

# American Iris Society



**Colorado  
Region 20**

**Thomas Magee's  
Thirty Year Hybridizing Career**, *page 11*

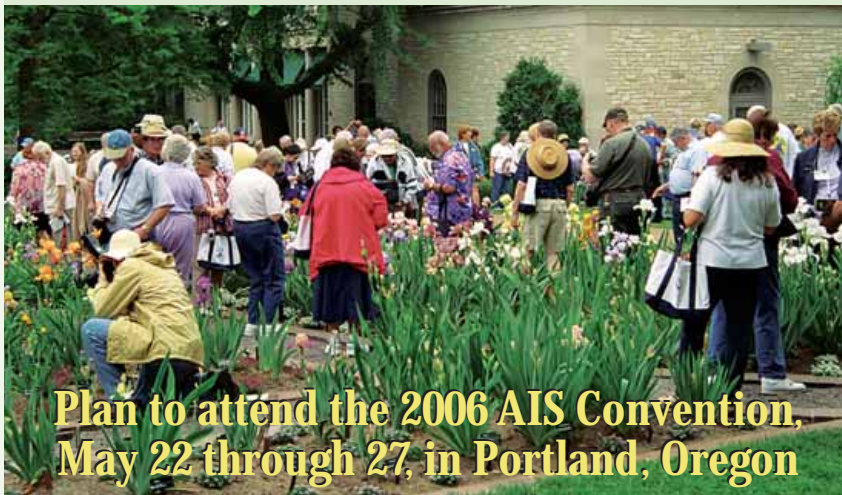
**Peace in Ireland (Magee '05)**

**Spring 2006**



**Hudson Gardens**  
S. Santa Fe Dr., Littleton

**Come to the best iris sale in town... at Hudson Gardens!**  
Saturday, July 29, 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. & Sunday, July 30, 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.



**Plan to attend the 2006 AIS Convention,**  
**May 22 through 27, in Portland, Oregon**

**Iris display beds at the Missouri Botanic Garden, St. Louis 2005 AIS Convention. Cover & inside cover photos by Stephen Blecher**

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For newsletter questions, corrections, ad placement, or article submittals, contact Glenn Guenterberg (editor) or Patrice Van Vleet (design, layout and production) at [clrimage@comcast.net](mailto:clrimage@comcast.net) or call us at Clear Images Design & Photography 303-933-0663.





## The RVP's Message, Spring 2006

By Stephen Blecher

As I write this letter, the weather is warm and dry, and winter appears to be over, but this is Colorado. I hope it gets cold again soon, so that everything won't come out too early and be frozen. The winter meeting was really enjoyable. Jim Morris is an excellent speaker, and as an added bonus he conducted two hours of Judges training. His pictures of some of the famous people in the iris world, many of whom are no longer with us, were really interesting. I had heard all the names, but now I can connect each one with a face.

This is our first newsletter edited by Glenn and Patrice in the popular 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch format. (You can file them with your AIS Bulletins). Lynda edited the newsletter for eight years, and under her direction it has expanded and added color pictures. Glenn and Patrice are experienced desktop publishers, so the newsletter will continue to add more features in this and coming issues. We always welcome articles from Region 20 members.

After a year's absence, Echter's garden center staged their famous "Echter's Echxpo" on March 3, 4, and 5. Admission was free and we had lots of visitors at the AIS booth. Thank you to all the enthusiastic volunteers who staffed our display throughout the Echxpo. We had an opportunity to talk irises with the visitors, many of whom said they grow irises, but hardly any of them ever give their plants fertilizer. We provided our visitors with lots of advice on iris growing, and we hope they will be inspired to treat their plants better, and possibly buy some new rhizomes.

Region 20 will be sending a large contingent of attendees to the AIS National Convention in Portland. Since Oregon is "Iris Heaven," the 2006 Convention is expected to be the largest ever. I'm really excited about it! There is one slight down side to the Oregon convention: their bloom season overlaps ours. This makes it a little more difficult to schedule the iris garden tour, since a number of members will be at the convention on Memorial Day weekend. Lisa Story is planning this year's garden tour, and it will take place May 21, a week before Memorial Day weekend. She will be scheduling the tour at early-blooming gardens.

I visited the Region 20 display bed at Hudson Gardens a few times during the winter. The garden staff watered the beds for us three times, the most recent being March 6.

We let the old foliage remain on the ground to conserve moisture, and beds appear in good condition, with the soil being slightly moist, but not soggy. Last September we expanded the beds on the south, adding new TBs, a few siberians from Lynda, and a south border of spurias from Tom Magee. The spurias have plenty of room to spread, and will produce a spectacular display in a few years. A major thank you is owed to Glenn Guenterberg, Patrice Van Vleet, Lisa Story, Bernita Quick, Randy Penn, and Pat Zartman who labored at the display bed during the 2005 growing season. We always welcome volunteers! If you can participate in just one or two work sessions per season, your help will be most appreciated. If you would like to participate, phone or e-mail me for details.

Sincerely, Stephen Blecher

RVP Region 20 AIS



### AIS National Photo Contest Announced

Here's your chance to receive national recognition and prizes for your iris-related photography. The winning photos in six categories will be published in the AIS Bulletin and on the AIS web site. Winners will receive a 2006 iris introduction from a Region 13 hybridizer and a single annual AIS membership or annual membership extension. To receive an entry form by return e-mail or by U.S. mail contact Glenn Guenterberg at [clrimage@comcast.net](mailto:clrimage@comcast.net).

Here are the rules — Send an entry form with your photos to the American Iris Society Photo Contest, c/o Kitty Loberg, 1900 Mountain View Lane, Redwood Valley, California 95470. You may submit up to five photos before the August 31, 2006 deadline.

Entries will be judged in six categories: 1) Irises used in landscaping, 2) Irises in the garden, 3) Irises with a person or people, 4) Close up of an iris or irises, 5) Photos of events or shows (including arrangements), and 6) Youth, any photo with irises.

Print your photographs on photo paper. Do not damage them by writing on or labeling the back. Photos must be at least 4 x 6 inches, but not larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches. If you are using a digital camera, use 360dpi or higher resolution. Provide a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos returned. Photos will otherwise not be returned and may be destroyed when not selected.



## Editor's Message

By Glenn Guenterberg

Thank you, Lynda, for dedicating eight years to the difficult job of publishing 15 newsletters, of prompting authors to write, submit photos, send announcements . . . all in time to meet publication deadlines while working at your demanding day job. After getting all the material, you and your husband Brian assembled a press-ready package, printed address labels, applied postage, and mailed 200 copies. And that's just part of the story. We appreciate all you've done Lynda and Brian!

With this edition we have moved to an electronic format that goes directly to press. This allows us to make an Adobe Acrobat PDF version that can be e-mailed and mounted on the Region 20 Web site. Also, we have adopted the same booklet size used for the AIS bulletin. This size, with its narrower columns, offers space efficiency and layout flexibility, requiring fewer pages for the same content. We plan to reduce the space for financial reports and board meeting minutes, and eliminate the printed e-mail address list.

Of course, this must be a collaborative effort. Your part is to send articles, photos, schedules, announcements, questions, comments, ideas — everything you want to see in your newsletter. When you attend local iris events or the May 2006 national convention, think of contributing an article or a paragraph; take notes, take photos. Then, if you have a computer, send your stuff by e-mail or on CDs. Or, send hand-written drafts, 35 mm slides or negatives, and digital photos. Send us your words — well worn, new born, short, long, whatever. We will edit and publish all that's fit to print. But, there is a deadline! For the fall newsletter, it's October 20.

