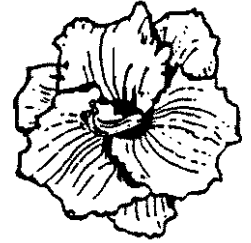




# Cedar Valley Iris & Daylily Society



October, 1996

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Barry Stoll

Greetings! As we enjoy Indian Summer, while watching the leaves change colors, fall to the ground, and ultimately cover all evidence of what was once bloom, it's time to reflect on CVIDS garden activities of the past season. I must say that 1996 was certainly a memorable year for our club. Our early spring meeting at Jean Hecht's home was a most enjoyable break from the winter blahs; it was a special treat to have Jean show us how one can access many exciting new and future daylily introductions on the Internet. Thank you, Jean, for your hospitality! The CVIDS club tour and banquet on July 27 was a grand success. For those who couldn't join us, Mary Baker's article beginning on p. 2 describes what you missed. (Mary's writing style also shows clearly why she won the 1995 national award for the best article on daylily gardens!) As a result of that tour, we recruited many new members. Our annual plant sale in Monticello in late August had the best net sales we have ever had, along with a super pot luck. (See the recipe below.) Lynn will give details about the sale and auction at the Fall Banquet.

I am happy that so many of our members have become more active participants in our club activities this year. I especially thank all those who contributed articles to the newsletters, participated in the auction, helped at the sale, contributed plants for the sale, helped other members dig and label plants, and donated space to line out unsold plants for next year's sale. We are grateful for all your contributions.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the banquet on Nov. 9 (see last page). We will have a short business meeting, followed by a slide show. Lynn will show slides of future club auction plants, and highlights from the 1996 national daylily and Siberian iris conventions. Fred McDowell will show slides of some outstanding daylilies in his garden this summer.

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### TAMARA VISSER'S CALENDULA CHEESE BALL

1 lb. cream cheese  
1 cup extra sharp cheddar cheese finely grated  
1/4 cup green bell pepper, finely chopped  
1/4 cup red bell pepper, finely chopped  
1/2 cup chopped calendula petals  
2 Tbsp. finely chopped scallions  
1 tsp. minced garlic  
2 Tbsp. snipped garlic chives (optional)  
Fresh black pepper

Mix together thoroughly. Refrigerate at least 1 hour to blend flavors.

From: *Edible Flowers from Garden to Palate*, by Cathy Wilkinson

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## WEEKEND AT BARRY'S

by Mary K. Baker

On July 27, 1996, Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society held their annual summer meeting and garden tour. Fun plans were made to spend the weekend with my Atalissa friends, Barry and Lynn Stoll, and with their exciting guest, Alabama hybridizer Sarah Sikes. Roll Tide! Or is it go Tigers and War Eagles? Sarah didn't say which team she roots for. Sarah was CVIDS' featured banquet speaker. Ms. Sikes is as warm and friendly as she is knowledgeable about daylilies. She has an excellent sense of humor as well.

Sarah has achieved a "triple crown" of awards during the past year. At the 1995 AHS Convention in Denver, she was awarded the 1996 Bertrand Farr Silver Medal. Her cultivar, NEAL BERREY (Sikes '87), received the 1995 Stout Medal. Sarah has also earned the 1995 Lenington All-American Award for DESIGNER JEANS (Sikes '83).

It was an honor, and a privilege, to spend time with Sarah and the Stolls. Barry is the current CVIDS president, while Lynn is CVIDS treasurer and newsletter editor. The Stolls have held these positions for the past few years. In addition, Lynn has been a past RVP for Region One. She recently started an ambitious hybridizing program and is a prolific, award winning garden writer as well. Lynn has received the AHS Newsletter Award for Best Article on Daylily Cultivars for two consecutive years, 1995 and 1996. "More Notes on Season Extenders: The Daylilies of August and September" (Fall 1994 issue, Region One Newsletter) and "Golden Oldies" (Spring 1995 issue, Region One Newsletter) are well worth a second read. Lynn's 1996 AHS Newsletter Award was shared with Professor Frederick McDowell for the article they cowrote, "Remembering Bryant Millikan," in the Best Article about a Hybridizer category. Lynn combines knowledge gained from her profession as a research scientist at the University of Iowa with the natural writing ability of a veteran novelist. Barry is a classical and jazz musician who shares his talents and skills by teaching them to children and young adults.

I'd travelled to Iowa City many times previously, when my brother was a urology resident at the University of Iowa. After reading a magazine article about Fred McDowell's garden, I decided to see it for myself. Daylilies are not all yellow and fulvous orange! That initial visit to Fred's wonderful garden resulted in an incurable addiction. In fact, my first named daylily, SECONDHAND ROSE (Moldovan '82), was purchased from Fred. Professor McDowell has been a past RVP, RPD, and newsletter editor for Region One. After subsequently joining the American Hemerocallis Society and learning about Region One, I discovered Stoll's Walnut Hill Gardens is located only a few miles east of Iowa City. The first visit to Barry and Lynn's beautiful acreage not only cemented my daylily habit but elevated my interest in hosta and Siberian iris as well. As the roots of my addiction came from eastern Iowa, the only thing left to do was join the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society, which I finally did last year.

On Friday, July 26, I left work at 1:00 pm, entered Interstate 80, and drove east to Exit 265, Atalissa. Beautiful blooming daylilies greeted me as I ascended the gravel drive to the hilltop. Barry and Lynn grow over 1700 daylily cultivars, 900 different median, Siberian, and species iris, and over 400 hosta varieties. Walnut Hill Gardens is an official AHS Display Garden; as such, all types of daylilies are broadly represented, including tetraploids, diploids, spiders, spider variants, minis, and doubles. The emphasis is on newer daylilies; however, the Stolls have a fine representation of the very best hemerocallis classics. Beautiful teardrop and kidney shaped beds incorporate many varieties of ornamental grass that accent the lovely daylily blooms. Wonderful and unique metal sculptures created by Iowa's own recently and tragically deceased Eric Shaw provide vertical punctuation.

Barry and Lynn have several daylily beds devoted to cultivars by hybridizer. For example, one bed features about seventy of Jack Carpenter's recent introductions. Two sizeable beds showcase

over 100 newer daylilies by Jeff and Elizabeth Salter. More beds highlight modern daylilies created by Sarah Sikes, Ed C. Brown, Ra Hansen, Curt Hanson, Pauline Henry, Bryant Millikan, and Arthur Kroll. The Stolls also grow about 100 of Pat and Grace Stamile's latest and greatest daylilies.

