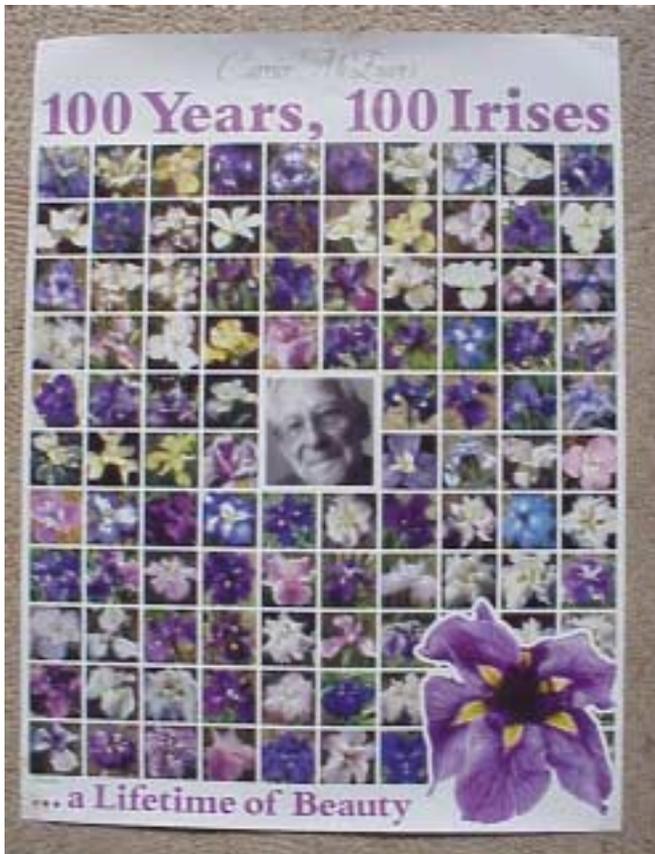
More information on Entomopathogenic parasitic nematodes

A definitive article on parasitic nematodes by Randy Gaugler, Department of Entomology, Rutgers University, complete with color photos and a listing of sources for parasitic nematodes at

<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/biocontrol/pathogens/nematodes.html>

Dr. Parwinder Grewal, an entomologist at The Ohio State University, produced a nematode reference center on the internet. The site has a retail source list and information about a video on nematodes and a color poster of the nematode life cycle. Single copies of both the video and poster are free.

<http://www2.oardc.ohio-state.edu/nematodes/default.htm>



Happy 100th Birthday to Currier McEwen!

Dr. Currier McEwen celebrated his 100th Birthday, April 1, 2002. Dr. McEwen was honored on March 14 at the Portland Flower Show. Dr. McEwen was presented with a framed copy of the commemorative poster, **100 Years, 100 Irises...a Lifetime of Beauty**. Sharon Whitney presented a program of Currier's introductions. Currier cut the beautiful birthday cake and everyone sang "Happy Birthday".

A pioneering and prolific hybridizer, Dr. McEwen introduced more than 160 siberian and japanese iris and was the first to induce tetraploidy in japanese and siberian iris. McEwen recieved the AIS Hybridizers medal in 1976, the comparable Foster Memorial Plaque of the British Iris Society in 1977, the Distinguished Service Medal of the Perennial Plant Association in 1991, the Luther Burbank Award from the American Horticultural Society in 1995 and the AIS Gold Medal in 1999. A founder of the Society for Siberian Iris, Dr. McEwen served as president of both the Society for Siberian Iris and the Society for Japanese Iris and chaired the AIS Scientific Committee

2001 Region 1 Fall Meeting Auction Followup

John White generously donated rhizomes of several of his recent introductions to the Fall Region 1 auction in Bedford, MA. If you were a successful bidder for a White iris introduction- and you have not spoken with John since last October's auction.....he requests that you contact him, in order to assure that successful bidders will receive their rhizomes

GenealJohn42016@aol.com

Left: Photo of the '100 Years, 100 Irises' poster.

Contact Bob Sawyer for more information.

Below: Dr. McEwen cuts his 100th Birthday Cake!



Iris tectorum

Bill Shear, Farmville, Virginia

Iris tectorum has long been known as the Roof Iris (tectorum = roof in Latin), after its legendary appearance on thatched roofs in Japan and China. However, there is little evidence of its growing in such a habitat. Brought very early to Japan, the native haunts of this crested iris are in central China, as far south as northern Myanmar. It would appear to be hardy in North America at least into USDA zone 6, and possibly even farther north in sheltered sites.