After the printed copies have been mailed, members will also receive by e-mail an Adobe Acrobat PDF version of the newsletter. The PDF version can be viewed using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader that is already loaded on most computers (or available for download from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)). It can easily be forwarded to your friends to tempt them to join the AIS.

The cover article about Tom Magee (page 11) is the first of a new series featuring our Region 20 hybridizers.

Photographers, check out the new AIS National Photo Contest (page 3).

## Breaking News

### Non-Profit Designation

Bob Plank, the AIS attorney, has just notified us that Region 20 is now recognized by the federal IRS to be a non-profit organization as a subordinate organization of the AIS. The board of directors will act to capture available benefits. This milestone was achieved through the persistent efforts of Betty Roberts, Steve Blecher, and Jim Artzberger.

### Rocky Mountain News — Iris Breeders' Article

Betsy Lehndorff, a staff writer for the Rocky Mountain News Gardening Section, is writing a cover story on the region's best iris breeders. The story will run May 26. If you are a hybridizer and she hasn't contacted you or doesn't know you're a hybridizer, contact her at [lehndorffb@rockymountainnews.com](mailto:lehndorffb@rockymountainnews.com).

### AIS Membership Upgrade Special

Free iris with membership upgrade — Current members who upgrade from an annual to a triennial membership **before August 31, 2006** will receive a recent iris from a 2006 convention garden. Ask Lynda Love for the details, [rxiris@comcast.net](mailto:rxiris@comcast.net), 303-757-1750.

### Give Gift Memberships!

Do you have friends or family members in Colorado who are gardeners, seem to have everything, or are difficult to shop for? Here's a gift idea that will also help build our membership. Send them a gift membership in the American Iris Society! They will receive the quarterly AIS Bulletin and will automatically become members of Region 20, so they will receive this newsletter and be invited to our many local events.

The 2006 annual membership rates are \$25, single; \$30, dual; \$9, youth (with bulletin). Send your check with the recipient's name and address to Tom Gormley, P.O. Box 28, Cedar Hill, MO 63016-0028 or contact him at [aismemsec@earthlink.net](mailto:aismemsec@earthlink.net). Other membership options are described in the current AIS Bulletin.

**Iris SALE Schedules . . . page 33**

**2006 Garden Tour Information . . . page 36**

**Seedling Photos on our Region 20 Web site . . . page 36**

## Announcements

### WELCOME to Our New Members

We look forward to meeting you soon, perhaps at the garden tour, a volunteer work party, the national convention, or an iris sale.

**Jackie Goodwin**, from Falcon

**Victoria & Darrell Rule**, from Grand Junction

**Brian & Karen Sobetzer**, from Dolores

**Alison Story**, from Lakewood

**Margaret Toohey**, from Denver, **Echter's raffle contest winner!**

### THANK YOU, Advertisers

Your support is important to the success of our newsletter!

Iris 4U Iris Garden, Bob Van Liere, page 16

The Cat Lady's Garden, Karen Schultz, page 27

Long's Gardens, Catherine & Dennis Gates, page 29

### A Very Special Thanks to All Who Contributed to this Edition

Stephen Blecher

Thomas Magee

Lynda Love

Lowell Baumunk

Rose McClain

Russ Eackert

Jim Artzberger

Bob Van Liere

Lisa Story

Dwayne Kurtz

Catherine Long Gates

### Vote . . . Be Counted

**Don't delay!** Vote quickly when you receive the AIS Symposium ballot enclosed with your July issue of the AIS bulletin. It's your chance to be counted in the annual popularity pole to determine the top 100 tall bearded irises. **Vote before the September 1 deadline** by marking up to 100 of your favorite irises among the 444 listed on your official ballot. Then, send it to Region 20 RVP, Steve Blecher for counting. He will forward the results to the national Symposium chairman, Gerry Snyder for tabulation. Region 20 results, which will be published in the fall newsletter, may be a guide to irises that thrive here. National results will appear in the AIS Bulletin and on the AIS Web site, [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org), along with results for two prior years. The 2006 ballot can be viewed or downloaded now at [www.irises.org/ais2006symposiumballot.pdf](http://www.irises.org/ais2006symposiumballot.pdf), if you want to get a head start.

## 2006 Region 20 Events Calendar

Date	Sponsor	Event (Contacts listed at bottom of page 8)
Friday March 31 10 A.M.	Region 20	<b>Display Bed Cleanup</b> , Hudson Gardens, Littleton (weather permitting)
Sunday April 2 1 - 4 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Spring Board Meeting</b> , in DBG class room, for exact location, call Steve Blecher
Friday April 7 10 A.M.	Region 20	<b>Display Bed Cleanup</b> , Hudson Gardens, Littleton (weather permitting)
Saturday April 8 12 P.M.	Elmohr/ Region 20	<b>General &amp; Region 20 Meeting</b> , speaker TBD Sand Creek Branch Library, Chelton and Academy, Colorado Springs
Saturday April 8 2 P.M.	Loomis	<b>Spring Social</b> , Rose McClain's home at 1210 Hopkins Ave. in Rocky Ford
Friday April 14 10 A.M.	Region 20	<b>Display Bed Cleanup</b> , Hudson Gardens, Littleton (weather permitting)
Thursday April 20	NCIDC	<b>Houston Garden Meeting</b>
Friday April 21 10 A.M.	Region 20	<b>Display Bed Cleanup</b> , Hudson Gardens, Littleton (weather permitting)
Friday April 28 10 A.M.	Region 20	<b>Display Bed Cleanup</b> , Hudson Gardens, Littleton (weather permitting)
Tuesday May 2	NCIDC	<b>Club Meeting/Program</b> at Windsor High School, Windsor, Colorado
Saturday May 13 12 P.M.	Elmohr	<b>General Meeting</b> , guest speaker TBD, Sand Creek Branch Library, Chelton & Academy, Colorado Springs
Thursday May 18	NCIDC	<b>Houston Garden Meeting</b>
Sunday May 21 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Garden Tour</b> , starting with Long's Gardens, at 3240 Broadway, Boulder 303-442-2353 For information call Lisa Story 303-233-8354
Sunday May 21 1 P.M.	Loomis	<b>Flower Show</b> , Gobin Building, Depot Plaza, on Main Street in Rocky Ford Open to the public



## 2006 Region 20 Events Calendar, *continued*

Date	Sponsor	Event (Contacts listed at bottom of page)
Saturday <b>June 3</b> 7 A.M. - 9 A.M. 12:30 - 4 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Iris Show</b> , Mitchell Hall, DBG Receive entries & judging starts Open to the public
Sunday <b>June 4</b> 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Iris Show</b> , Mitchell Hall, DBG Open to the public
Saturday <b>June 10</b> 12 P.M. - 4 P.M.	Elmohr	<b>Iris Show</b> , for location call Russ Eacker Open to the public
Saturday <b>June 10</b>	NCIDC	<b>Houston Garden Plant Sale</b> – Irises & daylilies, at 515 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Thursday <b>June 15</b>	NCIDC	<b>Houston Garden Meeting</b>
Thursday <b>July 20</b>	NCIDC	<b>Houston Garden Meeting</b>
Wednesday <b>July 26</b> 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.	Elmohr	<b>Iris Rhizome Sale</b> , Hillside Grdns & Nursery, Institute & Fountain, Colorado Springs Open to the public
Friday <b>July 28</b> 2 P.M. - 5 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Iris Sale Setup</b> , Hudson Gardens, 6115 South Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, Receive rhizomes
Saturday <b>July 29</b> 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Iris Sale</b> , Hudson Gardens, 303 797-8565 For information, contact Steve Blecher Open to the public
Sunday <b>July 30</b> 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Iris Sale</b> , Hudson Gardens, 303 797-8565 For information, contact Steve Blecher Open to the public

