

# The REBLOOMING Iris Recorder

Fall/Winter 2019

Volume 94



## Bottle Rocket (Sutton, 2009 )

2019 American Dykes  
Medal Winner

Photo:Coleen Modra

## ‘Autumn Explosion’ (Tasco,2013 )

2019 Wister Medal Winner

Photo: Anita Moran



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Full Page	\$60.00	\$120.00
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Order your copy of the new 2012 RIS printed *Checklist* for \$20 plus \$2 postage and/or the 2012 CD *Checklist* for \$15 plus \$1.50 postage (CD \$21.50 overseas). Make checks payable to the Reblooming Iris Society and mail to: Rose Kinnard, 1649 Madison 504, Fredericktown, MO 63645.

## 2019 FALL REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER Message

by Jim Landers

I hope everyone took time to enjoy the beauty of the rebloomers in this fall season. They are out there if we just make the effort to find them. Most of us are members of the Reblooming Iris Society because we love irises and the special beauty they offer in addition to their spring appearances. We eagerly await the next Recorder to see the beauty from all parts of the country, and appreciate all the work put in to getting that information out to us. We need to give a hardy welcome to the new Recorder Editor, Anita Moran, and our new Midwestern Director, Bill Turner. Please support these fellow rebloom enthusiasts in any way possible in their new positions and duties.

The Dykes Metal, the highest award in the iris world, was earned this year by the rebloomer 'Bottle Rocket', [Front Cover] hybridized by Michael Sutton. This stunning tall bearded iris has been a showstopper since it was introduced in 2010 and shows no signs of letting up. 'Autumn Explosion' (Tasco,2013[Front Cover]), a gorgeous rebloomer by Rick Tasco introduced in 2013, won the prestigious Wister Medal. That's two tall bearded registered rebloomers on the 2019 AIS Awards roster! Look for them anywhere you can purchase irises, and get them.

One way to keep our reblooming interest in high gear is to share information on bloom, on color, on culture, on anything about these irises. Someone may be interested in that little bit of information that you have noticed in your yard on your reblooming irises. Share it with your Area Director and they can share it with the Recorder, and then it can be shared with the world. It all starts with you in your own garden.

Maybe the best way to keep our interest up in reblooming irises is to see them everyday. And you can do just that on Facebook in the Reblooming Iris Society section. In November there were over eighty pictures of rebloomers in glorious color. Riley Probst is doing an excellent job in keeping this Facebook project going.

What else can we do? Mention rebloomers in every iris meeting you attend. If you have a bloom, take it to the meeting. People always enjoy seeing a beautiful bloom anytime and especially out side of the regular bloom season. What about a gift RIS membership for a Christmas present? That would certainly be different and a great surprise to anyone receiving it. So the old television ad comes back to haunt us and remind us to "Just Do It".

### Membership in Reblooming Iris Society

Join the Reblooming Iris society by Going to the Reblooming Iris society website:

<https://www.rebloomingiris.com/Membership/>

Print out a printer friendly copy of the application and mail to:

**Rose Kinnard**  
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### RIS Donations to Assist in Printing Full Color Journal

Donations and advertising make it possible for the Reblooming Iris Society to print a full color journal. We are grateful for your contributions. If you would like to make a donation please contact: **Elladan McLeester, 1202 Pontiac Trail, Madison, WI 53711, (608) 271-3607, elladan@tds.net**

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## From The Editor

Hello Reblooming Iris Society,

I am Anita Moran of Maryland zone 7, and I will be your new Newsletter editor for a while I hope. Carol Buchheim has done a spectacular job for the society I just hope I can do as well.

A Little bit about myself. I have written since I was a child, because I had to write. I am a published author most in peer review scientific journals, but also in several Iris publications. In the fiction field my first book should be published this coming Summer. I have been the editor for the Aril Society International and the editor for the Region 4 Newscast since 2004.

I joined the American Iris society in 2003 and with the encouragement of Don and Ginny Spoon I began hybridizing. With encouragement from Dr. E. Roy Epperson, I also started seed from SIGNA (Species Iris Group of North America). My concentration has been on Miniature and Standard Dwarfs and Arilbred.

Due to personal issued I moved my entire collection to a new home, what I could save of it. I lost the majority of my collection, a good bit of my introductions and seedlings. This year I worked on my bearded beds, particularly my seedling beds. I have written an article , well, Part one of the movement from one garden to another and the challenges. I would love to hear about your challenges as well.

Does your region or local affiliate have a rebloom show? Let us know. Let us see the results.

