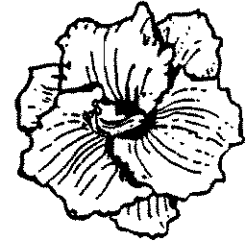




Cedar Valley Iris & Daylily Society



February, 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Iowa is certainly an interesting place to live, if you find "a variety of weather" interesting. After last summer's drought and record heat, this past winter has given us record low temperatures of -34° , overnight plunges in temperature from 59° to -7° in 24 hours, near-record snows, severe winds and obscene wind chills, thunderstorms with rain in January, ice (making our hill an ideal luge run!), and a stretch of cold where the "high" never got above 0 degrees for nearly a week. Surely this winter has been a test of our "true grit," as well as a challenge to our gardens. Soon we will find out how hardy our "hardy" perennials really are! At this point, Lynn and I are battling cabin fever and the February blahs. We can't wait to get outside and putter in the dirt and look for the first little green things emerging from the ground. We may be hardy Iowa perennials ourselves -- *but we are ready for spring!*

This seemingly endless winter has been brightened by the deluge of garden catalogs we have received in the past several weeks. We've been happily making overly ambitious plant lists (and ridiculously ambitious plans!). I hope all of you and your families have survived the winter of '96 in good health and are ready to tackle your gardens this spring with renewed vigor and good cheer.

Our Fall Banquet was a great success, despite the bad weather that immediately preceded it. Attendance was excellent -- most gardeners are undaunted by the elements. Our change of location to the Iowa Memorial Union gave us the privacy that had been lacking in previous banquets -- no noisy wedding receptions to interrupt the business meeting and slide show, and of course the food was excellent. The evening featured Fred McDowell's presentation of slides of outstanding daylily performers from his 1995 garden. Lynn Stoll showed slides of CVIDS plants for future auctions, as well as a few outstanding daylilies from the 1995 National Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee. A check for \$500 was presented to Joy Adams for the Riverside Gardens (Monticello) Visitors' Center. The success of our club plant sales held at the Monticello Gardens these past few years has been helped immeasurably by the generous use of their facilities, and the club wanted to show our appreciation and to help them in their endeavors. Also discussed at the business meeting was an overture by the Siberian Iris Society to CVIDS to host a National Siberian Tour in 1999 or 2000. This would not be a large convention; registration would be limited to approximately 200 registrants, approximately twice the size of regional tours we've hosted in the past. Tour gardens would be sent guest plants; more than 600 plants of 200 different varieties were sent to Michigan for the 1993 Siberian tour. Our only responsibility would be to place them in some nice gardens. This is a great honor to be considered for such an undertaking. Please think about whether our club would like to do this. We would need about five nice gardens to display the plants in. The gardens don't need to be growing any Siberians now; all the plants would be provided by the hybridizers for display, and we would be allowed to keep some of each variety. We will discuss this further at our March meeting.

Our first meeting of 1996 will be at Jean Hecht's home (see p. 2) on Saturday, March 16 at 2:00. We hope to have slides from Jack Carpenter showing some of his recent and future introductions (most of which are dormant). Lynn Stoll will show slides of club auction plants (including 1996 purchases) and highlights from the last two national AHS conventions. Jean will show interested members some of the daylily information that is now available on the Internet. During the business meeting, we will discuss plans for a spring plant sale, a club daylily tour and dinner in July (we hope to have Sarah Sikes as our guest and speaker!), the 1997 Region 21 Iris tour, and the possibility of a Siberian convention in 1999 or 2000. I hope to see all of you at Jean's house, since the club has many important decisions to make. And I'm sure we're all ready to look at daylilies for awhile, even if they're only slides! Bring along a friend who you think would enjoy our club activities.

Meanwhile, keep snug and think spring!

Barry Stoll

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16: CVIDS spring meeting. Jean Hecht's home (105 N. Dubuque St., North Liberty), 2:00 PM (directions below). Business meeting, plans for 1996 activities. We hope to have slides from Jack Carpenter showing some of his recent and future introductions (most of which are dormant). Lynn Stoll will show slides of club auction plants and highlights from the last two national AHS conventions. Beverages will be provided; treats to share would be appreciated.

April 23-27: AIS National Convention: Sacramento, CA

June 1-2: AIS Region 21 Convention, Omaha, NE. Everyone is welcome; you don't have to be an AIS member to attend. For information, contact Sally Bergei, President, Greater Omaha Iris Society, 9042 Jones St., Omaha, NE 68114 (402-397-6381).

June 14-16: National Siberian and Species Iris Convention, Westford, MA. For information contact Marty Schafer, Registrar, M.A.S.S. MEDLEY, 337 Acton St., MA 01741. 1-508-371-0173.

July 12-14: Midwest Regional Hosta Convention, Davenport, IA. For information, call Convention Chairman Gene Boyd (319-355-8847 Evenings).

July 12-14: AHS Region 1 Convention: An opportunity to tour some nice gardens and enjoy fellowship with other daylily lovers. As with the AIS regional convention listed above, all daylily lovers are welcome; you don't have to be an AHS member. For information, contact Gerda Miller, 2769 Adams-Taylor St., Lenox, IA 50851. 515-333-4388.

July 18-20: AHS National Convention: Denver, CO. Details can be found in the most recent issue of *The Daylily Journal*. Plan now to attend; daylilies on display which thrive in Colorado are also likely to grow successfully in Iowa (not always true for conventions in the Deep South!). For more information contact Warren Wiekhorst, Registrar, 2385 N. Academy Blvd. #244, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80909. Tel. 719-596-7724.

July 25: CVIDS Club Tour and Dinner. Details will be worked out at the March meeting. We hope to have Sarah Sikes as our guest and speaker.

Aug. 24: CVIDS Annual Plant Sale: Riverside Gardens, Monticello, IA. Plan now to set aside some plants to contribute to our main public fund-raising activity, and join us for a pleasant potluck picnic in the gazebo in this beautiful setting!

Note: If you have dates and other information about other 1996 plant society meetings, sales, etc., please send the information to the Editor so that it can be included in the Calendar of Events in the next Newsletter.

