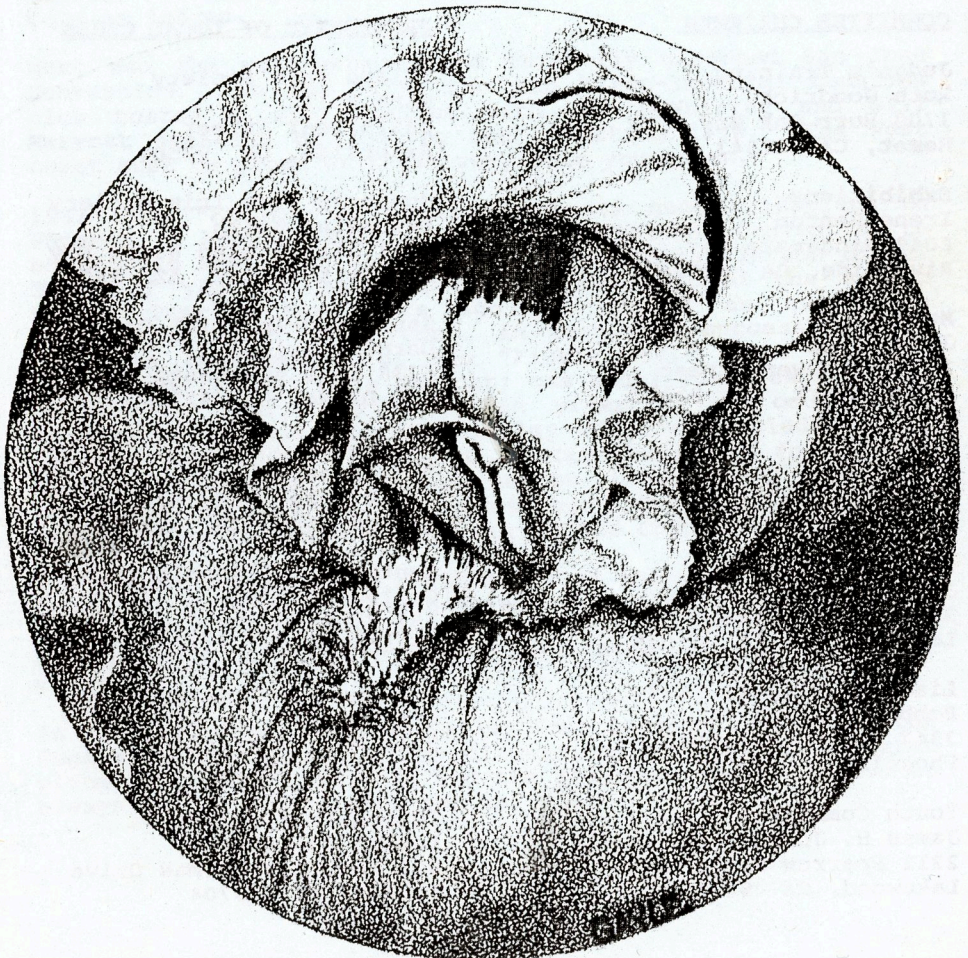


AIS Region 15
Newsletter
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • ARIZONA
SPRING 1987



AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY REGION 15 NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is published in the Spring and Fall each year. It is distributed to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Southern California and Arizona. Annual subscription rate to others is \$1.50. Editorial office is at 3225 Citrus Street, Lemon Grove, CA, 92045.

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THE REGIONAL

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The end of Winter seems to be a good time to relax and comment on the doings of last year and the events of the upcoming season -- to look at the good and review the bad.

The year opened in a resounding way with a well-attended Judges' Training Session held in Upland and conducted by Ron Mullin. We all obtained a new approach to judging and of our role as judges.

Next was the well-managed and carefully gardened San Jose Convention. In the Fall, the San Diego-Imperial Counties club hosted a fine meeting with Jim McWhirter and Bill Maryott speaking on judging and selecting iris. The West coast must be proud of these very able young men.

1987 with "Fiesta '87" will bring all good irisarians to Phoenix in April. This is the first National Convention to be held in Region 15 since the 1975 Convention in San Diego. Those of you who participated in and enjoyed the Region Spring Trex a few years ago can expect an even more interesting event this year. In fact, the success of that trek was the genesis of the "Fiesta '87." The gardens, though small, will be a delight; one magnificent estate will be on the tour, and a garden primarily of cactus and succulents has also a fine display of iris, including many spurias and spuria seedlings. Opportunities for judges training, or just becoming better informed if you are interested in judging, are exciting. The Region's Spring business meeting is scheduled during the Convention.

Not to be overlooked as a highlight of the year are the Iris Shows. These are opportunities not only for us as iris growers, but the general public as well, to evaluate and appreciate iris grown to their best. Blue ribbons for all of you!

In the Fall, San Fernando Valley Iris Society is hosting the Region Meeting. Preliminary discussions have indicated great plans for judges' training and the program. San Fernando has always put on a good show for us.

HOWARD GOODRICK

FIESTA PHOENIX '87

The Annual Convention of the
AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
April 14-19, 1987

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS

The Pointe at Tapatio Cliffs Resort
11111 North 7th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85020
phone: (602) 866-7500

RATES; Per Suite for one or two persons: \$82.00 plus 7.4% tax
For each additional person: \$10.00 plus 7.4% tax

RESERVATIONS: A reservation request will be included in the registration packet; or, you may contact THE POINTE personally. If you phone, specify *both* the AIS Convention and the specific POINTE, since the several POINTES in the Phoenix area have a central reservations desk. THE POINTE will hold a block of reservations for AIS Members between April 12 and 21. Reservation requests should be made before March 15, 1987; a deposit covering the first night's charge will be required.

INCLUDED: The breakfast Buffet (a full meal, with an extensive menu, not just a Continental breakfast.) Cocktails, 4:30 daily. Parking. Swimming Pool, Sauna, Tennis Courts, Game Room.