Enough about me, now for some ideas for the Recorder. Newsletters can only survive if the membership contributes. Do you have rebloom, want to have rebloom, neighbor has rebloom, visited a garden with rebloom, well you have the makings of a small article. Take some pictures and send them on to me. It does not take much. How did that new order do? Hybridizers, I see a lot of you on Facebook®, let us see some of your babies or new introductions. Let us know who are your best parents. You show hounds, did you show in a rebloom show. How did it go. Write a little article and let us know.

Another input, do you have questions? New to irises or rebloom? What would you like to know? Send them to me and I will ask the experts.

Well that's about it for now. Have a great winter and think of me as you go visiting or in your own gardens.

# 2019 RIS Symposium Results

(12 voters cast 388 total votes)

## MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

### **FIRST PLACE (5-Way Tie)**

Bam	(R. Tasco, 2017)
Ditto	(B. Hager, 1982)
Forever Violet	(C. Chapman, 2002)
Royal Maroon	(D. Spoon, 2001)
Trimmed Velvet	(D. Spoon, 2006)

## STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

### **FIRST PLACE**

Baby Blessed	L. Zurbrigg	1979
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### **SECOND PLACE (3-Way Tie)**

Forever Blue	(C. Chapman, 1997)
Inner Space	(R. Tasco, 2009)
Replicator	(R. Tasco, 2006)

### **THIRD PLACE (2-Way Tie)**

Jewel Baby	(E. Hall, 1984)
Plum Wine	(J. Weiler, 1986)

## INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

### **FIRST PLACE (2-Way Tie)**

Concertina	(G. Sutton, 2000)
Low Ho Silver	(M. Byers, 1989)

### **SECOND PLACE**

Constant Companion	(C. Marsh, 1995)
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### **THIRD PLACE (2-Way Tie)**

Blessed Again	(F. Jones, 1976)
Mariposa Wizard	(R. Tasco, 2004)

## BORDER BEARDED

### **FIRST PLACE (2-Way Tie)**

Autumn Wine	(V. Christopherson, 2003)
Double Dare	(M. Lockatell, 2014)

### **SECOND PLACE (3-Way Tie)**

Fruit Stripe	(M. Sutton, 2009)
October Splendor	(G. Sides, 1997)
Waiting For October	(L. Lauer, 2003)

## MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

### **FIRST PLACE**

Plum Quirky	(R. Probst, 2005)
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### **SECOND PLACE (2-Way Tie)**

Holiday In Mexico	(R. Probst, 2012)
Lady Emma	(F. Jones, 1986)

## ARILBRED

### **FIRST PLACE (3-Way Tie)**

Chain Reaction	(R. Tasco, 2007)
Hakuna Matata	(A. & D. Cadd, 2000)
Walker Ross	(Ross/Chapman, 1998)

## SPECIES CROSS

### **FIRST PLACE**

Lemony Snicket	(J. Copeland, 2016)
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### **SIBERIAN**

(No Votes)
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### **SPURIA**

### **FIRST PLACE**

Missouri Springs	(D. Niswonger, 1994)
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### **LOUISIANA**

(No Votes)
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### **JAPANESE**

(No Votes)
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### **PACIFIC COAST**

(No Votes)
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## TALL BEARDED

### **FIRST PLACE**

Harvest Of Memories	(L. Zurbrigg, 1985)
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### **SECOND PLACE (2-Way Tie)**

Mariposa Autumn	(R. Tasco, 1999)
Rosalie Figge	(J. McKnew, 1993)

### **THIRD PLACE (6-Way Tie)**

Autumn Explosion	(R. Tasco, 2013)
Clarence	(L. Zurbrigg, 1991)
Corn Dance	(D. Spoon, 2008)
Feed Back	(B. Hager, 1983)
Gate Of Heaven	(L. Zurbrigg, 2004)
Total Recall	(B. Hager, 1992)

### **FOURTH PLACE (14 Way-Tie)**

Again And Again	(S. Innerst, 1999)
Alabanza	(B. Spoon, 2013)
Autumn Tryst	(J. Weiler, 1993)
Blatant	(M. Byers, 1990)
Daughter Of Stars	(D. Spoon, 2001)
DoubleShot	(G. Sutton, 2000)
Forever Yours	(B. Hager, 1993)
Immortality	(L. Zurbrigg, 1982)
Peggy Sue	(L. Lauer, 2006)
Quwynn Dorothy	(E. Hall, 1984)
Renown	(L. Zurbrigg, 1992)
Spring Bliss	(F. Kerr, 2009)
Winesap	(M. Byers, 1989)
Zurich	(M. Byers, 1990)

### **FIFTH PLACE (63 Way-Tie)**

# Director's Reports

## Eastern (ASI Regions 1,2,3,4,7)



### SUMMER REBLOOM MISSING IN ACTION

By Mike Lockatell

Central Virginia gardeners had a tough time growing bearded irises in 2018. Metro Richmond, for example, experienced its third wettest year on record at 61". Clay soils were saturated leading to significant disease issues and overwhelming grassy and broadleaf weed germination. Rebloom was not abundant.