The vast backyard is wooded. Paths lined with several recent hosta varieties, as well as old fashioned hosta favorites, lead to the restful gazebo. As Lynn says, many visitors arrive to see daylilies but end up relaxing in the tranquil woods setting, surrounded by multihued foliage studded with wildflower gems.

Barry, Lynn, and Sarah waved enthusiastically as I pulled up. After a hug from each, we proceeded to continue the deadheading job they had been working on before I arrived. Preparing such a large garden for the annual CVIDS tour takes much time; I'll NEVER complain about deadheading my small garden of 300 cultivars plus seedlings again! When sundown arrived, we relaxed and partook of a delicious gourmet meal that featured grilled salmon, au gratin potatoes, broccoli, and strawberry shortcake. Food and fellowship were outstanding! Barry and Lynn are great cooks, but I have yet to try Barry's delectable homemade pizza, for which he is renowned.

Saturday morning arrived quickly. Barry and Lynn's Walnut Hill Gardens was the first scheduled tour garden. At 9:00 the beautiful Daylilies were surrounded by people taking lots of close up pictures. Many "oohs" and "aahs" were heard. It was suggested that we have an unofficial Walnut Hill President's Cup winner and an "Iowa" Sunshine Cup winner, a new tradition that I hope will be repeated in years to come. Pat Stamile's 1991 introduction TIGERLING won Walnut Hill's President's Cup. TIGERLING is an absolutely awesome small flowered ruffled golden orange with red eye, red edge, and green throat. The Stoll's enormous clump of TIGERLING was smothered with perfect blooms. TIGERLING is one of the most beautiful daylilies I've ever seen, in a color combination I don't ordinarily care about. TIGERLING, however, is no normal daylily. Every garden should grow it! Walnut Hill's "Iowa" Sunshine Cup went to Elizabeth Salter's 1991 PATCHWORK PUZZLE. This exquisite creation is a more vigorous child of Elizabeth's JASON SALTER. It's a green throated, pale lemon yellow mini with pencil etched purple eye that borders an inner washed lavender eye. I believe it's even better than JASON SALTER.

These weren't the only outstanding daylilies viewed at Walnut Hill Gardens, however. The entire day could have been spent at Barry and Lynn's. Other lovely daylilies include Ra Hansen's knockout 1993 DAZZLE, a heavy blooming orchid lavender with purple eyezone and green throat. TUNE THE HARP (Hansen '94) is drop dead gorgeous. I predict Ra will eventually win the Stout Medal for TUNE THE HARP; as I've grown it myself for the past couple of years I can attest to its hardiness without winter mulch. It reblooms for me, has a high bud count, and good branching. It's a 6 inch, wide petalled cream lavender with green throat and light purple inch wide looped ruffles. Substance is very heavy. TUNE THE HARP is very exotic looking; I don't normally like recurved blooms but on TUNE THE HARP this trait complements the flower. This is another cultivar no garden should be without. I've crossed this with several daylilies; it's very fertile both ways. In addition, TUNE THE HARP is sunfast, an early morning opener, and terrific looking at day's end. If my hybridizing efforts produce something as good as TUNE THE HARP, I'll know excellence has been achieved.

Jack Carpenter's outstanding daylilies include HEAVEN ALL DAY (1992) and BRONWYN (1991). HEAVEN ALL DAY was a hit during the 1995 AHS Convention in Knoxville and it looked just as lovely at Walnut Hill Gardens. It's a pristine green throated near white that's on my wish list. Jack's BRONWYN is "to die for", a beautiful large cream yellow with attractive bronzing on its edges. Jack's partner, J. Bomar, has produced a stunner called RASPBERRY BOUQUET (1994). It's a 4 inch raspberry rose with deeper eye, green throat, fluted ruffles, candelabra branching, and high bud count.

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Barry and Lynn showcase many of Curt Hanson's recent introductions. Some that really stood out include BABYLONIAN PEARL (1991), CHELSEA MORNING (1992), SHELL CARVING (1994), and MEDIEVAL GUILD (1990). BABYLONIAN PEARL is a large, well branched, heavily blooming cream with green throat. CHELSEA MORNING is another big, beautiful, well branched green throated cream. Both are exceptionally vigorous. SHELL CARVING is a medium sized cream pink blend with small green throat that's edged in ruffled gold. It has a high budcount and tree like branching. I fell in love with this daylily the moment we met! MEDIEVAL GUILD is a favorite of Lynn's; she's used it extensively both ways in her hybridizing program. It's a 5 inch pale rose lavender that's extremely ruffled, gold edged, and heavy substed. Branching and bud count are excellent.

Jeff Salter's 1993 introduction ALEXANDRA literally took my breath away. It looks just like Rollingwood Garden's catalog description states: "An enchanting flower of palest peach melon with a heavily ruffled and frilled edge which can be as deep as 1/4" @ This flower has very full, round form and shows off its ruffles to perfection. Substance is heavy and holds well. Well branched scapes carry multiple blooms. One of the jewels of our garden and named for our daughter. This flower is fertile and a super parent." A few of my favorites among the Stoll's collection of Elizabeth Salter's creations include PATCHWORK PUZZLE, which has previously been described, LADY MOONLIGHT (1994), and MOONLIT CRYSTAL (1988). Both are minis. LADY MOONLIGHT is a cream white with lime throat. The plant was covered with perfect, round, ruffled blooms set off like jewels by its excellent branching. This has performed very well for Barry and Lynn, and is near the top of my wish list. MOONLIT CRYSTAL is a very ruffled, round, pale ivory with amber highlights and lime throat. As with many of Elizabeth's cultivars, branching is excellent. MOONLIT CRYSTAL is vigorous and hardy in Iowa.

Two of the late Bryant Millikan's daylilies I especially liked are LAND'S END and BIG SNOWBIRD, both 1993 introductions. The huge clump of LAND'S END had a hypnotic effect on me; I couldn't seem to break eye contact with it! LAND'S END is an outstanding 5 inch deep purple with black purple eye and vivid green throat. It's ruffled, vigorous, and is from the cross SUPER PURPLE x CAVERN. BIG SNOWBIRD is a near white diploid out of ((ASPEN x WEDDING VOW) x GENTLE SHEPHERD) x MONICA MARIE. This tough, hardy plant grows for Barry and Lynn like it's on steroids. It's exceptionally vigorous for a near white and is yet another daylily no garden should be without.