### Event-Related Contacts

**Region 20** questions, contact Stephen Blecher, **303-798-9103**  
**Garden Tour** inquiries & details, call Lisa Story, **303-233-8354**  
**Elmohr** activities and directions, call Russ Eacker, **719-633-5193**  
**Loomis** events & location inquiries, call Rose McClain, **719-254-3462**  
**NCIDC** schedule questions contact, Dwaine Kurtz, **970-352-2044**  
**NCIDC** Houston Garden Liaison Bill Crawford, **970-330-3107**

## 2006 Region 20 Events Calendar, *continued*

Date	Sponsor	Event (Contacts listed at bottom of page 8)
Saturday <b>August 5</b> OR <b>August 12*</b>	NCIDC	<b>Houston Garden Plant Sale</b> – *contact Dwaine Kurtz for final date on sale of irises & daylilies, held at 515 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley
Tuesday <b>August 8</b> 7 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Loomis	<b>Plant Sale</b> , Pueblo Farm Market at Midtown Mall, in Pueblo Open to the public
Friday <b>August 11</b> 7 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Loomis	<b>Plant Sale</b> , Pueblo Farm Market at Midtown Mall, in Pueblo Open to the public
Saturday <b>August 12</b> 8 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Loomis	<b>Plant Sale</b> , Railroad Park in Rocky Ford Open to the public
Saturday <b>August 12</b> 11 A.M.	Elmohr	<b>Potluck</b> , guest speaker TBD, East Library & Information Center, 5550 North Union, Colorado Springs
Saturday <b>September 9</b> 11:30 A.M.	Elmohr	<b>Awards Banquet</b> , location to be announced Call Russ Eacker for details
Tuesday <b>October 3</b>	NCIDC	<b>Club Meeting/Program</b> , location TBD
Saturday <b>October 7</b> 12 P.M. - 4 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Fall General Meeting</b> and potluck lunch, Gates Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens
Sunday <b>October 15</b> 6 P.M.	Loomis	<b>Fall Awards Banquet</b> , at the Crowley Heritage Center
Friday <b>October 20</b>	ALL	<b>Newsletter submittal deadline</b>
Tuesday <b>November 7</b>	NCIDC	<b>Club Meeting/Program</b> , location TBD
Saturday <b>December 9</b> 12 P.M. - 4 P.M.	Region 20	<b>Winter Board Meeting</b> , location TBD Contact Steve Blecher for details

### Northern Colorado Iris & Daylily Club (NCIDC)

“We are a lot more than irises & daylilies, we enjoy gardening!”

Houston Garden, location of the club's display garden and growing field of iris and daylilies, is at 515 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Greeley. We meet during the growing season on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, April – September. The club furnishes a light meal at dusk. Houston Garden is a project of the Assistance League of Greeley.

## Echter's Echxpo – We Were There

By Glenn Guenterberg

Echter's Echxpo, one of the region's premier garden shows, was back this year with 88 garden club and supplier displays. Warm weather drew lots of gardeners to the event beginning with Lauren Springer-Ogden's keynote talk, "Continental Ideas for American Gardens." She described informal garden designs and plants that are popular in Europe and that work well here too — a narrated slide show with gardening ideas, opinions and wry humor.

Twenty-three free lectures and demonstrations filled the three-day schedule. Friday, Lynda Love delivered the display board, iris sale book marks, and flyers and Steve Blecher mounted stunning photos of recent irises from Lowell Baumunk, Bob Van Liere, and Tom Magee, plus many others. At 3 p.m., the Echxpo opened with a steady flow of visitors.



*Dee Zenz answering iris gardening questions and encouraging membership sign-ups.*

for a free one-year AIS membership. What were the rewards for us? The satisfaction of sharing interests in irises, of course. Will the show bring us new members? Hopefully some — at least one — the raffle winner. We gave and we received. A buffet dinner on Friday and barbeque lunches were a bonus.

Our thanks to Echter's for providing us a free booth, to Steve for organizing our display, and to the volunteers: Marty and Jim Artzberger, Lynda Love, Rickie and Don Morgan, Richard Nolde, Bob Van Liere, Patrice Van Vleet, and Alex and Dee Zenz.

Twelve volunteers from our club greeted hundreds of gardeners, offering invitations to our July iris sale, advice, encouragement and answers to questions like, "Why don't mine bloom?" or "Where can I get them?" The display board prompted exclamations about the gorgeous varieties available now and opened conversations that lead 16 gardeners to sign our interest list and 47 to enter our raffle



*Richard Nolde, Steve Blecher & Patrice Van Vleet sharing iris information.*

## Colorado Hybridizer

### A Thirty Year Hybridizing Career, Among Others

By Glenn Guenterberg, Patrice Van Vleet, and Catherine Long Gates

Quickly, now. One guess. What do impish, smiling, Irish eyes and an iris named 'Peace In Ireland' have in common? The correct answer is Tom Magee, Colorado hybridizer emeritus, leprechaun,\* modest gentleman, entrepreneur, wit, master irisarian, and magician. The magician part comes from his uncanny success in conjuring 60 iris introductions by simply crossing the pretty ones, as he puts it. No chemicals, no background in botany, no closely held method, no painfully detailed breeding logs, just a finely tuned sense of beauty exercised for 30 years — it could be magic. Tom uses a low key, intuitive approach to hybridizing, applying skills learned from friends and refined by long use. The method has worked well.

With an idea for a new series of articles brewing, we asked Tom to be the first subject. Two days later his yes answer lead to a two-hour interview with two of your newsletter reporters asking questions and writing many pages of notes. So how did it all start and what has it all boiled down to?

It started in Canton, Ohio back in time out of mind; moved through the growing up years in Columbus — where his interest in gardening developed as he collected zinnia and marigold seeds from his mother's garden; then accelerated through an education in sociology with a specialty in architecture. He recalls that along the way, a poor science teacher deflected any interest he had in studying botany. A two-year contract with a Zanesville, Ohio ceramic tile company brought him here in 1950. He didn't like that job much. In 1955, after a three-year career detour through Chicago, he and his wife Judy returned to Denver for good. They recognized that an advertising billboard business they had seen in Chicago could work well in fast-growing Denver, so they started Roadposter, blending Judy's fashion design and graphic arts skills with Tom's marketing and let's-get-things-done skills. As he said, "She did the art and I dug the post holes." They were right. When Tom Magee asked Bob Hannigan of Duffey's Beverages for some of Duffey's advertising business (Do all these names sound Irish, or what?), Bob challenged Tom saying, "Everyone claims to be half Irish." Tom retorted, "My father was born in Ireland. That shut him up . . . and I got the business." The 6 by 12 ft Roadposter billboards became familiar landmarks over

\*Leprechaun: "A mischievous elf of Irish origin believed to reveal the hiding place of treasure, if caught." Sounds like Tom to us.

the next 32 years until they sold the business in 1987 to Outdoor Systems, predecessor of Mile High Advertising, and later absorbed by Viacom. Their poster art had become such a familiar part of the Denver scene that the Denver Historical Society acquired the entire collection of originals. The collection has since mysteriously disappeared. Someday in a dusty corner it may turn up again but for now, it is gone. Tom's knack for picking good names (like Roadposter) carried into his second career in names for popular irises like 'Bolder Boulder,' 'Lemon Up,' and 'Acoma' (all pictured on page 15).