OTHER UPCOMING CVIDS EVENTS

These will be planned and scheduled at the March 16 meeting. We hope to tour as many gardens as possible during the bloom seasons for iris and daylilies. We also hope to plan some slide shows and some picnics or potlucks. **What would you like the club to do this year?** Come to our meeting, or pass along your suggestions to any of the current officers.

Directions to Jean Hecht's Home (105 N. Dubuque St.): From I-80 (Exit 244), follow Dubuque St. north to North Liberty (6-7 miles). After coming to a 3-way stop at the edge of town, Jean's house is the 8th house on the left; it has a small deck on the front. There is no on-street parking on North Dubuque St.; parking is available in the school parking lot across the street. Questions? Call Jean at 626-6159.

REMEMBERING BRYANT MILLIKAN

by Frederick P. W. McDowell and Lynn Stoll

(written for the AHS Region One Newsletter, Fall, 1995)

Whenever a well-known and accomplished hybridizer dies, one not only feels the loss of a leader in the daylily world, but one also tends to review the hybridizer's achievement in terms especially of what he or she may have added to the beauty and variety of our gardens. I knew Bryant Millikan only casually, but well enough to know that his life in later years revolved about his work with daylilies. I saw his garden twice, once in 1981 at the Indianapolis National Convention and then on a visit in 1983. I often wanted to return, but it is difficult to get to gardens at a distance when the height of bloom coincides with that in one's own garden. I do marvel at how Bryant could carry on such a major enterprise in the limited space he had available, introducing in his later years approximately twenty-five cultivars each season. According to Lynn, his 1994 catalog listed 214 introductions. The total does not include some of his earlier ones which he no longer found profitable to list and which he may have thought had been superseded by some of his later originations. This listing included both tetraploids and diploids, large and small flowers in all colors from all seasons.

Obviously, no one collector could grow all of his cultivars, and I often found it difficult to choose among his many offerings. The result might be an entirely different list of favorites made by another gardener. I tended to select his tetraploids which, in general, I found more reliable as garden plants than his diploids, many of which are evergreen and deficient for me in stamina. Even though I chose his plants somewhat blindly, I still found many winners, plants that I still grow and do not wish to part with, plants that will be in my garden for some time to come, and plants that are potential classics. I might also note that Bryant listed approximately 35 total registrations in the annual checklists for 1993 and 1994, most of which were not yet introduced at the time of his death. It is to be hoped that the best of them will be made available in the next few years. In my account I do not include all the Millikan cultivars in my collection, nor do I mention for the most part those that I have superseded. But I hope that our discussion will be of some help in considering some daylilies (by now mostly reasonably priced) to add to your own collections.

Bryant Millikan won in 1991 the American Hemerocallis Society's Bertrand Farr Silver Medal for excellence in hybridizing. He also received in 1989 the Stout Medal for **BROCADED GOWN**. These honors are one measure of his importance in the daylily world, and his stature would indicate that he deserves some representation in all our gardens. (Note: in dating the cultivars, we have used the date of introduction when it is available; when it is not, we have had to use the registration date. The registration dates 1983 and 1988 are not always reliable, since the introduction data is usually later. The official 5-year checklists close in 1983 and 1988, so that daylilies registered then may have been introduced later.)

Bryant is well-known for his work with red daylilies, and some of his best add luster to my garden. Many of them derive from the cultivars of Virginia Peck and achieve their vigor and excellent plant habit in part from them. There is **CLAUDINE** (1986), a soft red of impeccable form and plant growth, and a gorgeous clump each year in my garden. **TOP AWARD** and **HAT DANCE** (both 1982) are also distinctive and vigorous plants in the garden. The brick-red **COLOR CHART** (1985) with its copper edging and darker eyezone is for me an unusual and bright cultivar. Somewhat newer is **FIRE LANE** (1990), an intense red, very floriferous, and always a showpiece in a clump. The more muted raspberry red, with a touch of brown, of **WAMPUM** (1988) is an intriguing variation of what we normally expect from a daylily in this color range; it is much admired in my garden. I must not forget the somewhat similar **BLOOD SPOT** (1983) and **BLOOD LINE** (1988); they are both brilliant small-flowered daylilies which I did not like at first, but when I put these plants at the back of the border, they glowed: they are too tall for planting in the foreground, as we do with most small flowers.

The Millikan pinks are also outstanding, and here again I prefer the tetraploids; varieties like the diploid **PINK SALUTE**, for example, lack robustness for me. I might except **CHANTELLE** (1988) from this observation; it's a small flower of ruffled peach pink and apricot, with incredible branching and a long season of bloom. **STRAWBERRY HILL** (1982) is another diploid I am partial to, a flower of saturated pink and great vigor. **CAMAY** and **PINK THISTLEDOWN** are well-known, but I have not grown them. As for the tets, there are at least four stars in my plantings. There is **PAPEETE** (1988), a fascinating coral pink with orange and yellow also in the flower. There is **CHAMBER MUSIC** (1988), a delightful peach pink. There is **ROSEATE GLOW** (1988), a crisp and spritely deep and glowing pink, a great flower for the late garden. And then there is **MOOREA** (1986), my all-time favorite of the Millikans in this category. It derived from **DANCE BALLERINA DANCE**, and is a cultivar in the deep pink to rose spectrum, with a darker eyezone and remarkable also for its superior branching and bud count. I should also mention the beautiful light pink diploid, **PASTEL CLASSIC** (1980), originated by Bryant and introduced by Marge Soules.

