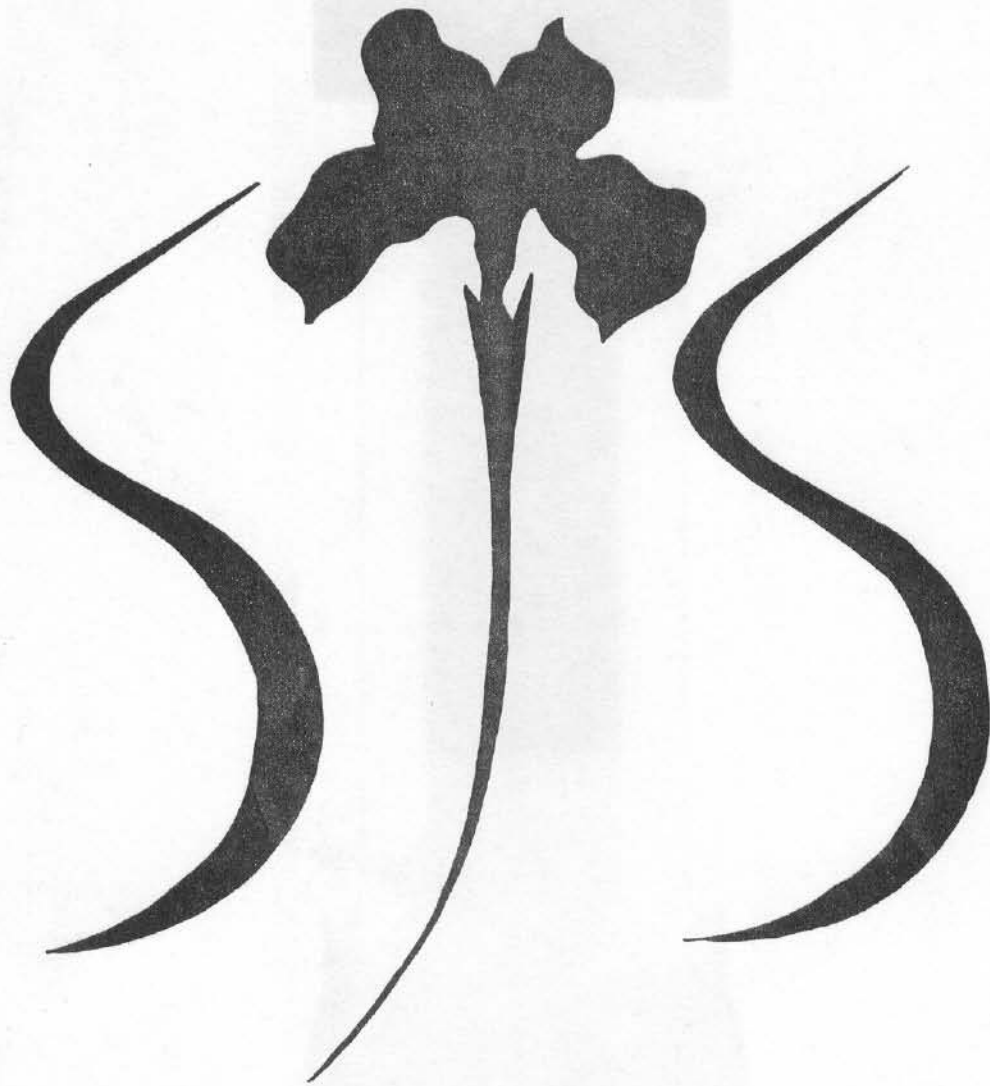


NEWSLETTER



OF THE

SIBERIAN SPURIA AND JAPANESE GROUP
(INCLUDING PACIFICAS AND WATER IRIS)

B.I.S.

The Objects of the Group.

1. Communication between Members in Great Britain and Overseas.
2. A means of exchanging ideas, plants and seeds etc.
3. To assist beginners in growing Irises and to help with problems.
4. To report on Hybridisation.

The Group's Officers.

Chairman..... Mr. Adrian Whittaker, 'Chestnuts', Hilden Way, LITTLETON.
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South Western Area Vacant.

West & Midlands Area Mr. Philip Allery, 199, Walsall Rd. ALDRIDGE, Nr. WALSALL.
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SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE for 1992 PLEASE. It is still £2.

Cheques should be made payable to 'The S. S & J. Group B.I.S.' and sent to the Treasurer at the above address. (Please do not include 'Treas.' in the address.)

The Seed Distribution Bank is very low now, so if you have any seed to spare, we would be very grateful. Plants have also sold well, in fact we have sold out. Remember us if you are dividing a clump this year, we will refund the postage to you.

Articles and items for the February 1993 Newsletter should be sent in by the 20th Jan. please, please, it helps to make a much better Newsletter if you can possibly send them in early. Some were very late this time.

Editorial.

SUMMER'S GLORY by Patience Strong.

Summer crowns the garden with a glory of it's own
roses, lillies, pinks and stocks, in every tint and tone
glow around the lawns and paths, like jewels richly set.
The longest days, the shortest nights, the brightest hours
and yet.....

if summer lasted all the year how tired of it we'd grow.
Every season has its gift of beauty to bestow.

I would disagree with Patience Strong because Irises have been excluded, but then there are just not many verses that do include them, or so I find, perhaps you know of some?

It has been an excellent early summer in this area of the country, very hot in May, rain in early June and now warm again, rather too warm for the Sibiricas, which were just beginning to come into bud when the dryness struck. I hope the rain will come and save them.

I have had Irises in bloom since February, starting with *I. reticulata* and *I. danfordiae*, also *I. unguicularis*, the beautiful Algerian Iris, scented as well. In March/April *I. japonica* produced its frilly delicate flowers. Early May saw Pacific Coast Irises, particularly my favourite 'Banbury Beauty' (it always brings memories of Mrs Brummitt). At the same time 'Holden Clough' showed its dark beauty. The sibiricas, as I have said, struggled to flower after being watered copiously, they are beginning to look as they should be. The Water Irises, once again are going to reign supreme, blue *laevigata*, deep yellow *I. pseudacorus* 'Ilengold', pale yellow 'Bastardii', and cream 'E. Turnipseed' as well as others, not forgetting that flower arrangers delight 'Gerald Darby' with its bright blue flowers and dramatic black stems.

What a nonsense it is when you hear people, gardeners say:- 'Irises, oh! they have such a short season', I can only conclude they have Bearded Irises in their minds, which, beautiful as they are, flower mostly in the month of June, that is unless you have the Remontants. We should make a resolution to introduce, at least one gardener friend to the possibility of having at least one of our Irises in their garden, if not all of them. Put the flowers of those you grow into a Show, locally, or into a flower arrangement, whether it is in a Church, a Hall, an Office, an Exhibition, anywhere to bring them to the notice of people, so that they say, 'oh! they look nice, what are they?' you then go into action and explain how many more Irises there really are. Oh! and by the way don't forget to write in and tell us how you fare..

Now to get down to business, it has been a very busy year for Members of the British Iris Society, the Festival at Ebbw Vale, Cannington Weekend, and several other Shows.

Congratulations to the Award winners, and commiserations to the 'also rans', better luck when you try again next year.

Sadly I have to report that Mary Ramsdale our South West Regional Reporter has resigned due to other commitments. We thank you Mary for your interesting Reports and wish you well in your new endeavours.

Prof. David Dixon has given two books for the Library, 'Irises' by Harry Randall, which contains a long chapter on Siberian Irises, and 'The Iris' by N. Leslie Cave, this book is a mine of information in itself, I often refer to it, especially the fully comprehensive list of the many Irises, with colour, flowering period, place of origin etc. We thank you David most sincerely for your kindness, and hope Members will enjoy reading them.

Also our new Member Prof. Nasr El Emery has sent two of his research papers for inclusion in our Library, they are *I. germanica* and *I. tingitana* (a member of the *Xiphium* group said not to be hardy in this country). We do thank Nasr for sending them and hope our hybridisers will find them interesting.

Before I go, can't we get a movement afoot to remove this term 'flag Iris' from the papers, books and anything written about our noble Irises, sometimes it refers to *I. germanica* sometimes to *I. pseudacorus*, but altogether it does not do the modern image of one of the most stately flowers in the garden any good. It should be corrected every time it is used. So, go to it, see that each Iris has its own name, the term 'flag' will then disappear.

Meanwhile make sure that you grow as many different kinds as your garden will allow
and the very best of Luck to you all.

Joan.

Chairman's Letter.

Adrian Whittaker.

The recent spell of dry weather here in the U.K. has probably affected most gardeners growing moisture-loving plants to some degree. Although we are generally luckier than many areas around the globe with regard to the availability of water, it is obvious that a permanently abundant supply cannot be taken for granted. (cont.)

I think all this means is that those of us who live in areas of water shortage have now got to make a conscious decision to think more carefully about the really eddective use of what water is available, Siting water-loving plants in damp hollows or in dappled shade may be the possibility for some. Retaining rainwater in a water butt or small pond, or a deliberately created, lined bog area are other methods.

Keen gardeners are well known for there cunning use of available resources, so I do hope you will rise to the challenge, then you can continue to enjoy your chosen favourites.

Finally, I'm sure everyone will want to join with me in wishing Hilda Goodwin a good recovery after her recent spell in hospital.

(Thank you Adrian for these words of advice, could I ask Members to write in and let us know of their pet ways of overcoming these long dry days, and saving our plants.J.)

Vice-Chairman's Letter.

Hilda Goodwin.

Hilda is now out of Hospital after a very trying time, and is back in her beloved garden, where she is managing to do a little gardening with the help of Don and her very interested gardener.

She writes that it has been a good year in their Suffolk garden. The Pacific Coast Irises and Sibiricas flowered very well, and the Laevigatas did very well for the first time. Two lovely clumps of I. fulvala and a lovely spike of I. spuria Maritima were still in bloom when Hilda wrote.

Most of the dwarf and T.B. Irises have grown so well that they will need parting this year. As Hilda says people can hardly believe the transformation they have made together with the help of a local gardener, who takes a keen interest in their efforts.

(Nice to hear that you are back in your garden Hilda, do take care. J.)

We extend a warm welcome to the following new Members:-

Mrs. M. Bond, 'Olmeda', Ferry Lane, Medmenham. MARLOW. Bucks. SL7 2EZ. who has joined us on receiving Graham Spencer's (Croftway Nursery Burnham. W.Sx.) ^{catalogue} she is interested in I. ensata especially the pink cultivars, we hope to have seed later Madeline.

