

American Iris Society

Colorado Region 20 Fall 2007 E-Newsletter



Content

Look to the Future	1
RVP's Message	1
Editor's Message	2
Announcements	3
Calendar	3
A Few Good Irises	4
Show Report	5
A Convention Diary	5
Loomis' 20th Year	7
Hybridizer Awards	8
'08 Symposium	8
Amazing Sale Tale!	9
Sutton Wows Elmohr	10
Winning Photo	10
Garden Tours	11
Austin Convention '08	15
Winegar 2007	15
Event-Related Contacts	15
Officers	16
Memoriam	16

Your E-Newsletter — A Look to the Future

Welcome to the premier, full color edition of the Region 20 e-newsletter, published as a PDF file on our Web site for you to read, download, and print. Back issues are also available on the site. The landscape (horizontal) orientation fits well on a computer screen for on-line reading and the 8.5 x 11 inch page with ample margins is easy to print at home. If you enjoy reading larger print on your computer screen, enlarge the scale to 125% using the zoom control in your PDF reader software. Need help? Contact Steve Blecher at sblecher@comcast.net or Richard Nolde at nrichard8@qwest.net.

Many plant societies have moved to electronic newsletters sent by e-mail or posted on their Web sites. The advantages include full-color pages, no printing or postage costs, and shorter publication cycles. We think this format offers exciting opportunities for an improved newsletter that can be easily shared with your gardening friends. Just tell them where to find our Web site or e-mail them a copy of the PDF file. We would like to hear your comments! Contact us at clrimage@comcast.net or 303-979-0935. If you do not have access to a computer, call 303-979-0935 for a printed black and white copy.



The RVP's Fall 2007 Message

By Stephen Blecher

2007 certainly was a vintage year for irises and most other perennials. The moist winter, followed by a mild spring, gave us a very profuse and long-lasting bloom season, and the favorable weather was a bonanza for our local hybridizers. In fact we were more fortunate than the folks in the Midwest and parts of the South, where they had late frosts and summer drought. Our fall has been equally mild so far, and the newly planted rhizomes are becoming well established and are producing lots of increases. I hope that you've been watering all your perennials, because the past six weeks have been warm and very dry. You can still water if the ground is not frozen, and if we don't have good snow cover this winter we may need to water a few times.

Colorado was host to the the Tall Bearded Iris Society tour that included the gardens of local hybridizers, Dave Miller, Lois Olson, Bob Van Liere, and Lowell Baumunk, plus a visit to Hudson Gardens for lunch and a look at the Region 20 Display Bed. We had perfect weather and plenty of bloom, even though some of the earlier varieties were past their peak. The Region 20 members who participated in the tour had an opportunity to meet iris growers from all parts of the country.



Hudson Garden iris sale. Photo, R. Nolde.

We had an excellent assortment of rhizomes at the sale this year. As always, our members and commercial growers donated plenty of good rhizomes, and we had enthusiastic volunteers to sort the rhizomes, set up the tent and tables, and help the customers. I would like to thank everybody who donated rhizomes or worked at the sale.

Unfortunately, proceeds from the sale were disappointing, amounting to \$1900. Subtracting expenses, net proceeds were about \$1500. This situation has caused a severe budget deficit that has forced us to use some of our cash reserves to help fund our programs. The board concluded that the reason for slow sales was lack of publicity. We need to make a much stronger effort to contact local newspapers, magazines, and radio stations to inform the public about the sale. We should consider running an ad in the Littleton Independent or similar local paper. During the winter we have an opportunity to become more familiar with the media and find out who can publicize the sale.

At the fall meeting in October Bob Van Liere presented an excellent program about his hybridizing efforts. He has invested a lot of time and labor producing thousands of seedling plants, and his work is paying off in the form of some very attractive and unique cultivars. Brian Vogt, the new Director of the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) spoke at our luncheon, and I'm convinced that the plant societies will enjoy much better relations with the Gardens in the coming years. Just this week the voters in Denver approved a bond issue to finance much-needed maintenance projects for the conservatory, greenhouses, and irrigation system. Those of us who have been coming to the Gardens for years and

years have witnessed a gradual deterioration in the facilities. Now I'm expecting great things to happen at the Gardens.

Finally, as of Nov.11 we are still in desperate need of a new RVP for 2008. According to the Bylaws of the National AIS and Region 20, the RVP cannot serve two consecutive terms. Even if consecutive terms were permitted, it still wouldn't be good for the organization, because there is always a need for new ideas and new leadership.

Steve Blecher, RVP Region 20 AIS



Editor's Message

By Glenn Guenterberg

A hearty thanks is due all who contributed articles for this issue! Two articles are from members of the Loomis and Elmohr Iris Societies, Region 20 affiliates. We plan to feature more articles from these very active groups. And don't miss the amazing tale of an iris sale gone right.