More rainfall greeted 2019. Totals were above average going into the summer months. Daytime temperatures in late April and early May hovered in the high eighties and low nineties compressing spring bloom. As a breeder for cool season reblooming bearded irises (Zone 8 and below), this author had a scant four days to make meaningful cross pollination on tall bearded. Under trying circumstances, seedpods thankfully appeared. Phew!!

Soils finally began to dry out by mid-summer. My display bed at BP Market, near my home in South Richmond, could finally receive a badly needed renovation. Four-year clumps had virtually no healthy roots. Rhizomes could be easily plucked from the ground. Some survivors were left in place. The rest were potted up. As a mini drought took hold in mid-August, new growth suddenly appeared. Amazing!

Despite the weather, TB Re '**Northward Ho**' (L. Zurbrigg, 1991) had one snaky bloomstalk at BP on August 9<sup>th</sup>. TB Re '**Just Call Me**' (B. Wilker-son, 2008) saw summer flowering at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC) in Goochland County, VA on 8/30 and 9/15. The late Kentucky breeder's near blue amoena continues to be overlooked and underappreciated. Growing among a cherry tomato volunteer, MTB '**Lady Emma**' (F. Jones, 1986) was the lone median to see summer bloom with a stalk on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Goochland garden.

As a hybridizer for cool season reblooming bearded irises, it is important to trial seedlings in different microclimates for reliability to make final decisions on registration and introduction. Candidates continue to be sent as guest irises to AIS National Conventions and AIS Regional Meetings. Bloomstalks are also entered in AIS sanctioned Fall Flower Shows. Requests for guests were received in 2018 for the 2020 Spring Meetings in AIS Regions 4 and 7. Kim Bowman from Morristown, TN has the master planting for the Region 7 event at her Dancing Dragons Iris Garden. Named varieties and reselect seedlings were sent.

Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21013A or ((TB Re Gate of Heaven x Zurbrigg TB SA Re Sdlg.#VV101) X TB Re Metro Blue (Lockatell, 2015)) had open flowers on July 25th. Hyacinth blue blooms have a white area around beards and petals are diamond dusted.



MTB 'Lady Emma' (F. Jones, 1986) [AM]



Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21013A [ML]



Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21220-02Re [ML]

# Director's Reports

## Eastern (ASI Regions 1,2,3,4,7)

A consistent rebloomer since 2013, this seedling has been registered as 'Hidden Sky'. Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21220-02Re or (TB Love Lines (Wilkerson, 1996) X TB Re Metro Blue) with a victoria blue coloring was in bloom in Morristown on August 26th. Bloomstalks measured 43" in height with three branches and two spurs.

TB Re 'Northward Ho' has been a faithful rebloomer in multiple garden locations for me in Central Virginia. Overshadowed by TB Re 'Clarence' (L. Zurbrigg, 1991), this pink-brown plicata has proven to be a "blank canvas" for cool season performers. BB Re 'Double Dare' (M. Lockatell, 2014) was my first 'Northward Ho' seedling to be registered and introduced. A rich burgundy red plicata with flared falls, its blooms easily fit the border bearded class.

Two tall bearded reselect offspring from this important parent were sent for the Region 7 Meeting Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21233 or (Northward Ho X TB Wearing Rubies (Blyth, 2001/02) had open flowers for Kim on August 17th. This hopeful's coloring appears similar to TB Re 'Cantina' (M. Byers, 1990). This author continues to work for improved tall bearded cool season red plicatas. Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21334 or (TB Re Northward Ho X TB Re Echo Location (Wilkerson, 2007)) instead resembles its pollen parent. This butter-yellow plicata (red haft markings) seedling is a vigorous grower and has previously rebloomed in July at JSRCC. Summer flowers also occurred at Dancing Dragons Iris Garden on August 17th. Both hopefults are now under serious consideration for registration.

Bowman's master planting also contains rescued seedlings from the late Betty Wilkerson's Scottsville, KY garden before the property was sold in 2018. Six selections rebloomed in either July or August. We hope one promising reselect can make the cut for future registration. It surely would be a nice tribute to Betty for her dedication to cool season rebloom development.

Diana and Dean Dudley are hosting the 2020 AIS Region 4 Spring Meeting in Raleigh, NC for the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society. The Dudleys reported summer rebloom on Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21013A or 'Hidden Sky' on August 30th. Lockatell TB Re Sdlg. #21220-02Re had bloomstalks the following week. Microclimates matter, so it is hoped these surprising results can be replicated in future years.