Mr. Karlos Lehmann, 32, Robinson Rd. MAPPERLEY. NOTTINGHAM NG3 6BB. Karlos is searching for a 'true' blue flower, at present he has some border bearded Irises and many blue Hydrangeas, but he would like to grow more Species. On seeing the blue illustration of I. macrosiphon in the P.C.I. booklet, he exclaimed that this was the colour he was looking for, so, hopefully he will find it in the mixed packet of seeds we were able to supply.

Mr. Hector Webster, 5, Glasdtone Street, HEANOR. Derbyshire. DE5 7PW. Hector joined through the good offices of our Enrolment Secretary (B.I.S.) Eileen Wise. He is already growing Siberian Irises and would like to grow more named varieties. He would have liked plants and seeds, but the plants were all sold. However we were able to send him seeds of cultivars he did not have. We hope they germinate well for him, and hope to hear more later.

Beaver Water Plant & Fish Farm Ltd. Eastbourne Rd. (A22), Newchapel, LINGFIELD, Sy. RH7 6HL. Our Member Jeff Wheeler has introduced his firm to our Group, and they too have joined us. When I receive their catalogue and 'the Beaver Guide to Water Gardening', I will be able to introduce them properly. The 'Guide to Water Gardening' should be most interesting, we do not have too much information on this subject.

Overseas.

Prof. Dr. Nasr El-Emery, Ph.D. Prof of Phytochemistry, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, Assiut University, 71516 ASSIUT. EGYPT.

Nasr is an Iris lover, very interested in Iris plants. He has studied I. pseudacorus and I. germanica var. Alba. He now wishes to extend the collection of Iris species in their Experimental Station. He has kindly sent two of his Research Papers on the above mentioned subjects. Copies of them are now in the Library.

We were able to supply him with seeds to try, and hope to hear more about his work in the future. We send all good wishes.

Mrs. Shirley Pope, 'Pope's Perennials', 39, Highland Avenue, GORHAM. MAINE. 04038. U.S.A. Shirley we have known of for a long time as the colleague of Dr. Currier McEwen, and caretaker of his plants. Philip Allery has introduced her, and we look forward to hearing about her Nursery. Since receiving this I have heard from Currier that Shirley is having difficulty with the ensatas, because of sheet ice on her land in the spring, I can extend sympathy because I have found that my garden lies in a frost pocket. However other Irises such as Sibiricas shrug it off, so perhaps you will write about them please. (over).

Mr. Marty Schafer, Joe Pye Weed Nursery, 337, Acton Street, CARLISLE, MA. 01741, U.S.A.

Marty is a long-time friend of Jennifer Hewitt, when he has time, we hope to hear more about his Nursery which he runs with his partner Jan Sacks. They raise Bee Warburton's Siberians and David Sobek's dwarf bearded. I am interested in the address, most intriguing, can we hear about that too please.

My Irises.

A PATCH IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

Squadron Leader Mike McCarthy.

Madame Editor has been asking me for a long time to produce an item on my garden for the Newsletter, and I know that the intention was for me to write about my Irises. Unfortunately, such an item will be more about the gypsy life we lead than Irises. Let me explain ... Although I have been in the B.I.S. for some years, my Service record goes back even further. There is always a feeling, when you 'follow the flag', that you are preparing the garden for someone else; the average tour is 2-3 years, and it takes 2-3 years to get the garden as you like it.. See what I mean. The unkindest cut of all is, as you march out of your Quarter you hear the next incumbent explain to the Families Officer that he is not really interested in gardening and would he mind having the back garden rotavated. However, things are changing.

The modern trend is to leave people alone if they are happy to stay and we have been on the married patch in Bedfordshire for some 6 years. When we arrived the garden had potential; that is, nothing had been done, although I had had the opportunity to choose a corner house with the biggest garden. Harkness Rose Garden is just down the road from us (an amazing sight in the flowering season, as rows upon rows of roses strut their stuff in the middle of a field) and the first thing I did was to plant 3 beds with 'Conqueror's Gold', 'Disco Dancer' and 'Princess Alexandra'. You can, after all take roses with you when you move. However, after some weeks of staring at the 'lawn' I got out Adrian Bloom's book on perennials and island beds and started digging.

There is one other important aspect of Service gardening that you should know about. a practice some of you have probably all indulged in, what we know as 'plant liberation'.. When someone is posted, his fellow gardeners make sure his plants are posted too; from his garden to theirs. This is not a bad thing as the Quarter may be left empty for some time, (it might be in line for decoration or the next occupant coming back from overseas) or see the first paragraph for unwanted plants. Therefore it makes sense to give his plants a good home, and half my beds were filled this way. It also guarantees that you obtain plants suitable for your soil and climate. I have amassed a wide variety this way: 2 Buddlia that fill the garden with butterflies; elephant ears; Solidago; a Eucalyptus that will not stop growing, and many others including an I. Sibirica. This Sib. does very well, which surprised me because we suffer very sandy/dry soil, but it encouraged me to plant blue T.B. seedlings obtained from a visit to the Annual Show, also several dozen English Iris bulbs. I have also added 'Nevada' a spectacular shrub rose, several of the new English roses, clematis various, a number of species of ivy against the walls and honeysuckle. The wall plants encourage the birds and the nesting pairs are a delight.

One success I have had might be of interest: Some 17 years ago I was given an offshoot of I. japonica by Anne Blanco White. I potted it up and it flowered the following season, but no matter what I did after that, it steadfastly refused to show even a bud. It was fed, watered, starved, re-potted, moved, split and even spoken to. Autumn 90, in frustration, I put the main plant against the house wall in the front garden and its many offshoots in the back garden in their pots. You've guessed it, in the following Spring every plant had at least one flower stem. The main plant had seven! All it needed was a rest during the Winter and, incidentally, some protection from sparrows.

Joan has encouraged me to grow more beardless Irises and, in a fit of enthusiasm, before Christmas, I dug a circular bed for plants she had sent me at the end of last season. The bed is 3m. across and I have double-dug it, buried a plastic sack in the middle, for water retention, also added a mulch to the top spit. I can look forward to getting it right, just in time for my next posting.

(I will keep my fingers crossed for you Mike. By the way we called those plants you mentioned 'Mrs. Niptons' in my Mother's lovely old garden, because many of them were. I recommend that you get to the bottom of that plastic 'bog-pond' and add some charcoal, it keeps the whole thing sweet. All good wishes to you, your garden sounds delightful. J.)

My Garden.

by Eileen Mellor.

When Fred and I made the decision to turn our semi-jungle into a garden, we set ourselves quite a challenge, as my knowledge of the land was minimal and Fred's non-existent.

Over the next seven years many mistakes were made, but by careful reading and researching on Fred's part, we began to have some small success, but it was when we joined the Mercia Group that we really took off. My interest in Irises very quickly became a passion for us both, and brought us into a world of which we had only dreamed.

Spring 1991 was a magical time for us, but we didn't know then that this was to be Fred's last. It seemed that everything was making a special effort, with the blossom all seeming to come at once. Magnolia Soulangeana, Nigra and Stellata vying with the flowering Cherry and Laburnum for pride of place. The Irises, Tall Bearded and Pacific Coast followed by Roses did us proud, and it seemed that everything in the garden was lovely, until last August, when Fred suffered a dense and crippling stroke. Afterwards, even when he was at his lowest ebb, his thoughts turned to his garden, which to him was the most peaceful place on earth, and it was here, on a warm sunny day, that I scattered his ashes....

(Dear Eileen, we send you our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy. To lose Fred, as you did just before Christmas must have been a dreadful heartbreak. We hope that you will find the garden that you have made together a big comfort, and that it will grow and thrive for you as time (the great healer) goes by. All good wishes and take care. J.)

In Memory.

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the death of our good friend Lee Welsh, Editor of the Japanese Iris Society Review. I understand he died in his sleep. We extend our Sympathy to Lee's family and friends in the Society. I personally will miss the cheerful little messages he used to send with the Review. He will be very much missed.

Experiments with I.pseudacorus.

by Dave Niswonger, Cape Iris Gardens.

Thanks very much for the copy of the S. S & J. Group's Newsletter. On Page 3 under 'Overseas' I noted a comment about some of my activities with Spurias and I.pseudacorus on which I have been working with the yellow and chartreuse forms. I thought I might comment on the last statement.

My interest in working with the I.pseudacorus species was to develop a white form of it. Around twenty years ago, I got some seed from Albert Motsch of Chicago which were from a chartreuse form. From this group of seedlings I got some outstanding forms of yellow and chartreuse. I selected the best yellows and chartreuse forms and sent them to a few friends including Roy Davidson in the Seattle Area. I continued to grow seedlings from the best chartreuse forms hoping for a break to a white one, and selected 25 or 30 forms of chartreuse. Then when visiting Roy Davidson's Garden during the Seattle A.I.S. Convention, I saw that he had a white pseudacorus (which I didn't know existed) that he had gotten from Japan. I immediately asked for a rhizome, and he generously supplied me with some stock.

This Roy Davidson white clone, or should I call it the Japanese white cultivar, is truly white but does not have the vigor of the other yellow and chartreuse forms that I grow. I had planned to cross it with my best chartreuse form but actually never got around to doing it. One year I noted that it had set some seed and there were no other I.pseudacorus nearby so I presumed these were selfs. There were only four or five seeds and they were round not flat like so many I.pseudacorus seed. They were also rough and not slick and shiny like my other seeds. Anyway, I planted these seeds and could not get them to germinate. I left them in the same spot for about three years.

In the meantime, I had planted a clone of my whitest chartreuse form (almost ivory in color) without much of a signal, close to it. I had also received a yellow clone of I. pseudacorus var 'mandshunica' from Eberhard Schuster from East Germany and had planted it nearby. In 1989 I got some more chance pollinated seeds from it, the white one, I planted them. They germinated and I lined out 35 seedlings. They bloomed in 1991. When they started blooming... nothing but yellows, I was disappointed, but soon some white ones appeared, and I ended up with about 12 whites out of the 35 seedlings. These whites are not as vigorous as the yellows (sibs) but more vigorous than the Japanese white.

I have saved all chance pollinated seed from these seedlings and have sent them for inclusion in your Seed Distribution, so that you can partake in my experiments. I don't know what could happen in the second generation from these seed. Hopefully there will be some white seedlings from the yellows with their vigor, and maybe some interesting variations of the signals which are burgundy or fuschia in color. Perhaps you would like to see what you get.