Two of Pauline Henry's daylilies that especially appealed to me include SILOAM DOROTHEA BOLDT (1991) and SILOAM CHRISTMAS SONG (1987). SILOAM DOROTHEA BOLDT is a diamond dusted yellow mini with bright green throat. SILOAM CHRISTMAS SONG is a vibrant red pony that Barry and Lynn favor.

Three of the Stoll's very special daylilies are Darrell Apps' WOODSIDE RUBY (1990), Oliver Billingslea's HEAVEN AND EARTH (registered 1987), and Valerie Rushing's exquisite PROPER RUFFLES (1986). Barry and Lynn have an enormous clump of WOODSIDE RUBY that was loaded with midsized, bright red blooms with green throats. The flower is nicely ruffled. Although it's a little narrow, I love it; this is a high performance daylily. HEAVEN AND EARTH is a vision in soft pink with rose eye. Its large, delicately colored flowers with billowing ruffles remind me of a ballerina's tutu. I expected this to be outrageously expensive, and was surprised to discover it sells for under twenty dollars. PROPER RUFFLES looks like it should sell for at least ten times its EUREKA average price of eight dollars. It's large and heavy substed with sawtooth ruffles, high bloom count, and wonderful bloom to plant proportion. I decided to acquire this cultivar the moment I first encountered it. Wow!

Too soon, it became time to leave for the next tour stop, Fred McDowell's Iowa City garden. Lynn stayed behind with lingering garden visitors. Barry, Sarah, new CVIDS member Keith Riewerts, and I rode with LeAnn Trana to see the remaining tour gardens. LeAnn is the mother

of one of Barry's music students. Her van was comfortable and spacious. We had lots of fun covering the miles between tour gardens.

I have a special fondness for Fred McDowell and his garden. Many "hooked" daylily addicts were heard to exclaim to him "It's all your fault!" in a joyful manner. Fred is a wonderful person who is responsible for introducing very many people to the joys of daylily culture, including me. He deservedly was the third person in Region One, and the only Iowan so far, to receive the Regional Service Award from the AHS.

Fred has approximately 1800 daylily cultivars growing well in his small urban lot. He specializes in showcasing new and large flowered tetraploids. They are impeccably arranged. Each visit to Fred's results in seeing something new. Special daylilies that caught my eye include Pat Stamile's EL DESPERADO (1994), a green throated greenish yellow with plum eye and edge. I've liked this since I first saw it in South Carolina in 1995; it was equally stunning in Fred's garden. Pat's GILDED ROSE (1995) is a large rose pink with deep green throat and gold edge; it was exquisite in Fred's garden. Pat's AWASH WITH COLOR (1995), a round and ruffled rose with tints of lavender and pink, green throat, and heavy substance, was my favorite among these three fine Stamile introductions.

Steve Moldovan's 1994 PYGMY PRINCE is breathtaking. It's high on my wish list and is a ruffled, beautiful, small red tetraploid. John Benz's 1995 BRIGHT VELVET was my favorite large flowered red of those seen in Fred's garden. It's bright and fiery, just as John says in his catalog description, and has a vibrant green throat.

Sarah Sikes' LUVERNE (1991) is an exquisite vision in round, ruffled, warm ivory. Its heavy substance guarantees it looks just as good at sunset as it does at dawn. On a previous visit to Fred's, I saw and purchased Sarah's HUSH LITTLE BABY, named for her grandson. It's a spectacular green throated, round, ruffled, vivid rose with excellent substance and bud count.

Three gorgeous classic daylilies in bloom at Fred's include Bernice Marshall's SERENA SUNBURST (1982), WINGS OF CHANCE (Spalding '85), and Lenington's MAVIS SMITH (1974). SERENA SUNBURST is a ruffled, heavy substanced, diamond dusted pink with gold edge and high bud count. WINGS OF CHANCE is a lovely yellow with red halo and green throat. MAVIS SMITH is a green throated 5 inch cream that's infused with pink. These are inexpensive daylilies that will be worth growing for many years to come.

The next tour stop was Jerry and Lela Hadrava's Blooming Hill near Cedar Rapids. The daylilies were covered with pretty blossoms. My favorite daylily viewed at Jerry and Lela's is Sarah Sikes' 1983 DESIGNER JEANS, a 6 1/2 inch lavender with darker lavender eye and edge. As we walked up the slope toward the house and greenhouse beyond, it became apparent that water features and hosta are the stars of Blooming Hill. Jerry has many fine hosta seedlings resulting from his hybridizing efforts. A striking water mill revolving in a small pond full of fish and water plants is the garden's focal point. A second pond is in the center of a glade surrounded by large rocks, hosta, and meandering paths. Tall trees create a shady canopy. In the backyard I encountered the biggest and most beautiful tree lantana I've ever seen. Many butterflies sipped the nectar provided by its myriad blossoms. Jerry and Lela served authentic Czech kolache, or fruit filled pastry, in celebration of a memorable afternoon.

The final tour stop was Jim and Joy Adams' garden near Monticello. This is nestled on thirty acres of woodlands complete with caves, springs, and a hidden grotto. As Joy is an art teacher by profession, it seems fitting that the garden felt like a living, breathing three dimensional canvas painted with everchanging flowers. I've never seen a more beautiful garden anywhere. Jim and Joy weave impatiens, lilies, dahlias, hosta, daylilies, gooseneck loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*), hollyhocks, and other blooming gems into tapestries that accent the green lawn and brighten the shade cast from many overhead trees. The house is built from stone; it looks as if it

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rises naturally out of the ground. A more complete description of Jim and Joy's paradise can be found in the book Midwest Gardens. This well written volume features the Adams' garden, as well as several other worthy heartland gardens, in exquisite detail.