Kim Bowman's Tennessee plantings also saw TB Re 'Oxmoor Hills' (J. Ennen-ga, R. 2004). TB Re 'Rosalie Figge' (J. McKnew, 1993) and TB Re 'Cantina' (M. Byers, 1990) flowered in August. TB Re 'Buckwheat' (Byers, 1989) rebloomed in mid-September.

Summer rebloom was dismal in Central Virginia for the second year in a row. Weather is a study in extremes. Gardeners must manage expectations despite their best cultural practice efforts. As daytime temperatures cooled down in late September and moisture began to return, would there be any bloomstalks to enter in the AIS Region 4 Fall Flower Show held on October 5th in Richmond? The Recorder's spring edition will provide that answer.



'Clarence' (L. Zurbrigg, 1991) [AM]



'Rosalie Figge' (J. McKnew, 1993) [AM]



'Double Dare' (M. Lockatell, 2014) [AM]

# Director's Reports

## Southern (ASI Regions 5, 10, 17, 22, 23, 24)



### Gailmae Suite Southern Director's Report

After I turned in my spring 2019 report I received a list of irises that had rebloomed in 2018. I was very happy to receive it and hope all iris societies or iris growers in the southern region will send me their reports at any time.

Since I have started taking these reports and writing articles for this magazine, I have been paying closer attention to what irises are reblooming in my area. It helps me make better decisions on what irises to add to my garden. I have mentioned this to both iris societies that I am a member of, Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society in Cleburne, TX and Lonestar Iris Society in Hico, TX).

#### 2018 Rebloom

##### Phyllis Kirtley – Benton, AR

Above The Rim TB (M. Sutton 2011) Oct, Nov  
 Autumn Circus TB (B. Hager 1990) Oct  
 Cantina TB (M. Byers 1990) Oct, Nov  
 Clarence TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991) Oct [Back Cover]  
 Daughter Of Stars TB (D. Spoon 2001) Oct  
 Double Shot TB (G. Sutton 2000) Oct  
 Doubleday TB (G. Sutton 2001) Oct  
 Raspberry Frost TB (G. Sutton 2001) Oct  
 Sunset Punch TB (M. Sutton 2011) Oct, Nov



Autumn Circus TB (B. Hager 1990) [AM]

#### 2019 Rebloom

##### Fabian Garcia Gardens

##### NMSU – Las Cruces, NM

Mulligan IB (M. Sutton 2015)  
 Little Stitches SDB (R. Shadlow 2016)



All That Magic SDB (R. Tasco 2004) [AM]

##### Scarlett Ayers – Las Cruces, NM

Rosalie Figge TB (J. McKnew 1993) Oct



Daughter Of Stars TB (D. Spoon 2001) [AM]

##### Roy Covey – Las Cruces, NM

All That Magic SDB (R. Tasco 2004) Oct  
 Berry Ripple TB (G. Sutton 2003) Aug  
 Fast Forward IB (J.T. Aitken 2002) Sep, Oct  
 Feed Back TB (B. Hager 1983) Oct  
 Marrying Kind TB (K. Keppel 2015) Aug  
 Rosalie Loving SDB (D. Spoon 2003) Oct

##### Jaqueine Pountney – Las Cruces, NM

Afternoon Delight TB (R. Ernst 1985) Jun  
 Again And Again TB (S. Innerst 1999) Oct  
 Constant Companion IB (C. Marsh 1995) Oct  
 Echo Of Spring TB (N. Price 2013) Oct  
 Fast Forward IB (J.T. Aitken 2002) Oct  
 Rosalie Figge TB (J. McKnew 1993) Oct  
 September Frost TB (G. Sutton 1998) Oct

# Director's Reports

## Southern (ASI Regions 5, 10, 17, 22, 23, 24)

### Cynthia & Wes Wilson – Las Cruces, NM

Earl Of Essex TB (L. Zurbrigg 1980) Oct  
 Echo Of Spring TB (N. Price 2013) Oct  
 Forever Yours TB (B. Hager 1993) Oct  
 Lenora Pearl BB (H. Nichols 1990) Oct  
 Priscilla Of Corinth TB (B. Miller 1994) Oct  
 Rosalie Figge TB (J. McKnew 1993) Oct  
 September Frost TB (G. Sutton 1998) Oct

### Laura Smarginiasso - Cleburne, TX

Just-A-Pat SDB (M. Grumbine 2013) May  
 Sugar Maple SDB (G. Sutton 2003) May, Jun, Oct/Nov