We are happy to bring this fall newsletter to you in the new, revolutionary, handy e-format. This means that the club Web site, www.geocities.com/aisregion20, has assumed the role of e-newsletter distribution. While you are on the site browse each section to find new features, check the regional events calendar, and learn about local iris growers. The good news is — the on-line publication of this issue saved your club nearly \$1000 in printing and postage costs.

Speaking of the power of e-publishing, we plan to send meeting announcements and other time-sensitive material to you by e-mail in the future. Again, the cost savings are high and the delivery instantaneous. Please send us your e-mail address by contacting our membership chairperson, Lynda Love at rxiris@comcast.net. We will use your e-mail address only to send you iris-related information. If you do not have access to e-mail, we will continue to send you some notices by post card.

The 2008 AIS Convention is in Austin, Texas, practically in our back yard and two weeks before our bloom season. Sign up before February 15 to save money. Learn how by reading the note on page 15.

Friends of Rob Stetson — send us your recollections, sentences, essays, thought fragments, photos, of Rob for a feature article in the spring newsletter.

Here's that familiar mantra again: Keep your minds in gear and your articles coming. We will print all the iris news that's fit to print. For the spring newsletter, the submittal deadline is **March 10**. Here's another way to see your words in print: send us your comments about the e-newsletter and the Web site. We will publish your feedback in an editorial page in the spring.

Announcements

Welcome — New Members!

We look forward to welcoming you at our winter meeting in the Waring House of the Denver Botanic Gardens on Saturday, February 23.

Donna Abert from Rocky Ford

Carla Huffman from Highlands Ranch

Anne Freeman & Nicholas Graham Wilson
from Colorado Springs

Jill & Dennis Mitcham from Las Animas

Ann Montague from Broomfield

Beth Siegfried from Florence

Cindy Woodhead from Aurora



Carla Huffman enjoying Bob Van Lier's Iris4U gardens on the R20/TBIS garden tour.

Echter's Echxpo Returns in 2008

Mark your calendar on March 7, 8, and 9, then call Steve Blecher and volunteer to help greet gardening aficionados at our display booth. It's fun and a great way to answer questions about irises and enroll new members.

2008 Iris Show to be A One Day Event

The 2008 Region 20 iris show will be a one-day event on Sunday, May 25. The show will be open to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. As usual, the location will be Mitchell Hall at the Denver Botanic Gardens. We can bring in our show materials and equipment (but not the irises) on Saturday, May 24 from 8:00 a.m. until noon and store them backstage. The good news is the shorter show will help the blooms to look their best and it allowed us to reserve a prime date on the busy DBG calendar. Exhibitors, judges, and show staff will start early and move quickly to prepare the displays for viewing by 10:30 a.m.

2008 Region 20 Events Calendar

- Sat. Feb 23 12:00 p.m. R20 General Meeting, Waring House at DBG, our speaker, David Niswonger, is a biologist, chemist and plant hybridizer, including bearded & beardless irises
- Tue. Mar 3 Loomis Planning Committee Meeting, Karen's Office, Ordway
- Fri/Sat/Sun Mar 7, 8, 9 Echter's Echxpo volunteers needed for Region 20 AIS booth, call Steve to help — this is our opportunity to talk iris
- Sat. Mar 8 12:00 p.m. Elmohr General Mtg, Rockrimmon brch library
- Sat. Apr 5 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting in TBD classroom at DBG
- Sat. Apr 12 12:00 p.m. Elmohr General Mtg, Rockrimmon brch library
- Sat. May 10 12:00 p.m. Elmohr General Mtg, Rockrimmon brch library
- Sun. May 18 1:00 p.m. **Loomis Flower Show** at the Gobin Building, Depot Plaza, on Main St. in Rocky Ford — open to the public. Meet at 6:00 a.m. to groom bloom stalks and set up for the show 10:00 a.m. judging starts
- Sun. May 25 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. **R20 Iris Show** at DBG — open to the public from 10:30 to 5:30, bring show materials and equipment on Sat. May 24 from 8:00 a.m. till noon and store them backstage
- Sat. Jun 14 12:00 p.m. **Elmohr Iris Show**, date & time to be confirmed
- Sat. Jul 26 9:00 – 4:00 one day **R20 Iris Sale**, open to the public at Hudson Gardens — setup Friday afternoon
- Tue. Aug 5 **Loomis Plant Sale** at the Pueblo Farm Market at Midtown Mall
- Fri. Aug 8 **Loomis Plant Sale**, Pueblo Farm Market at Midtown Mall
- Sat. Aug 9 8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Loomis Plant Sale** in Rocky Ford
- Sat. Aug 9 12:00 p.m. Elmohr potluck meeting
- Sat. Aug 9 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting in TBD classroom
- Sat. Sep 13 Elmohr's Awards Banquet, location and time TBD
- Sat. Oct 4 12:00 p.m. fall General Meeting & election, Waring House
- Sun. Oct 12 6:00 p.m. Loomis Awards Dinner at the Heritage Center
- Sat. Nov 22 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting in TBD classroom



Iris sale set up at Hudson Gardens, photo R. Nolde.

