

THE REBLOOMING IRIS RECORDER

Spring Edition 2025

Journal of the Reblooming Iris Society

Vol. 106



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Autumn Jewel

32"/Black, 2020

Photo: G. Lasater

Cover Photo: Bright and Easy, Siberian-Re, Marty Schafer and Jan Sachs, 2012, 32" - Editor's Note: I spent much time trying to find who took this photo without any success. Thank you, whoever you are!

Table of Contents

1. Leadership	14. More Beautiful Introductions
2. Table of Contents	17. Starting Seeds the Hard Way
3. Map of Area Directors	21. Northeastern Area Director's Report
4. Area Directors' Contact Info	25. North Central Area Director's Repot
5. Editor's Note	28. Southern Area Director's Report
6. Membership Form	31. Southwest Area Directors' Report
7. Data Chart: Plant Zones 8-10	33. Southeastern Area Director's Report
8. Data Chart: Plant Zones: 8-4a	34. Central Report
9. 2022 Cumulative Checklist Bk.	35. Spring Cleanup
10. Article: Cumulative Checklist	36. Treasurer's Report
12. FRANCE	As Beauty Does, 22"/R. Shadlow, 2022 Photo: R. Shadlow



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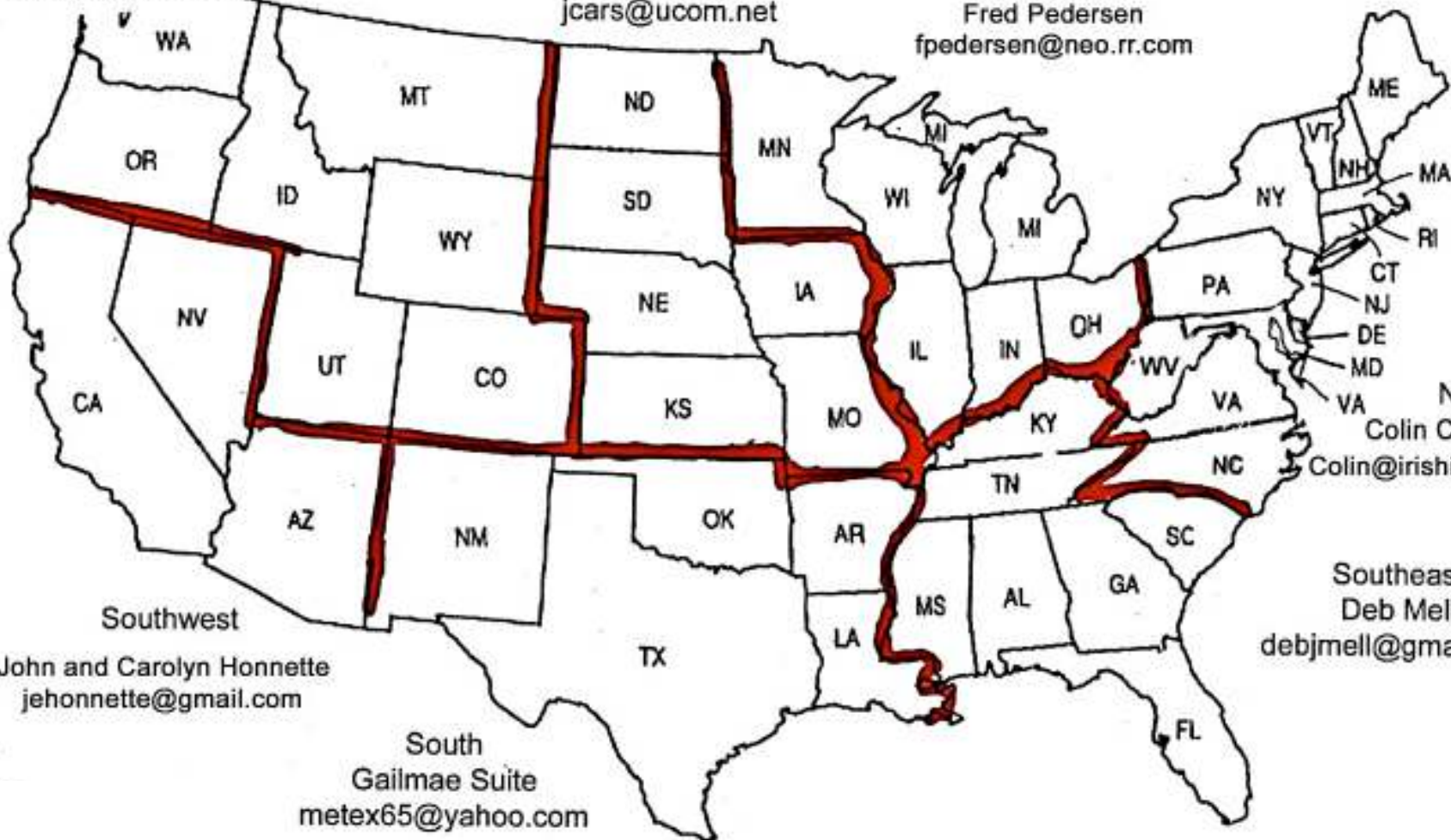
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AIS Regions: 3, 4, and Parts of Regions 1 and 2