### Kenneth Dunaway – Gainesville, TX

Clarence TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991) Jun, Jul, Sep, Oct  
 Corn Harvest TB (C. Wyatt 1977) Sep  
 Duke Of Earl TB (M. Byers 1987) Jul, Aug, Sep  
 Earl Of Essex TB (L. Zurbrigg 1980) Oct  
 Eternal Bliss TB (M. Byers 1988) Jul, Oct  
 Feed Back TB (B. Hager 1983) Jul, Sep  
 Harvest Of Memories TB (L. Zurbrigg 1985) Oct  
 Immortality TB (L. Zurbrigg 1982) Sep, Oct  
 Istanbul TB (M. Byers 1990) Sep  
 Sugar Blues TB (L. Zurbrigg 1985) Oct

### Amy Finck – Grandbury, TX

City Lights TB (M. Dunn 1991) Oct/Nov

### Frances & Donald Peterson – Ireland, TX

Billionaire TB (M. Byers 1987) Oct  
 Crimson King IB (P. Barr 1893) Jul  
 Glowing Seraphin TB (B. Miller 1987) Aug  
 Harvest Of Memories TB (L. Zurbrigg 1985) Jun  
 Jaunty Texan TB (C. Denman 1973) Jun  
 Say Okay TB (T. Burseen 1991) Oct

### Anita & Bill Goodale – Joshua, TX

Oh Carol TB (L. Lauer 2012) Jun

### Gailmae C. Suite – Venus, TX

Aaron's Dream TB (G. Sutton 1994) Jun  
 Autumn Tryst TB (J. Weiler 1993) Sep  
 Feed Back TB (B. Hager 1983) Sep  
 Lady Essex TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991) Sep  
 Low Ho Silver IB (M. Byers 1989) Jul, Aug, Nov/Dec



Istanbul TB (M. Byers 1990) [AM]



Earl Of Essex TB (L. Zurbrigg 1980) [AM]



Aaron's Dream TB (G. Sutton 1994) [AM]

# Director's Reports

## Northwest (ASI Regions 11, 12, 13, 20)

### NW Report Fall 2019 by Robin Shadlow

It seems to be a trend that I had hoped would be broken before now. The past few years rebloom has not been strong in Oregon's Willamette Valley, zone 8b. Summers have been hot and dry and most rebloom is seen after the rains arrive in the fall. That being said, some rebloomers rebloom in summer, often continuing in waves through the fall.

'Autumn Wine' BB (Vincent Chrispherson, 2003) has been incredibly reliable in Oregon – as it was when we lived in Nebraska. We have had a clump in place for eight years now. Pieces are often dug around the edges and compost added to feed it, but this clump normally blooms 4-5 times from spring beginning in summer and through fall. Superior rebloom behavior indeed. One good way to retain rebloom is to dig  $\frac{1}{2}$  a clump and add compost. Some rebloomers take some time to re-establish rebloom on being dug.

Another that rebloomed this summer here as in most all years is Sterling Innerst's 1999 TB introduction, 'Again and Again'. We often experience bloom stalks at 3-4 different times through the year with this variety.

If you tried only one rebloomer in your garden, 'Rosalie Figge' TB (Jane McKnew, 1993) might be your best bet. There are times when 'Rosalie Figge' seems to prefer fall bloom to spring. If left in place long enough, she will come around and bloom in the spring as well. Cooler weather suits this iris as it becomes darker the cooler the weather. 'Rosalie Figge' seems to have pretty high frost tolerance, continuing to bloom after frosts here.

This year proved that a new contender may be coming on the scene. If I look back at the past year, by far the plant which produced the most rebloom stalks is 'Repetition' TB (Walter Moores, 2013)[Back Cover]. 'Repetition' grows quite fast and blooms on small rhizomes, a trait that can make it a challenge for the commercial growers. In 2019, 'Repetition' began reblooming in mid-summer. There were multiple stalks in the clumps in the summer. It bloomed at least 3 times here.

'Double Shot' TB (George Sutton, 2000) has proven very reliable. Some clumps produced late summer bloom, while others bloomed in the fall. In general the rebloom stalks are tall and avoid the bouquet effect which is often an issue with rebloomers. 'Echo Location' TB (Betty Wilkerson, 2007) is notable not only for reliable rebloom in multiple climates, but also for very fine stalks all through the season.

'Starring Encore' TB (Donald Spoon, 2008) rebloomed on almost every clump we grow. Also very anxious to rebloom is the border bearded 'Flo' (Donald Spoon, 2011).

'Cornhusker' TB (Timothy Stanek, 2005)[Back Cover], 'Days of Summer' TB (Timothy Stanek, 2002), 'Emma's Laughter' TB (George Poole, 2008) and 'Bernice's Legacy' TB (Bernice Miller by Richard Richards, 2000) each continued their run of consistent rebloom. Each of these cultivars can make very nice off-season clumps.