Visiting these beautiful gardens left us ravenous. After quickly freshening up, we headed to the University of Iowa's Memorial Union for a delicious gourmet meal, wonderful conversation, and an outstanding banquet presentation by Sarah Sikes. Sarah showed many slides of her recent and future introductions, as well as educational slides that illustrated basic hybridizing techniques, in addition to slides that demonstrate her cultural practices starting with seeds and ending with three year old seedlings. Sarah is a hard working hybridizer. Her soil is meticulously sterilized from the intense heat produced by solarization. Much reconstruction was in order after Hurricane Opal destroyed most of the huge trees that overlooked Sarah's patio. Natural shade formerly supplied by the trees is now provided by a newly built, massive lath structure atop the patio. Sarah's daylilies are lovely; she'll win many more awards in the years to come.

Our magical evening ended all too soon. After a good night's sleep, Sunday morning provided the opportunity to walk through Barry and Lynn's garden for a final view of their fine daylily collection. After good byes were said, Barry took Sarah to the airport for her flight home to Alabama. Soon after, it was time for me to leave. My last glimpse of Walnut Hill Gardens caught Lynn going from daylily to daylily as she performed crosses which will some day lead to outstanding introductions. Her goals entail a combination of pretty and hardy northern daylilies with beautiful southern cultivars; Lynn's kids will have enhanced beauty, bud count, and performance without sacrificing hardiness or vigor.

Barry and Lynn are gracious hosts. I thank them for their hospitality, kindness, and for the wonderful surprise they concocted for me during the Iowa City banquet. I highly recommend that everyone in Region One attend Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society's annual garden tour and banquet. I plan to be a "regular" from now on! Hopefully the next weekend at Barry's will include his legendary pizza!

*Editor's Note: Mary modestly fails to mention the nature of the "surprise" she alludes to in the last paragraph. Barry had the pleasure of presenting her with the AHS national award for the best article on daylily gardens for 1995, for her article "Four Fabulous Gardens in North and South Carolina." Congratulations, Mary!!*

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members, **Marjorie Cornelius** (211 Western Ave., Maquoketa, IA 52060, and **LeAnn Trana** (PO Box 639, Wilton, IA 52778). We look forward to seeing you at future club activities!

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## LAST BUT NOT LEAST: MORE NOTES ON SEASON-EXTENDERS

(Or: How Could I Have Overlooked These?!?)

by Lynn Stoll

Every year I become more and more fond of my growing collection of late-blooming daylilies. Those of you who have been members of Region 1 for a few years may remember two earlier articles on this subject in this newsletter ("Stretch Your Daylily Bloom: Early and Late Season-Extenders," Feb., 1993, and "More Notes on Season-Extenders: The Daylilies of August and September," Fall, 1994). As my daylily addiction grows more intense with each passing year, so it seems sadder every fall to have to bid farewell to all my "friends" (like ROSE EMILY, JANICE BROWN, ELIZABETH SALTER, and MARY FRANCES RAGAIN) until next summer. Fortunately, systematic collecting of late-blooming daylily cultivars over several years has rewarded me with at least a month to six weeks of good daylily bloom after what is usually considered "daylily season" is over.

Some favorite late-blooming cultivars described in previous articles include ANNA MAE HAGER, BRIDGET, CARLOTTA, CHICAGO APACHE, GOLDEN PRIZE, HARVEST HUE, HEAVEN CAN WAIT, ILLINI JACKPOT, LUSTY LITTLE LULU, MALIHINI, MISSOURI MEMORIES, ORCHID CORSAGE, PRIDE OF MASS, ROYAL JESTER, SCOTCH PLAID, SINGS THE BLUES, SISSY, SOMBRERO WAY, SWEET SHALIMAR, TUSCAN, WOODBURN, and YUMA. All of these are cultivars that I still like very much and continue to recommend to daylily growers who want to extend their bloom season into August and September. In this article I will describe a number of additional late-blooming daylilies which I have evaluated in the last two seasons. All of these have been in the garden for at least two winters, including the exceptionally cold winter of 1995-96, and all performed superbly this past summer.

As I write this on October 1, four daylily cultivars are still going strong in the garden (on their original bloom, not rebloom), with many buds left to open if an early freeze doesn't get them: SANDRA ELIZABETH, FINAL TOUCH, AUGUST QUEEN, and SILOAM GOLD COIN. SANDRA ELIZABETH (Stevens 1986) was the winner of the 1993 Eugene Foster Award for best late-blooming daylily. I had never seen it, but ordered it in 1994 after it won the award. It didn't do much in 1995, but this year -- WOW, what a show it's putting on! It's a clear yellow Tet self with good form and great branching and bud count (4-6 branches, 30+ buds). I'm not always impressed by national award winners, because many of them don't do well in this part of the country; but SANDRA ELIZABETH is super. FINAL TOUCH (Apps 1992) is a sensational pink lavender bitone, round and ruffled and beautifully formed. With these lovely flowers nicely distributed on six to eight branches and with more than sixty buds per scape, it would be a standout at the height of midseason. (The year after it was introduced, the 1993 Apps catalog description said "18 buds;" in the 1996 catalog, the description read "75 buds," which is hard to believe but nevertheless accurate!) In September and even early October, it's a real treasure. As a bonus, it's also fragrant. FINAL TOUCH is registered as Late, and so is eligible for the Eugene Foster Award; I hope that Dr. Apps will nominate it for that award as soon as possible. (Otherwise, I'll just write it in!) AUGUST QUEEN (Jablonski 1980) is a large rose self which is registered as Very Late. Unlike the exceptional FINAL TOUCH, neither the individual flower or the plant habit, branching, and bud count of AUGUST QUEEN would merit particular attention in mid-July. However, since most late-blooming daylilies seem to be in the yellow/gold/bronze/orange color range, AUGUST QUEEN's rich rose blossoms are particularly welcome so late in the season. SILOAM GOLD COIN is a small round gold which is similar to its predecessor SILOAM NUGGET, but SILOAM GOLD COIN opens better (a critically important difference for cool fall nights).

