
The Review



The Group for Beardless Irises

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OFFICERS and REPRESENTATIVES of the REGIONS

Chairman: Mr Raymond Bomford

The Hills, Tanhouse Lane, Beoley, Redditch, Worcester B98 9AB

Secretary: Mrs Anne Blanco White

72 South Hill Park, London NW3 2SN

Tel: 020 7435 2700. Email: anne@blanco-white.demon.co.uk

Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Alun Whitehead

Aulden Farm, Aulden, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0JT

Tel: 01568 720129. Email: cat@auldenfarm.co.uk

Seed Distribution Officer: volunteer needed please

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

London area: Mrs Anne Blanco White, address above

Southeast region: Mrs Olga Wells

24 Westwood Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6BG

Email: olga.wells@tesco.net

Midlands: Mr Philip Allery

199 Walsall Road, Aldridge, Nr Walsall, West Midlands WS9 0BE

Email: philip.e.allery@btinternet.com

Northeast area: Miss Clare Dodsworth

42 Middleham Road, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL1 3DJ

Tel: 01325 488692. Email: clare.dodsworth@atosorigin.com

Southwest area: Mr Tim Loe

Landreyne Manor, Coads Green, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7LZ

Tel: 01566 782528 Email: loe@landreyne.fsnet.co.uk

Scottish region: Brita Carson, address as for editor

Sibiricas: Mrs Jennifer Hewitt

Haygarth, Cleeton St Mary, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster,

Worcs. DY14 0QU

Pacificas: Revd. Fr Philip Jones

Erdington Abbey, 49 Sutton Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6QJ

Spurias: Alun Whitehead, address above.

Japanese: Mrs Anne Blanco White, address above.

Laevigatas: volunteer needed please

Louisianas: volunteer needed please

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Raymond Bomford

It was an interim message last time because we thought that the Beardless Group and its newsletter had dwindled away. I left you with the somewhat strident message that if you had an item of interest "PLEASE TELL BRITA". I have not contacted Brita which may seem strange, but of all people to pressurise and cajole, the last of all is an Editor. You, the members, must do some of the work and if you do not feel inclined then atrophy will set in.

If only a few of you have sent a contribution this time that should be an encouraging start; you have done your little bit. All sorts of news about your plants, family and your enthusiasms are of interest. Above all else, speaking personally I like to know about your soil conditions and how you cope with them; which irises do well with you, particularly if they are less well known.

A major interest of mine, especially as I get older, is the raising of plants from seed. Last time, almost in a state of panic in not knowing how to arouse your interest, with Alun Whitehead's help, I sent two packets of seed with each newsletter delivered in Europe. Now with your assistance I would like to expand further. As you harvest any seed would you consider saving some for your fellow members?

With all due deference to the excellent work of Margaret Criddle, the BIS Seed Officer, I would like to start a request list of plants that you would like to grow from seed and/or divisions. As you know with many species your best results are obtained from using very fresh seed. I feel sure that many iris species have a rapid tail-off in germination rates unless they are stored in seed banks. It goes without saying that we do not have the resources of Kew Gardens. If you feel inclined to support this venture a simple list of the more unusual irises you grow, and the more unusual ones you would like to grow should be sent to me. Naturally, this cannot take immediate effect but with enthusiasm it will take effect gradually.

Let me recommend an interesting book "Breeding Ornamental Plants" edited by Dorothy & M. Brett Calloway—ISBN0—88192—482—2, published 2000 by Timber Press. At least a dozen plant families are mentioned including Siberian irises, written by the late Currier McEwen. It was a revelation that he regarded *I. 'White Swirl'* to be a such an important Siberian. The history of its chance discovery is most interesting. It was raised by Fred Cassebeer from no less than a bushel of iris pods, grown and collected by him. If you are interested in plants, this is a great example of enthusiasm.

New enthusiasms lead to greater longevity.

SECRETARIAL SECTION

Anne Blanco White

Dear Members, we are delighted to greet you again after this prolonged lapse of publication time and we hope it is the first stage in getting this Group back into proper working order. It is up to us all now to improve upon it and make it a really worth while and useful organisation. The Treasurer, of course, will be anxious to receive your subscriptions as soon as possible because until then it will be more than difficult to budget for the immediate future. Then Brita will be anxiously waiting for your written support: articles about your gardens and plants, the irises you have seen on your holidays, the problems which have arisen. Sadly, at present, we will have to ration any colour pictures so we can't guarantee to print your photographs, but line drawings and diagrams which can be reproduced in black and white will be useful.

And while there are accepted norms for cultivation of various types of iris, we are always interested in your methods for encouraging plants in what may appear to be quite unsuitable ground. Think of Mrs Warburg growing Californians on coral limestone; think of the *ensatas* bred to grow on very alkaline land. Remember that plants like *I. pseudacorus* are so widely dispersed across the globe that various forms have marked preferences for differing soils and think of *I. versicolor* with a wide range of chromosome counts so that if the specimen in your garden won't hybridise with a chosen plant, then get another variety and try it. Let us get a little excitement into growing and breeding beardless irises.

PLANTS AND SEEDS SALESMAN

In the past sales of plants and seeds have made a useful contribution to the Group's finances and we would very much like to start them up again. Margaret Criddle has done her best, for which we are very grateful but shuffling the Group seeds with those of the main Society has always been tricky and she would be glad to stand down. Philip Allery has offered to take over and would be a most enthusiastic candidate. However, under our nice, new Constitution we do need to give others an opportunity to put themselves forward. So, please, if any of you would like to undertake this work would you let the Hon. Secretary have your name before the end of December this year. If there are additional candidates then we will publish the names in the Spring Newsletter and members can vote. If there are no other candidates, then Philip will take over next year.

More plant offers will appear for sale in the Spring Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & TREASURER, 2004

Alun Whitehead

Firstly, I would like to welcome the following new members:
Mrs. Audrey Fox, Ty Cadno, Knucklas, Knighton, Powys LD7 1PR
Mrs Alison Bowles, 23 St Marks Close, Great Wyrley, Walsall WS9 8AD
Mr. D. R. Talbot, May Cottage, Silverleys Green, Cratfield, Halesworth,
Suffolk IP19 0QJ

We had intended to publish a full list of members with this Review, but in view of the recent subscription holidays in '03 & '04, a more accurate list will appear next year when subscriptions resume.

The subscription rate for 2005 is £4 and now is probably a good time to send your cheque to me at Aulden Farm, Aulden, Leominster HR6 0JT made payable to The Group for Beardless Irises.

