

IRISLETTER



REGION 23

SPRING '96

Spring 1996

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REGION 23, 1996

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Dear Iris Friends,

This is an exciting time of year. There are new catalogues to dream over, new stalks to view with an eye to show time, a warmth in the weather that says "Daylight Savings Time". Winter is gone, except for the occasional surprise, and Spring is here. This will be a great year for Region 23. There are three judging schools planned in the region. The first is our own Luella Danielson on Arils and Arilbreds. She's going to be giving a school on Sunday, May 5, 1996. That is the weekend of Albuquerque Aril Society show. Next is Glenn Corlew, our new American Iris Society Judges Chairman. He will have a school on Spurias in Las Cruces on the weekend of May 18 and 19, 1996. This should be peak bloom for the Spurias in that area. The last scheduled school in our region is the Region 23 Convention. It is hosted this year by the Albuquerque Aril Society and will feature Keith Keppel on Tall-Bearded.

Keep in mind that everyone can attend these judging schools. There is usually a nominal fee for the actual school but it is open to all. Everyone is welcome, not just judges or people who are interested in becoming judges. The sessions are usually very interesting and informative. If you are an exhibitor and want to know how to enhance your horticulture display, the classes would be of interest to you. You do not have to be a judge to attend.

I have a great deal of information on other regional activities. Our neighboring regions are all having meetings and schools and have invited us all to come and join in the fun. If you think you'd be interested in going to another area let me know. Region 15 is having their annual "Spring Trek" in Tucson this year. Region 14 is having the Regional Convention in Las Vegas this fall. Region 20 and Region 17 both have classes planned and Regional Conventions. So, if you are thinking about traveling and want to know what might be going on in another area, give me a call. The other regions are always delighted to have us participate in their functions. Other regions sometimes do things a bit differently and we can always learn from them. I can be reached at 505-299-5198.

The affiliation process went well this year. Thanks to all for the prompt return of information. All eight of our clubs are in good standing.

Do you know anyone interested in joining the American Iris Society? Encourage them to join. The quarterly Bulletins alone are worth the fee. We can all be good ambassadors for AIS.

This year's shows promise to be excellent. Come join the fun. Enter. Exhibit. Share your love of iris with others.

Here's hoping your flowers bloom profusely, your shows go well, the sales are profitable and we see you at the Region 23 Convention.

Yours,

Karen Bergamo
Karen Bergamo, Region 23 RVP
2508 Punta de Vista NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

WHAT'S NEW?

This new year, 1996, is already under way. Early irises are in full bloom while we are still in the process of cleaning out the beds. New officers for the Region are in place and new regional activities are scheduled.

As your new editor, I hope to bring you as much Region 23 news as possible - but this information must come from you. When and where are your shows? Sales? How does your society conduct a successful sale? Do you have any informal meetings during the year, such as potluck dinners? Guest speakers? Are you planning to have any Judges' Training sessions? (You must have the approval of the RVP in advance to do this.) Have you seen any exciting new (or old) irises? Were there any local or regional gardens you visited and what impressed you? Any of these tid-bits of information can help other clubs with ideas for their own activities - provided you get them to the Editor for publication.

At present, I plan a Summer and Fall issue in addition to this. They should go to print approximately August 1st and December 1st. Any information you wish to have included in the newsletter should reach me at least one week before that date. I have already received material from the Jobs and Peggy Naranjo, for this issue, but with changes in editorship, I know the remaining societies did not have this opportunity.

You will notice that this issue carries the name "IRISLETTER." I will try another name for the next issue - how about "HIGH DESERT NEWS?" For the third, I would like to have suggestions from the membership so that the different affiliates can make your wishes known to me. At the 1996 Regional

Convention in Albuquerque, Hosted by the Albuquerque Aril Society, perhaps we can consider some of these suggestions and settle on a name. Several of the Regions use "Newsletter" or "Bulletin" and "Newscast" and "Irisarian" are also used. I will abide by the Region's decision.