(over)

(Many thanks Dave, especially for the seeds. Members will find them Listed in the Seed Distribution. J.)

A Profile of our Member Clarence Mahan, 'The Iris Pond' McClean, Virginia

(With acknowledgment to the A.I.S. Bulletin.)

Clarence Mahan was born and reared as a farm boy in western Ohio. He has degrees in history from the University of Maryland and American University, and he has a Master of Business Administration degree from Syracuse University. His military service with the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1962, was at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Seoul, Korea. Clarence is a career member of the U.S. Civil Service and has held positions with the Army, Air Force and Defense Communications Agency in Washington, Korea and Japan. He has also served as Deputy Comptroller of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He is currently Director of Research Program Management with the EPA. In 1983 Clarence was awarded the rank of Meritorious Executive by President Reagan.

Suky and Clarence have been married for twenty-nine years and have two children. Daughter Christiane, whose fruit pizza made such a hit at the 1991 AIS Convention, works as a program analyst for the National Institute of Health and attends George Mason University. Their son is a physician in Richmond Virginia. The Mahan Garden, The Iris Pond was on the garden tour program at the latest convention.

The iris is the favorite flower of both the Mahans. Suky is partial to beardless irises, especially Siberians and Japanese, but Clarence loves them all and has no favorite type or class. He does say that until last year, his favorite cultivar was the Japanese iris 'Rose Queen', but it now has to take second place to the tall bearded cultivar 'SUKY' (Mahan 91). Clarence enjoys hybridizing irises, especially remontants. The Iris Pond has introduced several of his new irises, as well as varieties hybridized by Carol Warner, Sterling Innerst, D.C. Nearpass, George Crossman and Dick Sparling.

Clarence has held several offices in his local AIS chapter, the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society, and he is very proud of the fact that this society holds three shows each year, including one for Japanese irises and one in the fall for rebloomers. He has served as editor of the Region 4 NEWSCAST for several years and is currently Historian for the region. He was General Chairman of the 1991 convention and has served as President of the Society for Japanese Irises and Historic Preservation Society. He is eastern director for the Reblooming Iris Society. He also belongs to many iris clubs and has written numerous articles for society publications and horticultural magazines.

Although Clarence and Suky belong to many plant societies, Clarence says their first love is, and always will be, AIS. 'We have so many wonderful friends in AIS that Suky and I could not imagine a full life without active participation in the Society's programs'. He is an avid collector of Iris books and literature, and has a large library devoted to Irises. Clarence is currently working on a book on historic irises, but he believes it will not be completed until after his planned retirement in 1994.

(I have reprinted this profile to show you the distinguished career of our good friend Clarence Mahan. We send him our congratulations, not only on this, but also on being appointed a Director of the American Iris Society. Cheers! Clarence. J.)

The 'Clough Family'

by Ben Hager.

(Reprinted by kind permission of Louis Fry Editor of the S.I.G.N.A. Magazine Spring 1992, and as a follow-up of Ben's previous account of 'Holden Clough' published some years ago in our Newsletter. J.)

As a background to this discussion I will quickly note the beginnings and continuation of the rather haphazard program I have under way. A few seeds (about thirty with about twelve germinations) were noticed one year after the discovery of a seed on a cut stalk of 'Holden Clough' by Roy Davidson and Phil Edinger. These seeds were collected from a long row of the parent plant and there were no more than one or two seeds in each pod. From the plants of these seeds were the two clones named for the two discoverers. Although 'Roy Davidson' sets few, if any, open pollinated seed. 'Phil Edinger' and the other clones that developed from this batch of seed, set open pods which still contained few seeds per pod: one, two or maybe three. These seeds were collected and germinated to give an F₂ generation, which in turn also produced open pollinated seed, and in fact there were two or three full pods of seed. These germinated and were growing well, but unfortunately I was attacked by a bad spell of 'flu in midsummer and these seedlings browned off because they were not watered sufficiently during

(cont)

the hot weather at that time. However, none died. They were lined out this fall (1991) and are all alive, but I cannot expect first year bloom since the plants were set back in their development by the drying-off period.

Up to this time I had collected and grown only open pollinated seed. Because each generation resembled I.pseudacorus (undoubtedly one parent of 'Holden Clough') it has been surmised that the seedlings were back-crosses by the bees to this parent plant. All the flowers have been yellow with much less brown veining than 'Holden Clough' and the F_2 has even less veining than the F_1 . It happened that the year of the National Iris Convention which was held in this region, I had one clone planted in the convention beds (which later was named 'Phil Edinger') and it was 300 to 400 feet from the one plant of I.pseudacorus that I had that year. It seems unlikely that the bees could have carried the pollen to this isolated plant that far, since there were hundreds of flowers in between to keep them busy. The seedlings from this plant (and it set several pods) bloomed in their time and looked very much like the flowers from plants of similar history growing near to the plant of I.pseudacorus.

I have had only one plant of I.pseudacorus growing in the garden here. It is a plant that Dave Niswonger grew from seed and sent as a plant to me in a previous year. It has super flowers but poor increase, usually with two or only one increase remaining after bloom each year. So I have not had an excess of bloom from this iris in any year. This year, for some reason, it bloomed and was done by the time the 'Clough family' came into bloom. All the F_1 and F_2 plants set seed anyway. So the seedlings I have are necessarily not from pollinations made by the bees with I.pseudacorus as the pollen parent. Yet all are yellow.

This year I decided it was time I did a bit of actual work with this family of seedlings. I got in Sarah Tiffney's plant, 'Holden's Child' (from 'hands-on' self pollinated 'Holden Clough'). Sarah got two seedlings from these seed and both were a 'dark red purple'. None of my open pollinated seedlings are anything but yellow.

So I self pollinated nearly all the flowers of 'Holden Clough' (the pollen didn't look very good) and got no seed at all. I intercrossed the F_1 and F_2 groups of my seedlings and got no seed at all. However the same plants did produce open pollinated seed: I'm just going to have to try again next year.

With this closer association with the 'Clough Family' I noted some startling features between the two generations. F_1 has pollen. It also (all plants) has cascading foliage F_2 --- none of the plants had any pollen and all the foliage was stiffly erect. There was much less veining in these F_2 flowers, all were yellow, and two had bright orange-yellow signals. These F_2 pods could not have been pollinizations since the flowers had no pollen. They had to have been pollinized by pollen of 'Holden Clough' (one clump nearby), or with the masses of F_1 parents that were nearby. I didn't get these seed for they opened during the 'indisposition' so I didn't get any of this year's crop gathered, but I did have the seedlings from the previous year (first year bloom) and they are the ones that won't bloom next year.

Another feature this year is that all the seedlings carry the typical veined crescent signal of I.pseudacorus (less so on the F_2 generation!). This is evidently true of all pseudacorus hybrids since the two plants introduced in Japan from the cross of I.pseudacorus and I.ensata (Japanese Iris) also have these typical signals.

Still another surprise was in store this year. Several years ago we received a plant under the title 'miniature pseudacorus'. It rather looked like what the name suggested, so I had not examined it closely before. This year I was intrigued by a resemblance to the Clough children, though smaller in plant and flower. Being curious, I put pollen of 'Phil Edinger' on this 'miniature pseudacorus' AND GOT A SET POD. It was the first time that I had noticed that this 'miniature pseudacorus' did not set open seed pods so typical of I.pseudacorus. So it is undoubtedly a hybrid of some kind. The seed looked good enough when the pod was opened-- now we shall see if it germinates!

I can't help wonder if the 'Holden Clough' that Sarah Tiffney has and the one that we have here are actually from the same clone. Why should a self pollination give flowers of 'deep red purple' from one plant and only yellow flowers from another? Not even crosses of the F_1 and F_2 in the yellow colored seedlings showed any sign of purple coloring, and it seems to me that interbreeding the two should give some indication of that color. Perhaps the F_3 will give some hints. I shall just have to wait and see.

(The following additions by the author came in a letter dated December 27, 1991- Ed)

Some features of the 'Holden Clough' family that I have just noted befuddles the probable parentage of 'Holden Clough' and its seedlings even more. As a basis for the following observation that I have just made, our weather in December has been cold for us. Several mornings down as low as 27 degrees--so plants should be showing the full aspect of their tendency toward dormancy at this time.

(cont)

'Holden Clough' is evergreen here. The tips of the leaves are brown, but they are green almost to the tips. The F₁ seedlings are evergreen. The F₂ seedlings are mostly dormant; the fully grown leaves are brown but there is a short fan of leaves down in the original fan that is still green.

This puts a doubt in my mind of a parentage of I.chrysographes x I.pseudacorus. I've never seen any other feature that would convince me of the parentage that Roy Davidson and the 'Holden Clough' parentage correction in the 1984 R&I (page one) suggests as I.foetidissima x I.pseudacorus, but this 'evergreen bit' does give credence to that parentage because I.foetidissima is decidedly evergreen. I.chrysographes is decidedly dormant.

I wonder what a little laboratory research will turn up?

(Thank you Ben, a most interesting account of your work. The idea of a red purple pseudacorus sounds good, or even one with streaks of red. I note that Dr. James Waddick 3233, McGee, Kansas City, MO 64111, U.S.A. is interested in discussing the formation of a new group of Water Irises, including I.versicolor, I.virginica, I.laevigata, 'Holden Clough', I.pseudacorus and others. J.)

P.S. On checking I see that I have neglected to print the Sub-heading to Ben's account. It is this:- 'Further notes on seedlings originating from open pollinated seed collected from 'Holden Clough: F₁, F₂ and F₃. ' sorry!

News from Seaways.

by Currier McEwen.

Currier wrote from Kalamazoo where he and Elizabeth were attending the Japanese Iris Convention, at which he was giving a Lecture.

He writes :- My Siberians have been the best ever this year, and as we left the earliest J.I. that I have, Lorena Reed's 'Springtime Snow', was ready to open. I will be back by June 28th. and hope that lots of Siberians will still be blooming for crosses, and with the Japanese Irises just starting to flower.

Regarding Shirley Pope, sad to say, she has had to give up my Irises. Again, for the second year, in the sheet frost, she lost 50% more of the Japanese. Her garden is situated so that in Winters without snow, the rain freezes as it lands and soon there is half-an-inch or more of sheet ice covering most of the garden. We think the plants die, not from the cold per se, but from suffocation. Shirley decided she could not face another Winter fearing what she would find in the Spring. And, of course it wasn't fair to the Irises either. Shirley is currently President of the Society for Japanese Irises.