With my Treasurer's hat on, I can report that despite the lack of subscription monies this year, the Group is not badly placed. Plants sales announced in the last Newsletter of the ex-Wisley Trial Irises kindly donated by Philip Allery and the late Dr. Currier McEwen have raised £260. £210 of this came from members (thank you) and £50 from a tray we put out on the Aulden Farm stand at the Malvern Spring Show. While this revenue is a one-off, it will cover the cost of this Review and also the mailing at the beginning of the year. Anyone who missed out on the offer is welcome to contact me, as I am sure that I can lay my hands on a few more divisions. I hope you will agree that the plants at £2.50 represented good value and that they will grow well for all those who participated.

Income and Expenditure for 2003

Income

Seed Sales	23.00	
Subscriptions	14.50	
Donations	41.00	
Interest	1.16	
sub-total		79.66

Expenditure

Newsletter	-153.60	
Net change in Funds Held	-£73.94	

At 31st December 2003 the balance at HSBC was £718.39

I am grateful to Chris Towers, the BIS Treasurer, for independently reviewing the Group's income and expenditure for 2003. A copy of his certificate can be sent to anyone interested.

2005 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

U.K. and Europe, please send your cheque for **£4.00**. Everywhere else **£4.50** payable to ***The Group for Beardless Irises*** for your subscription 2005 to: **The Membership Secretary, GBI, Aulden Farm, Aulden, Leominster HR6 0JT.**

This subscription covers all members at the same address but only one mailing will be received.

Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address. We will publish a list of members periodically. Please indicate if you would prefer that your details are not included.

Members can also pay online into account number **1130 4852 at HSBC, Aldridge. Sort Code 40-08-14** but we need to make sure it is clear whose subscription is being paid. Once you have paid online please email Alun with the **name of the account** and **name of the member** paying their sub. to Alun Whitehead : alun@auldenfarm.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Brita Carson

I didn't want to lose the GBI newsletter so I volunteered for this job without any thought to the quality of work that had gone before me. This is no easy act to follow for a mere, less than knowledgeable, iris addict. Philip has been a very successful editor building up an extensive personal knowledge of iris species and cultivars and also cultivating many friends. Looking through previous newsletters I see he has also been Treasurer and Membership Secretary. In fact his involvement with the Iris World stretches back for decades. Having many friends in high places has resulted in great articles from experienced hybridisers and enthusiastic amateurs. Not an angel altogether, he has bullied lesser mortals like me to get my area report finished. But very kindly, he has promised to continue giving us his time and help whenever and wherever it is needed, so no retirement for him yet.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the trouble to contribute to this first "Review" and I look forward to more articles to help all those of us who would like to grow better irises or irises better.

Membership is a concern at the moment. We need more members. I am going to send out letters to nursery owners to see if they would consider holding 'an iris event' at their nursery to recruit new members and also sell iris plants. It would be a great help if any member, living nearby could attend to do a spot of recruiting. (see page 17)

Do you have any answers to the question of recruiting more members. We need 'quality' members—those who will want to stay in the Group and be really interested in iris plants. Could the solution rest with us? Can we try to promote the Group ourselves whenever the opportunity arises. Our own enthusiasm is extremely powerful in getting others hooked.

Identification is a problem for new iris members especially those of us unable to go to Shows easily. How can you learn what a flower looks like until you grow it. But do you like it enough to want to grow it? Berney's CDs (bottom of page 9) will be a great help and lets hope for more to follow but meantime can we have recommendations for books, catalogues, and favourite websites to answer this question. I have the library and for a SAE, I will send a list of all the publications that are available to borrow.

Much as I hate going on about the weather, this summer hasn't been enjoyable for gardening. May and June were so hot and dry; it was my dread that we were in for a repeat of summer 2003 when it was too hot outside for most of the day. But then came the rain in July and then in August and then September and it was never ending. We had the dreadful landslides at Boscastle in Cornwall. Here the A9 had two landslides causing long delays and rerouting up the west coast tourist trails.

It seems essential to have a go at growing every type of beardless iris to beat the weather and get the best out of the iris world so that we have irises for wet summers and irises for summers of drought. Could this encourage writers to send articles on all the types of beardless irises that they grow.

Please send any dates of events for the Spring Newsletter before the end of February and articles and reports for the "Review" before the end of September to the Editor and Librarian: Brita Carson
15 Kellyburn Park, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7AD
Tel: 01259 740312. Email: brita@carson1489.fsnet.co.uk

In Memoriam

Sadly, I have to advise of the death of Ray Jeffs. He had been an active member of the BIS for over fifty years and was so well known that most members will have their own memories of him. Many will remember him for his judging at the shows, or for giving talks, or for his lifting and distributing the surplus plants from RHS Wisley. All these helped to promote irises. I, like many, will miss his experience and advice. Above all else, I will remember his enthusiasm.

An obituary will appear in the BIS Yearbook.

Alun Whitehead

NEWS from WISLEY, 2004
Late Spring Show, May 1,2.

This was no year to have a Late Spring Show. The season had been cold and dark interspersed with odd weeks of hot sunshine so it was not surprising that there were few beardless irises although exhibitors did what they could.

The outstanding plant was *I. fulva* and it caused a lot of comment mainly for its colour. As a general rule we do not advise that Louisianas be grown in pots simply because their first reaction is 'don't fence me in'. The flowers here were undersized but the grower was awarded a Cultural Commendation for having done it and the plant has been put forward for an AGM. For some reason it has never been given one although *I. fulva* has. It is certainly a survivor and has been growing around Britain for a couple of centuries now though its taste for very wet conditions limits its garden range.

There were several pretty PCIs of which the best were 'Peacock Pavane' and a creamy seedling from 'Ring o' Roses x 001' (Ghio seed). 'Banbury Beauty' put in an appearance, too. Among the species were two forms of *I. lactea*, *I. typhifolia* and Evansias: *I. confusa*, *I. variegata* and *I. aff. confusa* 'Martyn Rix'.

The Summer Show June 7,8

I'm sorry this will be rather a scrappy report. I did make proper notes, but somehow seem to have left them in the hall from where they must have been swept into the rubbish bins.

One result of the poor weather this year was that beardless irises were predominant. Even so, it was just as well that Tomas Tamberg brought over a vast quantity of exhibits – in fact his spikes made up about 25% of those shown and three were very interesting plants. Conspicuous was a tetraploid hybrid of a dark red sibirica with typhifolia which retains the original shape of typhifolia in dark blue, but a taller spike and larger flower to be registered as 'Drei Quellen'. A diploid Sibtosa combining a sibirica and *I. setosa platyrincha* was interesting, but the Sino-sib x *I. lactea* was lovely with lilac veined white falls, more heavily veined standards and lilac style arms.