The Roof Iris grows from a rhizome that is similar in form to that of a tall bearded iris, but the leaves are bright green, with a matt finish, and gracefully arched. In spring, with the early tall bearded hybrids, stems with up to 4 branches and to 18" tall rise up and quickly open 4-5" diameter, flat flowers of lilac blue to purple, often strikingly marked with darker dashes. The characteristic crest is white or yellow. Only a few varieties are available commercially; the best of these is Alba, a white with a yellow crest. Variegata has white-striped leaves but growers usually supply the much less hardy I. japonica variegata for this form. There seems to be nothing very special about Jimmy Stewart Form; it looks like seedlings that spring up in my garden. Sometimes you can find Paltec, a delightful hybrid with I. pallida that is neatly intermediate between its parents, having both a beard and a crest.

Grow I. tectorum in full sun or part shade, at the edge of woods, in a moist but well-drained, organic soil. The best time to divide and move clumps is right after flowering, when new root growth begins. Older references suggest frequent division, but I find that clumps can stay in place and remain floriferous up to five years and perhaps longer, provided fresh compost is added each spring. This iris is very easily grown from seed, and most seedlings flower in a year. In fact, it readily naturalizes in my garden and if old stalks and pods are tossed in the compost, it may come up

almost anywhere. Like most crested irises, tectorum is susceptible to fungal leaf spot, iris borer, and soft rot. Use the same control measures as you would with bearded irises. The Roof Iris is a wonderful plant for rock gardens, shade or woodland gardens, or for bordering plantings. Try some to diversify your iris plantings.

Iris Tectorum in Region 1

Debbie Wheeler, who grows Iris tectorum in the hills of western Massachusetts, adds Iris tectorum is marginally hardy in zone 5. It does best in protected spot. Part of the problem is the foliage wants to stay evergreen. That is tough with some of our winters, so in spring the foliage looks ratty but usually comes back.

Adopt a Library!

Anner Whitehead, AIS Membership Secretary

Affiliates and Regions interested in new ways to encourage wider interest in the Iris and the American Iris Society may wish to consider providing a local library with an AIS membership so the *Bulletin* will be available to patrons.

Public libraries, academic libraries, rural libraries, and libraries at botanical institutions are often underfunded and may welcome your group's ongoing commitment to providing the *Bulletin*. The expense is small in comparison to the potential benefit to the public, especially at the Triennial level.

Why not ask a librarian at a library or horticultural institution near you if they would accept such a gift? Contributing a copy of the authoritative classic AIS publication *The World of Irises* to the library's reference collection would also be an especially worthwhile gesture. By adopting a library your group can bring the latest and best information to gardeners and students while promoting AIS!

IN MEMORIAM Evelyn White

Evelyn White of Minot, Maine passed away July 27, 2001 following a prolonged illness with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Evelyn and her husband John joined the Maine Iris Society in 1979. She loved the MIS iris shows, often making arrangements for the Artistic Division, serving as Awards Chairman, overseeing show entries, chairing the July Society for Japanese Iris Shows held in Maine. She assisted John's hybridizing efforts by keeping meticulous records of crosses and seedlings, while keeping the garden markers for the seedlings current. She and John attended all the National AIS conventions from 1986 through 1999. Throughout the 1990's she served the Society for Japanese Irises as editor of the SJI bulletin, *The Review of the Society for Japanese Irises*. Prior to this she served Region 1 as Secretary for many years. In 1999 at the SJI Convention in Oregon she received an honorary lifetime membership and a handsome plaque recognizing her dedication and service to the Society for Japanese Irises.

Evelyn was valedictorian of her high school class and graduated with honors from Bates College. She served as secretary to her class at Bates from 1938 through 2001, organizing many class reunions. She taught school for several years and married John in 1941, and they lived on their dairy farm until 1977 when they moved to their home in Minot. She and John raised five children and she is survived by twelve grandchildren. Throughout her life Evelyn was known for her graciousness, intelligence, sense of humor and love of people. Whenever prospective members attended the monthly Maine Iris Society meetings, she would make it a point to welcome them and make them feel right at home. She was often the first person with whom new members came into contact with. Evelyn loved her family garden and simply reveled in the beauty of the flowers and hostas that she, John and Ted grew together. It is hard to say which were her favorite flowers, for she truly loved them all. If she did have

a favorite it may have been the Japanese irises that grow in abundance in the White's gardens.

Faced with months of illness and what seemed to be endless chemotherapy and radiation treatments, Evelyn demonstrated the same courage and positive attitude for which she was always known. She never had a complaint, just high praise for her doctors, nurses, and everyone who tried to comfort and care for her. In her final days she had but one request: she wanted to come home to be with her family. She spent her last four days at home surrounded by John, her children and their spouses, and grandchildren who took loving care of her.