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AIS Regions: 5, 7, 10, and 24

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AIS Regions: 6, 8, and 9

Central

Need to be nominated

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AIS Regions: 18 and 21

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Editor's Note

Welcome to Spring! Some of us wonder if we jumped ahead to summer with our recording breaking heat already here. In our warm/hot climates, the rebloom season moved into the spring bloom without many days if any between the two bloom seasons.

Some of my rebloomers continue to bloom even after two months. One of these is Mad About Saffron, a tall TB. I planted two rhizomes in March 2024. They started blooming towards the end of February and have continuously bloomed, even as they slipped into the end of April. Wonderful!

After five years, this is my last issue as editor. During this period, The Recorder went digital to feature more photos and larger ones at that. Thank you to the dozens of folks who contributed jpgs to the photo bank!

Digital copies instead of very expensive printed versions allowed the Reblooming Iris Society to offer a 3-year membership for \$25 as opposed to the previous \$25 per year membership.

And if you maintain a library of issues, digital copies don't gather dust in a digital library.

With an immense amount of help from Dave Banks, Facebook's Reblooming Iris Lovers was created. In the last 4 years, it now has 6,600 members and growing!

I am very proud of RIS's initiation of the annual rebloom report in 2001. THANK YOU, thank you, thank you to the members and non-members who contributed their rebloom data from across the United States, Southern Canada and occasionally other countries. Another thank you to those who entered all the rebloom data into the wiki. Hopefully more commercial growers will include this info in their catalogs so folks know what actually reblooms in their own plant zone.

The development of the data charts to record bloom.

The addition of more area directors to better inform others what reblooms in each regional area.

Stories featured iris lovers in Southern Australia, France, Italy, and Canada, which became a regional area.

It has been a very busy five years as editor!

Thank you, everyone, for reading the RIS publications! ! !

Take care,

Mary Platner
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Reblooming Iris Society

Membership Application or Renewal

We would greatly appreciate your paying with a credit card or PayPal by going to the American Iris Society's website:

<https://www.irises.org/reblooming-iris-society/>

Otherwise, please send this form along with a check made out to "**RIS**" to

Reblooming Iris Society
Rose Kinard
1649 Madison, 504
Frederick, MO 63645-8303

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Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Email Required: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell _____ Land Line _____

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Special Chart for Zones 8b, 9, and 10. We are no longer recording spring bloom.													Year: 202__											
Name:				City, State:						2023 Plant Zone: _____														
Email:				E (1-10 of the month) / M (11-20) / L (21-31 of the month)																				
All TBs unless noted				1st hard freeze:			Jan.			Feb.			March			Oct.			Nov.			Dec.		
All are rebloomers.					Hybridizer		Year		E	M	L	E	M	L	E	M	L	E	M	L	E	M	L	
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2022 Cumulative Checklist of Reblooming Irises

Why should you buy a copy?

It has been 10 years since the last edition. The 2022 publication includes entries for over 4200 varieties of rebloomers in 360 pages. Lots and lots of info.

The Checklist is “the” source to provide you with information as to whether a variety is a rebloomer and frequently if it is in your plant zone.

Why is the Checklist “the” source?

First, many rebloomers are not listed as such in their registration info. This is especially true for more recent introductions.

Second, some commercial iris growers deliberately do not list varieties as rebloomers. This is because some customers, especially those in colder climates, mistakenly think a variety is a rebloomer in their plant zone. Most rebloomers in these cold zones get frozen out before they have a chance to rebloom.

But please note, though, there are many rebloomers for cold climates, including those in the top tier of states that border Canada.

Third, some commercial growers do not grow varieties long enough before selling them to determine whether a variety reblooms and then reblooms in subsequent years. Is it a reliable rebloomer?

