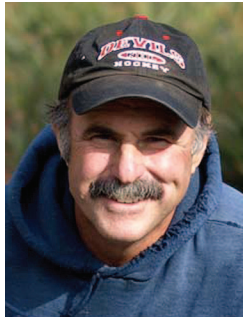


**Mike Locketell**  
**Roots & Blooms, LLC**  
 500 Pantela Drive  
 Richmond, VA 23235-5020  
 cmarti8855@verizon.net  
 (804) 330-2916  
 USDA Zone 7



**Mike Locketell**

# Eastern Report *By Director Mike Locketell*

## Summer Rebloom Returns to Central Virginia

Another early spring awaited the Central Virginia landscape in 2017.

Many flowering trees and shrubs were blooming in late February. Incredible. Early April frosts had decimated spring bearded iris flowering in 2016. Would the Richmond metro area see the same devastation in the new year?

Late spring cold did again materialize, but the timing somehow did not affect tall bearded iris bud formation. Since my plantings in South Richmond and Goochland County, VA are geared towards cool season rebloom development, peak flowering occurred by the third week of April. The sequence was a week early. As the growing season unfolded, some summer results on named varieties and seedlings may have been influenced by this unusual weather.

Mid June saw rebloom at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community begin in earnest. Early summer flowering was found on TBs **'July Sunshine'** (G.P. Brown 1965), **'Northward Ho'** (L. Zurbrigg 1991), **'Summer Honey'** (B. Wilkerson

2013) and Wilkerson TB Re Sdlg.#1907-10Re. SDB **'What Again'** (A. Ensminger 1991) was also in bloom. Two Locketell SDB Re seedlings featuring **'Sailboat Bay'** (L. Zurbrigg 2001) and **'Senorita Frog'** (D. Spoon 2002) had unexpected June flowering.

Despite ninety degree daytime highs starting in early July, TBs **'Belvi Cloud'** (K. Jensen 1988), **'Dawn of Fall'** (C. Jensen 1976), **'Fall Rerun'** (B. Hager 2001), and **'Repetition'** (W. Moores 2013) were in flower. Locketell TB Sdlg.#21334 (Northward Ho

X Echo Location) recorded no spring bloom in 2017, but the yellow hopeful with similar coloring to its pollen parent had outstanding flowering in summer and fall. The three separate rebloom sequences started in early July with another bloom period commencing in late August through mid September. Wow! The heat and humidity persisted throughout July, but TBs **'Golden Encore'** (F.P. Jones 1973), **'Queen Dorothy'** (E. Hall 1984) and **'Coronation of David'** (B. Miller by Niswonger 2001) began long rebloom stretch as the month ended.



**July Sunshine TB**  
(G.P. Brown 1965)

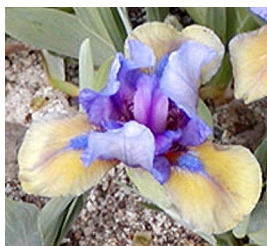


**Northward Ho TB**  
(L. Zurbrigg 1991)



**Summer Honey TB** (B. Wilkerson 2013)

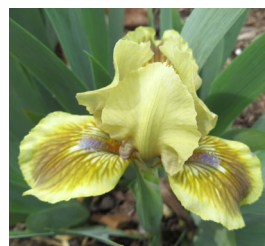
**Photo Credits page 22:**  
 M. Locketell, (Provided)  
 July Sunshine, B. Danzell  
 Northward Ho, L. Rose  
 Summer Honey, C. Buchheim  
 What Again, M. Greenfield  
 Sailboat Bay, G. Spoon  
 Senorita Frog, C. Campbell  
 Belvi Cloud, R. Probst  
 Dawn Of Fall, R. Probst  
 Fall Rerun, C. Buchheim  
 Coronation Of David,  
 C. Buchheim  
 Echo Location, C. Buchheim



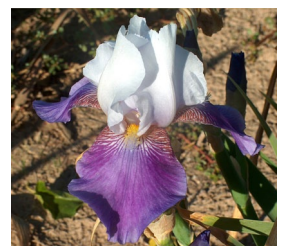
**What Again SDB**  
(A. Ensminger 1991)



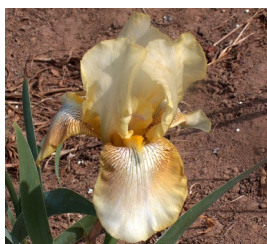
**Sailboat Bay SDB**  
(L. Zurbrigg 2001)