His mother's iris patch may have been an early inspiration for his gardening career, but his association, starting in the early 60s, with the likes of Jack Durrance, Carl Jorgensen, Everett Long, Lola Quinn, and Chuck Gordon (RVP in 1960), ignited his interest in irises and then in hybridizing. With methods learned from Jack Durrance, Tom made his first crosses using irises in Chuck Gordon's garden. Tom didn't have the space then.

In 1962, they moved to their present home in Littleton and Tom's get-it-done approach, this time applied to hybridizing, kicked in. His method was straightforward: clip a choice anther, run around the garden transferring pollen to a likely recipient, tag the stalk, then repeat the process until you're done or exhausted. Judy quipped, "If the neighbors see you doing this mad chase, they will call the paddy wagon." For an Irishman, that's a call to action. Tom slowed the frantic scramble to a measured pace by refining Neva Sexton's method of creating a pollen donor bank stored in marked envelopes and kept viable in a refrigerator. Then, he used a toothpick to transfer tiny amounts of pollen to promising pod parents. The new method allowed use of the pollen for up to five crosses over two bloom seasons and, as a bonus, kept the paddy wagon away. Taking Jack Durrance's advice to "cross the pretty ones," Tom says, "I just go out when they're blooming and look at them." In other words, picking the parents is an esthetic choice guided by his keen sense of form and color, rather than by scientific method.



The first several irises Tom introduced were sold through Carolyn Wedow's garden in Denver beginning with 'Maroon Bells' (BB, AM '79) in 1976. Which brings us to his long, still-active association with

Long's Gardens. He and Everett Long were acquainted through the iris society and since Long's Gardens specialized in introducing irises from many Colorado hybridizers, Tom joined the list in 1981. His home garden is a show place of well tended borders surrounding the large backyard. Still, it wasn't large enough for the thousands of seedlings needed for development of winners. The answer was Long's with acreage for growing seedlings and stock development. The seedling beds often contained 3500 plants in two long rows. When 'Acoma' (Tom's most famous iris) was introduced, 100 rhizomes had been stocked for distribution. 'Acoma' was hybridized in 1987, won EC in '87 and '88, and HC in '88. With that warm reception, 'Acoma' was introduced in 1990, received HM in '92, AM in '94, the Wister Medal in '97, and was a very strong contender for the Dykes medal in '98, '99, and '00. Never mind the awards, it's beautiful and became a parent of several other beautiful irises.

Wait . . . there's more! Though he stopped making new crosses in 2005, he continues to select candidates for introduction from his seedlings. Last season there were four: 'Peace In Ireland' (TB, front cover), 'Prayer Cushion' (BB, page 15), 'Krishnaji' (MDB), and 'Flashed' (SDB). 'South Padre Island' (TB, back cover), to be introduced by Long's Gardens this year, is named after a favorite Texas vacation hideaway, with orange beards that remind him of the sun rising above a foggy gray haze over the Gulf of Mexico. Incidentally, 'South Padre' traces its heritage to 'Acoma' through 'Champagne Elegance' and is a sibling of 'Bolder Boulder.' His other '06 introduction is 'Ski Colorado,' a striking white, ruffled, TB (page 15).

How long has Tom been at this second career — 30 years, from time out of mind? What matters is what he has given to the world of iris and to fellow gardeners. I can only hint at the larger answers. You who have met him can testify. I have watched him judge an iris show — the 2005 Denver Spring Show — and admired his quiet, fair-minded approach to judging — he is an Active Master judge and was RVP. Patrice and I can only say that we have met a man willing to share with us his fascinating story while exuding a friendly aura often punctured by quick, sharp wit. We got the benefit of spending time in conversation with an irisarian par excellence. You get to read about it. Or, better yet, strike up a conversation with Tom at the next meeting; he's usually there. You will be glad you did. Catherine Long Gates has known Tom from her youth. Here are her reminiscences.



## A Dreamer and a Doer

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.” – Anatole France, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1921.

Tom Magee accomplishes great things because he is dreamer and a doer. Some of us are good at coming up with big ideas and some of us are good at carrying them out. Few of us consistently combine those two attributes.

Good hybridizers are dreamers. They can envision the beautiful flowers they wish to create. Gazing endlessly at potential parents they imagine those genes recombining in wondrous new ways. When a good hybridizer is also a good gardener, great things can happen. From forests of little seedlings Tom has nurtured many award winning new varieties. This takes vision, but it also takes action, lots of back breaking action. That action-plus-vision formula yielded ‘Acoma,’ which captured the Wister Medal for top tall bearded in 1997, and ‘Lemon Up,’ the 2003 winner of the penultimate border bearded prize, the Knowlton Medal.

This is the 25th year that Long’s Gardens has had the good fortune to introduce Tom’s irises. Being associated with a successful and noted hybridizer has been good for business, but being associated with the man has been of even greater value. Tom’s delight in naming each new variety, the artistry of his photographs and ad copy layouts, and esoteric descriptions are a reminder of the pure joy that comes from dealing with flowers. On the practical side, Tom is the first person every year to have his ad copy ready. He is never behind on getting his irises registered, photos taken, and descriptions written. As a chronic procrastinator, I stand in awe of his promptness and organization.

If we gave a prize for the person who has attended the most meetings, shows, sales, tours, and judges training in Region 20, the runaway winner would be Tom Magee. You could say that he is a “fixture,” but that wouldn’t convey what an active participant he is in all these activities. Tom dreamed up the idea of the Region 20 display garden located at Long’s Gardens. Deftly changing hats from dreamer to doer, he followed through with all the necessary ordering, labeling, auction paperwork, digging, and shipping of plants. My thanks to Tom for bringing so many dreams to life and sharing them with the rest of us!

### Authors’ Note:

*Other Region 20 newsletter articles have described Tom’s work. See the spring 2000 edition, page 6 and the fall 2003 edition, page 12.*

## A Few Magee Irises



Acoma ('90)



Old Santa Fe ('03)



Bolder Boulder ('00)



Prayer Cushion ('05)



Lemon Up ('94)



Ski Colorado ('06)



Sky Rain ('00)

Unless otherwise noted, photos by Stephen Blecher

Photo by Thomas Magee

Photo by Thomas Magee

# IRIS 4U IRIS GARDEN

## 2006 INTRODUCTIONS



LORETTO  
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## For the Love of Irises

By Bob Van Liere

In October of last year my wife and I traveled to Germany for our daughter's wedding. While there we made a few side trips to visit a couple of German tall bearded iris growers. One of the individuals, Manfred Beer of Markranstadt, Germany, had received one of my 2005 introductions, 'Quiet Reflections,' by way of Bruce Filardi, the AIS Bulletin editor.

Markranstadt is a small village in the old East Germany. It is situated just north of Leipzig, the home of Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Manfred Beer. We met Manfred at his home, then drove a short distance to his garden. Individuals have small plots in a group garden. Although they are not allowed to live there, they may have a little cottage to rest in after working. These places are called Schrebergarten which means allotment garden. Each plot is bordered by a hedge or fence and the entire area is enclosed by another hedge, rather like a maze.

Manfred has been collecting and hybridizing iris for many years. During the years Markranstadt was under communist control he would trade classic records with an individual in Czechoslovakia in exchange for new introductions from the United States. The Czechoslovakian couldn't get records but was able to bring in irises from the States. Talk about a lot of trouble, but Manfred wanted the latest from Terry Aiken, Keith Keppel, Schreiner's, Cooley's, and others. And just think! He now is growing a 'Quiet Reflections' from Iris4U Iris Garden.