Sheran Whitney who has helped me in the garden for 15 or more years will take over what Shirley has done for me. She too, is able, nice to work with and lives only half a mile up the road from Seaways. She is preparing a large garden area and we will start moving plants from Shirley's to Sharon's in a few weeks time. It will be better being so much closer, but I will miss Shirley's help also, and I do thank her. All good wishes to Members.

(Thank you Currier, so sorry to hear about the move, you will see that Shirley has now joined us. We hope that she will write about her Nursery when she has time. After much the same experience I now grow all my precious Japanese Irises in pots, then when we get a frost warning, they are moved into the Greenhouse pronto. Having lost all mine years ago. You mention that there is a project afoot to consider writing a new Siberian Iris Book to be published by Timber Press. We look forward to that. Here in the East Midlands we seem to have more than our fair share of dry weather, starting quite early in the year, unless great care is taken to keep them watered, or accomodating them with something like a bog-pond, the Siberian Irises just do not flower as well as they used to do, at least not for me. Can I pose the question to other Members who live in the Eastern Counties... 'How do they grow for you?' 'Do you have troubles?' 'How do you overcome them?'.

I see that you can still obtain Currier McEwen's original book 'Siberian Irises' by writing to Julius Wadekamper, 15980, Canby Avenue, Route 5, Faribault, MN. 55021. 7dollars. I am prepared to write to Judy Hollingworth to ask if we can have another batch at a reduced rate, if enough Members write in. They work out at roughly £5. (The £4 I charged last time was low.) More in the February Newsletter.

From the Mailbag.

by Dorothy Hamilton MA.

(Published by kind permission of Judy Hollingworth Editor of The Siberian Iris.)

(Still on the growing of Siberian Irises.)

Many people are mystified that for no obvious reason a particular Siberian plant 'just didn't thrive) and eventually died. Here may be the answer... (cont)

Dorothy Hamilton writes:- I have found the trouble that a new grower finds with the Siberian Iris lies with air pockets. I have never lost a transplant if I perched it on top of a damp mound of earth, pressed the roots down firmly into the sides of the mounds and then firmly packed soil-- watering as I filled around the plant.

Some years ago, a young hybridizer (now of note) wrote me, that after moving, he found that his large clumps of Siberians were dying for no apparent reason. After remembering my frequent caution to avoid air pockets (I always said that no self-respecting Siberian would tolerate air under its derriere), he investigated a clump and found it suspended halfway down the hole he had prepared. He dug out the sides, mixed the soil at the base with water, dropped the Siberians back in, and all was well thereafter.

I mulch my Siberians each fall, as a heavy frost will snap the tiny feeder roots. The iris come up lustily in the early spring, but by June will have dwindled and may die from the air pockets left by frost heaves.

(Growers of Siberian Irises will, no doubt appreciate this useful information. Thank you Dorothy. Ed.)

Spuria Winners.

by Floyd. W. Wickenkamp. Secty. Spuria I.Soc.

As Secretary of the Spuria Iris Society I receive letters from individuals, garden clubs and public gardens asking for information on growing Spurias, and for suggestions regarding recommended varieties for the beginner or for particular areas. Since I have only grown Spurias in Virginia and Arizona my particular knowledge is limited to the conditions in those two areas. However, there are some basics which seem to apply regardless of location. My usual answer is to send the inquirer a copy of the Society's 'New Member' pamphlet which, in addition to hints on storage, planting and growing spurias, lists those Eric Nies Award winners which are still likely to be found in commercial iris gardens or are otherwise readily available.

Non-members of the Society may obtain a copy of the 'New Member' pamphlet by sending a S. A. S. E. (at least 9 -3/4" long with one ounce postage) to the Secretary, 10521, Bellarose Drive, SUN CITY, AZ. 85351. Airmail postage is suggested for those outside North America.

Members of the S. S. & J. Group B.I.S. will find a copy of the 'New Member' pamphlet in two installments in the January and July 1988 issues of the Group's Newsletters. There have been a few additions to the Nies Award list since the article was published, as follows:-

JANICE CHESNIK, ruffled tawny gold self (Nies 1988)

DESTINATION, bright deep orange self (Nies 1989).

CINNAMON STICK, striking maroon brown (Nies 1990).

HIGHLINE CORAL, ruffled lavender-pink (Nies 1991).

In making a selection of Spurias to be purchased, another listing that might be considered is the annual Popularity Poll, conducted by the Spuria Iris Society, either at the Annual Meeting or by mail through the Newsletter. The results have been published in the Fall or Winter issue of the Newsletter. It was thought desirable to condense this information into more usable form. Taking the top 5 Winners for each of the last 5 years, consolidating them into a list of the top ten winners (actually 11, due to a tie for tenth place).

They are listed alphabetically:-

VARIETY.	DESCRIPTION.	YEARS IN TOP FIVE.
ADOBE SUNSET	Veined dark brown and orange.	2.
ARCHIE OWEN	Bright yellow self.	4.
BETTY COOPER	Veined light violet, ruffled.	3.
BETTY MY LOVE	S. white, F. yellow with white rim.	2.
BUTTER PADDLE	Brown with tiny specks of gold.	2.
DESTINATION	Bright orange self.	2.
ILA CRAWFORD	Ruffled white self.	2.
LOVE FOR LEILA	Deep violet self.	2.
REDWOOD SUPREME	S. dark brown, F. orange edged brown.	2.
SON OF SUN	Bright yellow self.	5.
VINTAGE YEAR	Blue-purple self.	3.

(In his letter Floyd tells of two new baby seedlings, neither of them as much as 4ins. across. Both real cute, (he has sent a photograph of one, its a beauty!). I hope he does not mind if I tell you that they may be called SONORAN NINA and SONORAN MUCHACHO. We will look out for them Floyd, and wish you every success. I know from Member's letters that small Spurias could become very popular for small gardens.)

Show Report of Irises at Ebbw Vale.

by Joseph Beattie.

This year the Early Summer Show was held at Ebbw Vale on the site of the National Garden Festival... This was a perfect setting, nestling between the Welsh hills, with clean, crisp air and the natural contours giving varied and interesting views throughout.

Water was used in many ways, shallow streams, ponds, weirs, mini-lakes and at the far end a really colossal waterfall, many hundreds of feet high.

In my view the gardens were landscaped tastefully with some novel and interesting concepts of design. There were many choice plants to be seen, especially for the 'plant's Person'.

This year the B.I.S. Show was truly different, and I propose to record the details in a new way, (to the best of my ability.)

First, outside were Irises in what was called 'The Rainbow Garden', prepared by the West & Midland Iris Group, they had used all types of Irises, some in formal beds and some in water. They looked beautiful, walking round I noticed they created a great deal of interest and comment. No doubt a great amount of work had been put in by the Members.

The second grouping was in the Floral Hall, a large circular marquee. This was also called 'The Iris Rainbow', and I give you my first thoughts, originally by Wordsworth:-

'Ten thousand saw I at a glance, Tossing their heads in sprightly dance'... Well! we didn't have ten thousand, but there were at least 2000 blooms. Swathes of Dutch Iris specially imported from Amsterdam, backed by serried Tall Bearded, all in vases covered with peat and bark. Perfectly colour co-ordinated, a really wonderful sight. My reaction was that I was absolutely amazed at the range of colours and the quality of the blooms.

Now as 'Jimmy Cricket' would say 'there's more'.

To get to the Iris Show we passed through screens covered with colour photos. of the Foster home garden and Welsh Irises, then a series of two American Nurseries from Oregon. Cowleys and Schreiner, showing all the colour groupings available in Tall Bearded.

A further B.I.S. screen showed many of the Iris Species and gave details.

The amount of room allocated by the Festival Organizers was really not enough. The stands of the B.I.S., Kent Group, Mercia Group and West & Midlands Group, although very nicely laid out could have done with more space. Every inch was used to full advantage. Well done!

To produce a good Show many things need to come together, the weather, enough good quality blooms. Plenty of helpers and stands. Judges. Not forgetting the great mass of the public who come along to see it. The skill of Maureen and Harry Foster deserves the highest praise. The man-hours they put in as well as contributing their Irises was not just good, but excellent.

Outside of my remit, but in passing, I must mention the Tall Bearded as a group were outstanding. Many wonderful blooms and some splendid seedlings from Maureen Foster.

To give you some details of the Show Classes:-

Class 24. (15 Sibs.) 1st. Harry Foster with 'ISLA SERLE' (bred by H. Foster & selected for Wisley trials.)

others were 'Jewelled Crown' (Harry), 'Zweites Hundert' (an unknown), 'Laurenbuhl' 'Harpwell Happiness', and Jennifer Hewitts Vase which contained 'Maggie Lee', 'Dance Ballerina Dance' and a seedling. Harry Foster won the Jennifer Hewitt Trophy, Jennifer herself was second, and I came a poor third. Harry's was a superb vase of flaring type of Sibiricas.

Class 25. (5 spikes Sibs.) 1st. Mary Tubbs ('Dreaming Yellow', 'Ruffled Velvet'). 2nd. Jennifer Hewitt ('Temper Tantrum', lilac and blue, falls deep blue sheen, it glowed.) 3rd. Myself

Class 26. 1st. H. Foster. his Chrysographes was 'Cleeton Watercolour', and another.

Class 28. 1st. Ian Smith. 2nd. Mrs. P.J. Cole. (Ian's entry was 'Real Surprise' a hybrid bred Dr. Jack Ellis 2 or 3 years ago. possibly versicolor x ensata)

Class 29. 1st. Jennifer. Forms of I. versicolor.

Class 31. 1st. Jennifer. 2nd Mary Tubbs. 3rd. Mrs Naylor.

Class 36. Sib. seedlings. I noticed 'Welfenschatz' (bred by Marlene Ahlburg ST Wisley). Creamy white with faint green mark centre falls. Very nice indeed.

If I have missed anybody, please forgive me, it is not easy when the crowds are milling around. Joan tells me there will be a full and detailed description in the B.I.S. Year Book. My own thoughts in conclusion, well, 600 miles is a long way, and I was glad to get home. I was delighted with my first Iris Show, I was able to put faces to names. New friendships and the renewal of older ones. The chance to see so many wonderful Irises. My thanks to all who helped to make my stay so very pleasant.

(Thank you Joseph, hope you are now fully recovered and back to your beloved garden. J.)

Cannington, May 1992.

by Mary Tubbs.