'Autumn Wine' BB (Chrispherson, 2003)  
[RS]



'Again and Again' TB (Innerst, 1999) [RS]



'Rosalie Figge' TB (McKnew, 1993) [RS]



'Repetition' TB (Moores, 2013) [RS]

# Director's Reports

## Northwest (ASI Regions 11, 12, 13, 20)

'Renascent' TB (Ben Hager by Cooleys, 2005) also has proven very reliable in zone 8b. Its lovely fragrance is also welcome. I have also seen lovely fall stalks brought to meetings held in the 4b zone. 'Living on the Edge' TB (Larry Lauer, 2009) has proven to be a prolific grower and rebloomer in zone 8b.

'Echo of Spring' TB (Nancy Price, 2013) produced extremely nice rebloom stalks. 'Echo of Spring' has quite wide falls and lovely form. It is especially striking on rebloom. We had multiple bloom stalks in many areas of the garden this year. Of course, where it was planted in soil where irises had never grown before, it was the most excited to rebloom. I expect that 'Echo of Spring' will prove to be a reliable rebloomer in many zones.

Despite being dug and disturbed, 'Royalty Remembered' TB (Keith Keppel, 2017) rebloomed at the end of summer. It seems to be able to rebloom before the rains and would be a good candidate in many zones as it should rebloom early enough to beat fall freezes.

We are especially pleased to report rebloom from two new cultivars by Larry Lauer. 'Give It Away', a 2016 TB introduction rebloomed this summer with multiple stalks. This is very bright in the garden and has an extremely interesting pattern. It bloomed a second time later in the fall. 'Get Back', a 2015 TB introduction rebloomed this October. It is very fun on close inspection, the fall rims are an unusual blue, making it a very striking addition to the rebloom color palette.

Hopefully you are keeping warm as you read this, all the while anxious for spring to arrive. Take a moment to send a report to your regional director. We continue to update our records so that we have reports on newer irises as well.



'Echo Location' (Wilkerson, 2007) [RS]



'Renascent' (Hager by Cooleys, 2005) [RS]



'Echo of Spring' (Price, 2013) [RS]



'Royalty Remembered' (Keppel, 2017) [RS]



'Give It Away' (Lauer 2016) [RS]



'Get Back' (Lauer 2015s) [RS]



## Healthy Living with Chronic Irisitis

By Sheryl Campbell



Is the iris virus fatal? Will it grow unchecked subsuming all your land and time? Once infected, are you tethered to iris-only, for good or ill, for all time? The answers to these questions aren't easy, and symptoms vary among those stricken with this little understood disease.



Colin Campbell believes he's found a way to live a healthy life while suffering from chronic irisitis. Having succumbed to the virus at the early age of 11, Colin quickly found all his disposable income flowing into the purchase of new irises. His passion for hybridizing quickly took over more than his available time. His vast output of seedlings expanded well beyond the bounds of his allotted beds on his parents' farm. Needing a way to fund the medication for this illness (i.e. more irises), Colin began selling excess rhizomes through his commercial gardens at Iris Hills Farm. The joy of sharing multitudes of iris blooms with others each May continued to fuel the disease. He eventually overran not only the sheep pasture but the entire front slope of the farm with hundreds of iris.



'My Missus Carter' (Colin Campbell 2018) [SC]



'Debra's Melody' (Colin Campbell 2020) [SC]

One of the most difficult aspects of this illness is that others see only the lovely flowers and the joy the mass of blooms brings to every heart. The backbreaking work of constant weeding, digging, and amending soil are never seen as the sufferer toils on alone with the effects of this disease.

A point is reached where only a serious adjustment in life-style can free the patient from the tyranny of the virus. Colin reached that point during his last two years of college as he remembered that his first love of iris was in the joy of hybridizing which he barely found time for anymore. His piano studio grew greatly during those years and he discovered that his other great joy in life was teaching music. So, also realizing that to support himself through iris he would need to expand his plantings, pull vast seas of weeds, and manage workers rather than hybridizing goals, Colin is shifting his main career to teaching and sharing music.



He is not cured of the iris virus and Iris Hills Farm will continue as an online business. Specifically it will continue as a source of Colin's own iris introductions. He will keep growing many rebloomers, and a few special once-bloomers to use for his own enjoyment and to further his hybridizing goals. But 2020 will be the final year that his gardens are open to the public. Colin plans to sell out most of his commercial irises by mid-2020 and then take down his display gardens. After June of 2020 Colin will offer his own introductions via [www.IrisHillsFarm.com](http://www.IrisHillsFarm.com) and purchasers will receive lovely bonuses from the many introduced varieties he is using in his breeding program.