Several other recent acquisitions have proven to be exceptional late-blooming cultivars in our garden. Curt Hanson's SUN TEMPLE SPIRIT (1994) is a large, fragrant pure lemon yellow Tet

with superb flower form. Registered as Very Late, it bloomed almost as late as the four mentioned above. Pat Stamile's 1992 white Tet **LIME FROST** has been an excellent performer for us and in several other Region One gardens. Although it's registered as Very Late, in our garden it blooms about the same time as Pat's **PRIDE OF MASSACHUSETTS** (registered as Late Midseason, and described in an earlier article). Both of these two white daylilies have been much better growers for us than two other late Stamile whites, **PTARMIGAN** and **LAST SNOWFALL**. Two late-blooming Jack Carpenter recent introductions which I like very much are **ALIZARIN CRIMSON** (1992) and **MORADO E VERDE** (1993); both are dormant, as are many of Jack's introductions. "Alizarin" is a red pigment (Jack is an art teacher), while "morado e verde" means purple and green. **ALIZARIN CRIMSON** is a very ruffled deep cherry red with a faint yellow edge and yellow-green throat. It has very heavy substance, and in our garden, it typically has four branches and 30+ buds. **MORADO E VERDE** is a medium purple with a deep purple eye; it also has good branching and bud count. An older Carpenter late which I also like is **GOLDEN SUPERSTAR** (1988); it's a round, ruffled gold with a very soft golden bronze halo. In our garden it grows considerably taller than its registered 18". Carpenter's associate Josie Bomar has contributed the wonderful **RASPBERRY BOUQUET** (1994) for the late garden. This year **RASPBERRY BOUQUET** opened its first blossom on July 27, the day of our club tour, and bloomed exuberantly into early September. The flower is a 4" raspberry rose with a deeper raspberry eye blending into a peach heart and green throat. It's a vigorous grower, the nicely ruffled flowers are pleasingly displayed in a mature clump, and the high bud count provides a long period of bloom.

Munson's **CARAMEL GLAZE** (1987) is registered as an 18" semievergreen amber/pink/russet/ivory/yellow blend Tet. If that seems a bit difficult to visualize, the overall garden effect to my eye is that of a light yellow with a heavy overlay of rosy bronze on the outer part of the petals. Although the flowers are large and the scapes are short, the blossoms are positioned well and don't give that buried-in-the-foliage effect. **CARAMEL GLAZE** is registered as Late, and also blooms well into September. **CINNAMON LACE** (Branch 1988) is another fine late-blooming daylily in this color class; it's taller than **CARAMEL GLAZE**, the individual blossoms are smaller, and the branching, bud count, and bud placement are outstanding. A mature clump in full bloom is a truly beautiful sight!

Many of the daylily introductions of the late Brother Charles Reckamp are season-extenders. His **TECHNY PEACH LACE** (registered in 1988) is a late-blooming pale creamy gold with a peach-rose overlay and petal edges. It has an adequate but not great bud count; however, it's an exceptionally pretty Tet which blooms well after most daylily cultivars are finished, and I think it which deserves to be more widely grown. Another beautiful late-blooming Reckamp cultivar is **PSALTER AND HARP** (1985), a ruffled peach-apricot blend. Both of these Reckamp lates are Tets. Many of Ra Hansen's introductions are also late bloomers, which is one reason I first became interested in her daylilies. Along with several I've described in previous articles (**SWEET SHALMAR**, **HEAVEN CAN WAIT**, **SINGS THE BLUES**, and **MISSOURI MEMORIES**), her **SPARKLING OPAL** (1986), which I've acquired only recently, was very pretty this year, and bloomed well into September. All of the Ra Hansen cultivars mentioned here are diploids.

In addition to season-extenders, another of my special daylily interests is spiders. **STOPLIGHT** (Childs 1954) appeals to me for both of these reasons: it's a fine, late-blooming, bright red classic spider with a large gold throat. A mature clump in full bloom is a real attention-getter, particularly when other bloom is getting sparse. Two other spidery lates are the bright orange-gold **JERSEY SPIDER** (Grovvatt 1974) and **RADIANT BEAMS** (Reckamp 1979), a yellow-gold with bronze brushmarks. Both provide welcome color in the late garden, although the individual flowers are not as distinctive as **STOPLIGHT**, nor is the clump habit as consistently upright. **BECKY SHARP** (Hardy 1964) is a late midseason rose pink that is very popular with garden visitors. It's not a true spider, but the narrow petals give it an appealing airy, "open" quality that is reminiscent of a spider -- and the color is very different from most spiders and spider variants in the garden at any point in the season.



There are a number of other late-blooming season extenders that I've grown for years, but have somehow overlooked in previous articles (hence the subtitle for this article!). **TOWHEE** (Griesbach 1981) is a nice late-blooming deep red Tet that I've grown for years and still like very much. **OLIN CRISWELL** (Harris 1977) is an excellent older yellow Tet with good form and excellent bud count and branching. Elliott's **FIERY MESSENGER** (1985) is a vibrant red with a deeper halo and a bright green throat. Munson's **APOLLODORUS** (1985) is a good late-blooming ruffled violet-purple with a small green throat. Out of about ten Munson purples that we grow, it's the latest to bloom. Although it's an evergreen, **APOLLODORUS** is perfectly hardy and vigorous here.

All the varieties discussed here and in previous articles have proven themselves consistent performers and reliably hardy here at the Zone 5/4 boundary. However, there are many more now being evaluated, which I'll report on in a future article. I'm particularly excited about some recent late-blooming introductions by Pat Stamile (**JULIETTA**, **LAST PICTURE SHOW**, **POETIC VOICE**, and **SWEET SUGAR CANDY**), Jack Carpenter (**JOHN MICHAEL**, **JOSEPHINE MARINA**, **DEVONSHIRE CREAM**, **MIDSUMMER ELEGANCE**, **PINK ENDEARMENT**, **SCOTTISH CREAM TREAT**, and **WANDA LEE ROPER**), and Ra Hansen (**ADRIENNE'S SURPRISE**, **CLAIRVOYANT LADY**, **HUG ME BIG**, **IN A HEARTBEAT**, **QUIET PINK**, and **VERY BERRY ICE**, among others). I'm also hoping for good performance from Bell's **AUGUSTA LOMBARD** and **PAL ALICE**, Brown's **EASY NED**, Kroll's **FLAMEBURST**, Millikan's **HARLEM NOCTURNE**, Elliott's **IMPETUOSITY** and **RUSSELL SOUTHALL**, and Albers' **HOLIDAY STAR** and **FIRE CHIEF NICHOLAS**. All of these are recent acquisitions which are registered as Late or Very Late, and I hope that many of them will delight me next August or the year after with the kind of performance put on this year by **FINAL TOUCH** and **SANDRA ELIZABETH**, in particular.