Finally, most growers do not test for rebloom in other plant zones before marketing these varieties. So how would you know if a variety should rebloom in your plant zone? This book frequently gives plant zone and/or state info where the rebloomer actually reblooms. This information usually comes from our many recorders who report bloom data from across the US and Canada.

Before you purchase irises, buy the Checklist to know if a variety is a rebloomer and if it is a rebloomer in your plant zone.

To order your Checklist, go to:

The American Iris Society’s Storefront:

<https://www.irises.org/aismembers/ais-storefront/>

Bound Book (360 pages; free shipping): \$35

Flash Drive: \$20 (free shipping)

pdf file sent via email - International only: \$20

CUMULATIVE 2022 REBLOOM CHECKLIST

Hard Copy \$35.00 shipped
Flash Drive \$15 shipped

AIS Storefront.

<https://www.irises.org/aismembers/ais-storefront/>

Delane H. Langton
eagleridgeiris@gmail.com



Celtic Tartan

36"/Keppel, 2015

We love the information provided by the 2022 cumulative checklist, but wondered about a better way to access it. I asked the powers that be at the Iris Wiki about the possibility of having that info on the wiki. They were very open to it, but did not have enough volunteers to get another big project loaded. After a little instruction on where and how, we got busy entering the information. With my hunt and peck typing it was a very slow process, so we started looking for help. Jane Tibbs, Cherie Curry, Deborah Ezop, Heather Stark stepped forward. But our primary input angel was Pat M. Olsen who entered the bulk of the information in a very speedy manor. The information is only as good as what is being reported. We encourage everyone to continue reporting your rebloom.

We noted some interesting things along the way. There are tons of iris that will rebloom in zones 8 and 9. Also many other classes of reblooming iris are recorded and entered. Think Siberian, Japanese, and Spuria. Lots, maybe even most rebloom wasn't recorded in the original introduction descriptions. We think there can be lots of reasons for this. Sometimes the iris needed to be distributed to other area/growing conditions for the trait to show up. Other times the rebloom trait might not be consistent enough to list. It takes a while for the rebloom information to surface. Just this week, Jane Jordan (CA zone 9b) reported 'Celtic Tartan', Keppel 2015 reblooming. She asked Keith Keppel and he confirmed that, yes, it had even, occasionally rebloomed in his garden. This iris is 10 years old before it had been noted as having possibility of rebloom. How this information is useful for someone like me is, we could take the new flower form with rebloom possibility and cross it onto a more consistent rebloomer for unknown potential. A personal hybridizing goal for me is to get newer form and colors into early, cold zone rebloomers and if they work up here in zone 4b, I suspect they might work for everyone south of us.

Please keep reporting your rebloom and we will keep up with this faster way of getting that information to you. In the future, you won't have to wait 10 years for a new cumulative checklist. If you find mistakes or have rebloom in zones not reported, feel free to email us.



Striking

34"/Meek, 1991

Photos: Celtic Tartan – J. Jordan

Striking – Blue J Iris Garden



Cheyenne Reign
37"/Bryan, 2019



Ruth Holbrook
36"/D. Spoon 2014



Noble Warrior
White Medal 2012
Arilbred/33"/Tasco, 2006



Perry Dyer
Dykes Medal, 2024
Arilbred/26"/Black, 2017



Spot On
36"/M. Sutton, 2008

Photos:

Cheyenne Reign – Wiki

Ruth Holbrook – G. Spoon

Noble Warrior – Wike

Perry Dryer- Mid-America

Spot On – Sutton's Iris Garden

FRANCE: F. Darthenay

The French iris society was founded in 1959 by Mrs. Gladys Clarke. The Society's full name is 'Société Française des iris et plantes bulbeuses'. It gathers the interests for all sorts of irises, and we do not have a specific section or society for reblooming irises

Of course, we share with you the same love and interest for rebloomers, and the French iris growers never forget to mention in their catalogs or web site this wonderful ability.

I remember the joy I had to receive as a gift in one of my orders from Cayeux the marvelous Rosalie Figge, which powerful rebloom contributed significantly to draw my attention to reblooming irises.

You will find in the web sites of some of our iris growers special sections dedicated to reblooming irises, such as Bourdillon who offers the interesting possibility to obtain Immortality.

The late French hybridizer Pierre Anfosso created Echo de France, a sunny reblooming amoena. You will find in the Parc floral de Paris the famous irises of the past decades classified by hybridizer from all countries, among which rebloomers.