JUDGES TRAINING - A training session with Lu Danielson on Arils and Arilbreds has been in the works for two years and will take place in on Sunday, May 5, 1996, at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd., NE. Time will be 9:00 AM, cost \$ 5.00, and it carries three (3) hours credit with test. Like the previous session with Howard Shockey, this will be taped and available to societies later. This is an opportunity to hear Lu, whose long interest and hybridization of Arils and Arilbreds establishes her as an authority. She currently operates Pleasure Iris Gardens in Chaparral, New Mexico (near Las Cruces) which she and her late husband, Henry Danielson, started many years ago. The session will be before the Aril Society Show is opened to the public, so if you haven't attended one before, you have a chance to view it after the training. These training sessions are not restricted to Judges, Accredited, Apprentice or Student. They are for anyone interested in irises.

On May 18, Glenn Corlew will present judges' training on Garden Judging of Spuria Irises in Maxine Perkins Garden in Las Cruces. Time 1:00 AM. \$ 5.00 fee, and 5 hours (5) credit with test. The Training will be given in two sessions, with one Saturday afternoon and the second Sunday morning. This is a chance to hear the AIS national Judges' Training Chairman and long-time hybridizer. It has been set up as a sort of

"mini convention" and promises to be lots of fun as well as informative. See insert.

Out of Region bloom season activities include:

Region 20 (Colorado) May 18, 1996 (Saturday) Early Garden Tour with seminar by Catherine Long Gates at Long's Garden in Boulder. One hour (1) of judges training credit will be offered. The seminar is from 10 to 11 AM. There will be additional time to explore the gardens. Reconvening at 1:00 p.m., at the garden of Lowell Baumunk and Barbara Lewis and 2:30 to the Englewood garden of Randy Penn. After Randy's garden, the final stop on the tour will be Rob Stetson's garden at 3:30. Rob has many Aril and Arilbred irises and is also hybridizing.

The tour is low-key, and will proceed according to directions available from the Region 20 E-Mail print out. Call Barbara Figge for a copy of the directions.

Also in Region 20, there will be a Memorial Day Tour on Monday, May 27, 1996. Hopefully, this will coincide with the peak Tall Bearded bloom season. It will begin at the garden of Tom Magee (ACOMA and other TB's). Tom will conduct a seminar on how he selects seedlings for introduction with one hour (1) of Judges' Training being offered. The tour's stop there begins at 9:00 a.m. with his seminar lasting from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m.

Once again, the tour is by private car (caravan style) and will resume at 11:00 going further South to Lowell Baumunk and Barbara Lewis' garden. The afternoon segment of the tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Rob Stetson's garden and thence to the garden of Lois and Orvid Olson at 2:00. The tour offers an excellent opportunity to see irises outside our Region and some

lovely gardens as well as enjoying the companionship of other "iris nuts." Details available from Barbara.

Other Judges' Training in nearby Regions will be in the next IRISLETTER. IF YOU DID NOT AVAIL YOURSELF OF THE REGIONAL JUDGES TRAINING SESSIONS AT THE LAST TWO CONVENTIONS - IN ROSWELL IN 1994 AND LAS CRUCES IN 1995, YOU SHOULD PLAN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LU DANIELSON SCHOOL IN ALBUQUERQUE ON MAY 5. **REMEMBER EACH THREE YEARS, A GARDEN JUDGE NEEDS 5 HOURS OF TRAINING, AN ACTIVE MASTER 3 HOURS.**

FROM THE PECOS VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY - Pecos Valley Iris Society is in full swing, looking forward to a GREAT YEAR! We are very excited about our on-going community projects. Roswell will be in full bloom with new iris beds at the Spring River Zoo, the new Convention Center, the Chavez County Courthouse, Cahoon Park Sunken Gardens and the Margot Purdy Park. We will include rebloomers in all of these beds, hoping to help educate the public about iris and the beauty they bring to every garden, spring to fall!!

Our First Annual Fall Iris Show in October, 1995, was a sight to behold. We had 62 horticultural entries and 19 design entries with several of our men taking top honors.