A Few Good Irises, *Part 11* Liquid vs. Granular Fertilizers

By Stephen Blecher

Liquid fertilizers, such as Miracle-Gro®, are very popular with home gardeners because they are so convenient to apply. If you are growing irises, how do they compare with granular slow release fertilizers? Richard Nolde, our Webmaster, who planted most of his garden in irises, uses liquid fertilizers, while we use slow release granular fertilizers in my garden and at the Region 20 iris display bed in Hudson Gardens. All three gardens



are located in Littleton about a mile apart, so we decided to do a little experiment. Richard had his soil analyzed early in the spring at Colorado State University (CSU),* and the results were very similar to analyses that were done on samples from my garden and the display bed. We applied the same amount of nitrogen per 1000 sq ft for the growing season in all three gardens. In the spring we applied 60% of the total fertilizer, then 20% post-bloom, and the remaining 20% around the beginning of September. The main difference is that the spring feeding must be divided into three smaller feedings if you use liquid fertilizer. The approximate feeding schedule is shown at right. These dates are for tall bearded irises in the Denver area, and may need to be a week or two earlier or later in other parts of Colorado.

<u>Application Date</u>	<u>Granular Fertilizer</u>	<u>Liquid Fertilizer</u>
Early April	60%	20%
Late April	-----	20%
Mid-May	-----	20%
Second week June	20%	20%
Labor Day	20%	20%
Total for season	100%	100%

The total amount of actual nitrogen for the season was 1½ to 2 lb per 1000 sq ft. For example, if you apply 20-20-20, then 5 lb of fertilizer contains 1 lb of nitrogen.

If you use a lot of compost, you may need to cut back the amount of fertilizer per feeding.

Although the conditions were not as rigorously controlled as at an agricultural experiment station, the amount of growth and the quality of bloom was very similar in all three gardens.

I think it's safe to say that if you apply the same amount of nutrients at the proper times during the growing season, you should obtain similar results with either type of fertilizer. Although cost per pound is not a critical factor in a home garden, the cost per pound of nitrogen is roughly the same for both types. Always buy the "large economy size."

Use a good quality hose-end sprayer with liquid fertilizer and add the powdered concentrate as recommended by the manufacturer. With all fertilizers, water the garden after application. When planting rhizomes, mix about one tablespoon of slow release, granular fertilizer into the soil in the bottom of the planting hole. You should be able to "mix and match" fertilizers. For example, if you apply granular fertilizer in the spring, you could apply an appropriate amount of liquid at post-bloom in June.

**Editor's note: For a small fee, the Colorado State University Extension service will analyze your soil sample. Contact your local Extension Agent early next spring so you can have the results in time to customize your fertilizing plan. You will be glad you did when the results show up in larger blooms on healthier plants. Steve Blecher has done this for several seasons at the Hudson Gardens display bed and the results are spectacular. Check out the banner photo on page one of this e-newsletter. A little science goes a long way!*



2007 Region 20 Show Report, May 26-27

By Betty Roberts, Show Chairman

Number of Exhibitors: 15
Number of Entries: 140
Number of Varieties/Cultivars: 136



Best Specimen of Show:

TB 'Belle De Provence,' exhibited by Lowell Baumunk, *see photo above*

Seedling Judged Most Worthy: TB '24CT4,' hybridized by Bob Van Liere

Silver Medal (most blue ribbons, horticultural entries): Lynda Love

Bronze Medal (second most blue ribbons, horticultural entries): A.E. Goodwin

Exhibition Certificate (judges vote): TB '2121G,' hybridized by Lowell Baumunk

Best Design of Show: Richard Nolde, *see photo at right*



Region 20 Awards

Best of Section B (Aril and Arilbred Irises):

Lowell Baumunk for 'Fiesta Skirt'

Best Intermediate Bearded: Lynda Love for 'Ace'

Best Historic: Patricia and Donald Morgan for 'Wabash'

Best Siberian: A.E. Goodwin for 'Summer Sky'

Anne and Tom Johnson Memorial Award (exhibitor of 3 – 10 entries earning highest percentage of blue ribbons): Glenn Guenterberg



A Convention Diary Oklahoma City 2007

By Pam and Jerry Hall

These are recollections of a couple of Colorado iris lovers — their impressions of the iris convention. Two views of the same scene . . .

Jerry's diary — On May 3 Pam and I attended our first iris convention. We started out in foggy weather. The first stop was at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Oklahoma City. This was the convention

master garden and the irises were at peak bloom. A nice layout of irises formed the letters OSU. Being from Colorado, we looked for irises by hybridizers from our area. Lowell Baumunk, Tom Magee, David Miller, Bob Van Liere, and I had irises at this convention. All the irises were



'Dividing Line,' MTB by Bunnell, photo by S. Blecher.

impressive. I liked a lot of them, but here are a few I wrote down. 'Dividing Line' by Bunnell, a lavender dark purple MTB, had about 50 stalks (wow!). 'Ritzzy,' a lacy yellow by Hager, was nice as well. 'Italian Velvet' by Keppel and Tom Johnson's 'Paul Black,' a purple self with an orange beard, were striking, as was Region 22 seedling '2-82BV' by F. McVicker, a nice purple.