Our current president, Roland Dejoux, helped by a faithful and active group of members of the society, has established a partnership in this unique parc for our French iris competition Franciris.

It seems to be the best possible place : a lovely and sunny garden within the very charming Parc floral de Paris. Easily and quickly accessed by metro and buses from our capital city, this enchanting parc will host in 2026 our next international iris competition.



Living on the Edge
35"/Lauer, 2009



Eagle's Spirit
36"/Geo. Sutton, 2004



Sunset Punch
36"/M. Sutton, 2004

All Photos: Carolyn Honnette



Many Mahalos
19"/Aitken, 2003



Bountiful Harvest
34"/Hager, 1991



Autumn Breeze
35"/M. Sutton, 2012



Above the Rim
34"/M. Sutton, 2011



Lilac Stitchery
33"/K. Jensen, 1989

Photos: Many Mahalos – C. Honnette
Above the Rim – D. Fetner

Bountiful Harvest – J. Jordan
Lilac Stitchery – C. Honnette

Autumn Breeze – D. Mell

More Beautiful Introductions for 2025

Anita Moran

Every year the iris world awaits the new introductions of the year. Facebook, ticktock, Instagram, and mailboxes are filled with news of current introductions. For those groups like the Reblooming Iris Societies, we take our enjoyment from the many groups in which rebloom occurs. This year we have four winning introductions. The first is the Tall Bearded 'Dreaming Of Chocolate' (Barry Blyth 2025). I am partial to brown irises so this chocolate-peppered beauty with a white ground with just a hint of purple and beautifully sculptured chocolate standards. Another Tall Bearded rebloom introduction is 'Huckleberry Woman' (Wendy Begbie 2025). This lovely iris is royal purple with a red blush in the upper half of the falls.

'Double Or Nothing' (Paul Black 2025) is a Miniature Tall Bearded rebloom sporting cream standards each sporting a gilded edge with strong maroon falls.

Mr. Hollingworth is known for his reblooming Siberian 'Encore Performance' (Hollingworth 2010), and the final rebloom offering this year is the Siberian Iris 'Happy Union' (Robert Hollingworth 2025). The red-violet Siberian is topped with darker standards and even darker style arms but offset with a large bright yellow blaze.

I hope all of you take a chance on these offerings for your garden.



Dreaming of Chocolate
30"/Blyth, 2025 (Australia)



Happy Union
Siberian/31"/Hollingworth, 2025



Huckleberry Woman
32"/Begbie, 2025 (New Zealand)



Double or Nothing
21"/Black, 2025



Kiss of Kisses
35"/Kerr, 1997

Rose Teall
32"/Holk, 1995

Photo Below
Total Recall
And Violet Turner

All Photos: Renee Fraser





Fast Forward
24"/Aitken, 2002



Champion Bloodlines
40"/McNeal, 2018



Touch of Heaven
34"/T & I DeRose, R. 2003



Corn Dance
36"/D. Spoon, 2008



I Repeat
20"/J. Roberts, 1998

All Photos: D. Langton

Linda Mann
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Kingston, TN
2023 Plant Zone 7b

Starting Seeds the Hard Way

The easiest way to start bearded iris seeds is to plant them outdoors in late fall, let nature remove any germination inhibitors.

That's what I did for the first few crosses starting in 1996. Germination was terrible – about 3%. After discussions with the old on-line iris-talk group, especially with Lloyd Zurbrigg, we decided that the drastic changes in temperature here in east Tennessee during the winter were hitting seeds when they were trying to sprout and killing them. Temperature extremes are exacerbated by my location in a frost pocket where the sun doesn't rise over the mountain behind my house until 10 AM.

Thus began years of experimenting with various ways of controlled germination, removing germination inhibitors by first soaking, then chilling in the refrigerator, then growing baby plants indoors under lights during the winter.

Over the years, I have kept trying to simplify things and improve germination rate. Starting with "burritos" of damp paper towels wrapped around seeds in baggies in the refrigerator, to not using the towels and adding a mesh bag of moist peat moss, to starting damp seeds in baggies without adding anything other than water as needed to keep them from drying out.

In recent years germination from a healthy pod ranges from about 30 to 100%. Most crosses germinate after 2 to 3 months in the refrigerator, some take as long as 4 months, and while some seeds from all crosses sprout in the refrigerator, other seeds from the same cross may take an additional year outdoors.