You'll also be able to find him at [www.PianoMusicality.com](http://www.PianoMusicality.com) which is his online studio platform. Those of you living close enough to Winchester, Virginia are invited to enjoy his music at his free Grace Notes Concerts each spring (details on the web site).



Making the shift in how he supports himself at the ripe old age of 21, Colin believes he's finally found a way to live with the iris virus without having it overcome him. His current introductions include My Missus Carter (TB C. Campbell 2018) and Debra's Melody (TB C. Campbell 2020) both of which you'll hopefully get to view in the guest plantings at the 2020 Iris National Convention in May. He also has a seedling planted there which he is considering for introduction. Watch his website at [www.IrisHillsFarm.com](http://www.IrisHillsFarm.com) for information on his ongoing breeding program and upcoming introductions. Colin hopes to see many of you in-person this spring for a final sojourn in his display gardens.



## REGION 14 FALL SHOW

by Riley Probst

On Sunday, October 27th, AIS Region 14 held their Fall Meeting. It was held at the Shepard Garden Center in Sacramento, CA. There were about 60 attendees. In conjunction with the meeting they sponsored a Judges Training on Arilbreds by Howie Dash from Las Cruces, NM, a Reblooming Iris Show on Sunday morning and an iris auction and sale. There were 12 different cultivars entered by four different exhibitors: Jeff Bennett, Carol Cullen, Riley Probst and Craig Tarr.

Selected Best SDB and Best in Show was SMELL THE ROSES SDB (M. Byers 1988) exhibited by Carol Cullen. An interesting side note to this is that the day before the show, Carol did not have any rebloomers open. Early Sunday morning she picked two stalks of SMELL THE ROSES in bud. They both opened on the way to the meeting. She selected the best one of the two and entered it in the show, her only entry. And guess what, Best of Show!

Selected Best TB was BARN DANCE TB (M. Byers 1991) exhibited by Riley Probst. Selected Best Seedling was 20526-ROL TB (M. Locketell) grown and exhibited by Riley Probst.

Irises in the Region 14 Fall Show:

AUTUMN BREEZE TB (M. Sutton 2012)

AUTUMN CIRCUS TB (B. Hager 1990)

BARN DANCE TB (M. Byers 1991)

DOUBLE SHOT TB (G. Sutton 2000)

FEED BACK TB (B. Hager 1993)

HARVEST OF MEMORIES TB (L. Zurbigg 1985)

OCTOBER SKY TB (L. Lauer 2000)

ROSALIE FIGGE TB (J. McKnew 1993) X 2

SMELL THE ROSES SDB (M. Byers 1988)

SUMMER WALTZ TB (G. Sutton 2002)

Seedling 20526-ROL TB (M. Locketell)



SMELL THE ROSES SDB

(M. Byers 1988)

exhibited by Carol Cullen

[RP]



BARN DANCE TB

(M. Byers 1991)

exhibited by

Riley Probst [RP]



Best Seedling 20526-ROL TB

(M. Locketell)

grown and exhibited

by Riley Probst. [RP]

### RIS Facebook Page

This is another reminder, photos of most of the irises in the various reports can be viewed on the Reblooming Iris Society Facebook page. There are now over 1000 photos in the photo section. We currently have 1179 members in Facebook. If you have not done so already, join the Reblooming Iris Society Facebook Group. It is free, look at the pictures, read comments, and maybe post some of your own. Just click on to Facebook.com and search for Reblooming Iris Society. Then click like

*Riley Probst,  
RIS Facebook Administrator*

## Working Towards the Future: Part I

From Anita Moran

As with many of the Mid-Atlantic States, Maryland is a collection of USDA hardiness zones. Within each of these zones are a multitude of micro-climates existing either naturally or by the work of the gardeners to provide their plants what they need to succeed and thrive. Iris survival here is dependent on careful cultivation to fight against heavy clay soils of the western shore or extremely sandy soils on the eastern shore. Acid rain is a fact of life here as is acidic soil that can be as low as pH 5.5, perfect for beardless not so much for bearded. Pest like iris borers in a state determined to eliminate all helpful chemicals like Merit®, making its use illegal. Then there is the weather. From November to January there can be days that are 60oF followed by days of frozen temps in the 20's for days followed by more 60oF days. This is only to repeat from Mid-March to early May. These are just a few of the issues facing Maryland Gardeners.

With all this to contend with moving an iris collection to a property that never had a garden plant at all was the largest undertaking I have tackled since I began growing irises. I managed to save over 200 out of 1000 seedlings but only about 500 of 3,000 cultivars including my own introductions and I lost several that were registered but not introduced. Not only was I moving to a new property the old garden was zone 6, while the new garden was zone 7, at least that was positive, I could dream of all the plants I could add to my collection. Unfortunately I was forced to put all my irises in pots and many of these were placed in an area that was partially shaded until I could clean the property.