Next was Stout Gardens. Here we saw a beautiful home garden with all kinds of plants including roses, landscaping, and ponds with goldfish. At this garden I liked 'Night Class' by Paul Black '03, 'Oasis Kelly' by Chadwick '05, 'Oreo' by Keppel and seedling '99vv41' by Bob Van Liere. We had lunch at Oklahoma Christian University.

Garden three was Monte Stahl's. This was a spectacular garden with all kinds of plants. You name it, they had it. Horses too! So many irises but 'Party of One' by B. Johnson '06, a large orange, caught my eye the most.

The last garden was Mike McVicker's. They had four large raised beds in a small home garden setting. I liked 'Afternoon in Rio' by Schriener, 'Starlight Sonata' by Stahl '03, and seedling '97-7B3' by L. Markham. We had refreshments at each of the gardens and enjoyed all the goodies.



McVicker's in the fog, by S. Blecher.

Friday, May 4 we got on our bus, the blue bus, and headed for Hampton's garden. Lots of trees. The irises didn't grow as well here as at other gardens. Wet and shady conditions in this beautiful home garden may have contributed to slow growth. I liked 'Opal Withers' by VanHook '05 a very nice white/purple plicata, 'Desloge Cherokee' by Hahn and 'Royal Storm' by Tasco were nice as well.



OSU master garden, photo, S. Blecher

The second stop was another visit to the OSU master garden. We had a chance to see the irises again and see how they were doing. We had lunch at the Sunny Lane United Methodist Church in Midwest City. We stayed on the bus for a while as too many busses arrived at the same time.

After lunch, we headed for Will Rogers Garden. They had a nice display of irises. Some, such as 'Glorious Reign' by J. Hall,* were about done blooming. We enjoyed seeing the rose gardens and other plants while we were there.

The last stop was at the state capitol grounds. The irises did pretty well here. But after two days of looking, I didn't write down many names here.

We had to leave for Colorado on Saturday, so we missed the last two gardens. We had a great experience at our first convention, meeting a lot of nice people from around the country and discussing all things about our favorite flower, the iris.

Pam's diary — As we boarded the bus to begin our tour of convention gardens, a heavy fog shrouded the city, like a blanket. As gardeners were busy chatting and discussing garden plans and travel experiences, our bus pulled out of the parking lot promptly at 7:30 a.m.

After riding through the streets of the city, looking into trees at eye level, and peeking into the backyards along the way, we arrived at the master gardens at OSU in Oklahoma City. At this garden our anticipation was rewarded with a beautiful rainbow of iris blossoms. Irisarians from across the country swarmed around the garden like bees to pollen. The cooler temperatures and cloud cover provided the photographers with wonderful lighting for some great pictures. The Horticulture Department did a good job of building up the raised beds with over two feet of wood chips. These irises withstood some extremes of heat and rain in the weeks prior to the convention, and managed to stay looking very well throughout.



Will Rogers Garden, photo by S. Blecher

The second stop was the Stout Gardens. What a delightful change of pace! Horses in the pasture, sculptures in the garden along with landscape design of irises, roses, hostas, coleus, and a variety of trees and shrubs. This is truly a working garden and horse farm. Hugh and Jennifer Stout can be proud of their beautiful gardens. Lunch at the Oklahoma Christian University was served with a colorful flare. Delightful table settings and delicious food gave us a much-enjoyed break in our day.



Stout garden, photo by S. Blecher



Stahl garden, photo S. Blecher

Our third stop gave us a fantastic display of what a private gardener can do with a couple hundred irises and a little bit of space. Monte Stahl did a lot of work to present us with such a wonderful feast for our eyes.

After traveling over the back roads, we arrived at our last stop of the day. Though we were a little tired, we were not disappointed at all. Our eyes were greeted by a beautiful selection of well-groomed iris beds.

On Friday, the weather was once again cloudy and overcast with a little misty rain. This didn't dampen our spirits. On our first stop, at Karen Hampton's home and garden, we were enthralled with lush shade trees and a table of delicious confections; she provided a wonderful respite from the heat. We were able to see the full spectrum of sun to shade and the effect each had on the iris growth.



Hampton garden, photo by S. Blecher

Our second stop on Friday was a second visit to the OSU master garden to see how the irises were holding up in the heat and rain. They were doing very well.

Our lunch that day was at the Sunny Lane United Methodist Church. The ladies did a very good job of feeding nearly 400 people as bus after bus began unloading at almost the same time. After lunch a brisk walk proved invigorating for some before climbing back onto the bus.