After visiting his two little garden patches, each maybe 30' x 30', we drove to his girl friend's house. Margitta treated us to champagne and sweets to celebrate an American hybridizer's visit to his home and gardens. I was humbled. I hadn't thought of myself as a hybridizer until that point. Together we knelt down and took a photo of my introduction, 'Quiet Reflections.' We talked about our love of irises a little more before parting, feeling we both had made a new friend. If you get to the 2006 AIS Convention in Portland, look up Manfred Beer and say, "Hi." I'm sure he would love to talk irises and share some stories of his iris years.



## Jim Morris Presents – A Meander Through Iris Gardens

By Glenn Guenterberg

Jim Morris has a resume a yard long: AIS Director, author of the Section Happenings feature in AIS Bulletins, St. Louis Globe Democrat newspaper reporter, human resources professional, gardener, history buff, and so on. He blends several of these into his career as gardener, using his penchant for collecting bricks with a history (now garden paths), statuary (now in restful corners of the garden), and architectural items (now backdrops for plants). In other words, Jim and Jean's garden isn't all plants. Plant shapes and textures are highlighted with tastefully placed objects with provenance.



His talk for the Region 20 winter meeting was a pleasant meander through convention gardens, recent and older; some from the 2005 AIS Convention in St. Louis, some from the 1998 Convention in Denver, and others long before that. Jim's pictures revealed his interest in the entire iris family from small species to the grand tall bearded irises, mingled with complementary plants such as hostas, spring bulbs, larger specimen shrubs, and the like. Jim and Jean's garden was described in the October 2005 AIS Bulletin, page 81.

### The iron fence story — Or how I decorated my garden for a dollar

While a newspaper reporter, Jim learned of an abandoned, burned out property that was being auctioned to recover unpaid taxes. The attraction was an old iron fence that he hoped to add to his garden. But, how to acquire this gem? Midnight requisition? Daylight appropriation? No, only the straight and narrow path would do. So, after paying a princely sum for the fence at the sale, Jim arrived with pick and shovel to extract the prize. Thinking he had apprehended a vandal or a fence thief, a neighbor confidently challenged Jim with, "Do you have a bill of sale?" Jim replied with equal confidence, "You bet I do." and produced a receipt for the \$1 purchase. Thus, the historically important, or at least architecturally interesting fence lives on as a garden feature, saved from the scrap yard by an observant reporter and avid gardener.

A two-hour training session for judging tall bearded irises ended the afternoon program and a convivial dinner at the El Tejado Mexican restaurant ended the day.

## Wild Irises

By Lowell Baumunk



### Facts

- **Species Irises are wild irises.**
- **There are approximately 210 iris species, all native to the temperate zones of the Northern Hemisphere.**
- **One iris species is native to Colorado, the beardless *Iris missouriensis*.**
- **Iris species are the ancestors of all our modern and historic iris hybrids.**
- **The bearded iris species are all natives of Eurasia.**
- **Most bearded iris species come from habitats compatible with that of Colorado.**
- **Colorado is one of the best places for growing bearded iris species.**
- **Species irises are beautiful!**

We Coloradans are fortunate to live near one of the world's finest displays of wildflowers, here in the high country of our Rocky Mountains. I am sure that many of the iris enthusiasts who read this newsletter are also interested in our Colorado native flora. But did you know that Colorado gardens provide an excellent environment for growing many of the species (wildflower) irises from which our spectacular modern iris hybrids are descended?

Yes, the iris species tend to be smaller, more subtly colored and patterned, and lacking the modern form of our newest hybrids. They require us look at them from a slightly different perspective. Then we can see the sublime beauty that seems to only exist in nature's own creations. Species irises are definitely **gorgeous!**

In my Douglas County garden, I grow a wide variety of iris species, mostly from Section Iris, the bearded irises, but including a couple of outstanding beardless species. Following are notes on some of them.

### Beardless Species

Our native iris, *I. missouriensis*, grows very well in the garden. It is native to montane meadows that are wet from snow melt in the spring and then become dry in the summer. *Missouriensis* is quite common throughout the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. South Park is an easy place to see them in late June. In the garden, one should try to mimic their mountain habitat: Water heavily through bloom season and then allow the ground to stay dry.

Another beardless species that is an excellent grower in Colorado is *I. lactea*. This native of Asia is somewhat similar to *missouriensis* in



appearance. Its grass-like foliage makes a beautiful clump throughout the summer and fall. *Lactea* is prominently displayed at Denver Botanic Gardens in the Rock and Alpine Garden. It is very drought-tolerant and seems to need little special care.

There are other beardless species that will do well here, among them *I. setosa*, *I. tectorum*, *I. siberica*, and *I. spuria*. Since my main interest is with the bearded species, I do not grow these and can't comment on them.

### Bearded Species

*I. aphylla* (6-12") I grow several clones of *aphylla*. *Aphyllas* are floriferous and hardy. The extensive branching of the bloom stalk and their tetraploidy have made them popular with hybridizers. *Aphylla* can be found in the pedigrees of the Hager tetraploid table irises and of the Schreiner "black" tall bearded. *Aphyllas* are deciduous: all foliage disappears in the winter and emerges in the manner of our garden bulbs in the spring.

Among the smallest ones is 'Ostry White' (6-8"). Other smallish, named varieties are 'Minnow' and 'Bright Water.' 'Ostry White' is unique in that nearly all *aphyllas* are of a highly saturated purple to blue color. 'Ostry White,' which was collected in Bohemia and originally distributed by Blazek under the designation B-66-2, seems to be a *glaciata* or possibly a *plicata*.

'Irina's Gem' is a beautiful bright lavender *aphylla*. It was sent to me from Russia, where it was collected, and it has been registered in 2006 by Juri Pirogov.

*I. pumila* (4-6") *Pumila* is the unchallenged star of the early garden here. First imported to this country less than fifty years ago, *pumilas* have radically altered the landscape of the smaller hybrid bearded irises. The species, itself, is a fine garden subject. The flowers are neat and uniform, growth is strong, and the range of colors is superb. *Pumila* can have trouble getting established after transplanting, probably because of the very small size of the individual rhizomes.

I grow several clones of *I. pumila*. 'Suslik,' the most vigorous, is purple with blue beards. 'Lesser Goldfinch' is the brightest yellow. *Pumila taurica* is a wonderful orchid-lavender. There are several newly collected clones that have excellent color and patterns. One, from Russia, is almost pink. 'Little Drummer Boy,' a gorgeous white with a blue spot, is the latest *pumila* to win the Caparne-Welch Award.







Photos by Lowell Baumunk

*I. reichenbachii*

*I. variegata* 'Reginae'

*I. junonia*

*I. variegata* 'Beardsley'

*I. germanica*  
Adriatic Shores

*I. variegata* 61-72a

*I. germanica*  
NW Greece, Mathes

*I. pallida* 'Odoratissima'

***I. reichenbachii*** (4-12") A very attractive dwarf species that can be yellow or purple, the yellows being especially clear and bright. *Reichenbachii* apparently occurs in both tetraploid and diploid configurations. It has played an important role in the development of modern hybrids and grows well here.

***I. variegata*** (8-18") With its striking bright and patterned bloom late in the iris season, *variegata* has long been cultivated in its native Europe. When crossed with another fine European diploid, *I. pallida* (see below), *variegata* became one of the principal forbears of modern iris hybrids. The standards are usually yellow and are often very bright. The falls are characterized by veining.

***I. purpureobracteata*** (12-20") A Turkish tetraploid found in yellow and blue, it is said to have pronounced purple bracts, but the blue-gray clone I have been growing for several years lacks this characteristic. I will be blooming two other clones next year. My iris is quite attractive and is a strong grower. It is apparently allied with *I. junonia* and *I. schachtii*. None of these varieties has been much used in hybridizing and may have some interesting potential.