Bryant also did much work in yellows, some of it quite distinctive but much of it in danger of being superseded. It is not due to the quality of the plants, for their time period (the 1980's), but due rather to the great strides in yellows made since that time. The diploids **BROCADED GOWN** (1981) and **MARBLE FAUN** (1983) are famous soft yellow cultivars and both worth growing, but **BROCADED GOWN** for me lacks the vigor of **MARBLE FAUN**. Of the diploids I like best one of the oldest, **GRAND CAYMAN** (1982); its large, well-formed flowers with a greenish sheen never fail to give me pleasure each season. As for the large-flowered tets, I find great satisfaction in growing the somewhat similar saturated yellows, **PREFERENCE** (1986) and **PROWESS** (1987). The flowers of both remind me of Peck's **EVENING BELL**, which I no longer grow because of its low bud count; these two Millikans can well take its place. I also think highly of **NATIVE BORN** (1983), which I saw for the first time on my 1983 visit to Bryant; this yellow-apricot blend is also a favorite of Lynn's. I should also mention the gigantic **LEMON CUSTARD** (1987) and the elaborately ruffled greenish yellow, **NANCY'S GOWN** (1987). Both of these originated with Bryant and were introduced by Marge Soules.

Perhaps this is also the place to call attention to one of my favorite tets, **BORDER BANDIT** (1990), a hauntingly beautiful blend of yellow, gold, and orange, a dazzler for sure. Also there is the golden orange **ANITRA'S DANCE** (1988), which Lynn can talk about. It might also be appropriate to cite at this point another one of my favorite tets, **HOLLYWOOD** (1983), a light melon with pink and yellow highlights deriving from two superb parents, **YASMIN** and **DANCE BALLERINA DANCE**. **HOLLYWOOD** is almost the perfect garden plant (foliage, branching, bud count, etc.), and one that Bryant used much in his hybridizing.

A few miscellaneous categories remain which Lynn may want to elaborate upon. **FANCY DEAL** (1986) is a small-flowered eyed cultivar, the deep red eye overlying a medium pink flower, a diploid that I find most appealing. Bryant's tet, **YOU DEVIL** (1985), is one of the most attractive purples in the garden, and Lynn will describe some of his more recent creations in this part of the spectrum. As to the diploid whites, with the exception of a few recent ones, I have found one of the oldest, **BODY WHITE** (1981), to be one of the best. Virtually unknown, this cultivar puts on the same abundant show each year, not matter how much the plant has been divided previously. I also grow **WEDDING VOW** (1982), which is great for color but slow to increase, and **ASPEN** (1981), all right but again slow to increase. Lynn will carry this discussion of whites a bit further, I think, so now I turn "the mike" over to her.

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I agree with all of Fred's general observations above -- and none more so than his comment that another gardener might have "an entirely different list of favorites!" Of the 34 Millikan cultivars that Fred mentions, only nine appeared on my own list: **BROCADED GOWN**, **MARBLE FAUN**, **NATIVE BORN**, **BLOOD SPOT**, **MOOREA**, **ROSEATE GLOW**, **PAPEETE**, **FANCY DEAL**, and **ANITRA'S DANCE**. I also like **STRAWBERRY HILL** for its color and height, but I think its form has been

superseded by many other varieties. Still, I think it's a fine background variety, and I don't plan to give it up any time soon. Some others that I like very much and expect to grow for many years are described in the next few paragraphs.

Regarding Millikan whites, his **ABSOLUTE ZERO** (1987) is one of the best inexpensive all-around whites on the market, in my opinion. It's a clean white with good form, extremely vigorous growth, and consistent rebloom. Although it's an evergreen, it has proved to be totally dependable here, and much more vigorous than some of his other whites that I've tried, such as **DEICER** and **ROMAN TOGA**. **ABSOLUTE ZERO** has also received a lot of favorable comments in the Region One Robin. **Quaker Bonnet** (1987) is a fine small ruffled near-white; it's a prolific bloomer, and may well be the best small-flowered white for Northern gardens. A newer white that I'm very much impressed with is **BIG SNOWBIRD** (1993). This is an outstanding white with all desirable qualities: clean white color, excellent round, flat form with ruffling, good bud count and branching, proliferations, and good rate of increase. It also reblooms here fairly regularly, though not as consistently as **ABSOLUTE ZERO**. I also tend to consider Millikan's **BROCADED GOWN** and **MARBLE FAUN** in this group; I think of them as cream rather than light yellow. **BROCADED GOWN** is a very creped and ruffled lemon cream self with a green throat. It grows and increases well for me, and an established clump at peak bloom is a glorious sight. Unlike Fred, I've never found it to be less than vigorous and reliable in my garden. **MARBLE FAUN** is a luscious cream yellow marbled with lemon, with wide overlapped petals and heavy ruffling. It's an early bloomer and an outstanding offspring of **BROCADED GOWN**. It, too, rapidly grows into a gorgeous clump.

Many of my favorite Millikan cultivars are season-extenders, both early and late. The early bloomers include **MARBLE FAUN**, as noted above; **BROCADED GOWN** blooms a little later, but would still be considered early midseason. **VIDEO** (1988) is one of the first large-flowered daylilies to bloom in the spring, and it continues to send up a succession of repeat stalks over a two-month period. It's a ruffled, wide-petalled light lemon yellow with all the good qualities of its two superb parents, **BROCADED GOWN** and **WYNNSON**. **EXOTIC GOWN** (1986) is another fine early-blooming ruffled lemon yellow from the same parentage. **MONKEY** (1984) is one of my favorite early bloomers, starting in early June and usually repeating. It's a charming yellow mini with a bright red eye; it's an attractive companion to **STELLA DE ORA** in the June garden.

Several of my favorite late-blooming daylilies that I often recommend to visitors are Millikan's **BLOOD SPOT**, **HARVEST HUE**, **NATIVE BORN**, and **SCOTCH PLAID**. **BLOOD SPOT** (1986), as Fred mentioned, is a relatively small, rich blood red tet with fine form: flat, circular, and ruffled. **HARVEST HUE** (1983) is one of my favorite late-blooming tets. It's a warm coppery shade with a strawberry red overlay and a rose red eye. Like the others I've listed here, it's a reliable good grower with a nice ruffled form. It's similar to **HAT DANCE**, which Fred described, but I like the flower better for both form and color. **NATIVE BORN** (1983), which Fred also mentioned, is a ruffled late-blooming yellow tet with a light salmon pink overlay. It's an exceptionally vigorous

REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE!

