



# Cedar Valley Iris & Daylily Society



MAY, 1997

## MINUTES OF SPRING CVIDS MEETING

by Jean Hecht, Secretary

The spring meeting of CVIDS was held March 15, 1997, at the home of Jean Hecht with approximately 20 persons in attendance. A welcome was given by Barry Stoll, followed by quick introductions by everyone present.

A discussion was held about the upcoming Region 21 Iris Tour to be held in Iowa City on May 24. Barry explained that the University of Iowa Conference Center at the Iowa Memorial Union had changed its pricing policy, making it too expensive for us. The convention headquarters will be at the Clarion Hotel in Coralville, off exit 242 of Interstate 80. The bus arrangements have been settled. The bus will hold 47 with a van available if there are more registrations than that. It was announced that Joan Cooper from Minnesota will be the speaker. She has raised iris for 50 years and will speak on Growing Beardless Iris in the Midwest. Her talk will include Siberian, species, Japanese, Louisiana, and spuria irises. Gerald and Eleanor Hobbs have agreed to handle the registrations. Registration forms were distributed to all members present. Ken Messer volunteered to do the calligraphy for the name tags. Betty Miller and Jean Hecht offered to sit at the registration table. Kay Hill will take care of hospitality at Barry & Lynn's garden, and Donna Helgens will be in charge of hospitality at Joy's garden.

We will also need door prizes. Club members were requested to ask their local garden centers/businesses for donations.

A discussion was then held about the summer daylily tour. A southern route was discussed including the gardens of Cassie Wilkinson in Kalona, south to the Hobbs garden in Ft. Madison, and a garden in Keokuk and one in northern Missouri. The tentative date is July 5. No banquet will be held with this event.

AHS is producing a booklet "Best-of-Newsletters". The club decided to order 20 of them. It was decided we should try and get a speaker for the fall banquet since we aren't having a banquet in the summer. Steve Moldovan was mentioned as a possibility. Having more meetings was also discussed. It was decided we should try to have an early fall meeting in September or October. Also one in January or February even though the weather could be a problem. We also need to have a meeting in late April to distribute club plants.

The group also discussed whether there is any interest in attending the hosta convention in Des Moines on July 18. An idea for a display garden in Iowa City was briefly mentioned. Also mentioned was the possibility of having a spring sale in 1998. Lynn had available some copies of daylily WWW sites which are available on the Internet.

The treasurer's report was presented by Lynn (see p. 8). The club auction remains virtually self-sustaining. Last year's fall sale was the most profitable ever. It was decided to drastically decrease the amount spent on advertising in Iowa City since there didn't seem to be people coming from there to buy plants.

After sharing the treats brought by several club members, Lynn showed slides of many of the daylilies which will be available as auction plants over the next couple of years. Joy Adams then showed slides of her garden in Monticello.

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 15-18: AHS National Convention, Jacksonville, FL.** Complete information can be found in the latest issue of *The Daylily Journal*.

**May 24: AIS Region 21 Convention, Iowa City.** Our club will be hosting this meeting and tour, so plan now to join us for fun and fellowship, interesting talks, beautiful gardens, and great food. You don't have to be an AIS member to attend. Details will be discussed at the March 15 meetings.

**June 3-7: AIS National Convention, Detroit, MI.**

**July 5: CVIDS Club Daylily Tour.** This year we will carpool to visit gardens in the southern part of our club area, including that of Cassie Wilkinson in Kalona, Gerald and Elenora Hobbs in Ft. Madison, Francis Ater in Kahoka, MO, and Deborah Wharton in Keokuk area. There will be no formal banquet; however, members may wish to plan to have dinner together. For further information, call Gerald Hobbs.

**July 11-13: AHS Region 1 Convention, Marshalltown, IA:** An opportunity to tour some terrific 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 Don Lovell (515-752-6807).

**July 18-20: Midwest Regional Hosta Convention.** For further information, see notice on p. 11 of the February issue of our CVIDS newsletter.

**Aug. 23: CVIDS Annual Plant Sale:** Riverside Gardens, Monticello, IA. Plan now to set aside some plants to contribute to our only 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 1997 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.