AVAILABLE BY FEE: Horseback riding. Golf. Hayrides. Chuckwagon Barbeques. Transportation around Phoenix.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION between THE POINTE AT TAPATIO CLIFFS and Sky Harbor airport can be arranged with THE POINTE or with other services at the Airport. Charges should be less than \$25.00 round trip—less if a member of a group. Check cost in advance and perhaps compare, particularly if considering a cab; outrageous rates periodically recur. Specify the correct POINTE.

AND—something special just for members of the American Iris Society: In 1985 THE POINTE cut a series of terraces into the hillside above the Pool and below the Golf Clubhouse. In preparation for Fiesta Phoenix '87, the Sun Country Iris Society planted the terraces with a large number of guest irises so that AIS members can inspect these particular irises in a leisurely fashion during the convention!

LOCATION: THE POINTE AT TAPATIO CLIFFS (two other POINTE Resorts are located in other sections of the Phoenix area) is about ten miles north of central Phoenix and fifteen miles from Sky Harbor Airport. While its proximity to the Phoenix North Mountain park and its northfacing setting on one of Phoenix's several mountains initially conveys an impression of isolation, it is pretty well surrounded by some of Phoenix's northern suburbs and is close to several shopping areas. From Interstate 17, go three miles east on Thunderbird Road, then ½ mile south on 7th Street (*not* 7th Avenue!).

From the AIS Bulletin
Number 264, January, 1987

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registrar: Vicki Day, 5244 W. Sunnyside Drive, Glendale, Arizona 85304.
(It's hard to reach her by phone, but she will answer your letters or, if you prefer, call to discuss questions.)

Registration Fee:

\$142.00 if received before February 15th
\$162.00 if received between February 16th and March 15th
\$182.00 if received after March 15th
\$100.00 for youth registration (under age 18)

Partial registration available only to those paying in advance.

Contract Registrar for information.

Fee Includes: The Fiesta Phoenix '87 reception, entertainment and buffet; the Annual AIS Banquet; three lunches; transportation for three mornings of garden tours; the facilities for various meetings; the sightseeing trip to Rawhide; four hours of judges' training; Robin reception.

Payment: Make checks payable to—"AIS 1987 Convention" and mail to Convention Registrar.

For Further Information: The Registrar; or the convention chair—Bobbie Shepard, 3342 W. Orangewood, Phoenix, AZ 85051—phone, (602) 841-1231.



CONVENTION TRAVEL DISCOUNT

Let these two great birds provide your spring thaw! American Airline's Eagle joins forces with the legendary Phoenix of the "Fiesta Phoenix '87" logo to transport you from this winter's gloom into the sunshine!

As the official airline for the 1987 AIS Convention, American Airlines has arranged special discount rates: 35% if purchased seven days prior to departure, or 40% if purchased fourteen days in advance.

Reservations are required and can be obtained by calling 1-800-433-1790 and asking for Star Number 051927. The line is open seven days a week, 7:00 AM to Midnight, Central Time.

"FIESTA PHOENIX '87"

Tentative daily schedule.

Tuesday, April 14, 1987.

- 1:00-9:00 PM—Registration.
- 2:00 PM—AIS Board of Directors.
- 4:00 PM—AIS Membership Committee.
- 7:00 PM—AIS Regional Vice Presidents.
- 7:00 PM—AIS Section Representatives.
- 8:00 PM—AIS Foundation Trustees.
- 8:00 PM—Youth Meeting.
- 8:30 PM—AIS Regional Vice Presidents and Judges Training Chairman.

Wednesday, April 15, 1987.

- 10:00 AM-6:00 PM—Registration.
- 10:00 AM—AIS Board of Directors.
- 1:00 PM—AIS Board of Directors.
- 2:00 PM—Median Iris Society Board of Directors.
- 3:00 PM—AIS Region 15 Meeting.
- 3:00 PM—Robin Reception.
- 4:30 PM—Dwarf Iris Society Board of Directors.
- 5:30 PM—Society for Siberian Irises Board of Directors.
- 7:00-9:30 PM—"FIESTA" WELCOME.

Thursday, April 16, 1987.

- 6:00 AM—Registration opens.
- 6:30 AM—Board buses at The Pointe; Two groups of buses.
- 7:00 AM-12:30 PM—Each group tours half of guest iris gardens (4).
- 12:30 PM—Lunch at The Pointe.
- 2:00 PM—Society for Pacific Coast Irises, S1.
- 3:00 PM—Society for Japanese Irises, S2.
- 4:00 PM—Dwarf Iris Society, S3.
- 5:00 PM—Society for Siberian Irises, S4.
- 6:00 PM—Open time; dinner at location of your choice.
- 7:30 PM—Judges Training #1, Ron Mullin, Tall Bearded Irises.
- 8:00 PM—Judges Training #2, Jim McWhirter, Japanese Irises.

Friday, April 17, 1987.

- 6:30 AM—Board buses at The Pointe.
- 7:00 AM—Each group tours the other half of guest iris gardens (4).
- 12:30 PM—Buses continue to RAWHIDE for recreation, lunch and sights.
- 3:30 PM—Buses return to The Pointe.
- 4:30 PM—Reblooming Iris Society, S5.
- 4:30 PM—Spuria Iris Society, S6.
- 5:30 PM—Open time; dinner at location of your choice.
- 7:00 PM—Judges Training, #3, Melody Wilhoit, Louisiana Irises.
- 7:30 PM—Judges Training, #4, Ron Mullin, Awards and Ballots.

Saturday, April 18, 1987.

- 6:30 AM—Board buses at The Pointe.
- 7:00 AM—Buses tour the three guest iris gardens not previously toured.
- 11:30 AM—Touring buses proceed on to Lunch.
- 1:00 PM—Buses return to The Pointe.
- 2:30 PM—Louisiana Iris Society of America, S7.
- 3:30 PM—Arl Society International, S8.
- 4:30 PM—Median Iris Society, S9.
- 4:30 PM—Median Iris Society Regional Representatives.
- 5:30 PM—SIGNA (Species Iris Group), S10.
- 6:30 PM—No Host Bar.
- 7:30 PM—AIS ANNUAL BANQUET.