In the first year I worked at making the house livable but also the yard needed to be made as safe as I could. One area that was 50' X 130' required me to take more than twelve trailers of waste and debris to the dump, including a 4' X 2' radiator from a semi-truck. It appeared the property was used as a dump by the family of the previous owner. I was finally able to move into the house (though it remained a construction zone), as I worked on a small portion of the future garden. Along the 100' driveway I worked to bring in topsoil, sand lots of compost and small gravel to build the first bed that would be a mix of Irises, Daylilies and various other plants that were not doing well in pots. My rebloomers were reduced to only seven plants and all of those were SDBs except for 'Daughter of Stars' (D. Spoon 2001). 'Rosalie Loving (D. Spoon 2003)[Back Cover], 'Senorita Frog' (D. Spoon 2002), 'Moss Spot' (D. Spoon 2007), 'Teagan' (D. Spoon 2009) [Back Cover] and a few others. All survived the move and the potting and 'Daughter of Stars' even bloomed that first spring after the move but few others did for two years.

That second year, thanks to the Francis Scott Key Iris Society, and various Region 4 friends, I was given many rebloomers and purchased others. Planting many of these in the new bed along with guests, I was hoping for good bloom from this bed the following year.

The third year, this year, I spend the majority of my time building and creating new garden beds. Eventually I hope to have micro climates for deserts to wetlands for the collection of Louisiana Irises I now have. By the end of the summer I was finally able to plant about 70% of my rescued seedlings in the ground.



Moran Gardens



'Daughter of Stars' (D. Spoon 2001) [AM]

## Working Towards the Future: Part I (cont.)



‘Autumn Tryst’ (Weiler, 1993) [AM]



‘Seedling 11JLrl01 [AM]



As I was planting the seedling bed, those rebloomers I planted the fall before were beginning to bloom. First to open was ‘Autumn Tryst’ (Weiler, 1993) with 10 increases since I planted two rhizomes the year before four stalks came up with 15 plus buds per stalk. Immortality (Zurbrigg, 1982) and Total Recall (Hager 1992) started together with ‘Total Recall’ bloomed well above the Crape Myrtle that was planted in front of it. Hoping that there was rebloom still available for the Regional in Richmond Virginia. When ‘Daughter Of Stars’ (D. Spoon 2001) put up a stalk I was praying at least one bloom was opened for the regional. Not only did one bloom, it gave me my first Best In Show. When I returned from the Regional, I finished planting my seedlings and enjoyed seeing that ‘Mango Parfait’ (D. Spoon 2009), ‘Waves of Grain’ (Byers 1994), ‘Silver Dividend’ (Zurbrigg 1989) and Feedback’ (Hager 1983) putting up stalks. Unfortunately, an early freeze into the twenty’s ended all hopes of seeing bloom and all were showing color.

I am so looking forward to next spring. The first to be planted were possible rebloom seedlings out of ‘Rosalie Loving’ crossed with ‘Voldy’s Mink’ (Moran, 2012), ‘Jack Loving’ (Spoon, 2006), ‘Red Rabbit’ (Spoon, 2002 ), then ‘Senorita Frog’ crossed with ‘Baklava’ (Black, 1998), ‘Red Rabbit’, and ‘Panther’ (Smith, 2004 ). There was ‘Teagan’ (Spoon, 2009) X ‘June Bug’ (Spoon, 2006), and ‘Red Bunny’ (Spoon, 2009) X ‘Teagan’. Also some seedlings germinated from seeds from Loic Tasquier with possible rebloom were added to the mix.

Although bloom was sparse in the pots those that survived managed to fill their pots with increases and no rebloom was seen until just before we replanted into the new bed. As a joke I crosses ‘Jack Loving’ X ‘Rosalie Loving’. The first bloom opened when Jack and Rosalie visited my garden for the last time. When Rosalie asked for a piece I was more than happy to give it to them. The following year both the seedling I kept and the rhizome of it that I gave Rosalie and Jack rebloomed. Since my move we have lost both Rosalie and Jack, and I was sure the plant perished as well both mine and the one in the Loving’s garden. Seeing 11JLrl01 bloom just before replanting in the bed gave me hope for the future. Although I promised myself never to register a yellow and red dwarf, Jack asked that I do so with this seedling which will hopefully be named ‘Rosalie’s Choice’.

Well that’s enough for this part. I will keep you apprised as I finish the beds and rebloom increases.



Clarence TB (L. Zurbrigg 1991) [AM]



'Repetition' TB (Walter Moores, 2013).



'Teagan' (D. Spoon 2009)



'Cornhusker' TB (Timothy Stanek, 2005),

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Rosalie Loving (D. Spoon 2003)