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### IT'S NOT TOO LATE; DON'T FORGET OUR SPRING TOUR!

CVIDS cordially invites you all to join us May 23-24 for the annual American Iris Society Region 21 Spring Tour, which will be headquartered in Iowa City. Convention headquarters will be the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, located at the northwest corner of I-80 Exit 242. The featured guest speaker for the tour will be Joan Cooper, former owner of Cooper's Gardens of St. Paul, Minnesota. Joan has grown every type of iris that can be grown in the Midwest for nearly 50 years. Her specialty has been in the area of beardless iris. Joan's presentation on "Beardless Irises for the Midwest," which includes species, Siberian, spuria, Japanese and Louisiana irises, will expand our horizons and enlighten us about beardless iris that thrive in this part of the country.

*Late registration fees will be waived for current CVIDS members only. However, we must have your registration received by May 20.*

All of the four large tour gardens have a long succession of iris bloom in the spring, with varied plantings of median, tall bearded, Siberian, species, and spuria irises. Whether the season is early or late, we can promise you good iris bloom. All four gardens also feature fine hosta collections, along with a wide variety of other perennials, annuals, and interesting landscaping. Three of the gardens are on uneven and hilly ground; good walking shoes are a must!

Jerry and Lela Hadrava's "Blooming Hill," created on land which has been in Jerry's family for 100 years, has both a fine iris garden and an outstanding hosta collection, including some of Jerry's seedlings. A collection of 1996 Schreiner test iris will be on display, along with some other new introductions.

Riverside Gardens in Monticello is a public garden with many interesting and well-maintained plantings of annuals and perennials which change with the seasons. A special attraction is a large wetlands garden, with a wetlands walkway offering a view of native vegetation and waterfowl.

Joy and Jim Adams' garden is a beautifully landscaped jewel which has been featured in the book *Midwest Gardens*; in addition to irises, many mature hosta and masses of annuals are attractively displayed, with natural springs and caves and a fern grotto adding further interest. Joy is an artist and art teacher, and the careful placement of colors in this garden creates a magnificent painting with flowers rather than oils or watercolors.

The springtime emphasis of the Stoll garden in recent years has been turning to Siberian and species irises. Visitors will have a chance to see nearly 300 different Siberians and species, along with many medians and several hundred TBs (self-selected rot-resistant survivors of recent soggy springs, which have eliminated more than half of the TB collection). Siberians on display include virtually all of the Hollingworth and Schafer-Sacks introductions, and many recent McEwen introductions, among others. Several exciting guest seedlings from both Bob Hollingworth and Marty Schafer will also give garden visitors a taste of what is coming in future Siberians. The Stoll garden also includes over 400 varieties of hosta displayed around a gazebo in a woodland setting, along with three large metal sculptures by the late Iowa City artist Eric Shaw.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, May 23

7-10 PM: Registration and Hospitality Room, Clarion Hotel. Larry Harder will show slides of new and recent tall bearded iris introductions as seen at the 1996 Iris National Convention held in Sacramento, California. Light refreshments will be provided.

### Saturday, May 24

7:30-8:45	Registration (Clarion)
8:00-8:45	Lynn Stoll will give a slide presentation featuring highlights of the 1996 national Siberian and species iris convention in Massachusetts, and spotlighting the most recent developments in Siberian irises.
8:45-9:00	Load bus
9:00	Bus departs from Clarion
9:30-11:00	Stoll Garden, Atalissa
11:10-12:00	Bus to Monticello
12:00-12:45	Lunch at Blue Chip Restaurant in Monticello, with a sliced ham and roast beef buffet and homemade pies.
12:45-1:30	Riverside Gardens, Monticello
1:40-3:10	Adams Garden, Monticello
3:10-3:45	Bus to Cedar Rapids
3:45-5:15	Hadrava Garden, Cedar Rapids
5:15-5:45	Bus returns to Clarion
6:15-7:00	Cash bar
7:00-8:00	Banquet
8:00-9:00	"Beardless Irises for the Midwest," by Joan Cooper of Minnesota

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**REGION 21 1997 SPRING TOUR**