If you can't attend the March ¹⁶/₂₅ meeting, please send your 199⁶/₅ dues (\$5.00 individual, \$7.00 family) to the current treasurer (Lynn Stoll, 999 310th St., Atalissa, IA 52720) to ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter and other notices of club activities. Make checks payable to Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society (CVIDS).

grower, quickly forming a striking clump. **SCOTCH PLAID** (1989) is another late-bloomer that I recommend highly as a season-extender. It's a ruffled tet bicolor, with rust red petals and cream orange sepals and a large yellow-green throat.

Several other Millikan creations that I consider to be outstanding do not fit into any particular category. Fred briefly mentioned **ANITRA'S DANCE** (1988), which I think is one of Millikan's finest tets. It has the wonderful intense glowing color of **MAUNA LOA**, its pod parent, along with the ruffling inherited from the pollen parent **DANCE BALLERINA DANCE**. **LAND'S END** (1993) is a unique shade of deep purple with a black purple eye and a very green throat. The distinctive color of this diploid is difficult to describe, but once you're familiar with it, you will recognize it anywhere. It's a good grower with excellent branching and bud count, giving it a long season of bloom. **LOVELY LUCIA** (1981) is a beautiful but little-known pure pink diploid with a darker halo and green throat. It's a slow increaser, but has a good bud count and repeats when established. **SASSY FACE** (1986) is a cute 4" deep rose pink diploid with a darker rose eye and a very green throat. It's a good grower with good bud count, and its creped texture gives it added distinction. **WAR PARTY** (1989) is another of Millikan's fine reds that I particularly like: a round, deep scarlet red tet with a green throat and good growth characteristics.

Everyone who knew Bryant and who grows his daylilies misses him greatly. In one sense, however, he lives on through his beautiful creations in hundreds if not thousands of gardens throughout the country. The outstanding cultivars described above, among others, constitute a living memorial to this distinguished hybridizer. We are grateful for the beauty Bryant Millikan has contributed to our gardens.

FIFTEEN FAVORITE SIBERIANS

by Lynn Stoll

(written for *The Siberian Iris*, Fall, 1995)

Whether it's iris or daylily season, it seems that about every third garden visitor feels compelled to ask, "Which one is your favorite?" I look out over the sea of color in front of me and sigh. *One* favorite? Impossible question! Fifteen favorites, as Judy Hollingworth framed the question? Still hard, but possible. My choices are based on overall garden performance in my own garden. I'm just as concerned with vigor, proportion, clump habit, length of bloom time, and distinctiveness as I am with beautiful individual flowers. All of the beauties listed here have been distinctive, beautifully formed flowers, good growers over several years in my garden, and stunning in a mature clump. Some fine newer varieties (surely future favorites) have not been listed, because I don't feel I've observed them growing long enough to be able to evaluate them properly. Because **KITA-NO-SEIZA** is not yet available commercially, to my knowledge, I've added it as an extra and picked a total of sixteen. You'll notice that they're listed in alphabetical order; ranking them would again imply that one could choose a single favorite!

CHEERY LYN (Miller 1991) is my personal favorite of Anna Mae's fine lavender pinks (and no, not just because of the name!). To my eye, its floriferousness, grace and proportion in a clump rivals or even surpasses that of **AQUA WHISPERS**, the 1995 Morgan-Wood Medal winner.

CORONATION ANTHEM (Hollingworth 1990) is a gorgeous large, very ruffled mid to deep blue tetraploid with a creamy yellow blaze that fades to white. It's an extremely vigorous grower and a profuse bloomer, and has displayed a consistent tendency to rebloom into July in our garden. This year I also saw it reblooming in Scott and Cindy Johnson's Minnesota garden in mid-July for the

regional daylily tour, where it was attracting a lot of attention. It was the first **JEWELLED CROWN** seedling to be introduced. (If I were really pressured to name *one* favorite, **CORONATION ANTHEM** would certainly be somewhere near the top of the list!)

DEMURE ILLINI (Varner 1985) is a nice grape-red with a large white signal; like most of the others listed here, it is a good grower, very floriferous, and especially attractive in a large clump.

GULL'S WING (McGarvey 1989) is a fine tall white with excellent flower form; it's a season-extender, blooming very late in the season. It's also extremely vigorous, quickly forming an imposing clump. However, I'm disturbed by Julius Wadekamper's observation that **GULL'S WING** and **ESTHER C.D.M.** may be the same iris. I think this is an important question that should be resolved; surely the Society for Siberian Irises must have a molecular biologist or two among its membership who could address this issue by running a couple of DNA blots? This is a fine Siberian, but if it's really **ESTHER C.D.M.**, let's call it by its real name. If not, let's remove this cloud of doubt, which will certainly stand in the way of its winning any higher awards it may deserve.

HELICOPTER (Shidara 1988) is a vigorous, distinctive blue violet which is another consistent top favorite in our garden. Like the pink **RIKUGI SAKURA** by the same hybridizer, **HELICOPTER** has the flat, six-fall form commonly associated with Japanese irises. (I have always found it particularly interesting that this Japanese hybridizer selected among his Siberians a form that looks so much like a Japanese iris!) Both Shidara introductions are very free-blooming and extremely vigorous growers, forming large, dramatic clumps in 2-3 years.

— **HELIOTROPE BOUQUET** (Hollingworth 1986; AM 1990) is probably the most distinctive clump in the garden, in terms of color. Garden visitors usually spot it from about 50 feet away and say, "Ooh, what's *that* over there?" It's an intense mauve violet color that positively *glows* in a clump. A closer look reveals a blue influence to the well-formed, flaring flowers. It's been a consistent performer in our garden for many years, and it's a top personal favorite. It's one of the earliest Siberians to bloom in our garden, and an established clump has a long bloom season.

ISABELLE (Warburton 1989) is a pale yellow amoena which for me has proven the best grower of this color class. The pale yellow to cream flowers in the clump are nicely set off by contrasting bright yellow buds; with good proportion and many bloomstalks, the clump effect is particularly pleasing. It rebloomed in our garden in 1994.