Sunday, April 19, 1987.

Daybreak—Easter Sunrise Services (by arrangement).

Note: A Breakfast Buffet will be served guests of The Pointe at 6:00 AM on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

EXHIBITION JUDGING

Using the Scale of Points

The Handbook for Judges has a scale of points for judging each type of iris. How do we use it? Certainly not for every iris in a show; but rather when two or more specimens seem to be equally good, a detailed evaluation of the iris according to the qualities included in the scale of points will help to break the tie.

The Scale of Points has much value in judging in another respect. Comparison of the points for various types of iris will reveal that, for each type, Cultural Perfection counts for 75 points out of 100, and Condition and Grooming, 25 points. Further study of the points assigned shows that the flower and stalk are of almost equal importance. So often, when judging, we are inclined to give much more emphasis to the flower. Further study of the scale of points shows that Color, Size, Substance, and Form are all to be evaluated and are almost of equal importance.

Likewise, in evaluation of the stalk, two characteristics are to be considered: the number of open blooms, and branch balance and bud placement.

It is very important to remember that when considering cultural perfection of a specimen (or entry), we are considering perfection for that particular variety. Not all varieties have the same form, branching, or number of flowers opening at the same time. The question is whether that specimen is as well grown as that variety requires.

Condition and grooming -- the visible improvement in the appearance of a specimen as a result of grooming by the exhibitor -- counts for the other 25% of the 100 points allowed for a perfect specimen.

If, as a judge, we keep in mind the relative importance of cultural perfection and what it entails, and condition and grooming, we will be more fair and correct in our evaluation and awarding of ribbons in the shows.

When it is necessary to actually point score a specimen or specimens, the seriousness of the flaw will govern the number of points taken off for that particular flaw.

RUTH S. GOODRICK

TIMELY ARTICLES

The following articles were offered for use in AIS Regional newsletters by the Society for Louisiana Irises. They first appeared in the March, 1986, Society for Louisiana Irises Newsletter. We wish to thank that Society for its contribution to the education of our readers.

HOW JUDGES LOOK AT SHOW ENTRIES

Ellene Rockwell

Depending on the size of a show, most iris shows are judged by from 3 to 12 accredited American Iris Society Judges working in panels of 2 or 3. All judges may work together for certain sections of the show or to determine certain overall winners. When enough accredited judges are not available, a non-accredited but knowledgeable person may work as the third judge in a panel of 3.

An exhibitor in a show should be aware of what the AIS judges are looking for in the horticultural single specimen section of the show. They are looking for the specimen nearest to perfection, but in fact they are judging the exhibitor. This is the difference in show judging and garden judging. In the garden, they are judging the garden value of a plant of a specific variety.

In the show, they will be judging how well you have grown your specimen, your ability to select a show stalk, if you have named and entered it correctly and if you have groomed it properly. It takes all this to earn a blue ribbon. The scale of points used by the judges is 75 points for cultural perfection and 25 points for condition and grooming.

Under cultural perfection, stalk, foliage and flower are examined closely to determine if you have grown this specimen to its fullest potential for this particular variety. As you grow and care for your irises for a year between shows, you can understand that the major score is placed here.

Have you selected the best, most perfect stalk of a variety? And, have you selected the stalk with the freshest flowers? The stalk should be cut at the lowest level in order to show the judges that you have grown it well enough for it to reach its registered height. An overgrown specimen is much less at fault than an undergrown one. A specimen that is misnamed will not be judged. If in doubt, check the registration information. A sport (not of normal configuration) cannot be judged. Is your specimen healthy with no signs of disease? Have you followed the show rules and filled out your entry

tag correctly? If not, it may be placed incorrectly and may not be judged at all.

Conditions of our specimen is the result of good grooming. Good grooming is vital to the appearance of your entry. There is nothing more beautiful than a just opened flower, but any spent blooms must be carefully removed and the spathe gently returned to its original position. A specimen does not have to have the terminal bloom to win a blue ribbon. A perfect specimen stalk with only one perfect flower is also eligible for a blue ribbon. There should be no signs of garden pests, spray residue or soil. Fingerprints on the stalk are a great distraction from the beauty of a healthy stalk. You should trim any imperfection on the leaves, but grooming of the foliage should be done very carefully, as the original shape must be retained and not trimmed or cut in a crude horizontal or blunt manner.

Your entries should be cut and properly cared for prior to the show. April weather is unpredictable and may cause signs of weather damage from heavy rain, high winds or hail. If this affects all entries in a show, it may be considered a minor fault and the judges will be asked to overlook such damage. Careful transportation to and placement in the show will eliminate signs of transportation damage.

Judges cannot see your name on the entry tag and thus selection of ribbons is as objective as possible. No person with entries in a show nor entries by their family members is allowed to judge. This results in most of the judges for the Society for Louisiana Irises Show coming from out-of-state or from other areas of Louisiana. The annual meeting attracts as many as 20 to 30 judges, many of whom come from other states. Judges for the past several years have come from as far away as Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Illinois and California.

Judges are trained in what to look for in a show entry. It is up to you as an exhibitor to put your best grown and prepared stalks in for judging. I expect all of you to be Blue Ribbon winners!

Mrs. C. C. (Ellene) Rockwell of Fentress, Texas has just retired as the Chairman for Judges Training and Judges for the American Iris Society. She has given numerous judging schools throughout the United States and many of them have been on judging Louisiana irises. For many years she has judged the annual show in Lafayette. She started the work on the recent AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, which is now available.

BRINGING IN THE BLUE!

Rusty Ostheimer

Those of us who labor in our gardens for the whole year for beautiful flowers should take the time and effort necessary to select and exhibit them in a manner which gives them and us the best opportunity possible to win the BLUE. I would like to encourage each and every one of you to take the time and effort necessary to enter your flowers. By doing so you accomplish several things: you add to the beauty of a Louisiana show (a quantity of irises all together in a room makes an impressive sight); you show off your gardening talents and you show off your ability to make the best possible presentation of your flowers. First, read the show schedule with care, so you will be in compliance with the rules of the show you intend to enter. This article is to help guide you through the steps involved in selecting, transporting, grooming and entering your flowers. The guide will give some ideas on exhibiting both registered cultivars and seedlings as well as collections.