These late-blooming beauties, along with those described in previous articles, provide daylily lovers with a good selection of season-extenders for August and September. In addition, for those who are always out of town during midsummer, they provide an opportunity for a very satisfying and well diversified daylily garden with peak bloom in mid- to late August, rather than mid-July. I hope you'll consider adding some of them to your own gardens to make the season last a little longer.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Still Blooming with Buds: August 11

by Gerald Hobbs

Andrea's Crystal Ball	Hot Town	Regal Finale
Ardent Affair	Inspired Edge	Roseate Glow
Audacity Bound	Lavender Image	Siloam French Marble
Broadmoor Bull's Eye	Malihini	Star of Africa
Chicago Apache	Orange Dream	Sweet Sugar Candy
Concord Star	Orange Velvet	Trump Tower
Holiday Delight	Palace Concubine	Watermelon Moon

***Editor's Note:** Bloom in Gerald's garden in Ft. Madison is several days to a week or more earlier than in our northern members' gardens. So Aug. 11 bloom in Ft. Madison is equivalent to late August bloom in our northernmost gardens.*

## BLUE COMPANIONS FOR THE DAYLILY GARDEN

by Tamara Belle Visser

The blue issue crosses the board on all plant species. What is blue? According to the dictionary, "having the color of the clear sky or the deep sea, or any color between green and violet in the spectrum, or any hue of a gray of purplish color."

Now, being new to the daylily scene, I've been a bit naive about the elusive blue daylily such as **BLUE NOTES** that was mentioned in the Spring Daylily Journal "Round Robin" column. So on my first of many trips to Fred McDowell's garden, I asked him about **BLUE NOTES**. (When in doubt, ask an expert, right?) Well, it all comes back to "What is blue?".

So what if there are no blue daylilies having the color of sky or sea! You can add companion plants that will give that much sought-after color in and among them. The following is a list I grow in my gardens with daylilies and various other perennials that have proven to be quite hardy here in Eldora.

***Polemonium Caeruleum*** (Jacob's Ladder, Charity, or Greek Valerian). Grows 2-3 ft. tall and has fern-like leaves with bright blue bell flowers in the spring.

***Delphinium Elatum*** (Bee Larkspur or Candle Larkspur) species. Dark blue smaller blooms than that of Magic Fountains or Standup, but will rebloom if kept dead-headed. 3-4 ft. tall plants and a very suitable old plant for period gardens.

***Delphinium*** Sky Blue and Dark blue variety Standup or Magic Fountains. This is a shorter variety of Pacific Giant and doesn't have the tendency to fall over. It will also rebloom if kept deadheaded. Summer-fall. Most catalogs say it gets 24-28" tall, but I've had them get as tall as 4 ft.

***Salvia Azurea*** (Azure Sage). 4' spikes of beautiful sky blue flowers in late summer to fall. Leaves are silvery grey. It makes a great contrast in the garden.

***Perovskia atriplicifolia*** (Russian Sage). Grey-green foliage with 3½-4' tall spikes of blue flowers from late June to frost. Looks great with daylilies and makes a great substitute for the now illegal lythrum.

***Linum perenne*** (Blue Flax). Very fine silvery green leaves with lovely sky blue flowers on 2' plants. Works well into swags and garlands.

***Catananche caerulea*** (Cupid's Dart). Wonderful light-medium blue everlasting flowers similar to Bachelor's Buttons on 2' plants; blooms summer to fall if kept dead-headed. For you lovers out there, it is said that a love potion used to be made from this plant.

***Baptisia australis*** (False Indigo). Good cut flower. Showy racemes of pea-shaped indigo blue on plants that grow 3-4' in bush form; very slow.

***Veronica*** Sunny Border Blue. Strongly upright rich violet blue spikes on 20" stems. Blooms throughout the summer.

The following are lavender blue in color, but they do lend a blue tone to the garden, and I find they are noteworthy companions.

***Campanula carpatica*** (Carpathian Harebells). Compact, heart-shaped leaves with violet blue bells. Great for the border.

***Campanula*** "Throatwort". 3-4' plants of violet blue bells that have received a lot of attention in my garden. I also recommend it as a substitute for lythrum.

***Campanula glomerulata superba***. Rich violet blue bells in clusters on a 20" plant. (This has become invasive in Lynn Stoll's garden, but not in that of the author.)

*Campanula persicifolia* 'Telham Beauty'. Delicate china blue flowers on a 2-3' plant. Great for cutting.

*Campanula poscharskyana*. Starry lavender blue flowers on 6" plants. Semi-prostrate border plant. Has bloomed for me spring-fall.

*Nepeta mussini* (Catmint). Super border plant with lavender blue flowers over a long period if dead-headed. Bushy greyish small-leaved 18" plant; smells spicy.

*Hyssopus officinalis* (Hyssop). Pungent, minty aromatic 18" herb with purplish blue flowers used in tea. One of the bitter herbs mentioned in the Bible.

*Platycodon grandiflorum* (Balloon Flower). A favorite among children to like to pop the balloon-like buds that open to a star-shaped blue bloom. The plant is 1-2' tall.

*Platycodon komanchi* (Non-opening Balloon Flower). *Komanchi's* buds keep their balloon shape even after the children squeeze the air out of them. Flowers are blue lavender on 1½-2' tall plants; late summer to fall.

There are many more perennials in various shades of blues, but who knows, maybe next year someone will introduce that elusive blue daylily!

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MARVELOUS M.A.S.S. MEDLEY

## Second National Siberian Iris Convention: Mad About Siberians & Species

by Lynn Stoll

The second national Siberian iris convention was held in Westford, Massachusetts, June 14-16, 1996. It was sponsored jointly by the Iris Society of Massachusetts, the Society for Siberian Irises, and the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA). Most of us who had attended the first Siberian convention in Michigan in 1993 wondered how anything could ever equal that memorable combination of peak bloom in fabulous gardens, splendid weather, great food, and wonderful fellowship. Well, I can report that Marty Schafer, Jan Sacks, Barbara Schmieder, Lucy Burton, and all their hard-working associates made it two grand successes in a row! Convention attendance had been limited to 200 people, to avoid overcrowding in the gardens and in the convention facilities. We thought that this was an ideal size for the group, because it gave us a chance to meet and visit with most of the attendees over the three-day period, meeting a lot of new friends and renewing old friendships. Region 21 members who attended included Garland and Dorothy Bare, Rae Boysen, Lois Girton, Larry Harder, Marjorie Jansen, Mary Peterson, and Lynn and Barry Stoll.