JEWELLED CROWN (Hollingworth 1987; Morgan Wood Medal, 1993) is a stunning large, flared deep wine-red tetraploid with a circular gold blaze. In our garden, it tends to bloom a little too far down in the foliage for my taste, but it's a vigorous grower, and the flower is just out of this world. It's proving to be an important parent, consistently passing heavy ruffling, full rounded form, strong patterns, and vigor to offspring like **CORONATION ANTHEM** and **STRAWBERRY FAIR**

KITA-NO-SEIZA (Shidara; not introduced) is like a secret treasure -- a treasure that I'm describing here in the hope of prompting someone to introduce it and make it widely available to Siberian lovers. I loved this as a guest plant at the Michigan Siberian convention, and felt very fortunate to get a little piece of it in the auction at the convention. Those three little fans planted in the fall of 1993 have increased to 18 in two years; it bloomed some the first year after planting, and was truly impressive this second year. Like **HELICOPTER** and **RIKUGI SAKURA** by the same hybridizer, **KITA-NO-SEIZA** has the six-fall "Japanese" form with no standards. Its glistening deep blue-violet flowers are a full 4" in diameter, with a terminal plus two branches, usually four buds. Even three or four of these open at once makes an impressive display; I can only imagine what a large, mature clump will look like in a few years! I very much hope that someone will introduce this fine cultivar in this country in the near future.

LADY VANESSA (Hollingworth, 1986; Morgan-Wood Medal, 1992) is a lovely ruffled wine-red bitone, with light wine red standards and medium wine red falls. It, too, is a vigorous grower and gives a beautiful two-tone effect in a clump. A diploid, **LADY VANESSA** is a top favorite with garden visitors, year after year.

MABEL CODAY (Helsley 1985; Morgan-Wood Medal Winner, 1991; pronounced "CO-dy" by the hybridizer) is a beautiful ruffled medium blue. Its clarity of color and good growth habit make it a perennial garden favorite.

OVER IN GLORYLAND (Hollingworth 1993) was Bob's only 1993 introduction. We had the privilege of growing this wonderful Tet as a guest iris for several years before it was introduced, so I feel I can evaluate it properly. Those of you who attended the 1993 National Siberian Convention in Michigan will remember it as a large clump of a round, ruffled, velvety dark blue-purple with a striking light gold blaze. At that convention, **OVER IN GLORYLAND** was voted the Favorite Guest Iris and Favorite Iris Seen on Tour, both by a wide margin. Perhaps even more impressive, it garnered the most votes for HC of *any* iris (including TBs) in both 1991 and 1992. Introduced (and sold out early) at \$50.00, it probably won't be widely distributed for several years, but it is one to watch for. (Morgan-Wood Medal 1999???)

PERCHERON (Warburton 1982) is a a huge ruffled blue-purple, veined and dapples. It's a very heavy bloomer, and its huge flowers give it a very "busy," crowded effect, at least to my eye, when it's at peak bloom. Still, it's a solid mass of color, and it's been one of the most popular Siberians with garden visitors for several years.

RIKUGI SAKURA (Shidara, 1988) is a flat pink, with the six-fall form commonly associated with Japanese irises. Like **HELICOPTER**, it is exceptionally vigorous and a rapid increaser, forming a stunning clump. Garden visitors always love pink Siberians, and the unique form of **RIKUGI SAKURA** always makes it a real favorite.

ROARING JELLY (Schafer/Sacks 1992) is described by the hybridizers as a "raspberry jelly" color. It's grown well, has an appealing flower -- and it rebloomed fairly heavily for us this year until early July.

SPRINGS BROOK (Warburton 1988) is a pearly blue-violet with darker shoulders. In our garden, it's been a consistent repeat bloomer, often continuing from late May till mid- or late July. While the later bloom never matches the main flowering in May, on a large clump there are always 4-8 flowers in bloom at any one time -- enough to make an impact in the garden. It's certainly a stunning blue companion plant for the early daylilies! **SPRINGS BROOK** is the pollen parent of **ROARING JELLY**, and both have [ATOLL x RUFFLED VELVET] as pod parents. **PERCHERON** is another [ATOLL x RUFFLED VELVET] offspring; however, I've never seen **PERCHERON** rebloom.

Runners-up include:

WINDWOOD SPRING (Hollingworth 1985; runner-up to medal-winner **MABEL CODAY** in 1991) is a charming short light blue, very ruffled and flared, with large feathery stylearms and a prominent white blaze. **PAS DE DEUX** (Hollingworth 1988) is a charming light yellow amoena. It's very similar to **ISABELLE** (in fact, it's very hard to choose between **PAS DE DEUX** and **ISABELLE** when one is talking about "favorites"). In our garden, **PAS DE DEUX** is a little shorter than **ISABELLE** and perhaps a little less yellow. Both have fine ruffled forms, both give a lovely clump effect, with their yellow buds and cream and yellow/white bitone blooms, and both are more vigorous growers than the better known **BUTTER AND SUGAR**. **HIGH STANDARDS** (Hollingworth 1987) at 44" is an extraordinarily tall tetraploid. Because of its proportion, it has a very pleasing clump effect, with large purple flowers on tall stalks. Steve Varner has introduced a number of excellent deep wine reds which I like very much. **ILLINI CROWN** (1985) is a good grower and a fine clump-maker;

ILLINI RUBY and ILLINI GLORY have been some less vigorous growers, but have a smaller signal and a richer, more intense color.

All of these varieties have been good all-around performers in our garden for a period of several years, at least. I'm sure that in a few years, I'll have some new favorites among the more recent introductions, as soon as I've had a little more time to evaluate them. Meanwhile, I enthusiastically recommend *this* year's favorites to any lover of Siberian irises who may have overlooked some of them!

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ONE IN A HUNDRED

by Lynn Stoll

(written for the AHS Region One Newsletter, Fall, 1995)

Visitors to our AHS Display Garden almost invariably seem compelled to make two comments: "My, this is a lot of work!" and "Which one is your favorite?" To the first, I usually respond, "Well, yes, I guess you could say that; but I prefer to think of it as fun, exercise, cheap psychotherapy, and a chance to commune with a lot of beauty and listen to the birds sing." But in response to the second comment, I just sigh. *One* favorite? Impossible! It's hard enough to pick one favorite red tetraploid spider, or one favorite pink mini, or late-blooming gold, or fragrant double, or whatever. I have real trouble with the Popularity Poll each year. Also, my favorites change from year to year -- sometimes from day to day.