Some growers plant fresh seeds. I usually dry them first so I have some control over when they start sprouting. I try to cover developing pods in the garden with mesh bags to help find the pods in case stalks fall over, then use the bags through the drying and soaking process. After harvesting and drying, the seeds soak in water about a week, with a change of water each day. This soak removes most, if not all, water soluble germination inhibitors.

The seeds are then transferred to plastic sandwich baggies and put in a 'warm' refrigerator set at about 40oF. That seems about the optimal temperature for fastest removal of temperature controlled germination inhibitors.

One year, a second soak of a test group of 3 different crosses that had not sprouted after at least two months in the refrigerator were soaked a second time. This resulted in a new flush of sprouts in one of the three crosses. However, first year germination is now usually high enough that this extra soaking seems unnecessary.

As soon as seeds start to sprout, the bags come out of the refrigerator to warmer but still cool room temperature (below 70oF) to hopefully encourage seeds ready to sprout to get on with it. Sprouts are planted in 4-inch pots, up to 12 per pot, as soon as they show a tiny bit of root. The pots stay at cool room temperatures until shoots are showing above ground, then they are moved

under LED shop lights in an unheated sunporch where I try to keep the temperature under 70°F. It takes at least a week for them to show above ground, and some don't ever make it. After seeds stop sprouting at room temperature, usually after about a week, the bags go back into the refrigerator. After 4 months, all ungerminated seeds are potted up and put outdoors for further weathering and chilling, which usually results in another flush of sprouts that spring. A few crosses also need another year outdoors to finish sprouting.

Nearly all of my crosses are descendants of G.P. Brown introductions, including introductions from Lloyd Zurbrigg, with quite a few of mine from Immortality and Monty Byers' Tea Leaves. Seeds from these mixtures have been highly variable both in germination rate and duration of chilling needed.



Coconut Ruffles
36"/L. Mann, 2018



Unbelievable Love
36"/Grise, 1998



Immortality
30"/Zurbrigg, 1982

[Type here]

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Double Your Fun
21"/Aitken, 2000

Durham Dream
40"/Zurbrigg, 2000



Feedback
36", Hager, 1983



Margaret Wilson Thomas
34"/D. Spoon, 2009

All Photos: Ginny Spoon



Carmel Celeste
14"/Tasco, 2008



Alessandra's Gift
36"/Bryan Spoon, 2011



Cara Cara
9"/D. Spoon, 2012



Indian Beauty
8"/Weiler, 1991



Prank
9"/Keppel, 2000



Raspberry Jam
Cook-Douglas Award 1988
12"/Niswonger, 1981

Some Like It Hot
32"/Black, 2007



All Photos: Andrew Brownfield

Northeastern Area Directors Report: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

Colin Campbell, Middletown, VA, USDA Zone 7a



Tara Allen

12"/H. Stout, 2013

For many areas of Virginia and Maryland, the start of the rebloom season did not look promising.

After two years in a row of extended drought during the summer, not very many varieties managed to bloom during September and October. A few iris

growers in the Virginia Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley had no rebloom, and even lost a few varieties due to the drought.



Poignant

12"/Geo. Sutton, 2012

But then rain came in the Autumn, and the first freeze held off for about three weeks longer than usual. This allowed many gardens to experience wondrous rebloom through mid-November, and some members even reported rebloom into December. Carol Warner of Draycott gardens in Upperco, MD, said that 'this was my best rebloom year because of the long season without frost'. In the Shenandoah Valley, a

number of varieties bloomed spectacularly in my garden in mid-November, and Ginny Spoon of Winterberry Gardens in Cross Junction, VA had even

more varieties bloom throughout November. Lois Rose of Partlow, VA, and Kim Rogers of Prince William VA even had varieties bloom into Dec, with Lois Rose also having great numbers of rebloomers in November.

It is always exciting to see varieties reblooming for people that have not been reported often in the Northeast Area. One of these is the SDB Poignant (G. Sutton 2012) which was reported reblooming in two different gardens at opposite ends of the Area. This pink SDB with blue beards rebloomed both for Ramona Woodruff in New York, as well as Cathy Price in Seven Springs, NC. Ramona's Garden is in zone 5, and Cathy's is in zone 8b. Rosemary Trumpeter of



Mother of Dragons
34"/d. Spoon, 2021

Darien, CT had rebloom on Tara Allen (H. Stout 2013), another SDB that I do not remember seeing reported before in this area.