**May 23-24, Iowa City, Iowa**

**REGISTRATION**

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Early Registration (postmarked by May 5):**

\_\_\_ Full Program @ \$49.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Bus tour and lunch only @ \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Banquet and speaker only @ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Registration (postmarked after May 5):**

\_\_\_ Full Program @ \$59.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Bus tour and lunch only @ \$38.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Banquet and speaker only @ \$27.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

***NOTE: Late registration fees will be waived for current CVIDS members only. However, we must have your registration received by May 20.***

**Send check (payable to CVIDS) to:**

Gerald Hobbs  
2597 Highway 2  
Ft. Madison, IA 52627  
(319) 372-4178

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## FROM "OH, NO, NOT ONE MORE THING!"

### TO COLLECTOR

by Tamara Visser

For you to understand this dilemma, I have to start this from the beginning. I blame this on my mother Marla, who reads a lot. She started an Herb Garden which turned into a Perennial and Herb Garden which led my father Mel to the decision of starting a plant business which led to dry flowers and ceramics. Gazebo Gardens was born. I was brought in to run the shop and to work with the dried flowers and ceramics.

The next thing I know, I was being told that it was time I learned the perennial plant end of the business. Now, as I mentioned before, my mother reads, and many a new plant has been tried and added due to this fact. She is also a stickler on learning the Latin on the plant. My feeling on this is that "wooly thyme" is much easier to say than *thymus pseudolanuginosus, praecox*. Hostas came next. My father took them over and now is what I fondly call a hostaholic. And then it happened. Here I am, struggling to learn 150 different perennials and their different varieties, and my dear father brings home 17 daylilies saying, "I bought you something. Your mom has the herbs and flowering perennials, I have the hostas, and these are yours."

Now, I will have to admit I wasn't overly enthusiastic about this. At first I tried my hardest just to ignore it in hopes it would pass, but when Dad handed me a book called "Daylilies: The Perfect Perennial" by Lewis and Nancy Hill, I knew I was beat. Up until then I hadn't seen many daylilies other than orange and yellow with an occasional pink and red. You can imagine my surprise to learn about halos, watermarks, and eyes, and that they came in every color but blue. My next step was to join the Central Iowa Daylily Society that just happens to meet in Marshalltown, only 45 minutes away. The first night I attended, they had Lela Hadrava presenting a slide show of daylilies she saw at the National Convention. Let me tell you, that was really an eye opener for this naive kid. I bought my first 6 daylilies that night at their spring auction.

For my birthday, my parents took me to see Lela's gardens and told me to pick out my birthday present. Yeah, right! For those of you who have been to Lela's, you know how easy that was. After many hours, I did narrow my wish list down to 12.

Fall came and it was time for the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society (CVIDS) annual potluck and auction. There I bought my first daylily over \$10.00, Wineberry Candy for \$35.00. You would have thought it was gold, as I planted it where it would have some protection from the harsh northern winds and covered it for its long winter's nap. I think that winter was the longest on record as I impatiently waited for spring to arrive so I could see my babies. I joined the national group so I had at least their publication to appease my hunger for seeing daylilies.

1996 was a real growing year for me in both daylilies and new friends. Through The Daylily Journal I found out about Fred McDowell's garden in Iowa City and Lynn and Barry Stoll's garden in Atalissa. After calling and making my appointments, I was off. Fred's was my first stop, which turned into 5 visits in his gardens. I had never seen so many daylilies in one small place in my life. Fred was incredibly patient with me, answering all those stupid questions that beginners ask. My wish list from his gardens is a mile long. Then it was off to the Stolls. I was met again with an awesome display of daylilies and two enthusiastic, though very tired people (they had just gotten back from the nationals and were trying to get the gardens in shape for a tour and banquet featuring Sarah Sikes.) Lynn and Barry made my mother and me so enthusiastic that we signed up for it.

The day was perfect and Sarah was so inspiring. It was this day that caused me to join one more society, the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society. All of the people were more than willing to share everything they knew on the subject of daylilies. For a newcomer, this was a dream come true.