SELECTION

Time spent, several weeks in advance of the show, evaluating the possibilities of cultivars to enter will give you an advantage. Some varieties you might want to slow down or speed up. Cool dry weather tends to slow down growth and bloom. Wet warm weather tends to speed up this whole process. You might want to water or cut some early and hold in a cool dark place if the weather reports indicate adverse conditions for your flowers. You can speed up the opening of flowers by placing them in a warm humid atmosphere (bathroom with a shower turned on works well for this.).

REGISTERED CULTIVARS

When going into the garden to select bloom stalks, you must remember that the judges are looking for perfection in that particular cultivar. This means that an older variety grown and exhibited to perfection can win the BLUE as well as the newer introduced ones. Don't overlook the exhibition of older ones. The AIS silver and bronze medals for sweepstakes are dependent on the number of blue ribbons won by an exhibitor. Many newcomers interested in growing iris will be encouraged by the fact these older varieties win ribbons along with the newer ones. It is helpful to attach a label giving the name of the variety at the time you cut to expedite entering them at the show. The exhibitor is responsible for correctly naming the cultivar.

When evaluating your introduced registered cultivars for entering in a show, it is helpful to know what the judges are

looking for. The following scale of points is from the recently issued AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES AND SHOW OFFICIALS and will help you determine what bloom stalks you should cut.

SCALE OF POINTS

Cultural PerfectionTotal of 75

Stalk.....35. The stalk should be straight with the exception of irises having I. brevicaulis in their breeding, which may have a zig-zag stalk - this is not a fault.

A. Proportion.....15. The height of the stalk should be in proportion to the diameter of the bloom stalk and to the bloom. Many varieties are very tall when grown to their best potential. These should be left as tall as is practical but may be trimmed to allow the judges to view them to full advantage or to prevent tall varieties from turning over show containers.

B. Branching.....10. The development of side branches seems to be a result of excellent culture and growing conditions in some varieties. (Not all varieties will branch). If branching is present, it should be an asset (contributes to the overall picture of the bloom stalk). It is possible to be a fault where the stalk is off balance either physically or visually.

C. Bud placement and quantity.....10. Bud placement should be such that the foliage does not interfere with the flower. Placement and quantity are the result of both the cultivar and culture. Quantity should be average or better than the average for the cultivar.

Flower.....40. Flowers of different cultivars of Louisiana irises vary in size, form and shape as well as natural substance. It is always good to remember we are judging this flower against an ideal for that cultivar.

A. Form.....10. Should be consistent with what is typical of that particular cultivar. An older flower may droop down more than a newly opened one, but some cultivars have a form that droops. Freshly opened flowers are preferable.

B. Color.....10. Color should be typical of the variety. Color may be affected by the area in which it was grown as well as the temperatures at bloom time. An effort should be made to promote those flowers you plan to take to the show from fading in the sun. Cut and store in a dark area. Older blooms (flowers usually stay open 3 to 4 days) tend to lose color saturation. This would be a fault.

C. Size.....10. Size varies from one

variety to another from a few inches to 6 or 7 inches across, thus a judge has to be familiar with each variety. Size of the flower should be typical for the variety; however, a larger than average flower will indicate better culture. Size of flower must still be in proportion to height and strength of the stalk.

- D. Substance.....10. Substance is the ability of the flower to hold the flower parts in place. Lack of water at bloom time, poor culture and hot weather contribute to poor substance. A flower that is old will also exhibit poor substance (flower parts have become thin and limp).

Conditioning and Grooming....Total of 25

Having done the best possible job with culture and selection of the bloom stalk, the exhibitor must now preserve and enhance the stalk to present it in its best possible condition.

Conditioning. Flowers should be cut well in advance of transporting them and conditioned in deep water. Lack of proper conditioning results in poor substance even in a freshly opened flower.

Grooming. Here patience and a steady hand will allow the exhibitor to achieve the best possible visual appeal. A pair of small manicure scissors, a soft sable painter's brush and a damp cloth are helpful tools for the final touches. Some suggestions are:

1. Remove spent blooms as carefully as possible and tuck the green flower sheaf back in to the split in the leaf. You should not be able to tell that the flower in that position has bloomed.
2. Any yellow or brown foliage should be removed or trimmed in such a manner as to look like a natural contour of the leaf. Hacking off the brown tips in a careless manner detracts from a natural appearance. Copy nature.
3. Use a dampened cloth to remove any spots of mud or fertilizer from the leaves.
4. If the bees got to the flower and scattered pollen on the visible flower parts, use a soft sable brush to carefully remove it.
5. Remove any live or dead bugs or spider webs from the bloom stalk.

SELECTION OF SEEDLINGS

Evaluation of seedlings at the show is at best only part of the whole picture. It does give the hybridizer a place to show off his efforts; however, there is no way to judge the whole plant, as it is not available. An Exhibition Certificate for a seedling in a show is no longer considered as an invitation to register or introduce, but it may give the hybridizer an indication of public approval and judge's

interest.

Grooming of seedlings may influence some show visitors, but there are no points given for grooming by the judges. There is a disadvantage to removing spent flowers, since this is the only indication of bud count and placement on an older stalk. Judges are taught to evaluate the stalk and flower, not the skill of the exhibitor. (I would take as much care, however, in cleaning up a seedling as one in the registered division so as to present the stalk in the best possible manner.) The stalk should be cut its full height and no side branches or leaves removed. Height in relation to bud position and to flower size is part of what is being judged.

Select varieties that have real distinction and that exhibit some outstanding and different feature from those already registered.