Still, at Thanksgiving, as I look back over the 1995 bloom season, there are a number of cultivars that stand out in my memory. These aren't necessarily my "favorites;" but they are varieties that put on a truly outstanding performance in the drought-stricken Iowa summer of 1995. There's snow on the ground outside now, but in my mind's eye, I can still see the intense, glowing color of Pat Stamile's RUBY SPIDER, along with the stunning beauty of Jack Carpenter's MARY FRANCES RAGAIN, with its rich pink color and lavishly ruffled perfect form. I remember how grateful I was for the prolific bloom of Kennedy's ROYAL JESTER, well into September, and for the delicate beauty (and robust performance) of Copenhaver's BEAUTIFUL EDGINGS.

About fifteen of these memorable performers for 1995 come to mind immediately. Since these were this year's "favorites" out of a total of 1500 cultivars in the garden, I'll call them "One in a Hundred."

BEAUTIFUL EDGINGS (Copenhaver 1992) is a ruffled white with a 1/4-inch rosy lavender edge and green throat. The flower is soft and delicate looking, but it holds up well all day, and the plant is a vigorous grower with excellent branching and bud count. I first saw this beauty in Shreveport, LA, and I had misgivings about how well it would grow here. But it was so pretty and so unusual that I couldn't resist buying it, and I've been very gratified by how well it's performed here.

CHERRY CANDY (P. Stamile 1992) is one of Pat's "Candy" series that I like especially well. This is one of the cultivars that I regularly point out to garden visitors as an outstanding example of what a daylily can do: super branching, lots of buds, a succession of new scapes over a two-month period, a vigorous grower, and of course an attractive, well-formed flower with good substance. I'm always a little taken aback when I first see it each year, because my mind equates "Cherry" with "pink". But this is a Queen Anne cherry: a light creamy yellow with a cherry red eye. It's increased well, from a single fan in the fall of 1993 to 4 fans this past summer.

DRAGON'S EYE (E. Salter 1992) -- I've become fascinated with Elizabeth Salter's stunning eyed minis, but I don't have enough experience growing them to know which ones will thrive in the North. However, **DRAGON'S EYE** is one that is definitely hardy here. It has grown and increased well both in my garden and in Fred McDowell's -- three fans last spring have increased to nine, and it even yielded 8 rooted prolifs this fall! It's a cheerful eye-catcher that draws visitors from half-way across the garden: a nicely proportioned rich rose pink with a huge, striking red eye. (See picture in color centerfold of the Winter 1995/1996 *Daylily Journal*, p. 392.) It also has good branching and bud count.

DRIVING ME WILD (P. Stamile 1993) -- Again, like **CHERRY CANDY**, this one has all the good things: branching, bud count, vigor, and repeat bloom, along with a distinctive, elusive smoky pink color that is hard to describe and even harder to photograph. I wonder if Pat named it after many tries at getting a true-color slide; I've used up a lot of film at this! It was one of the earliest large-flowered daylilies to bloom this year, and it put up a second set of scapes just as the first ones were about finished.

FRANCES JOINER (Joiner 1989) is a distinctive double which is noteworthy both for its unusual rose color and its consistent, precisely sculpted form. I know of no other daylily that can be mistaken for this one. The bud count isn't great, but each flower is a jewel. An indication of its consistent quality and performance in the Midwest is the seven AM votes it received from Region One judges this year -- more than these regional judges voted for any other cultivar except **DERRICK CANE** (HM 1995).

ISLE OF CAPRI (P. Stamile 1991) -- Pat Stamile has so many fine ruffled yellows that it's hard to pick a favorite, but this one made a particular impression on me both this year and last. The color is a rich true yellow, every flower always seems to be perfectly formed, and they're nicely presented on well-branched scapes (5 branches, 35 buds on one that I counted).

MARY FRANCES RAGAIN (J. Carpenter 1993) -- Most days this summer I thought this was the most beautiful flower open in the garden. It's a wonderful rich pink, very ruffled, completely flat, heavy substance, very consistent. I didn't count buds, but it just kept blooming and blooming. It's also increased well since I got it last year.

MEDIEVAL GUILD (Curt Hanson 1990) is a fine rosy lavender-violet Tet from a Northern hybridizer who deserves to be much better known. Like most of Curt's creations, **MEDIEVAL GUILD** has excellent branching and bud count with a wide, flat, very ruffled form. This vigorous grower also has heavy substance and a fine gold edge.

RASPBERRY SUNSHINE (J. Carpenter 1991) -- This is one of Jack's few Tets, a vigorous grower that makes huge plants. A three-year-old plant put up eight well-branched scapes; on any given day, there were anywhere from 6 to 14 large rich raspberry-red-violet blooms with large gold throats. An established clump of this tall grower makes a truly dramatic focal point in the garden.

ROYAL JESTER (Kennedy reg. 1991) -- I can't find when this was introduced. I got it from Stamiles two years ago when I was looking for late-bloomers. It's increased from two to nine fans in that time. The flower is a striking strawberry and cream bicolor. Although it's a little narrow,

it's a wonderful addition to the late garden, since most of the lates are in the yellow to orange range. I counted 61 buds on one scape. We dug it up and moved it up closer to the house, so we could enjoy it more next year.

RUBY SPIDER (P. Stamile 1992) is my favorite of Pat's red Tet spiders, and in fact my favorite Tet spider, period. Technically, it's a spider variant; some of the others are narrower, but in my opinion they can't compete for color intensity, particularly by the end of a hot day. This has been a vigorous grower and good increaser which blooms over a long period of time. The flower is so large, and the ruby red color so intense, that even a single bloom makes an impact in the garden.