Back on the freeway for a quick trip to the Will Rogers Garden where we met June Taylor, who, along with many other AIS members, kept the gardens very accessible and inviting. There were also other gardens to see with irises, roses, turtles in the pond, geese and goslings on the lawns, and covered walkways. We enjoyed the afternoon.

Our last stop at the State Capitol was also very pleasant. The irises here lined a center median walkway and made it very easy to see the variety of plants. The irises also lined the edges of the civic buildings lending their beauty to an already lovely landscape. Sadly for Jerry and I it was our last day; we had to leave the next morning for our return trip to Colorado. Thanks Oklahoma, we had a wonderful experience at our first convention!



Oklahoma State Capitol,
photo by S. Blecher

**Editor's note: Yes, J. Hall is Colorado hybridizer Jerry Hall, co-author of this article.*



Loomis Iris Society — A Brief History of Our First Twenty Years

By A Loomis Society Member

In 1974, Paula (Cheever) Bennedsen, a lifetime member and the first youth member of the Elmohr Iris Society, moved to Ordway in the Lower Arkansas Valley, taking as many starts of irises from Colorado Springs as she could plant in her new garden. Then in 1981, she moved to the country with nearly unlimited space and once again transplanted irises and added to the

garden. Two spring-times later, the bloom was absolutely glorious! Paula's grandmother, Bess Cheever (a charter and lifetime member of Elmohr) had also moved to Ordway, and was involved with Paula's garden. The two of them decided to put a note in the local newspaper as well as the Rocky Ford paper inviting everyone to come to visit the garden. Well, over a hundred people visited that Saturday afternoon in May 1984.

Paula and Bess were still attending Elmohr meetings in Colorado Springs and talking with Lola Quinn, the Wootens (Clyde Wooten was then president of Elmohr), and the Weikorst about coming to Ordway for the next bloom season. The invitation was accepted and all of them plus several other members came for the open garden in 1985. It was then suggested that an iris society might be formed in the Arkansas Valley. That meeting was well attended and the Loomis Iris Society was in the planning stages.

In 1986, after the third open garden at the Bennedsen's, the first formal meeting was held and officers elected. Emery Swawrtzendruber was the first president and seven others joined. Everyone got busy planting irises and touring each others gardens in the spring. Elmohr members were of great help and donated lots of irises for our first few sales so that we had enough in our treasury to begin thinking about a few projects that we would like to do.

We were slowly growing in numbers and enthusiasm. A Dykes Medal Winner's Garden was planted at the Heritage Center in Crowley, Colorado with a wonderful donation of isises from Long's Gardens and we held our first fall banquet with Catherine and Dennis Gates from Long's sharing their slides from the iris convention in Australia. That was inspiring and more people were getting involved.

Unfortunately, Bess passed away in 1992 before we were able to do our first show. But she really enjoyed the iris gardens until the very last. Frank Foster had been in contact with her and with Paula those last few months and came to visit Paula when Bess died. Frank suggested that we have a show the next spring. He offered to come to a fall meeting and help us with all the particulars and also do a workshop for grooming and showing irises. We had our first show in May 1993 with over 100 bloom stalks, many arrangements, two youth and 15 adult entrants, and more than 125 guests visiting that afternoon. It was the 100th anniversary of the song, "America the Beautiful,"* and that was our show theme. What a great day!

We have hosted a show every year since, except one, when we hosted the Region 20 tour in our area. Our membership has grown from eight to 28 and almost everyone is active in the show, sale, digging and/or planting, and the annual fall banquet in some way. All of us look forward to the next 20 years with the hope of growing and continuing with shows, tours, sales, and the love of irises!

Thank you Elmohr and Region 20 for all your support. Come visit us down in the Valley!

Editor's note: The Loomis Iris Society is a, vibrant, active affiliate of AIS Region 20 centered in Ordway and Rocky Ford, Colorado, communities with a regional population of 4100 people and 46 miles southeast of Pueblo. And, you guessed it, the author is school teacher and founding member, Paula Bennedsen, telling her story of how the Loomis Iris Society came to be. The schedule of Loomis Society events is posted on the Region 20 Web site and printed in the Region 20 newsletters.

**A line from the patriotic song "America the Beautiful" ("For purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain!") refers to the Colorado plains viewed from the summit of Pikes Peak west of Colorado Springs. Some interpretations say that 'purple' refers to the long shadow cast across the plains by Pikes Peak as the sun sets. And as to 'fruit,' I wait for the Rocky Ford melons each summer. They're the best.*

Two Local Hybridizers Win AIS Awards!

Congratulations to Lowell Baumunk and Bob Van Liere for receiving 2007 AIS awards!