My next outing was to Gene Latimer's place in Marshalltown. I called Gene and told him that I would bring supper down if I could come see his daylilies. He agreed, and after filling our stomachs, we went out to fill our souls. As the sun was setting, there we were digging and tagging new babies to go into my gardens.

It was fall once more and I was heading to Lynn and Barry's to help them get plants ready for the CVIDS daylily sale, stopping by Don Lovell's to pick up a plant for them. What was to be a short stop turned into a 2-hour delay as we discussed the upcoming regional, his seedlings, and various other things. I did fall in love with one of Don's crosses. And Don, I still think you're wrong; it should be introduced. It's gorgeous, even if it doesn't live up to your standards.

For the once uninterested kid, I now have added 79 daylilies to my collection. One of the many questions I asked Sarah Sikes was, "How do you choose which ones to buy?" She told me, "They will talk to you." There is a problem with this theory, for they all seem to speak to me. And what they are saying is without the Fred McDowells, the Gene Latimers, the Lela Hadravas, the Sarah Sikes, the Stolls, the Hills, the Don Lovells, and yes, even the Mel and Marla Vissers, I would still be thinking of daylilies as being just orange and yellow.

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## HERB COMPANIONS FOR DAYLILIES

by Tamara Visser

Why don't you try herbs with your daylilies? Not only do they add texture to the garden, many are good mixed with daylilies in cooking. I know: eat our babies, how absurd; but really they are quite good. The following are some of my favorites that do well in our Zone 4-5 climate.

Bronze Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* 'Dulce'). This 5" tall bronze fern-leaf plant is a tender perennial here. The licorice tasting leaves are used fresh in salads and the seeds are dried for using in cooking. Try it in a fresh salad with daylilies.

Garden Heliotrope (*Valerian officinalis*). This 3-4' tall plant with yellow green leaves also makes a nice contrasting backdrop for the daylilies. The flowers are white and quite fragrant. It was once used medicinally.

Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*). Its primary use is in tea and candy for colds. This 2' plant adds a nice soft touch to the garden with its wooly silver leaves.

Lavender (*Lavendula*). This 12-18" perennial does well in the border with its fragrant lavender-blue blooms and gray-green narrow foliage. Primarily used in perfumes; however, it was used in cooking at one time. Have you ever tried lavender ice cream and cake?

Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*). 3-4" tall. This was one of the strewing herbs. For those of you unfamiliar with strewing herbs, they are plants that were thrown on the floor to mask the odors of decaying food, etc., that also landed on the floor. It has creamy white fragrant flowers and dark green textured leaves.

Azure Sage (*Salvia azurea* 'Grandiflora') is one of several sages worth mentioning. This one is a 4' sage with very showy, dense blue spikes. Its light green foliage provides a nice contrasting background for the daylilies.

Garden Sage (*Salvia officinalis*). Among the smaller daylilies, it adds a nice varied texture with its gray foliage. This sage is the salvia most used in dressing. How about daylily dressing?

Golden Sage (*Salvia officinalis* 'Aurea') and Purple Sage (*Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurascens'). The gold- and purple-leaved forms of the above add a very attractive contrast.

Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*). A 3-5' tall sage with whorls of lavender-blue flowers, making a nice backdrop for the daylilies.

Thyme (*Thymus*). I'm very partial to these small creepers. I have 22 different varieties of them that I use in the borders, and what if they creep onto the pathways, they don't mind being stepped on. If you want a good cooking thyme, I suggest English Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*).

Vervain (*Verbena officinalis*). No garden would be complete with this 2' plant that protects the garden from witches. It is not a reliable perennial here, but I still tuck some in.

A few of the annual herbs I feel are a must include Basil (*Ocimum*). I usually grow 12 or more different ones in with the daylilies. Fresh or dried, this is probably one of the most used of the culinary herbs. Coriander or Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*) adds a nice lacy leaf texture to the garden. The seeds of this plant are used in curries and soups. It will reach heights of 3'. Dill (*Anethum*) is a 3-5' annual with green feather leaves which adds a nice texture to the garden. The leaves and seeds are used in cooking. Anise (*Pimpinella*) is the plant we get anise seed from. It's 3-5' tall and has light green lacy leaves.