Another Cannington --- and what a joy it was! And before I begin I would like to stress how much thought, care, hard work and imagination went into the makings of this most delightful of events; and how immensely grateful we are to Cy Bartlett for using all these gifts to make it such a memorable success.

With a gathering of folk from many parts of the globe--Britain, Italy, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, America, Russia and elsewhere, it was a perfect occasion for discussion, learning, listening, comparing notes, visiting gardens, walking, talking and eating together. Indeed, also for running together, for, if you were unlucky enough to be at the end of the long queue for breakfast, you could be, almost certainly, panting down the drive with the odd Italian or American, toast and marmalade clutched aloft, as the driver started up his engine! With so many interesting and pleasant things to fit into 5 days, we did everything at the double...

Jennifer Hewitt acted as Show Secretary, and had already been very busy before we arrived, getting everything shipshape for the Staging of the Iris Show, which would take place on Sunday morning. Thus a succession of blooms were carried in by arriving Members and there was the usual air of bustle and concentration associated with potential exhibitors. Meanwhile two lectures were about to take place -- and everyone was remarking on the non-arrival of the Italian contingent. Anne Blanco White gave us an excellent talk on Water Irises, and Peter Maynard a very comprehensive account of Species Iris. Dinner next and a visit to the gardens of Cannington College, led by Cy. Back to stage the exhibits, which always takes much longer than expected.

11pm. and getting tired and the Italians still haven't arrived. Still plugging newspaper and spikes into pots at close on midnight, when, hey presto! with a great flourish the Party of Italians burst into the Hall. Not a soul about except me, so great rejoicing and many kisses, eventually with the blessed help of the kindly Caretaker, they were all safely settled into their rooms.

Some of the loveliest moments were the visits to many gardens, all so carefully planned by Cy. Somerset, or just over its borders, must surely have some of the most delightful Houses and Gardens in Britain. Our first visit was to Barford Park a gorgeous Queen Anne House with a superb water garden, masses of candelabra Primula, foxgloves, little islands in boggy soil of the old type Sibiricas, pale and mid blue, also white, like butterflies floating in mid air, and so very elegant.

Then to Knightshayes, architect Burgess, visited on previous occasions and always loved for its special qualities. Fascinating animal topiary, great drifts of Pacific Coast Irises in the woodland garden, a beautiful pond with water lilies, and spectacular ensatas with blue and white stripes. Laevigatas, deep blue with a brilliant flash and the pronounced ribbed leaf. A handsome white Wistaria, tree peonies and a deep pinkish Rosa Rugosa, at least 7ft. tall and very fragrant.

Back to Cannington with scarcely a moment for those splendid meals, wholesome and fulsome served with such bon-homie by the Cannington Staff as we file past with our trays.

Two more lectures to follow, full of interest and much to think about. First by Tomas Tamberg from Berlin, on Sibiricas and the 28 and 40 chromosome groups.. With Jennifer and her vast knowledge of the subject, in the front row, ready for debate. This was followed by Margaret Cameron Longo from Florence giving us a clear and descriptive picture of the Iris Gardens in Florence, also the Concorso which takes place annually.

To another beautiful home Hadspen House and its delightful garden. Again old Sibiricas looking so wonderful in their setting beside a stream, and spectacular plum-coloured poppies shining from a distance... Here a little episode caused a smile.. The owner's son, setting plants in a nearby potting shed, was about to go down to the hut to serve teas and coffee to the thirsty visitors on this blazing hot day. On his last sale, his cash register drawer 'overshot' spilling hundreds of coins in all directions, amidst plants, soil and grit. His plea for help was so poignant that three of us, all Kent Groupers, took on the refreshment duties in the hut, serving teas and coffees to the delight of visitors and the surprise of Iris folk. My apologies to Alice Baughen and Joan Bradshaw for enticing them into this good deed, which, I may say they carried out with such panache and good will.

Then on to Chiff-Chaffs, a gem of a small house and garden, on a slope with hidden corners and surprise seats in secret places, so that we could all settle down with our packed lunches, right up close to the plants, so carefully chosen you would scarcely know there was anyone else there. A few Dwarf Bearded Irises were still in bloom, and a clump of Dykes old Siberian 'Papillon' of 1923, pale blue and beautiful, together with an old wallflower Ersymimum Alpinum (yellow perennial), with clematis and old roses making a wonderful 'old' mix for this 'young' garden. This garden has virtually a foot in 3 counties, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, with all converging at this spot. It is a real treasure. I sat on a seat with

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Olive, a hearty jolly soul, who grew up in the village. She told me that all the gardening was done by the owners and one gardener only, who came up to help them for a few hours each week. They had only arrived, she said, about 12 years previously, and had created this beautiful and imaginative and so mature looking garden from an empty site. A tour-de force eh!

Another garden after lunch, an old friend Stourton House, covered in wistaria as befitted this lovely Regency house. Here we saw Tropaeolum Speciosum (flame creeper) growing in shade up a Yew hedge that was as close cropped as a billiard table. Lovely lawns and peaceful places. At the entrance a deep purple Magnolia and an elegant Eucalyptus. A garden to linger in, but we had to move on as Cannington was calling... Dinner and Lectures from those two robust Americans David Miswonger and George Sutton, who showed us many slides and talked on Spurias Tall Bearded, Californians and Remontants.

Then to Chapel Knapp, a glorious terraced garden overlooking the sea, where the kindly owners provided us with a delectable lunch, perfect hospitality and wonderful views.

Finally to Green Combe, perhaps the most notable of them all -- a garden on a steep North facing slope, fine dipping lawns and two beautifully moulded cypresses. Woods with fantastic rhododendrons and more unusual and unknown plants than I have ever seen in one place. The owner, a formidable lady of great character, told us that because of its position and the steep slope, the garden did not see the sun in Winter for six weeks.

Home then to Cannington, to smarten up for our final Conference Dinner and to meet again all the many friends from home and abroad, among them a young Iris enthusiast from Russia, who was so desperate to join the Conference that he had threatened to walk! In fact, it seems his Mother sold her car for his fare, and he was able to fly, landing on an English doorstep with a tiny ruc-sac and much dedication...

The evening finished on a soft and beautiful note with an exquisite 'Son et Lumiere' by Harry and Maureen Foster--- Irises, tantalising photography as only they can produce and classical music.

A mellow and lovely ending to another Cannington -- indeed the loveliest of them all! Thanks Cy, and please don't wait too long for the next one. Mary.

(Thank you too Mary for a most interesting and entertaining account. J.)

Around the Nurseries.

John Carter, Rowden Gardens, Brentnor, TAVISTOCK. Devon writes:- We have recently moved into a new wee house and our invitation to exhibit at Chelsea has caused much panic, on top of the usual work. However, I have carefully kept little notes and here is a brief description of our little Nursery:-

Rowden Gardens is a nursery where the stock plants are laid out as a garden. Extending to something over an acre, the beds are arranged around a skeleton of long canal-like ponds, each one is 6ft. wide by 90ft. Some are divided so that, for instance, all the blue and white flowered aquatics are in one pond with a narrow border of plants of the same colours behind it; blue and white Irises, gentians, polyanthus, campanula, sisyrinchiums and so on. The yellow aquatics are in a similar pond, and their border is filled with crocosmia, hemerocallis and yellow barked ash. Another pond is divided into three by bridges so that a silver pond, bronze pond and gold pond can be created. Other ponds are devoted to growing water lilies. Others have been completely filled in to form bog-gardens. As far as possible, I have tried to make surrounding plantings of particular groups of plants, This tends to make Rowden look a bit like a plant zoo at times, it does enable people to choose the sort of Rheum or Filipendula they want, as they can compare the different cultivars.

We have a largish collection of Iris and are pleased to have been able to register two I. laevigata cvs of our own; 'Violet Garth' and 'Richard Greany'; as well as one I. ensata; called without any pretence at humility, 'Rowden'. We are getting wonderful help with the ensatas from Philip Allery, who is sorting out the naming of the various cvs. It seems that most of the ones offered in this country are mis-named; a difficulty that occurs with almost every group of plants that are investigated in depth: Jennifer Hewitt is also a mine of information, and we are so grateful to her for all her trouble. We showed a number of I. ensata at Vincent Square this last July and we were very surprised that they hadn't been seen there for a number of years. Encouraged by the interest shown in them, we have imported about 15 from the U.S.A., mostly pinks. We hope they will live up to the marvellous description in the catalogue: However, in any case they will have the correct names. We also imported some I. versicolor forms as well as I. pseudacorus, and a madcap Iris rejoicing in the name of 'Dotties Double'.

Finally we have now cloned a series of seedlings resulting from a cross between I. wilsonii and I. chrysographes. I think they have a strong resemblance to I. chrysofor, a series (cont)

created by Perry before the last war. The lambent colouring resembles the colouring of a gas flame, and so we are calling them 'Topaz Flame', 'Violet Flame' and so on. (I do wonder, in fact, whether because most of the I.forrestii on sale until very recently was in fact I.wilsonii, we may not have re-created the original chrysofor hybrids.)

Please come and see us, it is always best to phone first. 0822 810275.

Maureen Gladwyn runs her very small Nursery from 8, Long Acre , BINGHAM Notts. She is a specialist in unusual and sometimes rare plants and shrubs. I would say she is one of our smallest growers, but her plants are little gems and so well grown. Every success to you.

Graham Spencer , 'Croftway Nursery', Yapton Rd. BARNHAM. Bognor Regis. Sussex. wrote in April to say that their 1992 Catalogue was going to print, and I understand that many of our Members have received them. They have now a sufficient stock of perennials, including Irises to offer a Mail Order service. New in this year are some I.laevigata, I.setosa arctica and a few more Siberians. They are thinking about the possibility of exporting Irises to Europe and America, after receiving enquiries. Also he finds that there is an interest in the older bearded varieties.

Graham hopes to include more Siberians in his 1993/94 catalogue, and asks S. S. & J. Members to look out for them, for he will be sending them out to you.

Congratulations were in order in May as Graham celebrated his 21st. Birthday, he celebrated himself by ordering 200 U.S.imports, including some of Allan Ensmingers striped T.B's and B.B'S. Also Siberians from Kiehm's nursery in Illinois. All good wishes to you.

Regional Report for London

by Anne Blanco White.