Lowell Baumunk — Runner-up for the Clarence G. White Medal, AR & AB, 'Byzantine Art'

Honorable Mention: TB, 'High Priestess,' 'Elizabethan Age,' & 'County of Kent'

Honorable Mention: MTB, 'Bach Toccata'

Honorable Mention: SDB, 'Sharp Dart'



Honorable Mention: AR & AB, 'Hammurabi'

Honorable Mention: AB 1/4 to 1/2, 'Persian Sapphire'

Bob Van Liere — Honorable Mention, TB, 'Dutchman's Dream,' & 'Quiet Reflections'

'Dutchman's Dream,' TB, photo by B. Van Liere



'High Priestess,' TB, photo by L. Baumunk



Vote and Be Counted — Region 20 Results, 2008 AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium

The two top vote-getters, pictured at left 'Acoma' by T. Magee, and bottom left 'H C Stetson' by Rob Stetson (photos taken by S. Blecher), are both Region 20 cultivars. The numbers listed below, to the left of the cultivars, refer to the number of votes.

15 – Acoma	9 – Breakers	7 – Edith Wolford	Paul Black	Celebration Song
14 – H C Stetson	Before the Storm	Fancy Woman	Poem of Ecstasy	Drama Queen
13 – Conjuraction	Stepping Out	Gay Parasol	Pond Lily	Joyce Terry
Dusky Challenger	8 – Champagne Elegance	Jesse's Song	Queen's Circle	Let's Boogie
Hello Darkness	Crowned Heads	Mesmerizer	Romantic Evening	Mary Frances
12 – Beverly Sills	Happenstance	Superstition	Silverado	Starship Enterprise
11 – Honky Tonk Blues	Laced Cotton	6 – Dazzling Gold	Supreme Sultan	Vanity
Stairway to Heaven	Starring	Rustler	Tom Johnson	Yaquina Blue
10 – Sea Power	Thornbird	Song of Norway	4 – Bold Vision	3 – Total of 23 cultivars
	Titan's Glory	5 – Immortality	Bride's Halo	1 or 2 – Total of 88 cultivars



Amazing Sale Tale!

By Cindy Woodhead

It is a great pleasure to be writing for the Colorado iris society. To begin, I would like to give a little background on myself. My name is Cindy Woodhead; I'm 28 years old with a love for nature. I have a degree in biology with a minor in Chemistry and a Masters in Conservation Biology. I fill my time with photography, riding my Andalusian horse Gema, and playing with plants in the garden.

Photography at the Denver Botanical Gardens introduced me to the society's annual iris flower show. My parents and I marveled at the diversity of the irises present. We found ourselves with these wonderful coupons for the iris sale later that summer. I eagerly picked up a few coupons and noted the sale date on the calendar. Time went by and the date of the great iris sale arrived.

We eagerly went to the sale on Sunday to redeem our coupons and find some great rhizomes. It was evident that the selection was impressive. Between my dad, mom, and me, each picking up a cardboard flat, it was apparent that we were hooked. After only a few minutes, each of our flats was filled. It was time to check out, and the society's generosity grew. Offering us as many as we liked, I picked up some extras for my friend who was redoing her garden as well as for our neighbors. We asked what was to happen to the mounds of remaining irises. The answer shocked me . . . compost!



Iris sale, photo by R. Nolde.

I have a big heart for plants and animals in need of help, often saving plants destined for the trash. I had enough work to do with the irises just purchased with my family. So how could the society and plants benefit from me? It took a few minutes of thought and just as I was about to enter the car to leave, "eBay" popped in my head. I had never sold anything on eBay but had fun buying interesting seeds and plants. I quickly ran back to the sale where all of the volunteers were quickly condensing the irises for disposal. I asked whether they would be interested in letting me take the

remaining irises and sell them on eBay, from which I would donate 15-20% of my earnings to the society. The vote commenced with a rapid yay for an answer.

Arrangements were made for me to pick up the irises at Mr. Van Liere's Iris4U. Once again we were shocked at magnitude of irises present at the facility. Mr. Van Liere had kindly boxed the mixed irises for easy transport. With my dad's help we loaded up the plants on the back of our pickup truck. It was filled to the rim. Now, the tough part began, sorting through the thousands of mixed irises. Our basement became an iris warehouse with rows of labeled paper bags and piles of irises to be sorted.

Unfortunately my work on the irises was cut short by my old sick dog (who passed away at the age of 16 this September), my horse's temporary unruly temper tantrums, and my dad's knee injury. The poor irises were on standby. Fortunately, they are good natured plants with a forgiving character for neglect. Once life began to settle down, I commenced selling the irises via eBay. I did not have the heart to sell them as top quality irises, given that they had been sitting in the basement unattended for so long. I decided to sell them in bulk lots, trying not to duplicate plants within each USPS Flat Rate Box. I posted a list of possible varieties in the description along with information on the Society.

It was a success! People were pleased to receive large quantities of irises at such a great price (~ \$15-20 + Shipping). Finally, the irises were finding great new homes across the country. Soon all the labeled irises were gone and all that were left were unlabeled or unhealthy looking rhizomes. I carefully cleaned up the remaining plants and placed them in some dirt. Once they began to root and look respectable, they were also sold in bulk. All the buyers were extremely happy with the plants they received. There were even some repeat customers.