I hope you try some of these, even if they are not with daylilies on the side!

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### YOUR ARTICLE COULD BE HERE!

Please contribute to our newsletter; even short items are most welcome. Please share your experiences and ideas with our members! What worked in your garden? (What didn't?) What cultivars do you especially recommend to newcomers? What gardens have you visited that other members should know about?

Send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Lynn Stoll, 999 310th St., Atalissa, IA 52720. She will be very grateful for your help!

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## CVIDS TREASURER'S REPORT -- 3/15/97

Lynn Stoll, Treasurer

<b>BALANCE, 3/16/96</b>		<b>\$1,007.62</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>3,831.81</b>
Dues		305.50
Auction of Club Plants (\$583.92 daylilies, 24.50 Siberians) (Orig. purchased \$615 DL, \$220 Sib.)		608.42
Sale		1912.26
Registrations for July Tour/Banquet		496.00
Registrations for Fall Banquet		348.00
AHS 50th Anniversary Book		150.00
Interest on Savings		11.63
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>4,065.59</b>
4 Newsletters		310.32
1996 Siberian purchases		377.50
Windwood Gardens	75.00	
Eartheart	164.00	
Schafer/Sacks	112.00	
Pope's Perennials	26.50	
1997 daylily purchases		1660.50
Floyd Cove Nursery	658.00	
Iron Gate Gardens	413.50	
Stover Mill Gardens	327.00	
Bell's Daylily Garden	262.00	
July banquet (meal, IMU)		447.83
Sarah Sikes airline fare		280.00
Advertising for sale		262.60
Fall banquet (meal, IMU)		559.64
Christine Stamile Memorial		50.00
Misc.		117.20
Hobbs refund	22.35	
Kercheval postage	6.96	
AIS memberships for Hobbs & Hecht	36.00	
Stoll expenses (photocopying, telephone, stamps, etc.)	51.89	
<b>BALANCE, MARCH 15, 1997</b>		<b>\$773.84</b>



## JUDGING SIBERIAN IRISES IN THE GARDEN

by Lynn Stoll

Most AIS judges are familiar with the point scoring system used to evaluate Siberian irises in the garden. But what should the average iris-lover look for when viewing a large number of plants in a convention or display garden? How can you decide which varieties you'll be most happy with in your own garden?

The AIS Judges' Handbook sets forth a scoring system in which the plant is worth a total of 40 points and the flower 60 points, for a total of 100. The plant is further evaluated in terms of overall garden effect, stalk, branching, and buds, and foliage. Factors considered in judging the flower include its size, form, proportion, shape, grace, symmetry, texture, substance and durability, and color. Let's look at each of these individual qualities in a little more detail.

### **The Plant (40 points)**

Most gardeners are drawn instinctively toward the flower. But it is the qualities of the plant as a whole which determines the overall contribution of a given cultivar to the garden. This is true both during the few weeks in the spring when it is in bloom and the rest of the season, when the foliage should be an attractive foil for other blooming perennials.

*Overall garden effect (15 points).* Overall garden effect is best judged at a distance. This includes such characteristics as vigor, stamina, and good foliage all year. This can be difficult to determine when looking at an individual plant. It is a bit easier in a convention garden when one is viewing a bed where a large number of cultivars were all planted at the same time (typically three years previously) and grown under identical conditions. Under these conditions, it's easy to determine which cultivars have shown exceptional vigor and increase -- or below average growth. Alternatively, the garden visitor can ask the grower about the overall performance of a new Siberian he or she is considering adding to their own garden.

*Stalk, buds, and branching (15 points).* While it is often difficult to assess vigor on a single viewing of a Siberian, one can learn a great deal from looking at the stalks, even when no flowers are in bloom. Older Siberian varieties like CAESAR'S BROTHER typically had 2 terminal buds with no branching. Each set of buds frequently bloomed at the same time, creating a stunning landscaping effect -- which lasted about a week! The newer Siberians now reaching the market have greatly improved branching and bud count; the best display seven buds with two branches and a triple terminal, which open in succession over a period of three weeks, occasionally longer. The individual blossoms should not interfere with each other; thus two flowers open at once in the same place is considered a serious fault. Stalks should be strongly upright and vertical, not leaning out away from the clump, and should display the flowers well above the foliage. The presence of delayed bloomstalks which emerge from the crown after the main bloom period is highly desirable, as this greatly extends the bloom time. This delayed or repeat bloom can compensate for lack of branching in some varieties.