SWEET SHALIMAR (R. Hansen 1988) -- I owe both **SWEET SHALIMAR** and Ra Hansen an apology, since I wasn't much impressed with this last year and said so, in print. After two years in my garden, it seemed like a relatively poor grower and a reluctant bloomer. The deep persimmon gold flower was nice enough, but I couldn't understand why it had been nominated for (and received!) the 1994 Eugene Foster Award, when I thought her **HEAVEN CAN WAIT** was so much better, at least in the North. Well, this year **SWEET SHALIMAR** was just beautiful; it seemed to simply explode with color this third year, with 12 fans, simply covered with flowers, lots of proliferations, and indeed a standout in the August garden. (However, I still think **HEAVEN CAN WAIT** is even better!) I've always thought that we need to give Southern daylilies two full growing seasons before we can reliably evaluate their performance in the North. But if **SWEET SHALIMAR** is any example, perhaps this should be extended to three years. (I had planned to write an article for the newsletter on Ra Hansen daylilies in the Midwest, but I have now decided to hold off till next year for this.)

VIOLET EXPLOSION (P. Stamile 1992) -- This is a striking large cream with a distinctive violet eye pattern; it's one that attracts you from a distance: "Ooh, what's *that one* over there?!" It seems to be a good grower, doubling in size in a year, with good if not outstanding branching and bud count.

WINDMILL YELLOW (Sikes 1993) -- When I think of Sarah Sikes, I usually think of gorgeous ruffled pinks -- but here's a tall, dramatic yellow spider with a green throat! It didn't do much last year, its first year in the garden, but made a very imposing clump this year. It's somewhat reminiscent of **SPIDER MIRACLE**, another of my favorites. **WINDMILL YELLOW** is another one that was so impressive in 1995 that we dug it up and moved it up to a more prominent location in the garden. I suppose it'll reward us for all this attention by sulking all next year. (Another piece of evidence for Ken Cobb's impressive study of daylily behavior and psychology!!)

WOODLAND RUFFLES (J. Carpenter 1991) -- This is another of Carpenter's perfectly beautiful (or beautifully perfect) daylilies. It's a ruffled creamy peach to apricot polychrome blended into a yellow center. This is such a beauty that we picked one blossom and took it with us to the Region One convention in Minneapolis, just so we could look at it in the car all day. It was just too pretty to leave behind! It has increased well for us, from a single fan in the spring of 1994 to four fans this summer. (It was almost a toss-of-the-coin decision whether to include **WOODLAND RUFFLES** or Jack's **LEONARD SAUTER** (1994) in this list. [See p. 393 of the Winter 1995/1996 *Daylily Journal*.] **LEONARD SAUTER** is a ruffled cream with a pink infusion. Both are incredibly beautiful flowers; I haven't grown **LEONARD SAUTER** as long as I have **WOODLAND RUFFLES**, but it also seems to be a good grower, increasing from one to four fans in one year.

Runners-up for 1995 included Bryant Millikan's **BIG SNOWBIRD**, **LAND'S END**, and **NATIVE BORN**, which I have described in the accompanying article about Millikan's daylilies. All three of these fine cultivars put on a grand show this past summer. **RADIANT RUFFLES** (EC Brown 1988) was also an outstanding clump in 1995. **RADIANT RUFFLES** is one of the Ed Brown cultivars, like **JANICE BROWN** and **WENDY GLAWSON**, that seems to be totally hardy here. It's a ruffled cream with a rose eye; the flower is a little smaller than **JANICE BROWN**, and the ground is a little less pink. Like **JANICE BROWN**, branching and bud count are excellent; it also increases well and reblooms. Other top performers in the 1995 garden were Branch's **SUMMER JUBILEE** (1988), a vigorous and well formed red Tet; **CHERRY DROP** (Stamile 1993), a pink with a deeper eye (see p. 397 of the Winter 1995/1996 *Daylily Journal*) which has most of the good qualities mentioned in

the description of CHERRY CANDY above (except that *this* cherry is pink!); CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN (J. Salter 1990), a gorgeous ruffled yellow gold Tet with bronze overlay and gold edge; WATERMELON MOON (P. Stamile 1989), a wonderful ruffled cerise/coral/pink blend Tet; ROSE EMILY (Pierce 1982), an outstanding ruffled deep rose pink that I think is still as good as almost anything on the market; and SOLOMON'S ROBES (Talbot 1992). A couple years ago, John Benz called SOLOMON'S ROBES the best purple in commerce; in our garden, it moped around for two years, but then was just awesome this third year: a truly beautiful velvety deep purple, deep green throat, outstanding branching and bud count. As I noted above in regard to SWEET SHALIMAR, sometimes it pays to give these Southern daylilies a third year before passing final judgment!

Just as a garden is dynamic and always changing, one's tastes change, as well. Next year's list of favorites may well be quite different from this one, as I continue to evaluate the performance of daylily cultivars in Region One. My criteria, however, remain the same: beautiful and distinctive flowers on hardy, vigorous plants with nice foliage, good branching and bud count. Barry and I cordially invite all Region One members to visit our garden during bloom season and help us select next year's favorites!

PLAN AHEAD: 1994 CVIDS Plant Purchases for 1996 Auction

The following plants will be found in *this year's* auction. If any are on your wish list, why not plan to get them at a bargain price from the club, rather than purchasing them from outside sources?