There was a nice display of PCIs in many cultivars. Indeed, most of the beardless exhibits showed a wide range whether diploids or tetraploids: there were eighteen different ones among the Spender Challenge Trophy class winners. Sibirica clumps don't need to be large to offer one spike for a mixed vase. Spurias and Louisianas were absent, but there was an

interesting collection of Dutch iris cultivars including one called 'Black Beauty' (I think, but I'm open to correction) which was a surprising colour. The veining on the falls and standards was so heavy and so dark as to appear solid black, although the ground was creamy.

There were three exhibits for the Runciman Cup: a display of iris development by Tomas Tamberg; an informative layout about irises and their requirements by Berney Baughen and a brief survey of *I. belemcanda* which hasn't featured at a show for decades, by myself with photographs taken by Adrian Worsley.

R.H.S. Plant and Trials Awards Leaflets

Many of us collect and grow other plants besides irises, so the new booklets being issued by the RHS may be of interest. At present there are only Delphinium, Hardy Lavenders, Shrubby Potentillas and *Spiraea japonica* with coloured leaves, in circulation. There are lists of cultivars available in this country, thumbnail photos as a real guide to colour, an explanation of the trials and their criteria and cultivation comments. Further details on www.rhs.org.uk/trials or direct from the R.H.S. An iris one will be issued in due course.

The DAMP-LAND TRIALS

The current plantings have, on the whole, done well and it goes without saying that the versicolor hybrids have been positively obstreperous. As a result some policy decisions have had to be taken. In future we hope that the ensatas can be kept separate from the encroaching hybrids. You may remember that *I.* 'Chance Beauty' was suspected of having quite overwhelmed the opposition in the previous trial and was banished to the greater spaces of the gardens.

I. pseudacorus 'Sun Cascade' has performed as you would expect of a pseudacorus and 'Holden's Child', 'Monique's Daughter', 'Appointer' and 'Rowden Sonata' all did well. A slight problem has arisen with 'Dark Aura' where the outstanding merit is in its aubergine coloured leaves in early spring at a time when the trials are not visited by the JIC. These change gradually to plain green during the season when they will be regularly visited. However, since this colouring will be a strong supporting factor if it is decided to give the plant an AGM, it is important that committee members should know something about it. Luckily the digital camera has been invented (just for this purpose?) and so the Trials staff have been asked to photograph the plant at the best time. In fact, it seems likely that this practice will occur with all the reblooming irises which are apt to spread themselves over the later part of the year and so are difficult for the JIC to keep an eye on. We can ask for this with a clear conscience partly

because the RHS are keeping their own photographic records of cultivars and partly because of the simple and compact filing arrangements.

One other decision proved necessary: *laevigata* irises cannot be included in this trial. The generous irrigation of the beds makes it sound as if they might be suitable, but this is not so. For one thing there is no watering from late summer until the growing season is well established in the following year. Wisley is strictly rationed in the amount of water it may take from the river and the Portsmouth Field has full exposure to wind and sun. A story of Sidney Linnegar's underlines this. As a boy he was given a *laevigata* plant and put it on the edge of a pond, but not in the water. The plant failed to flourish and after a while he dug it up and put it right in the water. It responded enthusiastically and spread over the edge of the pond onto the land again, but it kept roots in the water from where supplies could be moved to all the land based plant.

OTHER TRIALS

The beardless sector have been a little worrying. Accustomed to odd bald areas where the plantings have either been thinned or have died off, but this year there did seem to be a large quantity of lime chips around the surface. Possibly they have come from the mushroom compost which is extensively used for mulching and the JIC has asked for pH checks to be done. The PCIs do not need to be grown in peat, but they are not usually bred for limestone areas and this may account for their very poor performance on the Portsmouth Field. The *spurias* and *sibiricas*, too, are rather patchy. In September there was a poor showing of remontant *sibiricas* which may have been due to the earlier hot dry spell followed by the dull weather.

All the Pretty Pictures

May we remind you all that there is a BIS produced CD of 100 Siberian and Sino-Siberian Irises which you may be interested to buy. There will be no excuse for not knowing what colour your exhibit ought to be and if you need a new one to complete the rainbow in your garden this is the place to start. The pdf format makes the CD playable on Windows and Apple Macs even using Linux or Unix.

Both this CD and the earlier 100 Modern Tall Bearded Irises, each cost £10.00 and from either Berney Baughen, Copper Beeches, North End Lane, Downe, Orpington, Kent BR6 7HG, or Hilary Towers, 40 Willow Park, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5NF.

Post and packing for both CDs – 50p to UK; £2.50 overseas.
Profits to BIS.

SOME BEARDLESS IRISES ON BRISTOL CLAY AND BARNEHURST SAND

Chris Rose

I have grown beardless irises of several groups both on an allotment in Bristol which has heavy clay soil, and in my parent's garden in Barnehurst, South East London, which at best has a foot of topsoil over pure, rather soft sand. Some miscellaneous observations that may be of use to other growers are recounted below.

With the exception of *I. spuria* subsp *maritima* obtained at a Species Group plant sale, and *I. unguicularis*, all the others have been grown from BIS seed.

I have not grown as many PCIs as I would have liked, largely because of time and space limitations. Those that I have were sown and started off in an unheated lean-to, a few seeds to a largish pot. However, given their reported sensitivity to the timing of planting out, dividing and replanting, I would now sow one seed per pot after I lost some in the past because I missed this 'deadline' and they soon grew into one another, became thoroughly congested and declined to beyond the point of no return.

Those I still have are all growing at Barnehurst. They are on the south-facing edge of a "terrace" with around a foot drop to the next level, so drainage can be presumed to be good. Indeed, they are situated in one of the higher parts of the garden, which is near the top of a hill. I acted on the advice I had read, which suggested light shade. They are planted around the marginal canopy of a large *Pittosporum tenuifolium* which being reasonably open and twiggy provides an incomplete rain shadow, as well as some protection from easterly winds. In this latter it is aided by the far more solid *Rhododendron ponticum* beyond it. To the south a *Ceratostigma willmottianum*, which is a small fairly airy and twiggy shrub, and a post-and-wire trained blackberry (losing most of its foliage in winter) provide some shading from the full force of the summer sun. There are several varieties of mints in sunken buckets to the west side and a pathway to the north. My father probably puts a bit of water on them with a hose occasionally, but otherwise they look after themselves. Flowering is reasonable, but they could probably do with a bit more sun to give of their best.