After the sales had ended, I had to pay off eBay and Paypal fees. Once the fees were deducted, I took 20% out for a donation for the iris society. I was then cordially invited to present the check at the society's fall meeting.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the society for kindly giving me a membership to the American Iris Society (AIS). It was truly unexpected. I give my best holiday wishes and thanks to all the members of the AIS Region 20, and I hope that I will see all of you in future ventures with lots of iris filled days.



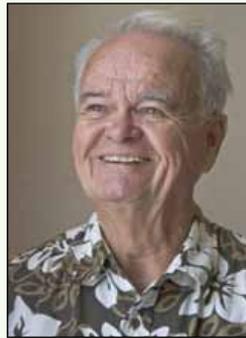
George Sutton Wows Elmohr

By Jackie Goodwin

The Elmohr Iris Society (EIS) held their annual potluck on Saturday, August 11, 2007. This annual event is a time to relax and reflect on the year's events, and to enjoy the company of our iris friends and enthusiasts. Everyone was eager to meet and hear our highly anticipated guest speaker, George Sutton, from Sutton's Iris Gardens in Porterville, California.

Mr. Sutton and his lovely wife, Margaret, flew into Colorado Springs on Friday, August 10th and were greeted by Grace Syme, Vice-President of EIS. Mrs. Sutton recalled that the last time they were in Colorado for the 1998 AIS Convention, it was 80 degrees on Tuesday and snowing on the irises on Thursday! That evening the Sutton's were treated to a potluck at Grace's home, along with the other EIS board members. The event was light and pleasurable, and it must be noted that George especially enjoyed the desert for the evening, Snicker candy bar pie.

The potluck on Saturday began at 12:00 p.m. at the home of Mark and Jackie Goodwin. We had approximately 25 members in attendance, including visiting members from Denver's AIS Region 20. After a superb arrangement and quick evaporation of delicious, mouth-watering food,



*George Sutton,
photo by S. Blecher*

we held a short EIS meeting to discuss society business.

Finally, time for the speaker! The program presented by Mr. Sutton was interesting, inspiring, and entertaining.

Sutton's Garden in CA

The Suttons have 80 acres of irises, but it can be as much as 150 acres, depending on how many wholesale orders they receive. Sutton Iris Gardens ship their rhizomes all over the world. Mr. Sutton also presented a beautiful slide show on numerous irises he has cultivated, with pictures of his stunning gardens as well. Each year he continues his pursuit of the perfect iris, crossing flowers, and seeking the ultimate hybrid.

For those who have not seen his irises, you can see pictures and get more information by visiting his Web site at suttoniris.com.

After a short break, Mr. Sutton taught Garden Judge's training on Remontant Irises to about eight members. Included was a great slide show featuring rebloomers and seedlings.

We tremendously enjoyed the Sutton's visit and look forward to seeing them again at another great presentation in the coming years.

Colorado Member Wins AIS Photo Contest Award

Stephen Blecher's photo of an intent plein-air painter at Bob Van Liere's Iris 4U garden was the runner-up entry in the Events, Tours, People, and Shows category of the 2007 AIS photo contest. The winning photos were published in the October AIS Bulletin. Congratulations, Steve!



Artist at Work. Photo by S. Blecher

Pat Carlson of Bayfield, Colorado won first place in the Macro Photo category. If you know Pat, welcome her to Region 20 and send us her address so we can congratulate her.

Gardens Galore — In Denver and Colorado Springs

Members and guests enjoyed garden tours on two spring weekends: Colorado Springs and in the combined Region 20 and Tall Bearded Iris Society bus tour of Denver metro area gardens. Let's cut to the chase and let pictures tell the story. Here goes!









Plan Now to Attend the 2008 AIS Convention in Austin

We Coloradans can capture a rare opportunity to enjoy an early spring iris season at the Austin convention without missing our own peak bloom. Extend your gardening pleasure. Here's how.

The October issue of the AIS Bulletin does not contain information or a registration form for the 2008 AIS Convention in Austin, Texas. The convention dates are April 14 – 19. The garden tours are Thursday, April 17 through Saturday, April 19. February 15, 2008 is the deadline to qualify for the lowest registration fee of \$199.

Get information about the convention and reserve a hotel room on-line at www.irisarian.com/lonestar2008/ for the 2008 Austin Convention. You may download and print a copy of the registration form from the Web site to mail in, or register by calling (512) 448-2222. The Austin Convention Committee accepts credit cards.



Room Sharing for the 2008 AIS Convention In Austin

The Austin convention organizers are trying to reach people who need a room mate for the convention. They have an accommodations committee in operation for the Austin Texas Convention in the spring of 2008. Char Holte of AIS Region 8 maintains a database of potential roommates. The list works like this. Contact Char and give her a little information about yourself. She matches you with a potential roommate and you make a deal with the roommate. If possible, she matches a new attendee with someone who has been to the convention before. That will give you a chance to learn about the convention.