SCALE OF POINTS FOR SEEDLINGS

I. Stalk.....35	II. Flower.....65
Proportion.....15	Color.....15
Branching..... 5	Form.....15
Bud placement &	Substance,
count.....15	& texture....15
	Individuality
	& distinction 20

COLLECTION CLASSES

The collection consists of several stalks of registered varieties which exhibit the ability of the exhibitor to grow consistently top quality show specimens. Check your show schedule for the required number of stalks and whether all are to be the same variety or a collection of different varieties. The stalks should be cut to approximately the same length, but allowing the blossoms not to interfere with each other. Each cultivar should be correctly named, and grooming and conditioning should be carried out in the same manner as for single specimens.

1. Overall effect20 points. Combinations of colors and patterns should present a harmonious effect within the confines of the symmetrical display silhouette. It should have visual appeal.

 Combination of specimens....10.
 Harmonious display.....10.

2. Horticultural Perfection.....50. Each stalk should represent the best possible example of that particular cultivar. The proportions of the plants to themselves and others in the group are important considerations. Consider the individual flowers, the stalks, and the bud and bloom quantity.

3. Condition and culture.....30. Each specimen in the collection should be in first class condition. This includes

proper grooming of individual specimens by the exhibitor. Good culture is in evidence when top quality blooms are produced.

TRANSPORTING TO THE SHOW

After careful consideration and grooming of your BLUE RIBBON NOMINEES, the time comes to successfully transport the stalks from your home to the show location. The manner in which this is done depends on distance and time spent travelling, as well as the number of stalks you will enter. For a few talks in the same town as the show, a few helpful hands can hand carry your stalks.

For those who will transport them a greater distance and perhaps a day to several days before the show, more complicated methods are in order. The amount of time the stalks are out of water is critical.

A flat florist box works well if travel time is not over a few hours (this method would work for air travel to the show). In this case, the partially opened buds can be lightly wrapped in waxed paper or florist paper, the whole stalk wrapped lightly in a cone of newspaper, the cut end supplied with water on moist cotton balls wrapped in a plastic bag, and the whole cones laid flat in an insulated florist box. This box can be carried on the back seat of a car, in the car trunk, or carried on the plane. You should re-cut the stalks under water after arrival and re-condition in deep water.

Iris es may be transported in containers of water separated in some manner (space or cones) so that they do not vibrate against each other in transit.

Old ice chests that do not leak but have the cover removed can have a layer of stabilizing chicken wire in the base and a top of wood with holes cut to individual stalk sizes. Using this procedure, it is possible to transport them in water and not to remove them from water until entry in a show. A vehicle with vertical clearance is needed for this method.

ENTERING YOUR FLOWERS

The last of your jobs is now at hand. Remove each specimen, check out its condition (if things are not as you expected, look below for additional helpful hints to aid your entry), correctly and completely fill out the entry tag, and proudly give your entry to the entry chairman. After you have gone through these steps, relax, sit down, have a cup of coffee, and indulge in some good iris talk with your friends!! You did all you possibly could do to insure the BLUE!

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Very hot water in a deep bucket will help revive irises that have lost condition in transit.

2. A reluctant bud can be gently encouraged with warm hand, gentle twisting, and blowing.

3. To help stalks stand well in show containers, use folded foliage in an unobtrusive way at the mouth of the container.

4. It may be helpful to cut more than one of a variety in case of failure of one to open in transit, or unexpected damage. (Show personnel and arrangers will be glad to put your extra flowers to good use.)

5. When cutting buds to open in a day or more, the best results are obtained if they show 1/4 to 1/2 of the flower color. If one day remains, a more open flower may be cut. Some varieties open rapidly once they show color, while others require a longer time. Experience and notes on varieties will prove the best long term way to make this decision.

Rusty Ostheimer has won many awards at the annual Louisiana show in Lafayette. She is Co-Chairman of the Annual Show, and an AIS judge.

WE HAVE AN EDITOR

by Ralph Strane

Our effort to improve the Region 15 Newsletter is off to a good start. We received \$180.00 in ad support from local Societies and members. We can do better with the ads. Many who said they would buy ads must have forgotten, as their ads did not arrive. Maybe next issue.

Most important is the news that we have found a permanent editor. For the past year, each issue has been put out by a different volunteer, which is no way to run a newspaper. Each editor has had to start from scratch. Now, Janice Lynch, of Lemon Grove, has taken the position of Editor. This first issue has been a rush job for Janice, but she is already at work on the Fall issue, so we can expect "great things." We want to thank Janice for the time and labors she is donating to the Region. A strong newsletter will make a strong Region.

Each Society in the Region will be getting a letter asking that a reporter be appointed to see that Janice gets the news that is important from the local organizations. DO YOUR PART! Send material, and support the newsletter with ads. Many thanks!

RALPH

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

These recommendations of the Board of Directors of Region 15 were accepted at the business meeting on October 11, 1986, at San Diego:

1. The \$1,000.00 CD of Region 15, maturing in October, will be transferred to the Convention Fund as a loan.
2. Region 15 will hold its Spring business meeting during the National Convention in Phoenix. (Note: This meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 1987, at 3:00 p.m.)
3. By common consent, it was agreed to sell advertising in the Newsletter as a means of funding the cost of the Newsletter. Ralph Strane was named Chairman of the committee.

Jane Feldman of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society was elected Secretary of Region 15.

HOWARD GOODRICK

BALANCE SHEET AS OF OCTOBER 5, 1986

BEGINNING BALANCE

Checking Account	1438.78
2 Certificates of Deposit	2000.00
Accounts Receivable	500.00

TOTAL 3938.78

RECEIPTS

Auction Sales	
San Diego-Imperial Counties	185.00
San Fernando Valley	164.00
Sun Country	180.00
Southern California	104.00
Mountain View	47.50
Tucson	150.00

	830.50

Auction Donations	
San Diego-Imperial Counties	115.00
Inland	400.00

	515.00

Interest-Checking Account	32.82
Interest-Certificates of Deposit	284.18

TOTAL RECEIPTS 1662.50

DISBURSEMENTS

Newsletter	
Spring '86 Labels	11.67
Fall '86	349.03

Auction Iris for '87	360.70
	283.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 643.70

BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 1986 4957.58

Checking Account	2173.40
2 Certificates of Deposit	2284.18
Accounts Receivable	500.00

TOTAL 4957.58

Submitted 10-11-86
Vicki L. Day, Treasurer

SYMPOSIUM VOTES

Nearly 100 members of Region 15 voted the Symposium Ballot. Many thanks to those of you who participated. Your votes were tabulated, and the results were sent to National to be included in the list of the 100 Favorite Iris to be published in an upcoming issue of the AIS Bulletin. This list provides an excellent guideline to purchasers of iris, particularly to those who do purchase the newer introductions.