There have been some interesting developments since my comments in the February Newsletter of this year. The first was an agonised letter from John Coble of Ensata Gardens in Galesburg. Michigan. He pointed out that the unsightly brown-black longitudinal markings about which I was complaining were not a genetic phenomenon, but are an indicator of thrips. The particular version used to be known as Bregmatothrips iridis, now known as Frankiniella iridis. (Never let it be thought that only plants suffer from renaming because an earlier authority has been reinstated). I wrote immediately to the very helpful Technical Liason officer at Wisley, Mike Pollock, who promptly passed the suggestion on to the resident entomologist, Andrew Halstead, who found lots and lots of larvae. Drastic action was taken and I am glad to say that the results are a great aesthetic improvement. This does not mean that the selection committees will take a more lenient view of plants showing this characteristic: On the contrary, they will assume that your garden hygiene is unsatisfactory and decline to let infected plants loose in other gardens. As a general rule, I don't think we have much thrip trouble in this country, but now that I know what I am seeing, it certainly does occur. Not only are the results unsightly, but considerable damage can be done to the rhizomes which reduces the general standard of plant health. Wisley uses Dimethoate and there are probably other systemic insecticides which will be effective.

The other point which worried Mr. Coble was my comments on the apparently inadequate number of flower stems on some plants. This, he said was due to inadequate culture in the previous year. 'This year's bloom quality depends on last year's culture; this year's bloom quality depends on this year's spring culture'. Please commit this mantra to memory. since it will make all the difference to your results. In this connection I suggested that the very fine clumps of I.pseudacorus which had unintentionally been included in the bed might be responsible. It seems probable that they were. They were dug out last winter and found to have roots inside the irrigation pipes as well as tightly wrapped around them. It had been noticeable that those irises upstream of the interlopers had done very much better than those down stream. This year the performance of the downstream clumps is enormously improved, but it seems clear that a number of plants have had a severe set-back. Of course, it can't be expected that all imported plants will take to the British climate. Most of those in the experimental planting have been included in the new trials which are to start next year, but several will have to be put into intensive care to see if they can be recovered. 'Katy Mendez' at least put on a splendid show of spikes, 'Flying Tiger' will probably do better after replanting. 'Eternal Feminine' was neat and well furnished, but I do not care for 'Royal Burgundy' which seems to me to be a sloppy flower. 'Vintage Festival' starts very late; all

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the other plants were in full initial flower by the third week in June, while it was still in bud. It will be very interesting to see how the rebloomers do this year after starting so early. And, by the way, the 'quote of the month'; two men coming down onto the trials field with one enthusiastically heading for the ensatas while the other one said 'I don't really care for irises'..

By and large, this was not a good year for irises in the South, with the heavy rains followed by a heat wave. The T.B.'s did well but the Sib. were up and over at a rate which complicated the life of the JIC; the spurias were in full flower in the first half of June and the ensatas in the second half. I did better in Sussex, on the clay, where my Spurias provided a few spikes for the Show (which, as a Show, had to be cancelled) and some water irises were available too. The spikes had to be brought up to London on the Monday which was very hot and humid. By the time they reached the New Hall they looked 'so depressed'. Then, as I put them into vases and trimmed the useless material an echo from the past said 'aspirin'. I shot over the road to the newsagent and he did have a fine collection of analgesics. Half an aspirin to a vase worked wonders, and they looked quite respectable on the Tuesday morning. Remember that another time when you have hopefully carried offerings to a show and wonder if they really should go on the bench. The Late Summer Show was simply a display of such Irises as we could find--mainly water types such as the pseudacoruses, a few ensatas and laevigatas, foetidissimas, spurias and, of course Gerald Darby. Berney Baughen produced a splendid pot of a white seedling ensata of Philip Allery's, but it did its best on the Wednesday and, most surprising, were spikes and a pot of 'Yellow Waves' which should be in all gardens.

(Thanks Anne, your efforts as guardian of the ensata trials should certainly be recognised. Perhaps we will see colour plates of them in the B.I.S. Year Book, when they reach their full glory. J.)

Regional Report from the North West.

by Ray Wilson.

Once again a comparatively mild winter was succeeded by a pleasant spring, and so all plants were producing new growth quite early. In particular we had the dwarf bearded 'Zipper', 'Promise' and Redatlast' in April, not only 2-3 weeks early, but with more spikes than last year. Other D.B.'s followed throughout April and May, and finally the few remaining T.B.'s sought to convince us that they are a realistic proposition here and sufficiently vigorous as to review ideas of remontancy.

By early April the first Pacificas were showing colour, those in the greenhouse were in flower. Since all are seedlings except those from Broadleigh Nursery, it was a case of sorting out the Species from SPONI seed from the rest, and deciding which of the rest had characteristics which made them worth keeping, less than six. The Broadleigh named varieties flowered, but not well, perhaps they need another year to establish a good root system. I feel that none of them are superior to the best of the hybrids from SPONI seeds. I haven't put any seeds down this year, there was a need to sort out the young plants already a year old, and there was a demand for space for many other seeds. Having got down to this task I have ordered plants and seeds from Joe Ghio.

In this third week in May several Sibiricas had strong stems of flower buds. A McEwen tetraploid seedling was first out, followed closely by I. chrysographes and my favourite I. sibirica 'Blue Burgee'. 'Silver Edge' fully out with a sanguinea x seedling. Others not far behind. Roll on 1993 when the plants from Clarence Mahan will be flowering. I am beginning to take Sibiricas more seriously. Before the end of the month I expect to see Spurias and Japanese Iris in flower. The J.I. bloom display last year was so good, that when the opportunity arose to have seed of some laevigata hybrids from Mr. Hiroshi Shimizu, I took it and now have quite a few seedlings. In time they will add to those from Clarence Mahan's and other seedlings and enable me to display to more Northerners the beauty, variety and length of season of Irises.

The 1991/92 seed distribution season was not as good as in previous years, although thanks, in a great measure, to a few Members, the seed supply was adequate and varied. I would like to think that this coming season will offer more, you might just as well be an optimist it doesn't cost any more..

A new book on Propagation from seed by Prof. Dino is now on the market. It is a U.S. Publication, soft back, very reasonably priced, and a mine of information. I have been persuaded by reading it, to return to methods of germination on perlite akin to those he describes using paper towelling. It opens up new thinking to amateurs and offers the prospect of better germination. All good stuff, providing you remember the hard bit is to

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come, that is getting the seedlings established and growing on. Happy seed sowing...
(Thanks Ray, hope you are feeling better. Perhaps we could hear more about the Seed Propagation Book, whereto write to etc. sounds good. J.)

Regional Report from the West & Midlands.

by Philip Allery.

Another early season brought problems in planning for Shows, and the warmest June since 1976, with below average rainfall, reduced bloom quality and shortened bloom periods. The seed crop may be affected.

The Malvern Spring Show early in May attracted over 50,000 visitors and the West and Midlands Iris Group's new display boards and photographic material made a colourful impact. This was supplemented by pots of early season irises and other foliage or spikes, so that the publicity element was most successful. This is the first time that the sale of seeds by amateur bodies has been allowed at Malvern, and these were very much in demand. The Iris section of the Flower Show was well supported.

At the 70th. Birthday Celebrations held at Cannington among the visitors from overseas I had the pleasure of meeting Hal Stahly, President of the American Siberian Iris Society, and his charming wife Dorothy, who had been of such help to me when I visited America in July 1990. They were making a short visit to England with Mr. and Mrs. Dave Niswonger. Dave Niswonger is renowned for his *Spurias*, and he gave a very interesting illustrated talk on their future development.

It was from these American Visitors that I heard the sad news of the untimely death of Lee Welsh, Hon. Editor of 'The Review', the official publication of the American Society for Japanese Irises. During part of my American visit, Lee had been my guide, and he had spent three days showing me places of interest in the area of Lake Michigan and Kalamazoo. His death is a loss which will be deeply felt by many members of the Society for which he had worked with such enthusiasm and success.

At Cannington, I was surprised to learn from the Italian visitors that the International Iris Festival held annually in Florence provided also for entries in the beardless classes of irises. With so few opportunities for the showing of Japanese Irises, this facility is of interest. The B.I.S. Show, did, however include some excellent displays of Pacific Coast Irises *Sibirica* hybrids and other beardless hybrid irises.

The B.I.S. Show at Ebbw Vale has already been described. Congratulations are due to Maureen and Harry Foster for their colourful display in the Floral Hall week ending 14th June, it gained a Gold Medal. Dr. Currier McEwen's development work is evident as the outstanding success of tetraploid *sibirica* hybrids were used mainly by Harry Foster in his fine *Sibirica* seedlings. Members of the West and Midland Iris Group set up and manned the display stand. Publicity included beardless and water-loving Irises. Increased membership can be expected.

The advanced season led to the cancellation of the Group Show at Tenbury Wells on the 20th. June, but an attractive display was mounted to support a successful sale of plants.

The blooms on my Japanese Irises have suffered during the extreme heat of the past 3 weeks. Their beauty has been short-lived. Sub-soil irrigation and constant watering have off-set the drought conditions. There is a need to improve water storage facilities. Blooms on those grown in pots have suffered, the need for a cool root run is paramount.

(Philip has introduced new Members Mr. and Mrs. D.Fletcher, 'Kelowna', 31, Knighton Road, Little Aston, SUTTON COLDFIELD, West Midlands. B74 4NX.

Pat and David Fletcher have recently moved into a new house with a large garden. David is a Koi carp enthusiast, and has built a bog-garden area for water-loving Irises.

We welcome you both to our Group, and hope you will enjoy reading our Newsletter. Also we hope to hear more about this new garden that you are making. It sounds interesting. J.T.)

Spurias in Southern England.

by Adrian Whittaker.

(This is the title of an article which Adrian wrote for the *Spuria* Iris Society Newsletter, I am reprinting it for you, by kind permission of the Editor Charles Jenkins.)

My introduction to *Spurias* was by the simple mechanism of growing some *orientalis* from seed. When these flowered, it opened up a whole new world of the Iris to me. Not only were the new plants elegant but they were also tough. A little digging into the literature cooled my enthusiasm somewhat, by finding that their general habitats were far removed from those existing in damp, mild, southern England. With the lack of sun and lower temperatures they couldn't be expected to flower well, and the seasonal rainfall pattern here was much removed

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from the ideal. Three weeks later it became clear that my plants, at least, were unaware of these restrictions. Not only did they flower well and regularly, but they seemed to revel in the damp conditions. I was hooked..

I live in an area of downland which, in earlier days, was usually devoted to sheep. The soil is thin and alkaline. Most of our small garden is typically six inches or so of soil overlying solid chalk. The only way this has been improved is by adding humus on top, as often as we can.