IN MEMORIAM Jean Doucette

Iris Society of Massachusetts member, Jean Doucette, died suddenly, February 20, of a viral infection. Jean was a familiar face at the judging shows, garden tours, and conventions, with her husband, past president of the Historical Iris Preservation Society, Larry Doucette.

She leaves her husband Larry, three children, David, Suzanne, and Valerie, five grandchildren, a sister in Washington, and many, many friends, in the USA and abroad.

Jean was a native New Englander. After receiving her degree from Salem Teacher's College she taught mainly in Wilmington for thirty-four years. She led a busy life, active in the Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library, the Wilmington Historical Commission, Wilmington Community Theatre, as an AIM volunteer and a member of other garden societies.

Friends will remember her as a gentle person, never saying a bad word about anyone, with a ready smile, and infectious wit.

IN MEMORIAM Mary Gadd

The Connecticut Iris Society and Region 1 lost a long time stalwart member, Mary Gadd, on March 21, 2002 at the age of 95. Mary, a retired master judge, regularly attended most Region 1 and CIS functions with her husband Fred until she was almost 90 years of age.

Mary Gadd loved visiting gardens and enjoyed iris immensely, but she left the gardening to Fred. Considering Fred's irascible nature, that probably was a wise decision. Mary was quite unflappable: she did most of the driving while Fred 'navigated'. She was an elegant dresser with a strong sense of personal style. Her charming smile and wit were a constant at CIS meetings over the years. At the age of 95, she was still corresponding with friends in her beautiful handwriting.

Mary had a long career at the Aetna Insurance Company in Hartford that she continued after she married Fred. Both Fred and Mary had devoted their early adult years to caring for their parents and siblings and they married later in life than most. Mary's mother, who worked with Fred at Colt Firearms, tried unsuccessfully to interest Mary in a date with Fred. Later, when both of their parents had passed on, they met by chance when Mary was out walking and Fred drove by. This began a relationship of that resulted in a marriage of over 50 years! Their married life was spent in a large 5 apartment house in Wetherfield which Fred had purchased for his family while still single. It was across the street from the Fire House where Fred volunteered for most of his life.

Mary and Fred Gadd attended many AIS National Conventions, often with Ken and Aggie Waite. Some of Ken and Aggie's fondest memories of AIS Conventions include adventures traveling to and from convention with the Gadd's, including a cross-country road trip out from the AIS Convention in Seattle.

Region 1 2001 AIS Award Winners

Iris varieties which were hybridized in Region 1 fared well in 2001 garden judges' balloting and earned AIS awards. 2001 was an especially good year for Region 1 beardless iris. The late Sarah Tiffney's **Holden's Child** won the Randolph Perry Medal, the highest award for Interspecies iris (SpecX). This 1991 introduction through Pope's Perennials has reddish purple flowers on multibranching stalks rising above lush foliage. Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer's 1991 I. versicolor introduction **Between the Lines** won the highest award for Species Iris, the Founders of SIGMA Medal. This iris has blue veins on a white background with a yellow signal that turns to green at the throat.

Harry Bishop's **Faded Jeans** was the leading vote getter for the Award of Merit (AM) for Species iris. Its a smaller versicolor with smooth purple falls, lighter standards, white signal and pearlescent styles. Schafer/Sacks siberian iris intros earned both of the 2001 Awards of Merit awarded in this class. **Careless Sally** has wide ruffled form with coloration that's a mix of pastel rose, blue, and yellow; style arms are upright with large curls. **Trim the Velvet** is a tall stately siberian with branching, many buds and diploid grace. The flowers are dark blue-purple with a contrasting narrow white edge trim.

The Honorable Mention (HM) Award makes newer iris eligible to go on to receive higher awards in years to come. Four Region 1 iris were 2001 HM winners in the siberian class. Schafer/Sacks' **Ships are Sailing** is medium blue with lighter blue edges. Their **Countess Cathleen** has pearl white standards and pale blue falls that are darker at the shoulders to go with wonderful ruffly form. Dr. Currier McEwen's **Harpwell Snow** is a sturdy large flowered pure white tetraploid. John White's **Neat Trick** is blue purple with irregular pure white flashes on the falls. Among bearded iris winning 2001 HM's is Lynn Markham's Border Bearded **Teapot Tempest**, a raspberry orchid

self with a crystalline finish.

These awards are based on garden performance across the United States. As members of Region 1 we should endeavor to grow them in our own gardens, view and appreciate them in others gardens, and recommend them to anyone we encounter who is interested in growing iris! Congratulations to the hybridizers!