The winners in our region are:

	<u>Votes</u>
BEVERLY SILLS	41
VICTORIA FALLS	38
HEATHER BLUSH	28
BUBBLING OVER	27
GOING MY WAY	27
WHITE LIGHTNING	27
BAJA BANDIT	26
MARY FRANCES	26
PERSIAN BERRY	25
ORANGE EMPIRE	24
CATALYST	24

REVISED MEETING SCHEDULE

	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
1987	National Convention at Phoenix	San Fernando Valley Iris Society
1988	Southern California Iris Society	San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society
1989	Inland Iris Society	Southern California Iris Society
1990	OPEN	OPEN

INLAND IRIS SOCIETY

Our new president, Sara Holk, has started the year with many innovations for the Inland Iris Society. A new meeting place has been found and the Society is feeling "Very much at home". The Program Director has presented a series of new programs on some of the rarer irises which has been a great success.

Inland will present its Spring Show "Springtime Magic" the week after the Phoenix Fiesta, April 25-26 at the Riverside Plaza, Riverside. Everyone is invited to enter both the Horticulture and Arrangement Sections or just come and visit!

On May 2nd the Society will conduct a "Mini Trek" and will view many of the outstanding gardens of our area. Visitors are welcome to join us for this event. Call (714) 780-0335 for information.

Many members are planning on making the trip to Phoenix to enjoy the Fiesta. We are looking forward to seeing many of our AIS friends there and to enjoy a pleasant time in the "sun" with them.

SAN DIEGO - IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

We hosted the Fall Regional Meeting in October with Jim McWhirter and Bill Maryott as our guest speakers. They were outstanding and gave us much to ponder.

In November we took a trip down memory lane. Thelma Carrington, a charter member, brought a wonderful display showing many of the events from the early days of our local society. Other long-time members shared memories as well.

December brought the Christmas Party, which was held at Maggie Galdarisi's lovely home. Great food and gifts were enjoyed by all.

In an attempt to generate more interest and participation in the artistic division of our show, January's program was devoted to flower arranging. Hazel Carson, Artistic Chairman, demonstrated three different types of arrangements to give us some ideas for a pleasing display.

We held our 24th birthday party in February. Ralph Strane was our guest speaker and, as usual, was a delight.

In March we will meet at Doris Foster's home for a potluck and a bit of education on arilbreds. Doris is a well-known hybridizer of these fine irises, so we should gain new knowledge to help us in growing our own arilbreds.

Our Spring Show "Iris Impressions", is scheduled for the weekend following the convention in Phoenix, so April will be a busy but happy time for iris lovers.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

The Southern California Iris Society has three major activities this spring that may be of interest to you: an early show, a mall show and a major iris planting. The Early Spring Iris Show is being produced in cooperation with the Aril Society International, the weekend of April 4-5 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia. For the first time this will be open to Tall Bearded, thus encouraging strains of remountants, as well as featuring the smaller irises -- dwarfs, intermediates, MTB's, Pacificas and Arils, whose prime bloom is about a month earlier than regular TB's and BB's not to mention spurias and Louisianas. Entries come from as far away as Israel. You are encouraged to enter -- and to purchase and/or contribute potted rhizomes.

Our 47th Annual Mall Show and bare root rhizome sale is set for the week after the Phoenix National. This is a standard, AIS approved show with Arrangements and Horticultural competition. This year's theme is "Iris Internationale", so arrangements sections have been named for countries, eg. "Japan - QuietWaters", "Africa - Desert Sands", "Scandinavia" (2 or more containers) etc. Interested? Good -- come try it! We'd especially like to see more Youth entries. April 25-26, Santa Anita Fashion Park, Arcadia.

The Great Descanso Gardens Iris Bed Renovation is an enormous project designed (by Jeanne Clay Plank) partly to provide us a particularly large host garden for our 1988 Regional Trek but ultimately to be a permanent showcase with historic and educational value for the public. Currently edged in award winning iris, including almost all the Dykes Medalists, a small selection of PCNs, arils, spurias, Louisianas, and some species iris, these 10 beds still have almost 4000 square feet bare! The plan is to arrange for bloom throughout the year but to stick to bulb types, -- iris family as much as possible. People from the daylily societies have been tremendously supportive and generous. If you would like to help with donations of plants (and/or time to plant 'em), contact Jeanne at 818\767-5512.

For the Early Show contact Duncan Eader at 818\449-0077.
For the Mall Show, contact Lynn McIlwain at 818\332-8354.

SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

One event and one only, has occupied all the members of the Sun Country Iris Society for what now seems like years. On April 14 - 19 the members of the American Iris Society will enjoy the results of all the planning and work our members have done when they attend the "Phoenix Fiesta 87". Everything has been done possible to make the visit a memorable occasion.

Sun Country wants to thank all of the many people from other Iris Societies for all of the great help and support that they have given us in the production of the Fiesta -- Thanks! Now come and enjoy!

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

Satchel Paige is often quoted as saying, "Don't look back, something may be gaining on you." However, that estimable gentleman would surely understand if the San Fernando Valley Iris Society looks back on 1986 with pride. It was a banner year.

Monthly programs were outstanding, beginning in the January and February meetings with presentations by Bill Maryott and Keith Keppel and concluding with the annual Christmas dinner at which two scholarships to students in horticulture were awarded and Caroline Sutherland was the recipient of the David T. Ross Award for Outstanding Service. A memorable July evening was spent with then AIS President Ron Mullin during which Past AIS President Marion Walker became an honorary lifetime member of the SFVIS.

