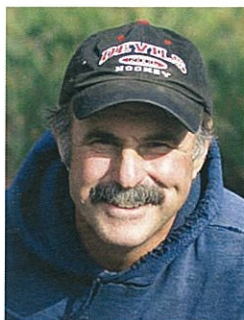


Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7

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Two AIS Region 4 Flower Shows Promote Rebloom

By Mike Locketell

Cool season bearded reblooming irises have played bridesmaids to spring-only kinds of irises for decades. Despite our best efforts, the general gardening public is still largely unaware that “grandma’s beloved flags” can bloom a second time in the same growing season. Is there any reasonable way to change the discussion?

The Central Virginia Iris Society (metro Richmond) staged its first ever fall flower show on October 21st. The event attracted eight exhibitors and forty entries in most bearded iris classifications including six seedlings. The show was held at Strange’s Florist, Greenhouses and Garden Center in West End Richmond on Broad

Street or VA Route 250. The Short Pump area has become a mecca for recent retail development, so privately owned Strange’s sees considerable floor traffic leading up to Halloween and Thanksgiving.

The show bench was set up in a greenhouse aisle connecting the store checkout with the outdoor nursery. Show judging took place between 10:30 am to Noon. Public viewing occurred from 12-4 pm, and traffic was steady. CVIS volunteers greeted interested customers and handed out information on growing cool season rebloomers. The public’s reaction to seeing fall flowering irises was priceless. Feedback indicated the general public was definitely open to adding cool season reliable rebloomers to their suburban gardens.

Best in Show for “Springtime in the Fall” was ‘Season of Mists’ TB (L. Zurbrigg 2002) exhibited by Mike Locketell. The warm white with yellow highlights was acquired the pre-



CVIS 2017 Region 4 Fall Awards Table

vious fall from fellow iris breeder Griffin Crump (Alexandria, VA). The clump growing at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Goochland County produced three show quality bloomstalks in October. First Runner-up was ‘Immortality’ TB (L. Zurbrigg 1982)



Katherine Harrison with TB ‘Immortality’

displayed by eleven-year-old Katherine Harrison from nearby Powhatan County, VA. Her reaction to winning a rosette will be a fond memory for me and CVIS members working the show.

Second Runner-up went to ‘Gate of Heaven’ TB (L. Zurbrigg 2004) and Best in Median Section to ‘Sailboat

Bay’ SDB (L. Zurbrigg 2004). Best Seedling was a Sailboat Bay child featuring white standards and falls with green haft marking and tangerine beards tipped white. These entries were also exhibited by Mike Locketell. Mike



Sailboat Bay SDB (L. Zurbrigg 2004)

won the silver medal and co-chairman Bea Baringer took the bronze medal.

The AIS Region 4 Fall Meeting took place on October 28th in Raleigh, NC. Its fall flower show attracted seven exhibitors and thirty-three entries. Twenty-three named varieties and six seedlings were displayed. Colin Campbell, Region 4 Reblooming Iris Chairman and Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society member swept



CVIS 2017 Region 4 Fall Show Bench



Season Of Mists TB (L. Zurbrigg 2002)



Gate Of Heaven TB (L. Zurbrigg 2004)

the awards table. Best in Show was **'Harvest of Memories'** TB (*L. Zurbrigg 1985*). **'Zurich'** TB (*M. Byers 1990*) was First Runner-up. **'Rosalie Loving'** SDB (*D. Spoon 2003*) received Second Runner-up. Colin took the silver medal with five blue ribbons. No bronze medal was awarded. **'Harvest of Memories'** and **'Gate of Heaven'** were the only tall bearded displayed at both shows.

The "3 and 10" rule (three exhibitors and ten entries) applies for any fall iris show. This requirement should at least be accomplished in Zones 9 through 6. Initial hard frosts in most years occur in late October long after tall bearded cool season rebloom has taken place. The trick is finding the best reliable cool season bearded iris rebloomers in any classification for your micro-climate. The *RIS Recorder* publishes lists in its fall and spring editions from around the US. There are always common threads to each year's results.



Harvest Of Memories TB
(*L. Zurbrigg 1985*)

Only four fall flower shows were approved by the AIS Exhibitions Committee for 2017. Two of the four were in AIS Region 4 (West Virginia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia). Privately owned garden centers like Strange's welcome any events such as flower shows to attract customers to their stores in fall. These Green Industry small businesses will help with staging and

publicity. The benefits to local iris societies can be significant including new members plus free advertising for upcoming spring flower shows and summer rhizome sales. The AIS Exhibitions Committee can assist any local group with writing an acceptable show schedule. Take the plunge, the effort will be worth it.



Zurich TB
(*M. Byers 1990*)



Rosalie Loving SDB
(*D. Spoon SDB*)

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Harvest Of Memories,
C. Buchheim
Zurich, *C. Buchheim*
Rosalie Loving, *G. Spoon*