One distinctive difference between these two conventions was the large number of species and species hybrids that shared the spotlight in Massachusetts with the more familiar Siberians. This shared emphasis reflects in part the influence of the late Bee Warburton, to whose memory the M.A.S.S. Medley was dedicated. Bee was a founder of the Iris Society of Massachusetts and a pioneer in the hybridizing of Siberian irises, as well as a generous friend and beloved mentor to many. She also worked avidly to promote interest in species iris in New England, and maintained an extensive collection of all of the iris species which can be grown in the Northeast. Her excellent line of Siberian hybrids has been adopted by her proteges Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks, who in recent years have carried Bee's efforts to a new plane of excitement.

The convention opened on Friday afternoon with a show. These national Siberian conventions have produced "firsts" of all kinds, and this may have been the first time so many Siberian and species iris were ever displayed together in a show. The seedling section showcased about twenty of the newest Schafer/Sacks creations, along with smaller numbers of seedlings

from other hybridizers. These stunning new developments in color and form gave viewers a foretaste of what was to come in the Saturday and Sunday garden tours -- and indeed, in all our gardens in years to come.

After a fabulous Friday evening opening banquet, we were treated to a slide presentation by many of the hybridizers who had contributed guest plants to the convention. Each hybridizer, world-famous or virtually unknown, was strictly limited to only five slides, so each showed only what they considered to be their *very best*. Bob Hollingworth, for example, showed a slide of a blue Siberian seedling in which the white blaze on the falls was so large that it gave the impression of a white fall with a blue rim. He thinks that a true plicata pattern in Siberians is only a generation or two away. The most interesting presentations to me were the species and inter-species seedlings shown by a number of hybridizers who were completely unknown to me before this convention. I found Tony Huber's work with "Versata" (*I. versicolor* x *I. ensata*) crosses to be particularly interesting. And Dave Niswonger, whom I had always associated with Spurias, showed some very attractive interspecies crosses from his recent work in this area. The slide presentation left us all eager to see some of these exciting new creations in the convention gardens on Saturday and Sunday morning.

Visitors to these gardens from other parts of the country invariably asked their hosts, "Oh, wow, where did you ever get those *great* rocks?!?" The answer, of course, usually accompanied by a sardonic expression, was "from the glacier." Unlike those of us in the Midwest, who often travel considerable distances to drag home "decorative" rocks and boulders for focal points in our gardens, New England gardeners devote much of their efforts to hauling rocks *away* -- and to working with the more-than-adequate bounty of these "decorative features" supplied by Nature!

The Schafer/Sacks Garden was a highlight of the tour. The area closest to the house is beautifully landscaped, featuring many massive clumps of Warburton and Schafer/Sacks Siberians and a wide variety of other perennials -- along with some choice specimens of "decorative rocks." One path curved along a beautiful 20' row of the blue-violet Siberian SPRINGS BROOK, set against a background row of soft pink peonies. Most visitors stopped to photograph and comment on this especially lovely color combination. Another especially appealing mini-garden featured a number of *I. pseudacorus* and other species hybrids, attractively set in among rocks. A relatively flat field in the rear of the property contained most of the Siberians, and all of Marty's recent hybridizing activity. This garden contained the master planting of Siberian and species iris, some 240 different cultivars representing 50 hybridizers. The guest Siberians were arranged by hybridizer, allowing garden visitors to see the representative work of each hybridizer grouped together. The species guests were arranged roughly by type and relationship, although the many interspecies hybrids made this a less than precise pattern. The advances in color, form, and clump habit seen in the newest Schafer/Sacks Siberians were astounding. There are many truly stunning cultivars in the pipeline from this hybridizing program! Bob Hollingworth, Hal Stahly, and Dave Niswonger gave judges' training sessions in this garden for those who were interested.

The Smith Garden was a pleasant and spacious setting for our Saturday lunch. A large number of Siberian and species guests were attractively arranged along both sides of a stream and pond, with two footbridges and winding paths giving visitors easy access to the plantings. The extensive plantings of *I. pseudacorus*, *I. virginica*, *I. laevigata*, and related interspecies hybrids on the banks of the pond were growing in an ideal environment, and they were responding with lavish bloom. It was a special treat for me to see so many *I. laevigata* in bloom, since they were totally unfamiliar to me. (We'll soon see how they do in Iowa!) A large bed behind the house held some bearded irises and other plants.

The Marble Garden was like a miniature arboretum, with a fascinating variety of interesting and unusual plants. Kathy Marble is a highly creative flower arranger, and many of the plants found in her garden have been selected for their potential as elements of design. Although there were no guest Siberians in this garden, it was interesting to see irises growing

together in combination with other, more unfamiliar perennials -- all carefully placed in the garden with the eye of a master arranger. Some of the most interesting specimens were carefully sited in a series of raised beds facing the sunspace on the south side of this passive solar home. Along the west border of the property is a landmark "Big Rock," where Kathy and Curt are developing a natural woodland garden with rhododendrons. On the other side of the house is "Little Rock," the focal point of an island bed of mountain laurels. Having grown up in western Pennsylvania, where the woods are full of wild mountain laurel, I was surprised to find them growing successfully here in full sun. Other garden areas which have evolved gradually include a mixed perennial garden, a separate cutting garden, and a planting of ornamental grasses along a property line fence.

Barbara and David Schmeider have been growing irises together for 40 years, first in Alabama, and for the past 31 years in the rocky soil of New England. The Schmeider garden contains a wealth of different sorts of irises and other interesting perennials. This garden had a high concentration of species irises, and Barb was disappointed that many of them had already finished blooming by the day of the tour. Even so, it was a real treat to see the species and hybrids still in bloom, which gave a hint of the many treasures to be found in this garden.

The garden of Chandler and Elaine Fulton was a personal favorite on the tour. Their passive solar home, which they designed themselves, is nestled in a shady area featuring some choice clumps of hosta, along with astilbe and other shade-loving perennials. Several of the most striking hosta are Chandler's own selected hybrids. The house and the nearby shaded "Sitting Circle" overlook a duck pond and marsh; the overall feeling is one of restfulness and retreat. (Both Chandler and Elaine lead hectic lives as research scientists and faculty members at nearby Brandeis University.) Guest Siberians were spotlighted in a choice location along the sidewalk in front of the house, with additional beds of Siberians and other irises along the driveway and closer to the house. These included Chandler's 1996 Siberian introduction **RASPBERRY RAINBOW** and a number of interesting Fulton seedlings.