***I. pallida*** (12-43") This European diploid is a long-time garden favorite. Still very popular for its delicate lavender to blue flowers, its vigor, and its strong, sweet scent. Hybrids of *pallida* and *variegata* were the basis of early iris breeding. It is identifiable by its papery spathes. The large varieties 'Dalmatica' and 'Odoratissima' are especially strong and fragrant and are grown very widely. A *pallida* with variegated foliage, sometimes known as Zebra is also very popular.

***I. germanica*** (25-30") The name *germanica* has come to refer to quite a various group of irises. Some are surely hybrids. *I. Croatica*, *trojana*, and *varbossiana* are sometimes included. Among those we grow is 'Amas,' collected on behalf of Foster in Turkey and a progenitor of today's tetraploid tall bearded hybrids. The *germanicas* all tend to be vigorous growers and fine garden subjects.

**Other Bearded Species** — The list above includes some of the most horticulturally prominent of the bearded species. I am growing perhaps twenty other species at the present time. Some have yet to prove themselves in the garden, but nearly all those that have been here for a few years are doing well.

**How to Learn More about the Iris Species**

Join SIGNA (Species Iris Group of North America) now! A one-year

membership is \$9. Send your check to Rodney Barton, 3 Wolters Street, Hickory Creek, TX 75065.

The SIGNA Checklist is a great reference for species iris information, listing all the iris species, the registered clones of them, and their first generation hybrids. The SIGNA Seed Exchange is an excellent source of species iris seeds.

### Sources of Species Bearded Irises

There are few commercial sources of bearded species rhizomes. I have relied on personal contacts for many of my acquisitions. You may want to try growing them from seed. Good sources are the SIGNA Seed Exchange, the BIS Seed Exchange, the North American Rock Garden Society Seed Exchange, the Alpine Garden Society Seed Exchange, and a commercial source, JJA Seeds of Jim and Jenny Archibald.

I will be glad to share whatever knowledge I have of the iris species or assist in locating certain plants. I prefer to communicate by e-mail at [LBaumunk@iriscolorado.com](mailto:LBaumunk@iriscolorado.com).

#### Author's Note:

*Important background information in the above descriptions of the species irises came from **The SIGNA Checklist**, by Robert Pries and Jean Witt. Portions of this article have previously appeared in **SIGNA**, the quarterly journal of the Species Iris Group of North America, and in the journal of the Dwarf Iris Society.*

#### Editor's Note:

*Many bearded iris species and species crosses including the unique **I. aphylla 'Trina's Gem'** are available at Lowell's garden, Iris Colorado. Last year I counted 49 varieties in his catalog. This season the selection is smaller than usual because of a 2005 move to new beds. Next year the selection will be larger than ever, according to his Web site, [www.iriscolorado.com](http://www.iriscolorado.com).*

### Commercial Iris Garden Listing Policy

Region 20 offers a directory listing for in-region AIS member commercial advertisers. Directory listings are printed annually in the spring newsletter and may be up to five lines in length.

Out of region iris garden advertisers may submit directory listings of up to five lines, for \$15.00. Make check out to AIS Region 20. Listings must be submitted to the editor by the publication deadline. For questions, e-mail [clrimage@comcast.net](mailto:clrimage@comcast.net) or call Glenn Guenterberg at 303-933-0663.



### Local Commercial Iris Sources

**Fritzie's Iris Patch** – 17046 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Golden, CO 80401. Call for directions to **Frances Smothers'** garden – 303-279-0496

**Iris Colorado** – [LBaumunk@iriscolorado.com](mailto:LBaumunk@iriscolorado.com) (introductions by **Lowell Baumunk** and bearded species) [www.iriscolorado.com](http://www.iriscolorado.com) 10918 Sunshine Drive, Littleton, CO 80125. Please call before visiting – 303-791-0456

**Iris 4U** – [www.iris4u.com](http://www.iris4u.com) . . . [iris4u2@comcast.net](mailto:iris4u2@comcast.net) (many varieties as well as **Bob Van Liere** introductions) 2700 West Amherst Avenue, Denver, CO 80236. Open Mon. through Sat. 10 to 6, Sun. 12 to 6 – 303-789-IRIS (4747)

**Long's Gardens** – [info@longsgardens.com](mailto:info@longsgardens.com) (Since 1905, family run gardens, many varieties available including famous Colorado introductions by Durrance, Magee, D. Miller, Stetson, Olson, and others) 3240 Broadway, PO Box 19, Boulder, CO 80306. Open 7 days a week, May and June, 9 to 5 . . . [www.longsgardens.com](http://www.longsgardens.com) – **Catherine & Dennis Gates** – 303-442-2353

**Olson's Garden** – [orvido@msn.com](mailto:orvido@msn.com) (home garden with over 200 varieties) 4875 E. Louisiana, Denver, CO 80246. Open during bloom season but a phone call before visiting would be appreciated. **Lois & Orvid Olson** – 303-756-5375

**Penn's Garden** – [pennpirate@netzero.net](mailto:pennpirate@netzero.net) (Many varieties in several locations) Oxford & Huron Ct., Englewood, CO 80110. Call or e-mail for an appointment – **Randy Penn** – 303-761-5170

### Commercial Iris Sources Outside Metro Area

**Greenhorn Valley Irises** – I-25 south, past Pueblo (exit 74), go south on east frontage road to large iris display at the Colorado City KOA campground. Open starting mid-May through mid-July . . . [greenhornvaliris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greenhornvaliris@sbcglobal.net) . . . [www.greenhornvalleyirises.com](http://www.greenhornvalleyirises.com) . . . **Pat Soland** – 719-676-2952

**Susan's Iris Garden** – [rfrmac@earthlink.net](mailto:rfrmac@earthlink.net) . . . 1558 County Road 20 1/2, Longmont, CO 80504. Call **Susan Lowry** for directions – 303-774-8527

**Willow Bend Iris Farm** – 2331 J Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81505. North of I-70. Exit 28 (Grand Junction mall exit) north on 24 road 2 miles, turn west (left) on J road about 3/4 mile. Watch signs, garden located south side of J road. Garden open anytime Tue. through Sat. closed Sun. & Mon. [www.willowbendirisfarm.com](http://www.willowbendirisfarm.com) . . . [drules@0web.net](mailto:drules@0web.net) . . . **Victoria & Darrell Rule** – 970-263-4138



## A Few Good Irises, Part 8 Hardy Irises

By Stephen Blecher

Every so often, you hear people comment that recently introduced irises are not as hardy as the older varieties. Old classics such as 'Ola Kala,' 'Wabash,' and 'Prairie Sunset' are still grown, and in older residential neighborhoods, you can see clumps of 50 or 60 year old varieties in people's yards, but these plants are survivors. Of the thousands of introductions between 1930 and 1960, I would bet that the majority are no longer grown, or exist as "no name" clumps in a few gardens.

It also depends on your definition of hardy. If hardy means that a plant will grow without any care whatever, very few cultivated plants qualify. Irises require some care, but so do corn, wheat, and potatoes. Modern irises that produce large bloomstalks and rhizomes need more fertilizer than the ones that grandma grew, but so do modern food crops. Still, irises are not nearly as hungry as corn or potatoes.