Setosas and versicolors were at first grown on my allotment in Bristol. They got off to a good start, making nice plants with good flower but soon began to suffer. The main problem was starting into growth earlier than sibiricas and that new growth was repeatedly and heavily damaged by molluscs. Vigorous *I. pseudacorus* seedlings coming up behind them

probably didn't help much. The setosas were lost. Most of the versicolors were salvaged in the nick of time, and are recovering in pots sunk round the edge of my small pond in Barnehurst where slugs are not a problem - but they will soon need more leg room if they are to flower well again.

Two tetra-sibtosas (an un-numbered supplementary item from the BIS 1990-1 seed list) were rather less affected, but chunks of both were taken to Barnehurst a couple of years ago, where only one has so far flowered because it possibly needs more sun than they get at present. Both have flowers of a rather flat pinkish colour.

The loss of Currier McEwen and sibiricas prompts me to mention the gold-edged tetraploids that have grown from his T75/83 "first with gold edge" seed which was offered in the BISSJ Group seed list of February 1993, costing the princely sum of 30p. These were planted out on one of my allotments and flowered for the first time in 1995. They did have narrow gold edges round a dark violet-blue ground, conspicuously so in bud, after which there is some fading of the gold rim. 57 F2 seedlings have been grown to flowering from four of these original plants, which were open pollinated. Most offspring have exhibited some degree of gold edge. There had been no other tets around to "interfere" with their own pollen. A couple have large, irregular, white marbling under falls, but they seem less vigorous than most of the others. The marbling doesn't show from above, but is noticeable in bud. A couple of the F2 plants were whites. There are usually 3 to 5, sometimes 6 and once 7 flowers per stem.

The aim has been to retain those with the flowers that sit clear of the leaves; have the most prominent and fairly fade-resistant gold edges, and that are least prone to rain damage. But because a lot of the plants are nice and very similar, they are now rather close together causing inter-mingling of the flowers. I am often away whilst they are flowering so rather fewer have been weeded out and composted than should have been the case by now.

All the small spurias were initially grown in Bristol. Those from seed were started in pots, then planted out on a slightly raised allotment bed made of garden compost with some subsoily material in it, placed on top of a very subsoily terrace on a south-facing slope.

I. kerneriana seed from Threave Gardens, Galloway, in May 1990 was sown in August that year and started coming up in December. Reasonable flowering for the past few years in Bristol, but possibly inhibited by the shade cast by trees that have grown from old plum/damson suckers. A seedling left in a pot for some time and later planted out in Barnehurst has yet to flower a couple of years on, but pieces cut away from Bristol flowering clumps were planted there last spring. Obviously OK on clay,

where new growth (it's deciduous) seems not to suffer from mollusc damage.

I. spuria subsp *maritima* has flowered best on the Bristol clay, though from memory has been a bit erratic in performance even here, which could be due to it having become a bit too shaded. A piece was detached without lifting the clump and transferred to Barnehurst, flowering well on the sand to begin with, but not so heavily of late.

I. sintenisii, like *maritima*, is evergreen and needs the old, dead leaves "combed" out of it. A number of seedlings were raised from Item 243 of the 1990-1 BIS seed list. Sowing took place in December 1991 and the seedlings emerging in September 1992. They weren't planted out until October 1993 and the first flowered in June 1995. Two whole clumps were later lifted and moved to Barnehurst. Done in February, with a nice chunk of clay sticking tight to the roots they don't even notice. These have continued to perform well in full sun and, in one case, a very well drained position. This is a nice little well-behaved species of use in the rock garden or for edging, and can provide valuable foliage contrast with other small to medium-sized plants for twelve months of the year.

Spurias are reported to be heavy feeders, so it may be that those that have done well on the sand might simply have benefited (so far) from having their roots embedded in a lump of clay when they were moved ...

I have three varieties of *unguicularis*, all in Barnehurst. 'Walter Butt' is in very poor soil (i.e. ideal) in a narrow raised bed on the north east corner of the house where it gets summer sun quite late in the day. 'Straight' *unguicularis* is in a south-facing raised bed, but early in the day is shaded by the house, and later by other plants. 'Mary Barnard' is in an exposed position outside the west end of a small greenhouse.

'Walter Butt' has tended to be flowering strongly by early November, though may start by early October and continues into February. 'Mary Barnard' has been recorded as starting in November or December, and flowering heavily in January and February, but has suffered more from molluscs chewing at the flowers than the others, probably on account of its location. *I. unguicularis* has been noted as coming into flower in January. Surrounded by winter-flowering jasmine and for a better colour contrast and co-occurrence of flowering, it is clear that 'Mary Barnard' would have been better here, with *Hedera helix* 'Goldheart' for added effect.

Old 'Walter Butt' had to be dug up this year, having hit a concrete surround on two sides, piled up on itself, been undermined by an ant nest and invaded by suckers from a double white Scotch Briar. Only some thin stringy things passed for roots and the whole lot looked pretty

dead - until some of the dead material at the rhizome tips was peeled away to reveal the little green tips of some new leaves. The rose was constrained by sinking some sheeting. Some of the better bits of the iris were replanted and regrew. Several other pieces were taken to Bristol for potting up, where they have since recovered well. Back in Barnehurst, the parents were supposed to be watering the plant fairly frequently, but even if they did, it suffers from being in a bit of a rain shadow, and half the circle of rhizomes looked dead again by the end of the summer. But, lo and behold, by December they were all back in leaf again. Meantime, live pieces are still being found in the compost heap despite having been buried in it for several months. Moral: don't *give* up on your dead unguicularis. You may find that it's not dead 'til it's really dead ...

PACIFIC COAST IRISES REPORT

Philip Jones.

In this part of Birmingham the Pacific Coast Irises started flowering at the end of April and then after about three weeks a very hot spell saw them all in flower and by the beginning of June there was little left. I had rather ambitious plans to hybridise but unfortunately other duties got in the way. I missed out. By the time I had arranged my cotton wool on a matchstick the show was almost over and the curtains were coming down on the last encore. However it did give me reason to think more decisively what I was trying to achieve and specifically on the peculiar character of Pacific Coast Irises.

I have had Victor Cohen's *A Guide to the Pacific Coast Irises* for many years and recently I have added the publications from America of Lee W. Lenz. *Hybridisation and Speciation in the Pacific Coast Iris* and *A Revision of the Pacific Coast Irises*. These aren't expensive publications and they do give a clear idea where the different species grow. I received seed of species irises two years ago from the American Society – SPCNI : Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris. I now have small plants of *I. tenax*, *I. douglasiana*, and *I. innominata*. *I. tenax* does not tend to last for very long but it has narrow foliage which I particularly like. *I. douglasiana*, with wide foliage, is the most adaptable; it grows out in the open and towards the coast. *I. innominata*, like most of the other Pacific Coast Irises, prefers a bit of shade from shrubs and trees. These last two species are most important; most vigorous with variations of different coloured flowers and have crossed with other species in the wild.