A series of optional garden visits in Maine had been arranged for Monday, and about half of the convention attendees formed carpools to tour these fine gardens. Most of us were especially delighted to have the opportunity to visit Currier McEwen's garden in South Harpswell. The setting of the peaceful McEwen garden is spectacular, on a hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This was the site of our catered picnic lunch, featuring traditional New England lobster rolls. One bed close to the house featured majestic clumps of all of Currier's introduced Siberians. Further from the house is a field with row upon row of new and selected seedlings. Currier asked us all to take some of the blue ribbon provided and tag any seedlings which we thought were particularly noteworthy. By late afternoon, several seedlings were almost hidden by blue ribbons! I was particularly interested in the miniature Siberians which Currier is developing. They will provide wonderful subjects for the front of the border and for small gardens. I also liked one white seedling which was dominated by enormous and extremely feathered styles. We hope that many of these will find their way into our gardens in the future!

We also visited the gardens of Shirley Pope and John White while on our Maine excursion. I had read about Pope's Perennials for years, so I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to see the garden. Shirley introduces John White's Siberians, so we were able to bring home two of his newest creations which we had admired in the convention gardens. These included **ELIZABETH MCEWEN** (White, 1996), a lovely ruffled blue-violet named for Currier McEwen's wife. Shirley also has a nice selection of hosta; many visitors (including us) were seen walking out of the garden with several pots of unusual hosta, wondering, "Now, how are we going to get *this* on the plane?!?" (Creative packing, of course!)

John White's garden had a nice selection of Siberian irises, along with large several beds of carefully labelled peonies, a large hosta garden, and the only large planting of tall bearded irises we saw anywhere during the convention. The TBs, predominantly Schreiner introductions,

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looked exceptionally healthy in their raised beds, and many visitors were heard to comment, "I sure wish I could grow them like that!" However, when John told us how he winters them over under thick layers of insulation, and otherwise pampers and sprays, we doubted that we would want to go to that much work.

The Sunday noon Awards Banquet was a bittersweet time of reluctant farewells to old and new friends, and of expressing our appreciation to Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks and all the hard-working members of the Iris Society of Massachusetts for a wonderful convention. The award for the best-liked introduced Siberian was presented to Art Cronin for his 1996 introduction **LORENA CRONIN**, named for his wife. This charming small Siberian has dark blue-violet standards and styles, and white falls with vivid dark blue veins, signals, and edges. Marty Schafer received the award for the best seedling, his superb blue S90-13-1. (This seedling was sent to the Stolls as a guest two years ago, and should be blooming as an good clump for the 1997 Region 21 spring tour.) The award for best species introduction went to Sarah Tiffney's **HOLDEN'S CHILD** (1991), a **HOLDEN CLOUGH** seedling. The best species seedling award went to the Tamberg/Niswonger Cal-Sib Sdlg. CS1-93. The overall Convention Popularity Poll, which was compiled by Lucy Burton after the convention, included the following:

- |                                                  |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>MESA PEARL</b>                             | 10. <b>SNOW PRINCE</b>                                                           |
| 2. <b>CARELESS SALLY</b><br><b>LORENA CRONIN</b> | 11. Tamberg/Niswonger CS1-93<br>Cal-Sib Sdlg.                                    |
| 4. <b>TRIM THE VELVET</b>                        | 12. <b>JUST BECAUSE</b>                                                          |
| 5. <b>LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER</b>                   | 13. <b>BAND OF ANGELS</b><br><b>ENFANT PRODIGE</b>                               |
| 6. <b>LAKE KEUKA</b>                             | 15. <b>SENECA FEATHER DANCER</b><br><b>FROSTED CRANBERRY</b><br><b>SPRINKLES</b> |
| 7. <b>STRAWBERRY FAIR</b>                        |                                                                                  |
| 8. <b>LIBERTY HILLS</b>                          |                                                                                  |
| 9. <b>SILBERKANTE</b>                            |                                                                                  |

Most of these were also high on my own list of personal favorites. **MESA PEARL** (Bauer-Coble 1994) is a very tailored, horizontally flared lavender-pink with a pearly sheen. **CARELESS SALLY** (Schafer-Sacks 1996) was my choice for the best Siberian on the tour. It's a large, lavishly ruffled pastel rose pink/blue blend with a yellow sunrise signal enhancing the overall pastel effect. It was blooming well and appeared quite vigorous in all of the tour gardens. **LORENA CRONIN**, as mentioned above, was the most popular introduced Siberian at the convention. **TRIM THE VELVET** (Schafer-Sacks 1995) is a tall, well-branched rich blue-purple self with a fine white rim on the falls. It had won the award for the favorite seedling at the 1993 Siberian convention while still under number. **LITTLE BLUE SPARKLER** (White 1996) is a charming miniature blue. **STRAWBERRY FAIR** (Hollingworth 1994) is a very ruffled circular crushed strawberry red tetraploid with a small white blaze. This beauty was the winner of the Cook Cup at the 1994 Portland National AIS Convention: a first for a beardless iris, and right there in the heart of TB country! **SILBERKANTE** is a 1993 introduction from Tomas Tamberg of Berlin, Germany. It's a stunning large dark blue tetraploid with a strong white edge on the falls. I was glad to learn that as of this year, the Tamberg introductions are being introduced and distributed in this country by Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks. Tamberg has developed some outstanding Siberians which have been unavailable in this country up till now. He is also doing extensive and very interesting work with inter-species hybrids.

At the end of the Awards Banquet, Bob Hollingworth announced that a sponsor had been found to take on the challenge of hosting a third national Siberian convention. I am happy (and a little apprehensive: what have we gotten ourselves into?!) to announce that the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society and the Iowa Arboretum will jointly sponsor the next national Siberian convention, to be headquartered in Iowa City in the year 2000. The tentative date will be the first weekend in June. The master planting will be at the Iowa Arboretum, where it is hoped that many of these plants will remain on permanent display after the convention. Plan now to join us in 2000 -- and come to the Region 21 Tour next spring to get just a hint of what's to come!