Char Holte, 17308 W Observatory Rd., New Berlin, WI 53146
Or by email (preferred), cholte@wi.rr.com or phone, 262-641-2895



Willing Heart and Winning Ways!

By Catherine Long Gates

“Yes” is a word that seems to come easily to this year’s winner of the Nina Winegar Award. Saying, “yes,” is only the beginning, then comes the hard work of carrying out whatever task or assignment was agreed to. Following through takes gumption, smarts, people skills, and dedication, qualities easily recognized in the 2007 winner, Betty Roberts.

Because Betty has been so willing with the “yesses” it would take considerable space to list all the positions she has held. An AIS member since 1972, Region 20 became the beneficiary of her “willing heart” in 1995 when she and her late husband, Ned, relocated to Colorado Springs. Since moving to Colorado she has served in various ways with the Elmohr Iris Society and Region 20, including a stint as RVP from 2002 through 2004. She also served as a director on the AIS Board. Betty is a Senior judge and a great supporter of our iris shows and judges training programs. Remarkably she has contributed to other plant societies in a similar manner and also serves as a Daylily, Rose, and National Garden Club judge.



Catherine Long Gates presenting Betty Roberts the Nina Winegar Award.

In the spirit of Nina Winegar, Region 20’s first RVP, Betty has promoted and nurtured our group with her positive attitude, willingness to say yes, and the countless hours of following through on her promises. Congratulations and many thanks to Betty Roberts!

Event-Related Contacts

Region 20 questions, contact Stephen Blecher, 303-798-9103
Elmohr questions, call Darice Zimmerman, 719-630-0595
Elmohr’s Loomis Test Garden, Russ Eacker, 719-633-5193
Loomis questions, call Rose McClain, 719-254-3462

2007 Region 20 Officers

Officers

Regional Vice President – Stephen Blecher, sblecher @ comcast.net – 303-798-9103, 1309 Ridge Rd., Littleton, CO 80120-3231

Treasurer – Suzanne McCarthy, hockeynutteh @ comcast.net – 303-232-1653, 395 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80226

Secretary – Lisa Story, lisaraystory @ comcast.net – 303-233-8354

Past RVP – Betty Roberts, florabetty @ aol.com – 719-282-9642

Directors

Terms Expiring in 2007

Dave Miller, DMillerIrisx @ att.net – 303-277-0358

Bob Van Liere, iris4u2 @ comcast.net – 303-789-4747

Richard Nolde, R20 webmaster, nrichard8 @ qwest.net – 720-283-8752

Terms Expiring in 2008

Dave Holm, spuds @ bresnan.net – 719-852-2497

Vacant

Patrice Van Vleet, clrimage @ comcast.net – 303-979-0935

Affiliate Directors

Elmohr – Darice Zimmerman, ElmohrIris @ aol.com – 719-630-0595

Loomis – Rose McClain, rmccclain001 @ centurytel.net – 719-254-3462

Newsletter Editor and Publisher

Glenn Guenterberg & Patrice Van Vleet, clrimage @ comcast.net – 303-979-0935

Region Committee Leads

Bylaws – Betty Roberts 719-282-9642

Display Board Content – Stephen Blecher 303-798-9103

Door Prizes – Carol Eacker 719-633-5193

Garden Tour – Lisa Story 303-233-8354

Hand-outs/Display Board – Lynda Love 303-757-1750

Historian – Catherine Gates 303-442-2353

Judges Training – Russ Eacker 719-633-5193

Membership – Lynda Love 303-757-1750

Programs – Betty Roberts 719-282-9642

Region Committee Leads, *continued*

Publicity – Bob Van Liere 303-789-4747

Research Liaison – Dave Miller 303-277-0358

Sale – Stephen Blecher 303-798-9103

Show – To be named

Sunshine – Carol Eacker 719-633-5193

Elmohr Iris Society Officers

President – Darice Zimmerman 719-630-0595

Vice President & Show Director – Grace Syme 719-392-0110

Secretary – Marilyn Schwartz 303-755-4713

Treasurer – Sally Funk 719-477-0435

Membership – Jackie Goodwin 719-460-1236

Historian – Carol Eacker 719-633-5193

Parliamentarian – Elsie Funk 719-636-3895

Sunshine – Carol Eacker 719-633-5193

Loomis Test Garden – Carol & Russ Eacker 719-633-5193

Loomis Iris Society Officers

President – Rose McClain 719-254-3462

Vice President – Lynne Apker 719-267-3663

Secretary – Karen Tomky 719-267-4012

Treasurer – Paula Bennedsen 719-267-3245

In Memoriam

Duane Daily, an AIS member for many years, passed away in September 2007.

Iris hybridizer Robert “Rob” Stetson died July 12, 2007. A Colorado native, Rob was a member of the AIS and the Aril Society International. An article about Rob will be featured in the spring 2008 newsletter.