If hardy means that a plant will grow under a wide range of soil, temperature, and moisture conditions, irises have traditionally been hardy, and I believe that modern irises are as good as the old-timers. Most hybridizers try not to pamper their seedlings, and discard ones that grow poorly, since a fragile plant doesn't benefit a commercial grower. Hybridizers send their seedlings to convention gardens and display gardens all over the U.S. and Europe, and if the plant doesn't grow well it won't get many votes. If a seedling is introduced, it eventually becomes eligible for garden awards. In order to win an Honorable Mention or Award of Merit, a variety needs to receive votes from a number of regions. In turn, the more robust and well-adapted varieties are more likely to be used in hybridizing programs. A very popular iris may be used by hybridizers all over the world, in a practically infinite number of combinations, thus assuring that genes are shuffled and reshuffled.

It's true that irises are bred primarily for flower form and color, but there is no reason to believe that the plants are weakened in the process. Flower form or color are rather superficial characteristics and probably have little effect on the plant as a whole. If I look at a well-grown iris clump when it has no bloomstalks, I can't tell a five year old variety from one that's 60 years old. These facts lead me to believe that, on average, irises are as hardy as ever. I say on average, because hundreds of bearded irises are introduced every year, and they won't all

perform equally well under every possible growing condition. Some are destined to become superstars, while others will fall by the wayside. This was always true. I remember the superstars like 'Shipshape,' 'Mystique,' 'Beverly Sills,' or 'Titan's Glory,' but have forgotten the names of most of the others that I planted alongside those great ones. In thirty plus years of iris growing I haven't noticed any decline in survival rates, and the newer varieties are far more spectacular.

There are a number of people in Region 20 who are in a better position than I am to comment on this matter. We have hybridizers, commercial growers, historic iris fanciers, and folks who have been growing irises for fifty years or more. I would certainly like to get your opinions on hardiness and survival rates. If you agree or disagree with my statements, I would like to hear from you. My e-mail is [sblecher@comcast.net](mailto:sblecher@comcast.net), or my address and phone number are in the list of officers.



Glenn and Karen Schultz  
invite you to their 10th annual  
**OPEN GARDEN AND Daylily Sale**  
Saturday, July 15th • 8a.m. - 4p.m.  
More than 4,000 registered named varieties for your viewing pleasure  
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Sale will benefit The Cat Care Society  
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An American Hemerocallis Society Display Garden  
15643 East 35th Place • (303) 366-9689  
(near I-70 and Chambers Rd. in Aurora)  
Bring this ad and receive **1 free daylily** for  
every 5 daylilies purchased!





## A Half Century and More

### Happy Trails to You – Until We Meet Again

By Catherine Long Gates

Mention Roy Rogers today (at least to those of us of a certain age) and you may find yourself humming the “King of the Cowboys” theme song, Happy Trails.

Mention Roy Rogers to a Region 20 member in the late 1940’s or 1950’s and visions of beautiful iris plantings would no doubt come to mind. Confused? So was I.

As a child, I was an ardent Roy Rogers and Dale Evans fan. My first day at nursery school at the tender age of three, the teacher inquired whether I wished to be called Cathy or Catherine, to which I purportedly replied, “You may call me whatever you like, but my name is Dale Evans.” Imagine the teacher’s confusion. My own confusion arose when a nice man who came to visit our iris garden was introduced as Roy Rogers. This Roy Rogers didn’t yodel, didn’t wear a big Stetson, or fancy chaps. Then my parents said we were going to visit him. What a disappointment — instead of Dale, Buttermilk, and Trigger on a big ranch, it was another iris garden with the non-cowboy version of Roy. Eventually I figured out that this was a different Roy Rogers.

Region 20’s first RVP, Nina Winegar, reported on a May 29, 1949 garden tour that included a visit to the Rogers, garden “...we then went on to the Roy Rogers iris garden on West Arapahoe in Boulder. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are in the process of building a very lovely garden here with series of stone retaining walls and evergreen hedges against the rugged rise of Flagstaff Mountain. They are completely sheltered and have established a fine iris garden overlooking the plains about Boulder and surrounded by a bearing peach orchard. The fertile mountain soil, with an ever ready supply of water from a large irrigation ditch constantly flowing at the back, provides an ideal situation which they have taken full advantage of, for nowhere have we ever seen iris more splendidly grown.” (From the January 1950 AIS Bulletin, page 67.)



Roy Rogers' garden, c. 1950, Boulder, Colorado

While this Boulder Roy Rogers wasn’t the legendary singing cowboy, he created a happy trail of beauty.



**Long's Gardens**  
3240 Broadway  
P.O. Box 19  
Boulder, CO 80306-0019  
PHONE 303-442-2353  
FAX 303-413-1323  
info@longsgardens.com  
www.longsgardens.com



**COZY STITCH** (David Miller) 98-14B TB 30" — Remember watching Grandma stitching her tea towels and how cozy she made you feel. This iris will provide that same cozy comfort with its consistent bloom. Standards are purple, blending to white, while the falls are done up in white with purple stitches. Yellow gold beards lightly tipped purple add accent. Expect 5-10 buds with some multiple stalks, excellent branching, and consistent bloom. Kind of short, but then so was Grandma. Tennessee Gentleman X Everything Plus *(See back cover photo)* \$40.00

**ETHEL MAE** (Lois Olson) 95-N-3 TB 40" M — Bright and lovely like the lady for whom it is named. Standards are rosy pink with a hint of lavender on the edges. Falls are cream blending into a wide lavender border. Bright red orange beards with 1/2" fuzzy light purple horns add zing. Nicely ruffled. Conjunction X Feminine Wiles \$40.00

**RUTH IRENE** (Lois Olson) 98-C-1 TB 38" ML — Named after our viola playing daughter, who is also a very good gardener. This tall strong ruffled deep blue purple iris has very ruffled style arms. The falls have a hint of red blush and the lavender blue beards are highlighted by some white. Let it make music in your garden. Caribbean Dream X Tintinnabulation \$40.00

**SKI COLORADO** (Tom Magee) TB 34" M — Take the lift up to high altitude – whirling and swirling in snow with a glint of sunlight. ((Above All X Fuji's Mantle) X (Mary Randall X Charles Gordon G5910)) X Ice Sculpture) X (Colorado Sunshine X Lone Ranger) EC '96, '99, & '03 *(See photo on page 15)* \$40.00

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND** (Tom Magee) TB 29" E — Fog standards and styles, falls sandy beach with halo of surf, brown pelican haft marks, beards orange sun rising on gulf morning horizon. Sib to Bolder Boulder *(See back cover photo)* \$40.00

**SUNLIT WINDOWS** (Lois Olson) 95-N-1 TB 38" M — Light up your life with lacy ruffled pink standards that open to reveal golden yellow style arms. Bright red beards lie between golden yellow shoulders. The lavender falls shade to white around the beards and have a thin rosy mauve border. Conjunction X Feminine Wiles *(See back cover photo)* \$40.00

Shipping Charge \$7.50. Orders over \$50 deduct 10%. Phone, fax, or mail orders. Visa, Mastercard, Discover

## Iris Gardens to Visit

All listed gardens are available for viewing during the 2006 bloom season. Some of the gardens have irises available for sale, others are hobby gardens. They'd love to see you. Give them a call for directions and to arrange a convenient time to visit their garden.

Lowell Baumunk	Iris Colorado, Southwest Littleton	303-791-0456
Russ Eacker	Dr. Loomis Trial Garden, Colo. Spgs.	719-633-5193
Catherine Gates	Long's Gardens, Boulder	303-442-2353
Lynda Love	Southeast Denver	303-757-1750
Susan Lowry	Longmont	303-774-8527
Tom Magee	Littleton	303-730-7417
David Miller	Golden	303-277-0358
Orvid & Lois Olson	Southeast Denver	303-756-5375
Randy Penn	Englewood	303-761-5170
Victoria Rule	Willow Bend Iris Farm, Grand Junction	970-263-4138
Frances Smothers	Fritzie's Iris Patch, Golden	303-279-0496
Bob Van Liere	IRIS4U, Southwest Denver	303-789-4747

If you would like to be added to this list and are an AIS member, contact Glenn Guenterberg at 303-933-0663.