Some recent introductions were also reported. Remembering Lloyd (L. Mann 2023) rebloomed for Ginny Spoon. Mother of Dragons (D. Spoon 2021) rebloomed for Lois Rose, and Pat MacNeal of Preston, MD let me know that Revitalize (M. Sutton 2022) rebloomed in her garden.

In addition to these recent introductions, Ginny Spoon reported rebloom on two of her own brand new SDB's that are being introduced this year, Cardinal Feathers (G. Spoon 2025) and Hereafter (G. Spoon 2025).



Cardinal Feather
12"/G. Spoon, 2025



Hereafter
10"/G. Spoon, 2025



Revitalize
35"/M. Sutton, 2022

Photos: Tara Allen - H. Stout

Poignant - Wiki

Revitalize - Sutton's Iris Garden

Mother of Dragons, Cardinal Feather, and

Hereafter - G. Spoon



Fireball Candy
34"/D. Spoon, 2014



Mariposa Skies
33"/Tasco. 1996



Berserk
30"/T. Johnson, 2015



Teagan
15"/D. Spoon, 2009

All Photos: Mary Platner



Autumn Shower
38"/Ghio, 2002



Boundless Beauty
37"/Tasco, 2019



I I Stutter
41"/Kanarowski, 2012



Vapor
38"/Ghio, 2002



Cantina
35"/M. Byers, 1990

All Photos: Riley Probst

North Central Area: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

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NORTH CENTRAL SPRING REPORT

Spring is finally starting to show up in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota, the North Central reblooming region. This being my first growing season in Richfield, Oh. A whole five mile move from my previous home in Brecksville, I am anxious to see how my irises like their new home. As I reported last fall, I was very reluctant to dig my rebloomers as they were sending out lots of bloom stalks, but I did as I had to get them, along with all my other irises in the ground freshly prepared for them.

We had an unusually harsh winter which, I am happy to report, did not seem to bother my iris much. What did bother them was not letting the ground settle before I replanted all my irises. For most of them, I had to put the rhizomes back into the ground after the snow melted as they were as much as an inch above ground to simply sitting on the ground.

Mother nature continues to teach me how to grow iris and I continue to learn new things on an ongoing basis. I intend to do some major adjusting in my iris garden as I want to grow my rebloomers in one area that I can do the necessary fertilizing and watering without having to concern myself with iris that do not rebloom. I also intend to start doing more hybridizing, including hybridizing rebloomers. I will need to improve my care of the reblooming iris I have and those I intend to bring into my hybridizing program. I intend to pick the brains of those hybridizing rebloomers at the Billings, Montana AIS Convention.

Last year everyone I contacted in my region said it was one of, if not the best, years for rebloom that they ever had. The proof of that was the size of some of the reports from our North Central Region in last month's Rebloom Report. I am sure that the weather, mild winter and warm, not too dry, summer, had much to do with that. It showed me once again how mother nature still controls much of what we do in the garden. It will be interesting to see, after our harsh winter, how our reblooming season goes.

Since my local club is hosting the AIS Region 6 next Spring I will wait until that event is over before rearranging my garden. Of immediate concern is the effects our long cold winter will have on our club's Iris show. This year, due to having several mild winters in a row, we moved our show date up to early May. Now that we have had a long cold winter, will we have anything to show? As I said earlier, we are at the mercy of mother nature.

Stay tuned for my North Central Fall report to see how it all turns out!



Concertina
27"/Geo. Sutton, 2000



Waltz Across Texas
32"/Moore, 1988



Fault Lines
36"/Tyson, 2020



Many Maholos
19"/Aiken, 2003



Hope Rises
34"/Valenzuela, 2014

All Photos - Carolyn Honnette



Lovely Fran
36"/Weiler by Roberts, 1999



Peggy Sue
34"/Lauer, 2006



Feeling Spicy Tonight
34"/Deaton, 2012



Rosalie Figge
39"/McKnew, 1993



Vintage Charm
32"/Schreiner, 2018



Beautiful Harvest
34"/Hager, 1991
All Photos: Jane Jordan



Raspberry Frost
36"/Geo. Sutton, 2001



Mamma Rosemary
35"/D. Spoon, 2012

Southern Area: New Mexico and Texas

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The Texas Region 17 meeting was held in Tyler, Texas last August and was hosted by the East Texas Iris Society. The theme was Rebloomers!