In the earlier years I experimented by raising *Spuria* species from seed, to see if there were any groups which did not do as well as others in this location. It soon became clear that the *Orientalis* type, both species and hybrids, seemed to prefer the conditions here better than the other species. This generalization holds true even now and, with some exceptions, the yellows generally out perform the blues.

Of the blues, 'Protege' is still the all time best performer here. It flowers profusely every year and does not spread rapidly like many of the clan. 'Belise' and 'Fergy's Poetry' are also reliable cultivars. The shorter species are also generally less satisfactory, in spite of the fact that they are supposed to do well on chalk. They do not increase well and the flowering is much less reliable.

In the yellow and brown range, *Orientalis*, 'Turkey Yellow' and 'Adobe Sunset' are excellent performers. 'Imperial Ruby' took a long time to get established, but it is now romping away, and flowers well.

Rather than fight the conditions my aim is to raise and select from crosses of the yellows, browns, and reds to try and improve the range of cultivars suitable for this climate. The aims are reliable flowering, good balance of the whole plant and low spread rate of the rhizomes, whilst maintaining the essential vigour of the plant.

Disease resistance has never been one of the problems, there has never been any indication of virus infection, and the *Spuria* appears to have no natural enemies here. Ants are a nuisance at times, some *Spurias* are affected worse than others. I don't spray so co-existence is the order of the day.

After crossing, the resultant seed is sown green (literally) from the pods straight into small pots of sandy compost. This is covered with fine gravel, kept damp, and is then left outside in a protected spot all winter. Most will have germinated by late spring. The seedlings generally remain in the pots all summer, kept damp, in dappled shade and fed with a liquid fertilizer. As our winters are generally wet, rather than severe, I plant the seedlings out in September knowing that they will not dry out over the winter.

Refrigeration and indoor raising of seed may well speed up the process and I must now try this. Since I already do this with T.B.seed, there may, however become contention over further appropriation of valuable fridge space for non-culinary purposes!

Established plants are fed once a year with 'Growmore' (a rather old fashioned but reliable granular, balanced, NPK fertilizer). I do not cut the foliage down after flowering and it is in fact left (as is) until the old dry leaves can be pulled away easily and the stems cut down.

Whilst plenty of sun and warmth is obviously desirable for *Spurias* in general, the experience here suggests that it is not absolutely vital for regular adequate flowering. I rather incline to the view that plant selection, careful positioning in the garden to maximise sun exposure and good culture are equally important. The overall conclusion is that *Spurias* are perfectly viable in a maritime climate at these latitudes. The general toughness, combined with elegance, makes them very worthy inhabitants of the garden... If I had to grow one only then 'Protege' would be the unhesitating choice, on all counts, so far..

(Adrian neglects to say that he has a cultivar 'Harvest Shadows' registered, and which some Members may still have in their gardens. We have some of his seeds in the Distribution if you would like to try raising some yourself. J.)

The Group Library.

The Library service is free to Members who reside in the U.K. only. The books etc. are sent First Class in Jiffy Bags where possible. Postage is paid by Members. A delay of a few days means that they are already 'on loan' and will be sent as soon as possible. Loan is limited to 14 days. Send a request if extension is required (sae). Books must be properly packed and returned Carriage Paid to:-

Mrs. Jennifer Hewitt, S. S & J. Librarian, 'Haygarth', Cleeton St. Mary. GLEOBURY MORTIMER. KIDDERMINSTER. Worcs. DY14 0QH.

Publications.

Alphabetical Table and Cultivation Guide to the Species. (B.I.S.) (56gr).

Cult of Irises. (Beardless). (B.I.S.) (56gr).

Guide to the Pacific Coast Iris (B.I.S.) (113gr).

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Irises for the Water Garden. (B.I.S.) (56gr).

Know Your Irises (New Zealand Iris Society)(75 gr).

Raising Irises from Seed No.2. (B.I.S).

The Genus Iris. Sub-section Sibiricae. (B.I.S.) (56gr).

The Spuria Irises-Introduction & Varietal Listing 1985. (J.J.Foreman.U.S.A.) (252gr).

The S. S. & J. List of Pacific Coast Hybrids - 1990.

The Cumulative check List of Siberian Iris. (U.S.A. 1989).

A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises (Lee. W. Lens. U.S.A.)

Hybridization and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Irises. (Lee. W. Lens. U.S.A.)

Prof. Dr. N.A. El Emery's Papers on I.pseudacorus and I.germanica var. Alba.

Journal for the Siberian Iris Society. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)

Newsletter of the Spuria Iris Society. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)

Review of the Society for Japanese Irises. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)

Almanac for Pacific Coast Native Iris. (U.S.A.) (Twice a Year.)

All Back Numbers of the S. S. & J. Newsletters since 1976.

Books.

Siberian Irises by Currier McEwen. (U.S.A.) (175gr.)

Growing Irises by G.E.Cassidy and S.Linnegar. (Gt. Britain.) (420gr.)

The Japanese Iris By Currier McEwen. (U.S.A.) (780gr.)

The Iris by Fritz Köhlein. (Germany, English Translation.) (990gr.)

The Iris by Brian Mathew. (Gt. Britain.)

R.H.S. 'Irises' by S.Linnegar and J.Hewitt. (Gt. Britain.)

'Irises' by Harry Randall. (Gt. Britain.)

'The Iris' by N.Leslie Cave. (Gt. Britain.)

(These last two kindly donated by Prof. David Dixon.)

Treasurer's Report.

The Balance in Bank is £232,32p. The Reserve Fund to cover commuted Subscriptions and a Reserve stands at £91. 57p. due to the fact that you are kindly paying in advance. As usual out of this will be taken the cost of printing and postage. Your contributions of plants and seeds this year certainly helped us to keep our Subscription at £2. I do hope you will be thinking of us again when you collect your seeds and part your plants, there is always a demand for more each year. Our Membership increases as each Newsletter goes to print, so I feel that the message of our Group is really reaching Iris growers now after 16 years. Don't forget we want to see our Irises growing in all parts of the country, I suppose I could say all parts of the world, because the Overseas Members make their contribution, and we appreciate their work and interest. Many thanks to you all..

We have the following B.I.S.Publications for sale:-

A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises. (3 only). 60p. each.

Irises for The Water Garden. (Plenty). 40p. each.

We have sold out of the rest, Cultivation of Irises (Beardless), The Genus Iris, subsection Sibiricae, An Alphabetical Guide to the Species. If you would like any of these, I will be ordering them later.

The following Back Numbers are available, of the Newsletters of course:-

The original 1976 at 20p. February 1982 at 40p. February 1985 at 50p. July 1986 at 50p.

February 1988 at 50p. February 1989 at 50p. July 1990 at 75p. July 1988 at 50p.

February 1991 at 75p. July 1991 at 75p. February 1992 at 75p.

We accept stamps in payment.

Therefore about 6 copies of Pacific Coast Iris Lists available, send 7, 2nd class stamps.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.. SEND TO:-

Mrs. J.Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY. Make cheques payable to the S. S.& J. Group B.I.S. Thank you.

Member's Letters.

Evelyn Sharland writes from Farnborough in Kent, how much she enjoys reading the Newsletter, and everything has to wait until it is finished. (Pleased to hear it Evelyn, it makes my efforts worth while, thanks.) She went up to the B.I.S. Show and met B.I.S. folk there were some S.D.B's on show, but nothing like last year, due to the weather. All good wishes.

Elaine Hurrell wrote from South Brent, Devon, in May, to say that many new shoots were appearing in the garden, and she is wondering what Iris flowers will materialise in a few weeks time. She had received Graham Spencer's catalogue and was interested to get in touch with him in connection with her other love 'day lilies' as he had some listed. I hope you have managed to do this Elaine, they too are a lovely addition to the garden, and many Members (including me) grow them in company with Irises. Best Wishes.

Gerald Goddard of Chingford E. London wrote in late February, and sent us some Sibirica seeds, in answer to our pleas for more seeds, thank you Gerald. He says that one or two of his Siberians were showing signs of life, and that they needed rain to wash in a 'largesse of Cowpat' he had just fed them with. His front bed (at that time) was ablaze with I. unguicularis in all shades, including white. He brings the scented flowers into the house. At night he goes out with a torch to pick off the caterpillars which emerge under cover of the darkness, they gorge themselves on the flowers. So many people blame slugs, but it is these creepies that do the damage. (What a picture your Irises must look, so early in the year).

Hector Webster of Heanor Derbyshire has written since joining to say that with most of the seeds we sent he has had 100% germination, only two pots have not performed. He has sent to the Library for Currier's Book on Sibiricas, and would now like to obtain a copy. His way of growing from seed is to fill the pot with compost, spread the seed on top, firm, then cover with $\frac{1}{2}$ th grit, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch cover. Keep moist. Put into a propagator during the cold period of the year. The seed I received came during the hot weather, and did not need any heat. One of the pots that did not germinate, I have given one week cold treatment, to see if that will do the trick.

(Thank you Hector, one thing I would say is, do not give up on the pots of seeds that have not germinated, I leave mine, and sure enough, up they come the following Spring, or even later, this has happened time and time again over the years, I have come to the conclusion they thrive on a little neglect, or it could be Mother Nature telling us that she knows best. This year I have had excellent results, some seeds that I have never managed to germinate, with my 'Window Sill' propagators. If there is space I will write more about them later.)

Mark Cook of Lexington Kentucky wrote in April and again in May, so I have tried to combine the two letters. First the May one:- It has been an odd season here, after a warmer than usual winter, spring has been oddly cool, with occasional warm to hot days mixed in. On 2nd. April, 4.5 ins. of snow fell, followed by an 18 deg. F night. The snow laid on the ground for 3 days, many flowers were hurt by the cold. On 5th May and again on the 25th, it got down to 32 deg. F. It has also been somewhat drier than normal, however, yesterday morning (29th May) rain started falling this continued through the night. 3 ins. of water in my rain gauge, and it is still raining.

As for Irises, the Bearded Iris started blooming on the 19th April, peaked in mid-May, a few are still flowering. The Sibiricas opened on the 17th May and are at peak bloom now. I. pseudacorus showed itself on the 13th May and should last about another week. Louisianas started on the 20th, and are very nearly at their best now. I have two Spurias which are just showing colour now and the Japanese Irises have buds on them, they probably will be in bloom in about 10 days. I also have a few Sibirica seedlings which have yet to flower.