AV, 1995 EURLY#

Daylilies

- 45 Affirmation (Harris-Benz 1990) -- ruffled lemon yellow
- 47 Atlanta Velvet Touch (Petree 1990) -- red
- Avante Garde (Moldovan 1986) -- tan, bold red eye
- 37 Big Green Valley (J. Carpenter 1991) -- yellow, large green throat 6.5
- Blarney Castle (Moldovan 1990) -- laced and fringed yellow
- 32 Classy Cast -- (Brooks 1993) -- coral rose
- 40 Damsel in Distress (Lambert 1985) -- spidery purple
- X 40 Denmark Adonis (Milikan 1993) -- deep grape/black purple, green throat
- Duke of Earl (Benz 1990) -- ruffled velvety ruby red
- X 27 Exotic Kiss (Sellers 1991) -- cream, etched lavender eye 3"
- 40 Gossamer Lingerie (C. Hanson 1991) -- smooth soft rose 8"
- Grungy (Mercer 1991) -- gray-purple suffused chocolate
- Henry Crowell (EW Brown 1988) -- dark blood red
- 35 Kalita (EW Brown 1988) -- orange, gold watermark eye
- Maid of Astolat (Peck 1992) -- near white
- Marie Hooper Memorial (J. Carpenter 1988) -- ruffled melon-pink
- 65 Medieval Guild (C. Hanson 1990) -- rose purple, purple eyezone 5
- Mohamed Salameh (Mercer 1990) -- velvety blood red
- 25 Norma Jean (Stamile 1989) -- ruffled golden yellow self
- Otavalo (C. Hanson 1990) -- soft lavender, lt. rose violet watermark
- Papillon (Stamile 1990) -- cream lavender, lavender butterfly eye
- 37 Respighi (Munson 1989) -- black wine red, chalky wine eye
- Tideline (C. Hanson 1992) -- orchid lavender, watermark eye
- 30 Tigers Eye (J. Carpenter 1990) -- gold, maroon eye
- 35 Tusawilla Blackout R. Hansen 1993) -- tall black-red

Siberian Iris (many probably not available until 1997)

- Lee's Blue (Bauer/Coble 1994) -- light medium blue, dark blue veins; large white blaze
- Mesa Pearl (Bauer/Coble 1994 -- flared horizontal light lavender with pearl sheen
- Sprinkles (Bauer/Coble 1994) -- lavender with distinct violet peppering
- Simple Gifts (Hollingworth 1994) -- smooth tailored white self
- Over in Gloryland (Hollingworth 1993) -- ruffled deep blue-violet, small white blaze; Tet
- Windwood Serenade (Hollingworth 1990) -- large deep red-violet self, very small white blaze
- Shall We Dance (Hollingworth 1992) -- ruffled and flaring blue-violet bitone; Tet
- Sweet Surrender (Hollingworth 1992) -- mid-red self, white blaze, broad lt. blue stylearms

1995 CVIDS Plant Purchases for 1997 Auction

Growers: please take a slide (or at least a print) of these when they bloom in your garden this season, so we can show them to the club at one of our meetings before next year's auction!

Daylilies

* = Tetraploid

- Betty Benz (Harris-Benz '87R) -- large ruffled cream pink
- *Bittersweet Destiny (J. Salter '94) -- ruffled bright coral orange (Do)
- Blue Moon Rising (E. Salter '94) -- pale ivory cream mini, blue violet eye, deep GT
- *Bronwyn (J. Carpenter '91) -- creamy yellow, bronzing on edges
- *Chestnut Mountain (J. Salter '90) -- ruffled yellow, tan overlay
- SLIDE Crayola Violet (Stamile '91) -- velvety violet purple
- Dead Ringer (E. Salter '93) -- mauve rose mini, large bold plum eye
- Dragon's Eye (E. Salter '92) -- pale rose pink mini, large rose red eye
- *Drop Dead Red (Brooks '93) -- round, ruffled sunfast blood red
- Elly Launius (Gates '93) -- rose purple/dark purple bitone
- *Joe Marinello (Stamile '91) -- cream, wine purple eye
- *Lady Moonlight (E. Salter '94) -- pale cream white mini
- *Mask of Time (J. Salter '94) -- bright rose coral, intense black purple eye & edge
- *Mystic Rose -- rose pink, pale eye
- *Olympic Showcase (Stamile '92) -- large ruffled rich gold
- SLIDE *Pure and Simple (J. Salter '94) -- Round orange sherbet, heavily ruffled gold edge
- Siloam Louise Watts (Henry '90) -- 3" pale pink, white halo
- *Super Purple Prize (Peck '91) -- large vibrant purple self
- *Tiger Kitten (G. Stamile '91) -- 3" orange, bold red eye
- *Tigerling (Stamile '91) -- ruffled orange, red eye & edge
- *Victorian Collar (Stamile '90) -- ruffled round bright gold
- SLIDE *Untamed Glory (J. Salter '93) -- pale burnished cinnamon, heavily ruffled gold edge
- SLIDE *Witch's Wink (E. Salter '94) -- bright yellow mini, bold black purple eye

Siberians (for 1997 or 1998 auction)

- Strawberry Fair (Hollingworth 1994) Very ruffled circular crushed strawberry red, small white blaze; TET
- Bridal Jig (Schafer-Sacks 1993) -- Ruffled pure white, small crescent-shaped yellow signal
- That's My Baby (Hollingworth '95) Short ruffled deep red-violet
- Wings of Night (Helsley '91) Ruffled & flaring dark wine red
- Pleasures of May (Schafer/Sacks 1995) -- lavender-pink bitone; reblooming tendency

Devil's Dream (Schafer/Sacks 1990) Deep wine red, purple blaze
Just Because (Schafer/Sacks 1994) round, ruffled blue-violet self
Simple Gifts (Hollingworth 1994) -- smooth tailored white self
Over in Gloryland (Hollingworth 1993) -- ruffled deep blue-violet, small white blaze; Tet
Shall We Dance (Hollingworth 1992) -- ruffled and flaring blue-violet bitone; Tet
Sweet Surrender (Hollingworth 1992) -- mid-red self, white blaze, broad lt. blue stylearms

PLEASE HELP: CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Editor's note: We need your contributions for the newsletter. Let's use *our* newsletter to share information about our successes -- and our failures, which are often even more useful to others! What didn't survive the winter this year? What exciting new cultivars have you added to your garden this spring? What Southern evergreens have done well in your garden, and which have been poor performers? What's the latest daylily info on the Internet? What unusual companion plants do you have that others might like to know about? What do you grow that blooms when the daylilies are not in bloom? What's on your wish list, and why? What other ideas do you have that aren't even mentioned here?

All of us have unique knowledge and expertise to share. **The editor is very grateful for all contributions received;** it makes the task of producing this newsletter much easier. (We will be happy to help with spelling, editing, and formatting, if you want us to do so.)

Please consider writing something for our next newsletter. Here's your chance to see your name in print!