**Senorita Frog SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2002)



**Belvi Cloud TB**  
(K. Jensen 1988)



**Dawn Of Fall TB**  
(C. Jensen 1976)



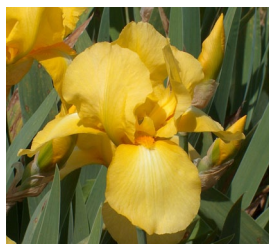
**Fall Rerun TB**  
(B. Hager 2001)



**Coronation Of David TB**  
(B. Miller 2001)



**Echo Location TB**  
(B. Wilkerson 2007)



**Golden Encore TB**  
(F.P. Jones 1973)



**Queen Dorothy TB**  
(E. Hall 1984)



**Baby Blessed SDB**  
(L. Zurbrigg 1979)



**Lunar Whitewash TB**  
(S. Innerst 2003)



**Season Of Mists TB**  
(L. Zurbrigg 2002)



**Cricket Song MTB**  
(T. Silvers 2012)



**Pink Attraction TB**  
(E. Hall 1988)



**Metro Blue TB**  
(M. Locketell 2015)

As August unfolded, bloomstalks kept appearing on SDB **'Baby Blessed'** (L. Zurbrigg 1979). The former Cook-Douglass Medal winner would stay in continuous bloom on two clumps for the remainder of the summer at JS-RCC. Jameson SDB Re Sdlg.#B88 (Baby Blessed X Bright Vision) had a similar flowering profile. Even though flowers reflected older form, constant rebloom was seen throughout August and September. Locketell SDB Re Sdlg.#21245-3Re was equally impressive during the same period. These cool season SDB seedlings seem to prove this median bearded class can turn in capable summer bloom in Central Virginia despite heat and humidity.

TBs **'Again And Again'** (S. Innerst 1999), **'Over And Over'** (S. Innerst 2001), **'Lunar Whitewash'** (S. Innerst 2003), **'Season of Mists'** (L. Zurbrigg 2002), **'Pink Attraction'** (E. Hall 1988) and **'Summer Honey'** (B. Wilkerson 2013) had flowers in September. Eight of the first eleven days for the month saw night temperatures drop below the 60° F trigger. This good news was offset by NO rainfall during the period. Despite this adverse development, seven Locketell TB seedlings planted the previous fall were in bloom heading into the fall. There would be more to see. Bloomstalks in most cases were short. Was the nagging dryness to

blame? Spring bloom in 2018 will hopefully provide some answers.

George Hillenbrandt's garden was one of the tour destinations for the AIS 2016 National Convention. George has been willing to test rebloomers in his Slatington, PA plantings. He reported moderate temperatures and good rainfall in July and August. His best summer performer turned out to MTB **'Cricket Song'** (T. Silvers 2012). The diploid median flowered heavily from the end of June into July and lightly from the end of July into August. **'Again And Again'** (S. Innerst 1999)



**Again And Again TB** (S. Innerst 1999)

was in bloom in early August. TB **'Over And Over'** (S. Innerst 2001) and SDB **'Baby Blessed'** (L. Zurbrigg 1979) had open flowers at summer's end.



**Over And Over TB**  
(S. Innerst 2001)

On the seedling side, the Pennsylvania garden recorded late summer rebloom on three Locketell guests. Locketell TB Re 21217-2Re (Over And Over X Metro Blue) on September 15th, Locketell TB Re 20734 on September 22nd and Locketell SDB Re 21068 on September 22nd. The median's performance was significant since it was the first recorded rebloom outside of my Central Virginia test gardens.

Rosemary Trompeter from Darien, CT always contacts me with encouraging summer

**Photo Credits page 23:**  
Queen Dorothy, C. Chapman  
Golden Encore, R. Probst  
Baby Blessed, R. Shadlow  
Lunar Whitewash, C. Buchheim  
Season Of Mists, R. Probst  
Cricket Song, C. Buchheim  
Pink Attraction, C. Buchheim  
Metro Blue, R. Shadlow  
Again And Again, C. Buchheim  
Over And Over, C. Buchheim