*Foliage (10 points).* Bob Hollingworth has described Siberian irises as "ornamental grasses with flowers in the spring." For me, one of the most appealing characteristics of Siberians is the clean, upright, deep green foliage which looks good in the garden throughout the season. Siberians are not subject to the foliage problems frequently associated with bearded irises. I have found that Siberian iris foliage makes an attractive contrast to the fountain-like foliage of daylilies. Siberian foliage may be either upright or arching; however, foliage that sprawls outward is unacceptable. Old clumps often become donut-shaped, as the center dies out; this is a sign that the clump needs to be divided. However, relatively small clumps should be full-centered, rather than donut-shaped.

## The Flower (60 points)

**Size, form, and proportion (10 points).** This is subjective, based on what looks good to the viewer's eye. (For judges, this is the "judgment" part!) The single most important point in this regard is that there is no one "right" form. Bigger is not necessarily better. With many of the tetraploids, the individual blooms are quite large, but relatively few in number; diploids may be covered with many small flowers, creating the effect often described as a "cloud of butterflies." Wide form and ruffling are nice, but are not required. A narrow flower can also be very pleasing; the best example of this is SHAKER'S PRAYER, the popular 1996 Morgan-Wood Medal winner, which has the look of a species iris.

**Shape, grace, and symmetry (10 points).** Standards can be large or nonexistent, upright or flared, open or closed; falls can be flared, arching, "tucked," vertical -- any of these variations is acceptable if it is attractive to the viewer. Hybridizers are beginning to develop interesting stylearms (the segments inside the standards); they may be a contrasting color (Hollingworth's CONTRAST IN STYLES) or they may be curly or feathered. All of these features add interest to the flower. The one absolute requirement for a Siberian iris is gracefulness -- but what is it? Again, this is a matter of judgment. It is perhaps easier to describe features that are *not* graceful: droopy, floppy flowers, sprawling stalks, a crowded or "bunchy" appearance.

**Texture (10 points).** Texture refers to the surface appearance of the petals. They may be velvety, silky, or glossy. A rough texture is undesirable. Texture is distinguished from substance in that texture is a *visible* feature of the flower, while substance is an inner quality.

**Substance and durability (20 points).** A beautiful flower is of little value if it has poor substance and cannot resist light wind or rain. This fact is reflected in the relatively high number of points the AIS judging system assigns to this quality. An individual Siberian blossom should be open at least two full days, preferably three. The durability of flowers is a frequently overlooked factor affecting the length of bloom time for a given plant.

**Color (10 points).** Color in Siberian irises includes all shades of blue and purple, lavender, pink, wine red, white and cream, and pale yellow. The available color spectrum is broader than ten years ago, and more colors are being developed, particularly warmer pinks and deeper yellows. Colors should be bright and clear, not dull and muddy, and the flowers should not fade unattractively on the second or third day.

While the beauty of a single flower is often hard to resist, gardeners should remember to consider these other factors when selecting Siberian irises for their gardens. Ideally, an established three-year-old clump should provide three weeks of bloom. It should be characterized by a series of well-spaced blooms opening sequentially without crowding each other, held well above the foliage on upright stalks. The clean, deep green, upright foliage should be attractive in the garden throughout the season. Some of the newest forms and colors can be seen in a feature article on Dr. Currier McEwen and his beardless irises in a recent issue of *Country Living Gardening* (April, 1997, pp. 32-35). McEwen's 206-page book *The Siberian Iris* (Timber Press, 1996, \$39.95) is the best single source of information on these irises.

An established clump of Siberian irises makes a hardy and long-lived focal point in the perennial garden, even when it's not in bloom. The gardener's care in selection and patience in allowing the clump to reach its full maturity will be richly rewarded with years of enjoyment.