We are looking forward to our Spring Show on May 4th, with the theme "This Show is for the Birds." Creativity should be at an all-time high. The Fourth Annual IRIS GARDEN TOUR will be on Sunday, May 5th. There will be five of our members' gardens showcased this year and it is always exciting to have

iris lovers from all over visit. So, please keep May 4th and 5th in mind. We'd love to see you in Roswell.

PVIS is very proud of Leslie Jobe who has been nominated to be the Vice President of the Reblooming Iris Society. Wayne and Leslie are moving to Nebraska, but they will always be close to our hearts! (ed., the Region will sorely miss their energies and efforts on behalf of the iris, too.) Under Leslie's enthusiastic leadership, PVIS has grown in four years from 16 members to a very active group of 51 members! Wayne and Leslie will be greatly missed, but we are negotiating to send them some sunshine if they will send us some rain!!

Peggy Naranjo

SPRING SHOW SCHEDULE - This is not complete as to exact times and locations for some of our Affiliates:

Albuquerque Aril Society- May 4th and 5th at the Albuquerque Garden Center. Noon to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Albuquerque Iris Guild- May 18 and 19 at the Albuquerque Garden Center. 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. both days.

Lea County Iris Society- April 27.

Mesilla Valley Iris Society- April 20 and 21, at the Mesilla Valley Mall(?).

New Mexico Iris Society- May 11 and 12 at the Albuquerque Garden Center. Saturday 4-7:30 p.m., Sunday Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Pecos Valley Iris Society and Roswell Iris Society- also April 20 and 21.

Santa Fe Iris Society- June 1 at the Villa Linda Mall.

AND FROM THE JOBES - HOW TO TELL IF "YOU MIGHT BE AN IRISARIAN." (With a nod to Jeff Foxworthy)

1. If a freeze is predicted and there are no blankets on your bed because they're covering your iris bed.

2. If you've ever missed your house payment so you wouldn't miss the iris Convention

3. If you've ever missed your kids graduation because you weren't back from the Iris Convention.

4. If you've ever bid \$ 40 on an iris that sells for \$ 25 in the catalogue.

5. If you've ever paid \$ 35 for a new iris that you knew would die within the first thirty days.

6. If your family has had to fix their own meals because you're busy feeding the iris.

7. If you've ever stayed up half the night breathing on an iris blossom so it would be open for tomorrow's show.

8. If you've ever driven 5 MPH and completely ignored the stop signs on the way to a flower show.

9. If you know the names HORNI LORI, AFTERNOON DELIGHT, WITCH OF ENDOR and STREETWALKER do not refer to soap operas.

10. If you've had to remove the kids pictures from the walls of your home to make room for more iris plates.

11. If you've ever maxed out your credit card to Schreiners or Cooley's.

12. If you've ever removed grass, trees or buildings from your property to make room for more iris.

13. If you ever had to rent a U-haul to get your purchases home from the rhizome sale.

Note: If you can say yes to any or all of these "situations" —

"YOU MIGHT BE AN IRISARIAN"

FROM THE 1996 SYMPOSIUM - The members of Region 23 came in fourth among the 24 Regions of AIS! Even so, the percentage of AIS members participating was still only 33% for the first place winner - Region 12. Region 15 had 32.8%, Region 11 had 31.9% and our participation was 31.8%. While fourth place is really great, the overall performance of members is disappointing. The balloting is for your favorites and you **DO NOT HAVE TO BE A JUDGE** to vote. Surely, more of us can find time when the Summer **BULLETIN** comes to vote the ballot and return it to the RVP. Let's make 1996 the year that we top 50%!

Ranking	Name	Votes
1	Dusky Challenger	41
2	Silverado	38
3	Edith Wolford	34
4	Jessie's Song	29
	Lady Friend	29
6	Beverly Sills	28
7	Going My Way	24

	Song of Norway	24
9	Thornbird	23
10	Stepping Out	22
	Victoria Falls	22
12	Afternoon Delight	21
13	Hello Darkness	19
	Laced Cotton	19
	Superstition	19
16	Mary Frances	18
	Rare Treat	18
18	Crystal Dreams	17
	Honky Tonk Blues	17
	Joyce Terry	17
21	Champagne Wishes	16
	Guadalajara	16
	Mystique	16
	Octoberfest	16
	Olympiad	16
26	Night Ruler	15

THIS 'N' THAT FROM OTHER REGIONS- From the REGION 20 SPRING NEWSLETTER comes this information from Rob Stetson: "Marathon" is a new, granular Synthetic nicotine that is extremely toxic in low doses to aphids or any chewing or sucking insect. It was given EPA approval in 1994. It has low toxicity to humans and animals, and has the benefit of being a systemic insecticide. Hence, it can be used along with the annual spring feeding.