In addition shows in February and April, rhizome sales in April and October, our local trek in April, and the raffle-auction-picnic in August were unqualified successes. In their spare time 30 SFVIS members enjoyed the AIS Convention in San Jose.

1987 will be no less rewarding or hectic. Speakers scheduled for the January, February and March meetings are Eleanor McCown, Bryce Williamson and John Weiler. The annual trek will be April 11, the horticulture show April 24-26 with artistic arrangements judged on the 25th, the raffle-auction-picnic September 13, and the rhizome sale October 2-4. An addition to these activities is a return of a boutique in November.

Set aside October 10 for the Region 15 Fall Meeting. The SFVIS is looking forward to the opportunity to be your host.

Meanwhile, the SFVIS members also hope to party with you at the Phoenix Fiesta. They'll be there.

TUCSON IRIS SOCIETY

It would not take many guesses to figure out what has kept the Tucson Iris Society busy this past year. Most of its activities have been directed to helping its sister society with the production of the Phoenix Fiesta. The Society has made a substantial donation to the Fiesta and even now is planning a "Great Cookie Bake-off to help furnish refreshments for the display gardens.

Our annual Iris Show will be held at the Park Mall Shopping Center, 5870 E. Broadway on the afternoons of April 11 and 12th. Any visitors to the Phoenix Fiesta are welcome to make a short side trip to Tucson and visit our show.

The members of the Tucson Iris Society are looking forward to meeting AIS members in Phoenix. Welcome to Arizona!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

meets five times a year at the L.A. State and County Arboretum, Arcadia. Call 818\449-4977 for dates and times.

1987 IRIS SHOWS

AN EARLY SPRING IRIS SHOW on April 4th and 5th in Ayers Hall at the Arboretum, featuring arils arilbreds, Pacific Coast Native hybrids and any other iris in bloom at the time. Artistic Division. This show takes the place of the Aril Society show and all growers/arrangers are invited to participate (enter) or at least to attend.

Our 47TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW in the Fashion Park Mall in Arcadia on April 25-26, featuring all types of irises, artistic arrangements and plant sale.

For information or show schedules call 818/449-4077 or write S.C.I.S., 154 Backus, Pasadena, CA 91107



SAN DIEGO - IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

meets 3rd Sunday each month
at 1 pm, Quail Gardens

Iris Show - Balboa Park, April 25-26
Iris Sale - Balboa Park, August 16th



Inland Iris Society



WELCOMES YOU TO ITS MEETINGS
1st MONDAY-7PM, 250 E. SAN BERNARDINO, RIALTO
PHONE (714) 780-0336 FOR INFORMATION

VISIT OUR ANNUAL IRIS SHOW
"SPRINGTIME MAGIC"
APRIL 25th & 26th
RIVERSIDE PLAZA
CENTRAL AVENUE BETWEEN MAGNOLIA AND THE
91 FREEWAY, RIVERSIDE, CA.
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Herbert and Sara Holk
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1987 INTRODUCTIONS

BIG DUKE (Shepard '87) TB-42"-M.....\$25.00

This cross produced so many good possibilities that it took two years to choose THE one! **BIG DUKE** is a large ruffled rich lavender-mauve blend. The falls have rich yellow shoulders blending to cream around a deep yellow beard. The substance is fantastic and holds even in our heat! (Indian Territory X Pacific Grove)

SPLASH OF BLUE (Shepard '87) TB-36"-M.....\$25.00

Look out across the field and this iris shows up! It is a rosy melon with a rich purple-blue blaze radiating from an orange-gold beard down through the center of the falls. It multiplies quickly and blooms profusely. (Entourage X Brimstone)

LITTLE O CHRIS (Shepard '87) BB-24"/27"-EM.....\$20.00

This honey-brown self is named for our redheaded grandson Christopher. It is an early heavy bloomer that is sprinkled with shimmering gold and has a yellow splash radiating from a gold-orange beard; ruffled with slight sweet fragrance. Produces a nice show stalk and holds its color well. (Bengal Tiger X Burgundy Brown)

JESSICA ROSE (Shepard '87) BB- 27"-EML.....\$20.00

When you study this iris you can only think of a feminine lady, therefore we named this one for our young granddaughter. One bat of her eyelashes and she has your heart! **JESSICA ROSE** is a ruffled rich dark lavender with white veins radiating outward from the base to the tip and width of the falls. An orange beard accents the beauty. Pronounced fragrance. (Burgundy Brown X Bengal Tiger)

BUTTER AND SPICE (Shepard '87) BB-25"-E.....\$20.00

This BB has a plicata appearance yet it isn't really classified as a plic. It is predominately yellow with the standards heavily veined brown-purple and the falls heavily freckled purple overall with charcoal-purple shoulders and hafts and a gold beard. Delicate but bold! (Burgundy Brown X Artic Blend)

BOBBIE LOU (Shepard '87) LA-29"-E.....\$25.00

Our first Louisiana has been a favorite selection among our garden visitors. A profuse bloomer with the possibility of three open blooms and show stalk branching. Rose-pink with green reverse which leaves a slight green rim on the falls, it has a bright yellow steeple signal and green-yellow stylearms.

KITT PEAK (Wickenkamp '87) SPU-53"-M.....\$20.00

Floyd's newest baby is rather unique! The standards are medium blue-violet shading to yellow at the base while the falls are deep blue-violet shading to chocolate brown. A bright yellow signal extends yellow rays into the brown creating a beautiful effect. (Burnished Brown X Proverb)

P&H \$3.00 Catalog On Request

THERE'S MORE IRIS - "DOWN UNDER"

The IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA offers the following preliminary information about the 1988 Australian Iris Convention:

In 1988 Australia will be celebrating its Bi-Centennial, and, because of this, there will be a large number of special events organized Nation wide.