Lenz points out that the specific characteristics determining one species from another are of interest to the botanist but are unlikely to excite the iris enthusiast. The shape of the perianth tube between the seed pod and the base of the flower is an important factor and also the

arrangement of the spathes that protect the seed pod. Now these are not things that have me running indoors for my camera. I am interested in the flower, the foliage and the overall structure of the plant. Lenz says that *in the same species* there can be considerable variation of flower and some plants may be almost stemless. With Pacific Coast Iris hybrids you never know what you are going to get.

A couple of years ago I had what I now realise was an *I. munzii* hybrid among my new seedlings. At the time I presumed it was a stranger from some other section of the iris world. It looked nothing like anything I had ever seen before. It was big with wide open foliage and a large flower. The flower was a rather unpleasant, over the top bi-colour and I binned it. I now regret this because there are some unusual colours, particularly pure blue, in this species. However, in the wild it is only found in mild damp locations and outside of this type of area most plants tend to get killed off by frost. My plant had survived one winter and it might have survived a few more.

It is generally agreed that the hybrids are more vigorous than the species. Also there does seem to be a difference between smaller and taller plants. In all of the smaller plants that I have the flowers stand clear of the foliage. There is no problem of the foliage growing over the flowers. In fact the foliage seems rather sparse. Of the taller plants *I. innominata* is singled out and given special mention. This perhaps sums up what the attraction is all about. Lenz says “it is one of the most delightful species in the Californicae with its narrow, deep green, grass-like foliage and relatively large attractive flowers.” And Beth Chatto in her *Unusual Plants* catalogue lists Pacific Coast Irises as *innominata hybrids*. To quote: “From large clumps of narrow, dark, evergreen leaves, the flowers, like delicate orchids on thin stems, come in all shades: white, yellow, mauve, violet, or all combined. Flowers in May-June. Has beautiful curving seed-pods. Height 30cm (12 ins)”.

Please write or email me with any questions for our ‘specific’ experts. I hope we will be able to afford the postage for more pages next year and for more colour photos. Please send me ideas for the ‘Review’ or suggestions for articles you would like to read.

I now have the library if anyone would like to see the list of what is available to borrow. To borrow only costs the price of postage both ways—from me to you and from you back to me!!

ENSATA REPORT

Anne Blanco White

Sadly, there isn't one which is not really the proper way to start things off. My own plants were firmly on strike this year and I missed the Wisley display partly because I was away on holiday and partly because, having damaged my leg, there was no way I was going to try marching up Battleston Hill and marching down again.

So let's review some basics. Ensatas don't need to be grown in peat. Please do not use it. It takes aeons to lay down peat and very little time to wreck it. There are very few plants that seriously need to grow on peat and most of them are endangered species. Ensatas do not need to be grown in water. If you have a natural pond the plants can be grown in the soil around it where they have a high water table and even in drought conditions access to water as their roots follow it down through the ground. In an artificial pond, the plants should be in containers, but if they are there for any length of time then the top of the container should be a couple of inches above water level. Very small ponds always need aerating. If you have the resources you can follow the practice of Japanese water gardens and sink your pots when the spikes are showing colour and then remove them after flowering. When used as patio plants through the growing season, then stand the pots on saucers and keep topped up with rain water.

In this connection it is worth remembering that ensata cultivars come in two main sizes – dwarf and standard; they also come as diploids and tetraploids and the variations in the flowers are legion. Catalogues give an indication, but try a nursery to see what's on offer.

Finally we need new candidates for the trials. Pollen daubers forward, please. Remember that ensatas will hybridise with a surprising number of other species. Currently there are a number of pseudatas around from Mr Shimizu of Japan. They seem to be diploids and are very pretty. Then versatas have real possibilities, too, with nice large flowers. If you think you may have worthwhile seedlings, they can be exhibited at various Society and Group shows for judges approval.

Incidentally, Mr Shimizu, who seems to spend his summer holidays haunting stands of ensatas in Japan has come across a mutant which, instead of conventional purple, is a rather nice pink and appears to have white style arms with smallish lightly veined standards.

The BRUMMITT TROPHY

This is a painting of *I. 'Banbury Beauty'* by Pauline Dean and was awarded this year to Nora Scopes for her PCI '*Peacock Panache*'. This was

registered in 1995, 33cm (13") tall; breeding is *I. Spring Daze* crossed by an unknown. The standards are light claret in colour with white falls edged deep claret with a round yellow signal surrounded by fine lines. A very striking plant and those of you who know Nora will be pleased to hear that she was able to attend the AGM in person for the presentation.

‘CHANCE BEAUTY’

Jennifer Hewitt

This is an under-appreciated hybrid bred by Dr Jack Ellis, who pollinated *Iris pseudacorus* by an *I. ensata* and registered this seedling in 1988. Whilst it has some similarity to ‘Roy Davidson’ (raised by Ben Hager in the USA from open-pollinated seed from ‘Holden Clough’) I find it even more vigorous and the larger flowers are more striking. Though the Japanese bred ‘Hatsuho’ (registered 1999, *I. pseudacorus* x *I. ensata* ‘Sakigake’) is, the raiser believes, the first such hybrid to be pod and pollen fertile, ‘Chance Beauty’ produces abundant, viable, bee set seed (but see below for a health warning) and may have been raised earlier.

The foliage is strongly upright and a brilliant glossy green, a good feature in itself. Robust 91 cm (36 in) stems carry 6 or more flowers, each 12-15 cm (5-6 in) across. Tiny standards are pale yellow with faint brownish veining and this colouring is repeated in the style arms whose crests are similarly veined. The striking, flared and arched falls are deeper yellow with bright chestnut-brown veins radiating from the unmarked, brilliant gold signal which has a sharply defined edge of richer red-brown.

It is, of course, a plant for moist (and probably acid or neutral) soil and at Cleeton it is almost embarrassingly vigorous – I have to remove pieces before it overwhelms ‘Fair Chance’ which grows slowly nearby. ‘Fair Chance’ was also raised by Jack Ellis, from the same or a similar cross, and registered in 1995. It has yellowish leaves in spring which become greener as summer progresses, and has not yet bloomed here; the flowers are described as pale cream buff, the falls veined maroon. Is it fertile, I wonder? Sadly, I have lost ‘Hatsuho’, whose flowers sound like those of ‘Chance Beauty’, but hope to obtain it again to compare all three hybrids.