**Liquid Amber TB**  
(G. Spoon 2003)



**Just Call Me TB**  
(B. Wilkerson 2008)



**Midsummer Night's Dream**  
IB (L. Baumunk 1999)



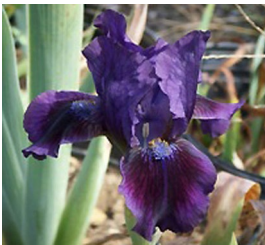
**My Friend Jonathan TB**  
(B. Miller 1996)



**Returning Chameleon TB**  
(B. Wilkerson 1995)



**Lady Emma MTB**  
(F.P. Jones 1986)



**Purple Joy SDB**  
(D. Spoon 2009)

**Photo Credits page 24:**

Liquid Amber, G. Spoon  
Just Call Me, C. Buchheim  
Midsummer Night's Dream,  
J.T. Aitken  
My Friend Jonathan,  
C. Buchheim  
Returning Chameleon,  
B. Wilkerson  
Lady Emma, C. Chapman  
Purple Joy, C. Campbell

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Goochland County, VA  
Summer Cool Season Bearded Iris 2017 Rebloom Results**

Compiled By Michael Locketell

Again And Again	TB	(S. Innerst 1999)	9/17
Belvi Cloud	TB	(K. Jensen 1988)	7/6 & 7/9
Coronation of David	TB	(B. Miller 2001)	7/9, 7/17, 7/30, 8/6 & 8/13
Dawn of Fall	TB	(C. Jensen 1976)	7/6
Fall Rerun	TB	(B. Hager 2001)	7/6, 7/9, 7/17 & 7/30
Golden Encore	TB	(F.P. Jones 1973)	7/17, 7/30, 8/20 & 8/27
July Sunshine	TB	(G.P. Brown 1965)	6/18 & 7/3
Just Call Me	TB	(B. Wilkerson 2008)	7/30, 8/6, 8/27 & 9/3
Liquid Amber	TB	(G. Spoon 2003)	8/27, 9/3 & 9/17
Lunar Whitewash	TB	(S. Innerst 2003)	9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
My Friend Jonathan	TB	(B. Miller 1996)	9/17
Northward Ho	TB	(L. Zurbrigg 1991)	6/18, 6/22 & 6/27
Over And Over	TB	(S. Innerst 2000)	7/17, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
Oxmoor Hills	TB	(J. Ennenga 2004)	9/17
Pink Attraction	TB	(E. Hall 1988)	7/17 & 9/17
Queen Dorothy	TB	(E. Hall 1984)	7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
Repetition	TB	(W. Moores 2013)	6/27, 7/6, 7/9 & 7/17
Returning Chameleon	TB	(B. Wilkerson 1995)	7/17, 9/10 & 9/17
Season of Mists	TB	(L. Zurbrigg 2002)	9/10 & 9/17
Summer Honey	TB	(B. Wilkerson 2013)	6/18, 6/22, 6/27, 9/10 & 9/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB Re 20526		7/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB Re 20734		9/10 & 9/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21223-2Re		8/27, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21334		6/27, 7/6, 7/9, 8/13, 8/20 & 8/27
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21410-21		9/10 & 9/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21415-28		9/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21415-30		8/20 & 8/27
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21429-12		8/20, 8/27, 9/10
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21439-2		8/20, 8/27, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	TB 21449B-44		9/17
Wilkerson Sdlg. #	TB 1907-10Re		6/18, 6/22, 6/27, 7/6 & 7/9
Baby Blessed	SDB	(L. Zurbrigg 1979)	8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
Lady Emma	MTB	(F. P. Jones, 1986)	9/3 & 9/3
Midsummer Night's Dream	IB	(L. Baumunk 1999)	6/27 & 9/17
Purple Joy	SDB	(D. Spoon 2009)	9/17
Sailboat Bay	SDB	(L. Zurbrigg 2001)	9/3 & 9/10
Jameson Sdlg. #	SDB Re B88		7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
Locketell Sdlg. #	SDB Re 21245-1Re		6/18 & 6/27
Locketell Sdlg. #	SDB Re 21245-3Re		6/18, 6/22, 6/27, 7/30, 8/6, 8/27, 9/10 & 9/17



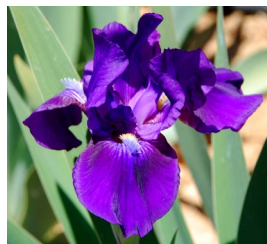
**Forever Blue SDB**  
(C. Chapman 1997)