The main guest speaker was Delane H. Langton, who shared excellent information and beautiful pictures. Delane owns Eagle Ridge Iris Gardens in Billings, MT and is co-chair of the 2025 American Iris Society's National Convention there.

Eagle Ridge counts approximately 7,000 varieties and specializes in rebloomers that tolerate very cold weather, including Plant Zone 4b.

Besides the good food and fellowship, there was a judge's training, live auction, games, and a silent auction. A side note at the live auction, I was able to purchase Autumn Joy, a rebloomer. It was one that I had a while ago and am very happy to get it back in my garden!

So far this winter, Texas has had two very cold spells in January even though I live in Plant Zone 8a. But my rebloomers with a little extra care continued to rebloom. My last count was 27! I had to bring some inside to open, but their blooms were beautiful!

I strongly encourage everyone to go to their local regional meetings when possible.



Mariposa Autumn
32"/Tasco, 1999

Bountiful Harvest
34"/Hager, 1991



All Photos: Gailmae Suite



I'm Back
36"/T. Johnson, 2007



Peach Royale
32"/Meiningen, 1999



Grand Circle
37"/Geo. Sutton, 2004



Coral Choice
34"/Niswonger, 1983



Sutton's Iris Garden

Southwest Area Directors' Report: Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada

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Tis the season for fields of irises to be in colorful bloom. The Yosemite Iris Society (YIS) 12th Annual Iris Show was in Oakhurst, CA, April 26, with a total of 109 irises shown and 28 blue ribbons awarded.

Hopefully you were able to experience a spring show in your area, too!

YIS is fortunate to include these hybridizers of rebloomers as members (Left to right): Rick Tasco, Bill Tyson, Riley Probst, and Doug Kanarowski.

Even though this show did not have any sections exclusively for reblooming iris, Bee Haven Iris Gardens' received 20 blue ribbons with nine being rebloomers, four of which were Best Specimens. These included Glitter Gulch TB 2009 Tom Burseen for Best Specimen of Section - TB Self, Red Rock Canyon TB 2008 Mike Sutton for Best Specimen of Section -TB Bitone/Bicolor, Sarah's Laughter Best Specimen of Section – TB Historic.



Glitter Gulch
Nelson Award 2022
36"/Burseen,2009



Red Rock Canyon
34"/M. Sutton, 2008



Photos: Compliments of John and Carolyn Honnette



Double Your Fun
21"/Aitken, 2000

Gone Plummin
Siberian/33"/Marty
Schafer + Jan
Sacks, 2011



Gilded
35"/M. Byers, 1989



Ginger Ice,
37"/Blyth, 2007



Jennifer Rebecca
35"/Zurbrigg, 1985

Photos: Double Your Fun – Ruth Simmons
Ginger Ice – Tom Van Ert

Gone Plummin – Pat Spence
Jennifer Rebecca – Renee Fraser

Gilded – Steve Addison

Southeastern Area: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, S. Carolina, and Tennessee

Deborah Mell

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Fall 2024 rebloom in the SE Area picked up some after the last report in September. With the fall rains more stalks appeared and lasted until the end of November freeze. This was after a dismal summer and early fall rebloom, emphasizing that for good rebloom the plants need adequate water. They will survive in a draught, but their energy goes toward staying alive. For that extra bloom they want water and food. Too much water is a sin, though.

I went to my first AIS National Convention, which was held at Portland, Oregon, this past summer. Since I am originally from the Willamette Valley and all my family is there, I made it a long visit and stayed a month. If you haven't gone to one of these conventions, yet, you are really missing out. I highly recommend it and am going to Billings this summer. The Reblooming Iris Society will be voting on new bylaws and electing officers at the convention in Billings, so I urge all members to attend.

While I was in Portland, I left my grandson in charge of caring for my iris and put in drip hoses to make it easier for him. My instructions were to turn on the water for one hour twice per week but skip watering if there was rain. I returned to two-foot grass in the beds and a lot of rot, with my grandson proudly stating that he turned the water on for three hours each time but complaining that it always seemed to rain right after he was done!

The rains ended, and we had a drought from July through September. There was so much rot from the overwatering that I didn't water anything but the potted iris. As I said before, summer and early rebloom were dismal!