The vigour of ‘Chance Beauty’ also caused a problem of sorts in an earlier *Iris ensata* Trial at Wisley. I seem to remember it rapidly outgrew its space and threatened its neighbours. Another potential problem, though easily dealt with, is the quantity of seed it produces; pods must be watched and harvested promptly (or the stems be cut off as soon as flowering finishes) as seed that falls into the parent clump and germinates produces plants which, until they flower, can masquerade as the parent and even be passed on to new homes as the real ‘Chance Beauty’. Don’t

allow this, but if it has, examine the leaves for differences; the rogue seedlings will probably have less glossy foliage. Should they bloom, the flowers will be very similar to *I. pseudacorus*.

You will gather that, highly as I esteem 'Chance Beauty', disposing of some divisions to good homes would be welcome. Any GBI member who would like a piece for £3.00, postage included, please send a cheque made payable to me. Profits will go to the Group.

Jennifer Hewitt, Haygarth, Cleeton St Mary, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster DY14 0QU.

"Dear Nursery Owner,

Next year, on a date of your choice - perhaps a less busy day of the week; morning or afternoon; in a month when you think you would have a good display of irises - would you be prepared to talk about, teach, lecture, entertain or just show off the irises that you stock? The talk need not last long but perhaps you could invite questions and generally discuss aspects of irises that you find interesting and that would be beneficial to growing them. It would be very helpful if you could make a display for easy viewing and discussion.

In return for the increased sales that I hope you would get, I need your help. I would like you to try recruiting new members for the British Iris Society and in particular, The Group for Beardless Irises. I would provide the forms for joining both. If there is already a member of the Group in your area, they will hopefully be on hand to help out and encourage new members.

Advertising will be essential. Firstly, I will be delighted to advertise your event in the next edition of the Newsletter which will go out in Spring. A poster for the event, in place early next season, would help to gain maximum publicity. This means a commitment on your..."

This is just part of a letter to a nursery owner. If any member knows any nursery owner who might be interested would you please let me know. I have trawled the Plant Finder looking for possibles but a recommendation from you would be a great help to me. Newer members who are just starting to recognise irises could benefit from this type of visit and I would hope they would support that nursery in return.

Please send any dates and times of local meetings or any other information to go in the spring newsletter before the end of February. Please send iris articles and reports for the Review before the end of September to the Editor.

SPURIA TAKEOVER

Alun and Jill Whitehead

This piece was due to be about Japanese Irises, but to be honest they performed poorly for us this year. We rely on nature to provide the watering of the iris ditch in the spring and some years this can be a mistake. 2004 was such a year. Now our intention with Japanese Irises was always to try them without any mollycoddling to see just how good some will do in the normal border. Whilst this is a good aim, our visitors want to see what they are like if growing well, so some compromise must occur. A new automatic watering system of some kind will go into the ditch in 2005 and if we get time a second area for JIs will be started in a more open part of the garden.

So without further ado we can push onto Spurias. The leaves of the cultivars we grow start pushing through with the autumn rains. So with this wet September, they should be through earlier this year. Over the winter period they have attractive clean foliage and by the time of the Malvern Spring show in May this had become sufficiently tall and interesting for Sarah Raven, one of the BBC presenters, to want to do a piece about them for their foliage alone. The director was only interested in flowers and so a few seconds about a deadnettle occurred instead.

It is not until the earlier displays of the PCIs, the bearded and the Siberians have finished, that the spurias think about flowering. By this time many are about 5 or 6 feet tall. One or two varieties may need staking. We were lucky this year and only 'La Senda' was a bit wayward. (We didn't actually stake it, we just accepted the novel diagonal feature!) The flowers are similar in shape to Dutch Iris, but the scale is often larger. They do not seem to have a long flowering display, but in late June they make a significant contribution to the garden. We visited a garden last year, Stockton Bury, which had used a brown spuria dotted here and there as a highlight, whilst a stand of *Eremurus* 'Cleopatra' filled in a larger area and a few Japanese iris flowered around a pond.

This brings us to one of the most exciting things about spurias; the colours. Although there is not a huge colour range (white, yellow, red/brown, blue and almost pink), the flowers can be very striking. 'Cinnabar Red' was probably one that was most commented upon. Here *red* is a bit of a misnomer. The standards are mahogany red (ie brown in most lights) that contrast markedly with the glowing yellow signal on the falls and which merge into the surrounding colour. This is an exciting effect and draws the eye from some distance. Another striking flower in a different way is 'Eleanor Hill'. Here the standards are amethyst/violet and the falls are golden yellow flecked delicately with violet. Of the purer

patterns, 'Arts Alive' was my favourite. This is violet-blue, near blue in some lights with almost a translucent quality that I find irresistible. Another commented on was 'Imperial Bronze'. This technically has a yellow flower with fine brown lines, but the overall effect lives up to its name handsomely. Other varieties we are growing satisfactorily (a very dangerous statement) are 'Gold Mania' (golden yellow), 'Blue Lassie' (a good blue), 'Highline Amethyst' and 'Betty Cooper' (a violet-blue with a large gold yellow centre to the falls). 'La Senda' deserves a special mention, as it is the only cultivar we grow with pastel colours. The standards are lavender-pink and the falls are yellow in the centre changing to almost lavender-pink on the edges. There is no marked signal and so the effect is quite gentle.

So how much room do you need? 'La Senda' in three years has made a clump three feet across, planted from a single small rhizome. The American Iris Bulletin refers to a clump 12 feet across after 25 years - pieces having been removed over that time to meet demand. (July 2004 p83) We try to give our plants a good retentive soil in the sun, though 'La Senda' currently grows beneath an old apple tree. They can take a year to settle in and so a bit of patience is needed.

After flowering all the cultivars we grow enter a dormant phase as the soil dries in summer. To reduce stress, we then trim the leaves, which are dying back. However, with this wetter August many remained quite green. Root growth starts in the autumn with the new leaves and so by spring a healthy root system is established. If you are buying a plant in growth, this is a good time to check for healthy roots.

There are many more varieties we do not yet grow but hope to increase our stock gradually. We would encourage everyone who can accommodate this size of plant to have a go.

P.S. Seed has been collected from the cultivars mentioned, plus one or two more. If anyone is interested in growing spurias, I am happy to send out a generous packet for a small donation of £1.50. Why not send it with your subscription!

Please do not cause us any embarrassment by applying for seeds or plants that are on offer if you are not a fully paid up member.