**Grapelet SDB**  
(J.T. Aitken 1989)



**Fast Forward IB**  
(J.T. Aitken 2002)



**Constant Companion IB**  
(C. Marsh 1995)



**Twiggy BB**  
(D. Spoon 2004)

rebloom. Rosemary's best performer was SDB **'Forever Blue'** (C. Chapman 1997). Summer flowering took place in June, July and mid September. SDB **'Grapelet'** (J.T. Aitken 1989), IBs **'Low Ho Silver'** (M. Byers 1989) and **'Fast Forward'** (J.T. Aitken 2002) plus TB **'Immortality'** (L. Zurbrigg 1982) bloomed twice before summer's end. Other notable summer flowering occurred on IBs **'Constant Companion'** (C. Marsh 1995), **'Blessed Again'** (F.P. Jones 1976) and **'Concoction'** (M. Byers 1991). TBs **'Feed Back'** (B. Hager 1983), **'Anxious'** (B. Hager 1992) and **'Corn Harvest'** (C. Wyatt 1977) had either August or September flowering. These consistent results over the past few years offer gardeners in Zones 6A or maybe 5B some realistic early cool season rebloom choices.



**Unbelievable Love TB**  
(W. Grise 1998)

Linda Mann from Tennessee has dedicated considerable time to cool season rebloom breeding exploring avenues through G.P. Brown and Lloyd Zurbrigg tall bearded irises. Her patience working with 'Immortality' children are particularly noteworthy. Linda stayed the course and is seeing some meaningful progress. Mann's list followed cool season rebloom from June to October. Some long time historic favorites were G. Percy Brown's TBs **'Autumn Twilight'** (1971), **'July Sunshine'** (1965), **'September Chereau'** (1966) and **'Summer Fantasy'** (1965). Other historic TBs **'Belvi**

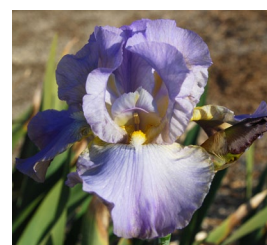
**Queen'** (C. Jensen 1976) and **'Sign of Leo'** (L. Zurbrigg 1977) chipped in for some nice summer flowering.

New TB varieties **'Summer Honey'** (B. Wilkerson 2013), **'Afternoon Tea'** (L. Mann, R. 2016), **'Coconut Ruffles Returns'** (L. Mann, R. 2016) and **'Cold Hands Warm Heart'** (M.L.

Swann-Young 2017) had summer bloom. Other notable performers from the Mann garden were TBs **'Again And Again'** (S. Innerst 1999), **'Angelic Wings'** (B. Miller 1991), **'Eternal Waltz'** (H. Danielson 1989), **'Golden Immortal'** (G. Sutton 1997), **'Mariposa Autumn'** (R. Tasco 1999), **'Northward Ho'** (L. Zurbrigg 1991), **'Over And Over'** (S. Innerst 2001), **'Season of Mists'** (L. Zurbrigg 2002), **'Star Gate'** (B. Wilkerson 2005), **'Tea Leaves'** (M. Byers 1987)

and **'Unbelievable Love'** (W. Grise 1998). The only median on Linda's list was BB **'Twiggy'** (D. Spoon 2004).

Summer results were a "warm-up" for flowering in October. Weather conditions proved to be ideal for rebloom on both named varieties and seedlings. If further progress in various micro-climates is going to be made in promoting cool season rebloom for Eastern gardens, summer flowering will be a necessity in upcoming growing seasons.



**Anxious TB**  
(B. Hager 1992)



**Belvi Queen TB**  
(C. Jensen 1976)



**Tea Leaves TB**  
(M. Byers 1987)



**Mariposa Autumn TB**  
(R. Tasco 1999)



**Golden Immortal TB**  
(G. Sutton 1997)



**Star Gate TB**  
(B. Wilkerson 2005)

**Photo Credits page 25:**  
Forever Blue, C. Buchheim  
Grapelet, J.T. Aitken  
Fast Forward, J.T. Aitken  
Constant Companion,  
C. Buchheim  
Twiggy, G. Spoon  
Unbelievable Love,  
P. Postel  
Anxious, C. Buchheim  
Belvi Queen, R. Probst  
Tea Leaves, R. Probst  
Mariposa Autumn, C. Buchheim  
Golden Immortal, C. Buchheim  
Star Gate, C. Buchheim