We held the Iris Show here on the 16th May, I had 15 entries, my stalk of 'Lady Friend' won the 'Queen of Show' award. ('Lady Friend' is an introduction of Joe Ghio (1981)). That was a nice surprise.

(Here I go to Mark's April letter, in which he has sent a leaflet entitled 'Youth Views' it is an essay competition giving Youth Members a chance to share their writing talents. Evelyn Jane Edgington of Lancaster Kentucky (Region 7.) wrote under the title 'My Most Interesting, Exciting or Satisfying Iris Experience', she tells that she is overjoyed when they are in full bloom. She has been raising Iris Gardens for 5 years. At the Iris Show one year 'Enthralling Pink', which bloomed at the end of a wishbone stalk, captured the Judges eye. She also had 'Double Scoop' which rebloomed in the Fall. In 1990 she was named as 'Queen of the Show' in the Youth Division at the Bluegrass Iris Show, also 1st and 2nd runner up and the Silver Medal Certificate for the most blue ribbons. As her 4-H demonstration the title was 'Put Color in Your Life--Plant Irises', she told about different parts of the iris, how to construct an Iris bed, and how to groom them for a Show. She won blue ribbons all the way at County and State Championships. Finally she had the opportunity to do her demonstration at National Level, receiving the first runner up in the Production Category.)

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Back to Mark's April letter in which he says that Jane Edgington grows some very fine Irises, He has been trading rhizomes with her for about 5 years, and find she works very hard on them.

Mark also sent photographs of 'Lady Friend', I would describe it as a lovely dark mahogany red, and 'Pal-Tec' a cross, delicate lavender blue. His two Sibirica seedlings, one is a deep purple self with a slight blaze on the falls, the other paler mauve with almost white on the falls, well marked, perhaps we shall hear more when he names them. Thank you also for the trouble you take in writing out a weather chart, I see that your highest rainfall was between the 13-19th May, but, as I have said before you really do have some rain in Kentucky.

Trevor Nottle from Australia is busy again writing another book, in fact it is at the Printers, when it is having the usual teething troubles, illustrations! After taking weeks to make lists of themes, gardens ideas, seasons, particular flowers etc, where they were to be found in Australia and New Zealand. It was given a very hasty going over. So Trevor has taken it over himself. I know this, that it will be good, I have your other ones to prove it, I still browse through them, WHEN I HAVE TIME... He is now exploring the idea of writing about gardens in sunny, dry climates, plants from California, the Mediterranean, Australia and South Africa. Best of Luck Trevor and don't work too hard!

Currier McEwen has written again to say that at the Board Meeting in Atlanta of the Society of Siberian Irises, it has been decided that they should go ahead with their thought of writing a new book on Siberian Irises. There will be a section devoted to Siberian Iris affairs in other countries, along the lines of what he wrote in the section on 'Around the World' in the JI Book. I would say that if you are a devoted Siberian grower and feel you have something to say, it should prove to be interesting to find out how well they grow in different areas. By the way you can read the account of his Japanese visit in the Review..

Michael Wickenden, Cally Gardens, Gatehouse of Fleet wrote that he had a good trip to New Zealand, not many Irises but lots of Patersonia and Diplarrena, pity Michael, do these grow O.K. in this country, or are they hot-house plants?

We welcome another new Member to our Group (rather late I'm afraid), it is:-

Mr. B.C. Baughen, 'Copper Beeches', North End Lane, DOWNE, ORPINGTON, Kent. BR6 7HG.

Berney, as he is known to his fellow Members in the Kent Group, has just taken over the job of Editor of the B.I.S. Year Book.

When he wrote Berney included a leaflet, saying that the B.I.S. has now produced a 1993 Calendar, which will be available in August Price £3 plus postage.

6 delightful watercolour paintings by Pauline Dean are featured, several are of species Iris, and the painting of I. schachtii, purple form was actually painted in Berney's garden. There is a leaflet telling you all about mailing etc. which will be sent to you if you write to him at the above address.

We hope you will have time to write and tell us about your garden and the Irises you grow..

Contacts in Societies & Groups.

President. B.I.S. Mr. B. Price, 'Falstaff Cottage', Barrow Green Rd. OXTED. Surrey. RH8 ONJ.

Secretary. B.I.S. Mr. P.R. Maynard, 43, Sea Lane, GORING-BY-SEA. WORTHING. Sussex. BN124QD.

Secty. Species Group. Mrs. M. Fraser, 'Barsham House' Roundwood, Bucklers Lane, KINGS LANGLEY. Herts. W148BE.

Secty. Kent Group. Mrs. M. Tubbs, 9, Lingfield Rd. WIMBLEDON COMMON. LONDON. SW190QU.

Secty. Mercia Group. Mrs. E. Wise, 197, The Parkway, IVER HEATH. IVER. Bucks. SLOORQ.

Secty. W&M Group. Miss Suz Winspear, 2/63, Park Ave. BARBOURNE. WORCESTER. WR3 7AJ.

Secty. Rem. Group. Mr. P. Allery, 199, Walsall Rd. ALDRIDGE. Nr. WALSALL. WS9 OBE.

B.I.S. Publications. Mr. N. Watkins, 31, Larkfield Rd. FARNHAM. Surrey. GU9 7DB.

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Editor of Siberian. Mrs. J. Hollingworth, 120, Sherwood Rd. EAST WILLIAMSTOWN. MI. 48895. U.S.A.

Editor Japanese I. Review. c/o C. Mahan, 7311, Churchill Rd. MCLEAN. Virginia. 22101. U.S.A.

Editor Soc for P.C.I. Almanac. Lewis O. Lawyer, 4333, Oakhill Rd. OAKLAND. CA. 94605. U.S.A.

Mr. F. Wickenkamp (Spuria), 10521, Bellarose Drive, SUN CITY. AZ. 85351. U.S.A.

Mr. Akira Horinaka, (Pres. J.I. Socy). 3-9 Tanamachi 6 Chome Minima-Ku OSAKA. Japan.

Seed Distribution List.

Seeds are 25p. per packet, if £2 ordered 9 packets are sent. Collections are specially priced..

Send your order to:-

Mr. David Trevithick, 86a, Grantham Rd. RADCLIFFE-on-Trent. NOTTINGHAM. NG12 2HY.

Make Cheques payable to the S. S. & J. Group B.I.S. please.

Marked (V.S.) very small quantity, (s). small. (m). medium. (p). plenty. Please add alternatives on the (vs) and (s).

LAEVIGATAE.

I. laevigatae blue (vs). laevigatae Alba (vs). I. laevigatae (s).

I. pseudacorus (p). I. pseudacorus Bastardii (p). Cream Forms (s). Primrose Monarch (s).

E. Turnipseed (p). Golden Queen (s). Ilgengold (vs). Sulphur Queen (vs).

Dave Niswonger's Collection. I pseudacorus, if all ordered £1.50p. otherwise 35p. per packet.

Yellow from white seed, Yellow from white seed, seed from white pseudacorus, Yellow from white seed, Yellow from white I. pseudacorus Alba. 5 packets of seeds marked exactly as they have been received. Not too many, they will be sold on the first come first served basis.

I. Versicolor (s). var. Kermisina (s). 'Cat Moussam' (p). 'Rosea' (vs). 'Claret Cup' (vs).

'Rougette' (s). White, lavender veins (vs). Pale Blue (vs). Mixed (s).

I. virginica (vs). Gerald Darby (vs).

ENSATAE.

I. ensata mixed (vs). American Hybrids (s). Diploids mixed (vs). Lactea (vs).

SERIES SIBIRICAE.

I. sibirica hybrids (vs). 40 chrs. mxd. (s). Alba (vs). White (vs). Acuta (vs). Etagon (vs).

Fourfold White (s). Laurenbuhl (vs). Lavender Bounty x (vs). Mountain Lake (vs). Orville

Fay (vs). Rejoice Always (vs). Silver Edge (vs). Tropic Night (vs). Wiltrud Gissel (vs).

Wine Wings (vs). Large blue Tets. (vs). Mixed diploids (vs).

I. chrysographes x chrysofors (vs). delavayii (vs).

SERIES SPURIAE.

I. orientalis (vs). orientalis white yellow falls (vs). carthalinae Alba (vs). carthalinae (s).

halophila (vs). crocea (vs). kerneriana (vs). sintenisii (vs). musulmanica (vs).

Spuria Mixed (yellow & brown) (s). Mixed (yellow brown and reds). (s).

Adobe Sunset (s). Barbara's Kiss (Violet lightly streaked pale yellow)(vs). Candle Lace (vs).

Elixir (Orange yellow)(vs). Finally Free (Mauve burgundy, F yellow blend burgundy.)(vs).

Now This (Mauve purple with brown influence, small deep yellow signal)(vs). Penny Bunker

(Pale orange yellow, F med. orange-yellow tinged gold)(vs). Universal Peace (vs). Violet

Bloomfield (vs).

SERIES CALIFORNICAE.

Californian (likely to be light colour)(vs). Las Olas (Lavender, turquoise wash on falls)(s).

Rhetts Memory (Purple F. purple with cream blaze (vs). Western Queen x Night Messenger (Red

black self.)(s). Banbury Beauty (Light lavender purple zone on falls)(vs).

douglasiana(s) macrosiphon collected (s). and P.C.I. Mixed. (P).

I. foetidissima Citrina (s). setosa (vs). setosa blue purple (vs). setosa blue (vs).

As you will see we only have very small quantities of some seeds, so if you decide to try seed sowing I would advise early ordering.

By the way, the 'Window Sill' method I have been using with such success is something I can only describe to you, you will have to seek them out for yourself. They have a long white plastic container, 21" x 5½", this has 4 pockets of 9 compartments, these are quite deep. underneath is a reservoir for the water to reach the roots, and over the top is the usual propagator roof with ventilators. The pockets make it easy to remove the seedlings without damaging the roots straight into your pot full of potting compost. Altogether the best idea I have seen for a long time. I do hope they have them in your area. If you like to write in I can give you the name.

Well, herewe are at the end, no more space, it has been quite a rush this time, so please forgive any errors or omissions, I will put them right in the February Newsletter. Many thanks to all who helped to make the Newsletter. See you again in 1993. Till then take care, oh and we have had some rain now, and how! everything has gone mad. A lovely double pink Rubus has flowered (10 years old). The Tree of Heaven has also flowered (20 years old), and a lovely Eucryphia (newly bought) is in full bloom, so exotic. The tomatoes however, want some sun. Still we can't have everything can we? At least the rain saved the Sibiricas. Cheers! Joan.