SOUTH-EAST REPORT

Olga Wells

“South-east” report is rather over-egging things as, apart from trips to RHS Wisley my viewing of beardless irises has been confined to the Maidstone area of Kent.

The PCIs continue to grow and flower fabulously up on the brick earth of the allotment. In the garden, conditions are somewhat drier, and the soil lighter, but the PCIs, if not increasing greatly, have held their own and flowered pretty well. Some new seedlings from Bennett Jones’s ‘Pacific Rim’ had been grown on in pots. Selections were planted out in August – contrary to the usual advice. However, August ‘04 was tropical in Kent, sunshine alternating with terrific downpours of rain. I had a nice new semi-shaded patch waiting, so in they went. They are still looking nice and green six weeks later. The Siberians fared differently. Apart from ‘Soft Blue’ and ‘Lady Vanessa’, both of which performed superbly, the mature clumps put up few flowering stems, if any. ‘Caesar’, which was a magnificent sight and full of bloom in 2003, failed to put up a single flowering stem in ‘04. I put this down to the long, and ferociously hot summer of last year. The soil had shrunk away from the clumps and left the fibrous rhizomes just proud of the ground. They could have done with a thick mulch in the autumn, but didn’t get it. There was plenty of foliage but only 2 crosses were actually achieved by the end of the season.

The spurias behaved as per usual. New plantings did not flower, as expected. Old faithfuls *Iris monnieri*, *I. crocea* and ‘Blue Lassie’ flowered with their usual enthusiasm, and, finally, ‘Destination’ deigned to put up a flowering stem after about five years of sulking. The wetland irises are kept in pots and shallow watering trays of one sort or another since there is no pond, ditch or damp ground suitable for them in the garden. The seedlings from ‘Aldridge Prelude’ on the allotment had to be rescued after last summer’s drought and are also now doing well in pots. Again there were very few flowers, which I put down to neglect on my part as there was no time to split and repot everything... something I must give priority to next year.

The beardless irises were easier to manage this year, even if there were fewer flowers, as the downpours of rain obviated the necessity of dragging the hose out every evening. The bearded irises bloomed fantastically after last summer’s baking but were so difficult to keep clear of the amazing amount of weed growth we have had this year. The beardless irises really do make better plants as far as general garden appeal and ease of maintenance are concerned.

The LONDON YEAR

Anne Blanco White

Quite as bad as everyone else's. Admittedly plants have suffered from the fact that I couldn't get them properly dealt with last year after the drought so a poor flowering season. Indeed the foetidissimas which did have special treatment are in dire condition and I don't know why. Something, and I suspect small slugs or snails, seems to have chewed away the outer surface of stems and seed pods so that one plant appeared to have white 'seeds' when the pod split, but they have shrunk and are clearly useless. Flowering was poor too, though one or two plants tried gallantly. The Evansias flowered extravagantly as usual, but failed to set much in the way of seeds because of the rain. If the weather is very wet the pollen goes soggy and can't fertilise the plant. One oddity of this summer's weather has been the astonishing width of some of the Evansia leaves resulting I suppose from alternating heavy rain and hot sun. One Louisiana, name uncertain but possibly 'Clyde Redmond', flowered happily and produced several pods, but failed to set any seeds in them. The Reticulatas did quite nicely in the spring, but again in spite of hand pollinating took no interest in seed pods. One way and another, in fact, this garden will have to do much better next year.

NORTH-EAST REGION

Clare Dodsworth

This has been a very hectic year. I bought a house at the end of last year and because I am still working on it, I haven't moved in yet. There is a lot of work to do and it has taken up any free time so unfortunately my irises have had to take a bit of a back seat.

However, I made progress on starting to have a go at hybridising. I sent away for a catalogue from the USA and then spent quite some time trying to decide what to order. So many lovely plants make for difficult decisions. I finally decided on mainly Sino Siberians, some Siberians and a versicolor. I also ended up with a few extras including a versicolor and a virginica. I have never tried these before so it should be interesting to see how they get on. They all arrived safely and were potted up. In just under two months a flower opened on *I. virginica* 'Native Wine'. I was thrilled not expecting any flowers in their first year. Later some of the others flowered – almost half of them flowered during the summer.

This provided me with an earlier opportunity than I had planned to try some crosses. I decided to treat it as a trial run and didn't worry too much about what I crossed with what as long as they were compatible types. I collected seed and have been experimenting with the different

types of propagation methods to see which might work best for me, with these types of irises.

It has been a very wet and fairly cool summer so I hardly did any additional watering, even for those in pots. Most of them are in pots so it shouldn't be too big a change for them moving to their new location. I'm not sure how my Mum and Dad will feel about me taking away so many plants from their garden. I think we'll have to come to some splitting arrangement but hopefully it can be resolved without the courts!

It's already feeling quite autumnal here and it always makes me start thinking about planning for the Spring. I intend to redesign the garden at my new house so I'm hoping to have time over the winter to plan it. One thing is certain – it will have somewhere very special for irises. I have also gained a nice potting shed so I'm hoping to do a lot more seed sowing assuming I have time. I have a greenhouse and so could try something more tender – any suggestions?

MIDLAND REPORT

Philip Allery

Extremes of weather with periods of drought or heavy rainfall, with little signs of a “real summer” as I remember them, all contributed to a most peculiar season. The only improvement on 2003 is that we haven't had an earthquake in the locality, so far! Luckily the beardless irises fared better than their bearded counterparts and I have had very colourful bloom, though the patchy open pollination of seed reflected the extremes of weather conditions.

There is increasing interest in this region in *I. ensata*, with a new Nursery in Lincolnshire producing a very colourful catalogue. I will tell you more about these developments in my next report; hopefully it will be accompanied by a few colour pictures!

My seedlings of *I. foetidissima* have yet to bloom so I do not know whether my plants from white-berried seed will revert to the scarlet-berried form. First-year bloom from seedling Pacific Coast hybrids suggests that they are enjoying the well drained, shady site.

Spurias deserve far more interest than they appear to receive. Their period of bloom is longer and they make good cut flowers. Reports from friends in the Group suggest that this group of irises is now receiving more attention. There is also increasing interest in beardless species irises, which is to be welcomed.

Those of us who were able to purchase plants from the 2002 Convention displays have been treated to some excellent flowers from sibiricas, on which Jennifer will no doubt comment, and from Dr Tomas

Tamberg's inter-species crosses which have served to re-enthuse my interest in beardless irises, favouring as I have done for many years, those plants which are happy in at the waterside. Dr. Tamberg's 'Starting Versilae' put on a colourful show in a mixed planting with an Asian lily, poppy, sibirica and versicolor cultivars.