Rob adds that the biggest drawback is that it is not intended for the average gardener and is available only in 5 pound lots for - brace yourselves - \$ 110. It requires amounts that, through the time of its effectiveness, are economical at about 10-15 cents per

plant. He adds that he intends to try "Marathon" this year and if anyone is interested in trying it or sharing cost of it with him, call (303)733-5709.

Also from Region 20 comes the news of "Home Page for Irises" on the World Wide Web - <http://aleph0.clark.edu/djoyce/iris/>. Got that?

Something that seems to be making the rounds of the Regions is this little quiz. Why not try your hand at it and see how many iris names you can come up with.

It was opening night at the Metropolitan Opera. The prediction of Opera News was for a gala performance, featuring the stunning vocal talents of bel canto Beverly Sills in the starring role of Maestro Puccini's golden masterpiece, MADAME BUTTERFLY. Evening dress was called for, so I donned my tuxedo and Carolyn Rose was gaily clad in a diamond tiara and her extravagant new pink taffeta designer gown, trimmed in the latest style with ecru lace. The gold Cadillac that swept us downtown along fifth avenue from our penthouse to the main event provided a royal touch to our evening frolic. Our late arrival was just in time for curtain up.

The diva's performance met with loud acclaim and a standing ovation, not to mention cheers of "bravissimo and ole". As it was scarcely midnight hour, we promenaded with the sophistication of city slickers to the neon magic of the Latin Quarter; but the loud music there sent us to the Rainbow Room, where the dance beat was sheer blue rhythm. The finale of our night was to have breakfast at Tiffany's as the early light spread a dawn caress over the soft quiet sky as we sipped our coffee capri. The mystique of the

evening had been everything plus. (with thanks to Region 20 and others who printed this.)

LAST - BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST- Region 23 is losing two members who have sparked new interest in irises in the community of Roswell, Chavez County and, indeed, in the Region. They have been wonderful ambassadors of iris.

Leslie and Wayne Jobe have inspired many of us with the enthusiasm and can-do spirit which they have exhibited - and they do it entirely with soft, quiet encouragement and support. We will surely miss their presence in Region 23 but have to admit that Region 21 will now have two wonderful irisarians in their midst. We'll all miss you, Leslie and Wayne. Good luck in your new home and may your garden have sunshine, just enough rain and be magnificent!

AND TO CONCLUDE- No doubt the format of this letter will be changing from time to time until we (RVP Karen and I) find one that seems to satisfy our needs. Any suggestions you have, any comments are welcome, especially from our Region 23 members who are not members of any local society. We aim to meet your needs as well.

It is my hope that each Affiliate will designate someone to supply us with local information about your shows, meetings, sales and other activities. These need not be long, just informative.

The Regional Convention is coming up in September, on the 20th, 21st and 22nd and is in Albuquerque. The Albuquerque Aril Society will, for the first time, be host society. At present the cost is set at \$ 60.00 with fees for just the banquet and training

session set separately. Guest speaker and conducting the Judges' Training will be Keith Keppel, who was originally scheduled to do the Roswell Regional in 1994. Location is the Old Town Sheraton at present. Details will be mailed from AAS separately and be spelled out in the Summer Region 23 newsletter.

We hope you will join us in Albuquerque for this meeting and share the fellowship of irisarians.

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Mesilla Valley Iris Society (505)526-6534	Dr. Edgar Garrett 6805 Cottontail Lane Las Cruces, NM 88005
New Mexico Iris Society (505)345-4257	Dr. Scott Jordan 3500 Avenida Charada NW Albuquerque, NM 87107
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