Starring Encore

35"/D. Spoon, 2008

Photo: M. Platner



Sir Lines Alot
33"/Tyson, 2022



Turkish Topaz
Arilbred/18"/Austin, 1962



Perfume Counter
36"/M. Sutton, 2011



Living on the Edge
35"/Lauer, 2009



Sunset Punch
36"/M. Sutton, 2011



Eagle Spirit
36"/Geo. Sutton, 2004

All Photos: Carolyn Honnette

Central Area

Seana Ames

Near Goodland, Kansas

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We live in NW KS, Zone 6a. Technically, we're in a little defunct town west of Goodland.

Our first frost is usually around October 4th. Our rebloomers are usually blooming now and I usually have a couple to cover for our first frost, although, sometimes, I just cut the bloom stalk and bring them in hoping for blooms inside.

We usually have a pretty hard first frost but if I can cover things and get them through if we often go on to have a few more weeks of beautiful fall weather and more iris reblooming.

We've only lived here for the last 2 winters. This will be our third winter.

I was excited when we moved here because it was a half zone warmer than our home in Eastern CO and the first frost date was a week later. However, the next year they upgraded our old home to a Zone 6a and changed the first frost, as well. Our predicted first frost date is only 1 day later, after the recent updates.

These are reported rebloomers for Plant Zone 6.



Flower Symphony
22"/E. Rieniets, 2020



Constant Companion
18"/Marsh, 1995



Love Returns
33"/B. Spoon, 2015



Mango Parfait
33"/D. Spoon, 2009

Photos : Flower Symphony – D. Langton Constant Companion – Wiki
Love Returns and Mango Parfait – G. Spoon

Spring Cleanup

Jim Hedgecock

Hello Iris Friends,

I hope you have had a good spring with lots of bloom. I don't know how, but we had a pretty good bloom on the tall bearded irises and a super spuria bloom season. We are very happy that more of you are discovering the wonderful aspects of growing spuria irises. They have so many wonderful traits to offer.

I am still getting many calls about damage to irises this spring. I will mention this again - we had some very warm temps in early to mid-March, and some very low temps followed that. I knew when this happened that we would have problems. Many of you have called or e-mailed about dying and rotting plants. The area covered was much of the central states from Kansas to Kentucky. While there was a bloom in these areas, did you notice that some blooms were deformed and the bud count was abnormal? These are symptoms of freeze damage.

I want to help you identify damaged or dying irises. The center leaf in an iris fan is like a heart to the flower. If that center leaf starts to brown, it almost always means the plant is very sick and will most likely die; you can dig those plants up first to find out if the rhizome is hard. If the rhizome is soft, it is a lost cause. Just dispose of it. Also, check the roots. If they are white and look healthy, you might be able to save the plant. You probably can't save the roots if they are brown and shriveled. If you try to save the plant, cut the leaves back to 4 or 5 inches and then soak the plant in a solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water. Soak the plant for no more than 30 minutes to an hour. Then, replant the rhizome. Do not plant it back in the same place. You will find directions on how to divide your irises on our website: <https://comancheacresiris.com/culture>.

Once finished with bloom, remove the spent stalks as soon as possible. Cut them off right to the top of the rhizomes. Leaving stalks on often promotes rot. It is especially important to remove the stalks from spurias. These stalks stay green much longer than the tall bearded irises, and leaving them takes nutrients away from the plants. You will need to cut the spuria stalks out with some sort of clippers. I use rose cutters. You can compost the stalks, but be advised, if you have had leaf spot, it is better to just dispose of them. If you can burn in your area, burn them. We do that here, but of course, we have thousands of stalks to eliminate.

If you have reblooming irises, June or July is the time for the summer application of fertilizer. Rebloomers need that extra application to get ready for fall bloom. Also remember you water rebloomers through the summer months, but do not water your once blooming irises through the summer. [https://comancheacresiris.com/fertilizer and sprays](https://comancheacresiris.com/fertilizer%20and%20sprays).



All American
31"/M. B Byers, 1992



Ray Jones
13"/D. Spoon, 2011



Belvi Queen
43"/C. Jensen, 1976

Reblooming Iris Society Treasurer Report

1st QTR 2025

Les Burgard

REVENUE

INCOME

Checks

JAN

\$0.00

FEB

\$227.00

MAR

\$224.00

EXPENSES

HOME

Mary Platner

\$153.78

Rose Kinnard

\$9.68

Total

\$157.78

\$9.68

\$0.00

1st of Month Balance

\$8,449.19

\$8,345.41

\$8,562.73

Deposits

\$0.00

\$227.00

\$224.00

Expenses

\$153.78

\$9.68

\$0.00

End of Month Balance

\$8,345.41

\$8,562.73

\$8,786.73