Following Sue Pierce's article "Louisianas on Song" in an earlier news letter and a display by Sidney Linnegar at one of the recent West Midlands Group Shows at Cleeton St. Mary, I was encouraged by some friendly correspondence with Ada and Bill Godfrey to try them on my garden pool ledges. 'Dixie Deb' from Sue was the only cultivar to bloom but I had fun growing it through a clump of *Zantedeschia aethiopica* 'Crowborough' planted at a lower depth in the pool. Flanked by *I. versicolor* on either side 'Dixie Deb's bright yellow blooms were set off by the blooms and foliage of surrounding plants and the arum. I have seen a good white cultivar grown by Cy Bartlett in a tub in his greenhouse at his Somerset home and frost free winter care appears necessary throughout the UK. Caroline Derbyshire suggests that the hybrids in my garden pool might provide more bloom if grown in pool edge marsh conditions, limiting pool growth to the Louisiana species or near species of this colourful member of the beardless iris group. Many cultivars sent by Ada Godfrey are grown in much harsher conditions, although given some winter protection. I have a copy of "The Louisiana Iris - The Taming of a Native American Wildflower" Second Edition edited by members of The Society for Louisiana Irises and published by Timber Press of Portland, Oregon. ISBN 0-88192-477-6. Timber Press have a UK base in Staveney, Cambridgeshire and represented at the Four Oaks Horticultural Show.

A word of warning; louisianas are friendly plants and love to wander to meet new neighbours or find new homes, so they will grow into and root in another area and wreck naming or planned colour pattern plans. Once established it is surprising how many seedling plants, the extended rhizome will produce if cut and pinned down in a moist compost.

The West and Midlands Iris Group is still very active and has a varied and interesting programme throughout the year. Well worth the membership fee! Altogether a strange season with lots of interest.

While I'm having fun with irises life is so much more enjoyable.

SCOTTISH REPORT

Brita Carson

We are such a small group that 2 new members would be a 100% increase. At the last minute, I bullied the other member to submit a report and from memory Billy Carruthers has done very well to give some of his favourites and some new ones that he saw at Wisley this year.

Billy Carruthers

There are so many named cultivars of sibiricas and some of the new introductions are well worth a mention with some personal favourites which have been around for a long time and not to be forgotten. I took time out this year to visit the trial beds at Wisley and see the newcomers for myself. I came across a huge planting of 'Cambridge' AGM on the way up Battleston Hill; it is one of the best sibiricas and got me in the mood for what was to come. The first spotted was 'Blauë Milchstrasse' AGM, a new introduction with ice blue standards and mid blue falls; 'Plissee' AGM has deep velvety blue falls with a silver edge and 'Prussian Blue' AGM which has the deepest indigo ruffled standards and falls and long flowering; 'Tanz Nochmal' is large blue flowered, a tetraploid rebloomer; all are Tamberg introductions. Other sibiricas worth mentioning are 'Flight of Butterflies', a wee favourite with blue veined falls on small dainty flowers; 'Rikugi-sakura' with its broad pink and violet six petalled falls and 'Welcome Return', a mid blue remontant with broad horizontal falls on short stems. 'Chatreuse Bounty' is another remontant with yellow flowers and white standards on tall stems. Other good creamy whites and yellows are 'Moonsilk'; 'Dreaming Yellow' AGM; 'Primrose Queen' with narrow flowers; 'Welfenfurstin' and 'Harpwell Happiness' AGM.

However the star plant for 2004, for me, is *I.* 'Sibtosa Queen'. This hybrid has deep lavender falls that fade with age and nearly white standards. A vigorous plant with up to 6 flowers per stem and flowering for almost 6 weeks from the end of May and still in flower into July.

Pollination

Brita Carson

This summer I was going to have a go at pollinating so that I could send Margaret 'promised' seed. Every year I've meant to do some selfs, nothing too adventurous yet. It looks straightforward. I checked the books and in someone else's words "all you do is". Now how many hands do these people have? Suitable days are never windless. I need one hand to hold the flower, one to pull back the style arm but then I've none left to hold the cotton bud.

So I thought I would watch the experts and get a few tips. And oh, how rough they are. They climb all over the flower pulling back the petals and stamping about, each leg going in a different direction. When they've finished they have the cheek to buzz me angrily as they fly off.

Jennifer tells me she uses Philatelists' tweezers and Philip Jones uses cotton wool wrapped round a match stick. I'm considering using the dog's tail. The odds on fertilisation would be just as good with a big fluffy collie tail that never stops wagging. Would I need to sterilise it first?

Descriptions of the SPURIAS on the back page.

ARTS ALIVE

Bred by the late Ben Hager who produced many good irises, sibiricas: Alter Ego, Sparkling Rose, Chilled Wine and also the diminutive daylily Penny's Worth which looks like flowering grass. Registered in 1984, as 48" (122 cm). Clear opaque lavender, deepening to a shade of light brown around small yellow signal. S4678: ((Port of Call x Farolito) x Marilyn Holloway) x S300H: (Port of Call x Farolito). Melrose Gardens 1984.

IMPERIAL BRONZE

Bred by Eleanor McCown who sadly is no longer with us. She introduced over 50 spuria cultivars. Registered in 1970 as 40 in (102 cm). Vivid yellow heavily veined brown (overall effect is deep bronze) tiny yellow signal. Driftwood x Imperial Night. Cordon Bleu 1971

CINNABAR RED

Bred by another important spuria breeder—Dave Niswonger. Registered in 1979 as 40 in (102 cm). Deep mahogany red self; deep yellow signal. (Redwood Supreme x Far Out). Cape Iris 1980.

ELEANOR HILL

Ben Hager registered it in 1979 as 38 in (97 cm). Standards clear purple; Falls bronze and an indefinite deep yellow signal. (S216 x S276); (Morningtide x Essay) Melrose Gardens 1980.

BETTY COOPER

Registered in 1981 as 48 in (122 cm). Standards light violet (HCC 10pb 6/8), lightly streaked pale yellow; Falls light violet (10pb 6/8) border with strong orange centre, heavily veined brownish purple, ruffled and a slight fragrance. High-line Lavender x 71-3: (Desert Seagold x Imperial Flight). Cordon Bleu 1982.

LA SENDA

Registered in 1972 by W. Ferguson. 48 in (122 cm) high. Rosy lavender pink self with light yellow area on fall, no definite signal. (Pink Candles x 69-14) .

Front cover: Iris 'Chance Beauty' photographed by Jennifer Hewitt
Back cover: Photographed by Alun Whitehead