## 2006 Region 20 Officers

The officers' data for the AIS Region 20 is restricted to AIS members.

The data has been deleted from this page.

## 2006 Region 20 AIS Judges

### **Emeritus**

Catherine Long Gates

### **Retired Master**

Linda Doty-Nystrom

Mrs. Morris James

Dr. Carl Jorgensen

Roy G. Krug

Suzanne McCarthy

Mrs. Duane Quinn

### **Active Master**

Duane W. Daily

Kayellen R. Daily

Russell Eacker

Dennis B. Gates

Thomas L. Magee

David G. Miller

### **Active Master, cont'd**

Patricia Morgan

Betty Roberts

### **Fully Accredited Garden**

Marty Artzberger

Lowell Baumunk III

Stephen Blecher

Carol Eacker

Lynda D. Love

Ellen McIntosh

Robert E. Stetson II

### **Apprentices**

Elsie Funk

Sally Funk

Grace Syme

Bob Van Liere



**2006 AIS Region 20  
Approved Operating Budget**

The financial data for the Region 20 AIS  
is restricted to AIS members.

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**2006 AIS Region 20  
Financial Statement Summary**  
February 22, 2006

The financial data for the Region 20 AIS  
is restricted to AIS members.

The data has been deleted from this page.

**Promote our Iris Sales**

**Tell everyone . . .**

**your relatives, your friends,  
your neighbors, and co-workers,  
tell them all about our sales.**



**Iris Sale Schedules**

Saturday, **June 10**, *Houston Garden Plant Sale*, at the location of the club's display garden, 515 23<sup>rd</sup> St., in Greeley

Wednesday, **July 26**, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. **Iris Rhizome Sale** located at *Hillside Gardens & Nursery*, Institute & Fountain in Colo. Springs

Saturday, **July 29**, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. **Iris Sale** at *Hudson Gardens*  
Sunday, **July 30**, 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. **Iris Sale** continues at *Hudson Gardens*, 6115 South Santa Fe Dr., Littleton, H.G. 303-797-8565

Saturday **Aug. 5** OR **Aug. 12**, *Houston Garden Plant Sale*, Greeley

Tuesday, **Aug. 8**, 7 A.M. - 12 P.M. AND Fri. **Aug 11**, 7 A.M. - 12 P.M. **Plant Sale**, at the *Pueblo Farm Market*, at Midtown Mall, Pueblo

Saturday **Aug. 12**, 8 A.M. - 12 P.M. **Plant Sale**, at *Railroad Park* in Rocky Ford

## Region 20 E-Mail Directory

The e-mail directory for AIS Region 20 is restricted to AIS members.

The data has been deleted from this page.

### NOTE

As the e-mail address list grows, we face newsletter space constraints, so this will be the last printing of our e-mail directory.

We will continue to update and e-mail, semi-annually, the e-mail list to you.

If your e-mail address isn't on the list or needs to be updated, contact us at:

## Nina Winegar Award

Nominate a deserving member of Region 20 for the Nina Winegar Award. This award is named after the first RVP of Region 20, who was instrumental in forming the Region and influential in its early development. Mrs. Winegar was one of those members that worked for many years to see that the society grew and prospered. The eponymous award honors those who have followed in her footsteps. The winner receives a lifetime membership in the American Iris Society, or if already a life member, the winner may choose a life membership in a section of AIS.

The nominee must be a Region 20 member and have performed exceptional work for Region 20 over a minimum of 10 years. Please give as much information as possible about the ways in which the nominee has contributed to the region.

Nominations must be in writing. Send nominations to the selection committee chairwoman, Catherine Gates, at P.O. Box 19, Boulder CO 80306-0019 or e-mail them to [catherine@longsgardens.com](mailto:catherine@longsgardens.com). The nomination deadline is **August 1, 2006**.

### Rob Stetson's 'Finnigan's Finagling Factor' Wins In France!

The Franciris 2005 international iris competition, judged by Roy Epperson and four European jurists, selected Rob Stetson's 'Finnigan's Finagling Factor,' as the best blue bitone iris (the Banque Populaire Val de France Prize). The competition, which attracted 121 entries from hybridizers in seven countries, also yielded two more awards for Finnigan's: voted best iris by the horticultural students that tended the competition garden and best by the press corps. **Congratulations, Rob!**

## Van Liere Auction Donations

### Iris Auctions Coming Soon

Bob Van Liere has donated iris gift certificates to two worthy causes. Your successful bids will benefit PBS television or the AIS and you will receive beautiful irises. The bidding opportunities are:

**PBS Channel 6 April 2006 On-Line Auction** — Four gift certificates are available (donor # 33927). High bidders choose any four of seven introductions. Last year the winning bids were very reasonable.

**AIS 2006 Portland Convention Silent Auction** — Seven gift certificates for one iris introduction are available. Last year a Region 20 member won a 2005 introduction for \$10.



## A Sunny Spring Day Touring Iris Gardens

A walk through the best Continental gardens wouldn't, couldn't have been nicer. It was a Monet kind of day in Colorado with waves of stunning irises in bloom. The 2005 garden tour, planned by Lisa Story, was an absolute delight. Visitors toured the beautifully tended gardens of Lowell Baumunk and Barbara Lewis, Lois and Orvid Olson, and Randy Penn, plus the Region 20 iris display bed at Hudson Gardens — all at or near their peak bloom. The photos on the next page show glimpses of the tour.

### 2006 Iris Garden Tour Announced! – Help Build Our Membership

Bring a friend to the 2006 Region 20 iris garden tour. Lisa Story is planning another outstanding tour for **Sunday, May 21, 2006** featuring Long's Gardens and other gardens that haven't been on recent tours. Be sure to mark Sunday, May 21 on your calendar, starting at 10 a.m. at Long's Gardens, located at 3240 Broadway, Boulder. Watch for more details on our Web site ([www.geocities.com/aisregion20](http://www.geocities.com/aisregion20)), by mail, e-mail, or call Lisa at 303-233-8354.

Please contact Lisa if you are interested in opening your garden for this year's tour or future tours.

**Plan to attend and bring a friend!** They will be hooked on irises after they have seen the gorgeous tour gardens in bloom, so bring them to the **Hudson Gardens iris sale on July 29 and 30** to buy a fantastic assortment of recent irises at reasonable prices (or bring them to the sales in Greeley, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Rocky Ford — [sale schedules on page 33](#)).



### Iris Online The Region 20 Web Site



For UP-TO-DATE iris happenings,  
including our NEW Colorado hybridizers' seedling postings,  
visit the Region 20 Web site.

<http://www.geocities.com/aisregion20>

E-mail Web page submissions to: [aisregion20@yahoo.com](mailto:aisregion20@yahoo.com)



## Colorado Hybridizers' Seedlings And Several New Introductions



2124N (L. Baumunk)



South Padre Island (T. Magee '06)



Cozy Stitch (D. Miller '06)



Sunlit Windows (L. Olson '06)



Debra T.\* (R. Stetson)



23BT22 (B. Van Liere)

From top to bottom and right to left, photos by, Lowell Baumunk, Tom Magee, David Miller, Lois Olson, Patrice Van Vleet, and Bob Van Liere.

\*Named but not introduced.