*David Schmieder's
floriferous
seedling, 96-PL-1
at the 2001 Median
Odyssey*

Region 1 Officers

Regional Vice President - Robert Sawyer,
Harpwell, ME 04079,
email: lothario@prexar.com

Vice President - Richard Sparling, Pomfret Center, CT
06259 email: dickgboxiris@earthlink.net

Secretary - Peter Young, Buckfield, ME 04220,
email: irjers@aol.com

Treasurer - Marty Schafer, Carlisle, MA 01741,
email: jpwflowers@aol.com

Affiliate Presidents

Connecticut Iris Society - Richard Sparling, Pomfret Center, CT 06259, email: dickgboxiris@earthlink.net

Iris Society of Massachusetts - Jan Sacks, Carlisle, MA 01741, email: jpwflowers@aol.com

Maine Iris Society - Enid McNeally,, Gorham, ME 04038, email: flowers@mcneallyfarms.com

Western New England Iris Society - Connie Kindahl, Pelham, MA 01002, email: kindahl@econs.umassmedu

Region 1 2002 Show Results

Show	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Queen of Show	Exhibitor
Maine Iris Society Spring Show	Robert Sawyer	The Hazeltons	Grapesicle (SDB)	Robert Sawyer
WNEIS June Show	Deborah Wheeler	Stephen Smith	Sarah Tiffney (SIB)	Andrew Wheeler
Maine Iris Society June Show	The Moors	The Whites	Vanity (TB)	Jolene Best
WNEIS Japanese Show	Andrew Wheeler	Stephen Smith	Strut And Flourish (JI)	Andrew Wheeler

Artistic Divison Results

Show	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes	Best Design - Youth
Maine Iris Society Spring Show	Sharon Harvie	Peter Young	Jolene Best
WNEIS June Show	Kathy Marble	Kathy Marble	
Maine Iris Society June Show	Nancy McNeill	Nancy McNeill	Jolene Best

Calendar of Events

Region 1

June 8 - Spring Meeting, Carlisle, MA, 10 AM to 3 PM.
See page 1 for more information

October 5 - Fall Meeting, Ramada Inn, Lewiston, ME, 10 AM. Program by Clarence Mahan. See page 1 for more information.



Connecticut Iris Society

April 20 - Meeting and program with Bob Keup, Meriden Public Library, Griffin Room, 1 PM.

May 18 - Iris Exhibition with Rhododendron and Rock Garden Society, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, CT. Entries 9 AM. Show open to public from noon to 4 PM.

August 4 - Auction & Sale, Bennett's, East Haddam, CT

September 21 - Meeting, David Schmieder hybridizer, Meriden Public Library, Griffin Room 1 PM

October 20 - Meeting, Lynn Markham hybridizer, Meriden Public Library, Griffin Room, 1 PM.

Iris Society of Massachusetts

June 2 - Garden Tour, 10 AM

June 9 - Iris Show, Wellesley Hills Community center, Wellesley, MA, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

July 20 - Sale and Auction, Wellesley Hills Community center, Wellesley, MA

Oct 26 - Meeting, noon to 4 PM, Bedford Town Center

Nov 23 - Meeting, noon to 4 PM, Bedford Town Center

Maine Iris Society

May 8 - Spring plant auction, Auburn, ME, 7 PM

May 25 - Median Iris & Spring Flower Show, Oxford Jr. High, South Paris, ME, 1 - 5 PM

June 10 - Iris Grooming Session, 6:30 PM. Rain date, June 11.

June 15 - Iris Show, Auburn Middle School, 2 to 4 PM.

July 13 - Japanese Iris Show and MHS Hosta Cut Leaf Show, Auburn Middle School, 1 to 5 PM.

July 20 - Tall Bearded Iris Auction, Gorham, ME 1 PM

August 11 - Swap Day at noon

September 10 - Siberian Iris & Daylily Auction, Auburn, ME, 7 PM

October 8 - Annual Meeting & Election of Officers, Auburn, ME 7 PM

November 12 - Regular Meeting, Auburn, ME, 7 PM

Western New England Iris Society

April 20 - Meeting, Markhams on hybridizing, Pelham Community Building, Pelham, MA, 10:30 AM

May 19 - Meeting, Blais' garden, Ludlow, MA 1PM

June 2 - Iris Show, Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, Shelburne Falls, MA Entries: 8:30 AM, open to public - 1 to 4 PM

June 16 - Garden Tour

July 21 - Picnic at Steve Smith's, Orange, MA

*Contact information for the Region 1
affiliate societies is on page 19*