As the IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA's contribution to these celebrations, it is organizing an Iris Convention to be held in both Sydney and Melbourne. During the Sydney part of the convention, the inaugural judging of the Sydney Louisiana Iris Spectacular will take place.

If you are considering a trip "Down Under," what better time to come than in our Bi-Centennial year, and also the chance of participating in an Iris Convention held in Australia's two major cities. Another good reason to come is the extremely good exchange rate on the Australian dollar.

For those who also like horses, on the Tuesday after the close of the Iris Convention, the world famous Melbourne Cup will be run.

The dates to remember are as follows:

Sydney part of the Convention:

Thursday, the 20th of October, 1988
to
Monday, the 24th of October, 1988

Melbourne part of the Convention:

Tuesday, the 25th of October, 1988
to
Saturday, the 29th of October, 1988

The Melbourne Cup (horse race):

Tuesday, the 1st of November, 1988

By arranging your trip around the above dates, you will be able to participate in our Iris Convention and Bi-Centennial.

If you would like to be kept informed about the Convention, please write to the Convention Organizer as shown below:

Iris Society of Australia
Convention Organizer
TERRY R. NISBET
12 Normdale Road

I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF

Hello, my name is Janice Lynch, and I'm an iris lover. My love for iris extends back two decades from the time I was a high school student in New England. Although born in Boston, I was raised in my teen years in the Portland, Maine, area, fourteen miles from town in the country. I can remember spending hours digging singlehandedly a bed three feet wide and thirty feet long out of virgin lawn that had never grown anything but thick green grass before - and fortunately not Bermuda. I can still recall my father sitting at the kitchen window watching me digging for hours as he drank coffee. It was my personal labor of love, and he didn't interfere. He never said a word to me about it, and I wonder what he thought. Somehow, I'd like to think he admired my determination. Later, I walked all over the property gathering stray iris I had seen growing here and there, and that had spurred me to start my project and plant them all in the same place. They were simple iris of just two colors - blue/purple self for one, and yellow standards with brown falls for the other - but to me they were beautiful. For four years at least, I don't believe I realized that Iris came in any other colors. It's amazing how effective one common color can be in masse. I can remember when the first pinks were introduced on the market a few years later. It was the most exciting thing I had heard for iris.

Today, I live in beautiful San Diego County, and still dig in the iris for hours, only this time I have seven beds extending over two hundred feet. I have met many wonderful irisians who share my love for God's creation of infinite beauty, called the iris. I have also found that there are iris I never dreamed existed besides the incomparable tall bearded, which will probably always be my first love. I have the unique pleasure of living within walking distance of Valeria Chenoweth, whom I consider one of my dearest friends. When I first moved to the area eight years ago, I drove by her yard for two Springs trying to figure out what those beautiful, exotic flowers were growing in her yard. It was only after joining our Society that I learned she was my neighbor and I received an invitation for a personal guided tour of her garden. They were IRIS! LOUISIANAS! If you insist upon my describing my first visit to her garden in full bloom, you will have to settle for it being considered to one of the closest things to Heaven that a mortal can experience. I have grown to appreciate and love the Louisiana iris (which is well advised if one is to remain around Valeria for long), and I have long since forgiven her for not having even one tall bearded in her garden. Iris lovers are iris lovers! This past Fall, I had the joy of adding eighteen Japanese iris to my garden, which shows how broad my education has become since my teen years.

I have affectionately named one of the favorite spots in my iris garden "People and Places." I guess I wear my love for iris like a badge, or something happens to my face when I see them growing. At any rate, people always ask me if I would

like some iris that are growing in their garden. Unfortunately, these varieties are often not named. However, what iris lover can refuse an iris? Consequently, I put them all in the same spot and name them (for my personal pleasure) according to their source. I happily have "Alice Wiles" (named for the dear lady that gave me this rhizome) growing in my garden, along side "Broadview" (named for Broadview, New Mexico, where I found a multitude of thirsty clumps growing neglected beside an abandoned, tumbling school building. This iris is my "holiday" iris, as it blooms almost continuously year round (it seems), and is always in bloom at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Can you imagine my delight the first year I had an iris blooming at Christmas? No such thing in New England!), and "Newburyport" (named for Newburyport, Massachusetts, where my parents moved in later years to a house that had a spectacular row of this one variety which was twenty feet long. I have had increases of this one iris in every garden where I have lived since 1968, and probably would protect it with my life in the event of an earthquake.). As I continue my love affair with the iris, I hope to become adept at hybridizing Louisianas, and want to continue my training to become a good iris judge.

Now that we are the best of friends, I would like to tell you how pleased I am to be allowed to be Editor of our Region's newsletter. It is OUR newsletter. You have an open invitation to send me any article, item, or information which you feel might be of interest to our membership. As a matter of fact, it is a necessity to keep our lines of communication open with the total membership. Show time is coming. I would strongly encourage each Society in our Region to take pictures of your winning exhibitors and submit them to me. Don't be bashful! Growing prize winning iris is no small accomplishment. There will be much news to report to me regarding your shows. See that I receive it. Election of officers will be coming up soon in many Societies. Let's have some more pictures coming my way. We're proud to be irisians. We exercise good judgment, choice and taste. I continue to be amazed at the wealth of iris knowledge possessed by our members here on the West coast and in Arizona. When you love something as much as we love the iris, it is only natural to want to share that enthusiasm. Submit your articles to me. The membership needs and wants it, and you owe it to the advancement of the iris in general. And how about reports of your attendance at "Fiesta '87?"

I begin my tenure as Editor with dedication, enthusiasm, and love. I want to see our newsletter become a significant publication, which is educational, newsworthy, and informative, and of which we can all be proud. To do this, I need your input, so please keep my mailman busy.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Howard Goodrick and Ralph Strane for their kind and dedicated assistance to me in putting my first issue together; Gayle Westrate for her beautiful artwork on our cover; and Dorothy Driscoll for her labor of love in getting the newsletter stamped and mailed.

AIS Region 15 Newsletter
3225 Citrus Street
Lemon Grove, CA 92045



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SUN CITY AZ 85351