



DVIS eNewsletter

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Treasurer: Laurie Dunne, 330 Clothier Springs Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460, (610) 933-6505, naima212121@gmail.com

Immediate Past Pres.: Carol Ann Moyer, 4692 Woodfield Circle, Doylestown, PA 18902, (215) 794-7257, Carol@dvis-ais.org

We are delighted to announce Bob Hollingworth as our guest speaker. He is the hybridizer of the magnificent 'Swans in Flight', the winner of the only Dykes Medal awarded to a Siberian iris. Some say that if you grow only one iris, this should be the one. Perhaps Bob will tell us what he is preparing for an encore.

Since Bob must catch an airplane back to Michigan, the program will begin immediately after lunch, which will start promptly at 12:30 pm. A short business meeting will follow the talk.

It is hoped that all members can attend this special program. What a delightful way to celebrate the coming of spring and the iris bloom season!



Spring Luncheon and Meeting

Sunday March 18, 2018

12 noon to 4:30 pm

Hilton Garden Inn

720 East Eagleview Blvd, Exton, PA 19341

Located at PA Turnpike Downingtown Exit 312

Follow PA 100 North.

Turn right at traffic light onto East Eagleview Blvd.

Call hotel for additional directions: (610) 458-8822

Lunch served at 12:30 pm

Program

THE FUTURE OF SIBERIAN IRISES

Where Do We Go From Here?

Guest Speaker

Bob Hollingworth

Door Prizes

New Members and Guests Welcome

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DVIS Spring Meeting Reservation Slip

Price of each meal is \$20.00. Please make check payable to DVIS. Place first name of each attendee in front of meal selected.

_____ Honey Lime Glazed Chicken

_____ Vegetarian Platter: Vegetable Ravioli

Salad, dessert and beverage included with each meal.

Names of those attending: _____ Telephone: _____

Return this slip and your check to Ron Thoman, 1010 Wiggins Way, West Chester, PA 19380,

To be received no later than March 9, 2018.

Sale Chair: Victoria Buckley Show Chair: Vince Lewonski Associate Show Chair: Svetlana Russanova-McCoy

Publicity Chair: vacant eNewsletter Editor: Ron Thoman Associate Editor: Chris Huston

Hospitality and Membership Recruitment Chair: Nancy Thoman Auction Co-chairs: Vince Lewonski & Gary Slagle

Open Garden Chair: Jen Cunningham Meeting Arrangements Chair: Ron Thoman New Member Welcoming Chair: Ron Thoman

Potluck Hosts: Jeanette & Ray Bawer DVU Iris Garden Project Chair: Carol Ann Moyer Webmasters: Carol Ann & James Moyer

Members-At-Large: Doreen & Dave Duncan, , Larry & Debbie Westfall and Joan Wood

DVIS Dates for 2018

Spring Meeting	Sun	3-18-18
Iris Show	Mon	5-28-18
Dig Day	Sat	7-07-18
Iris Sale and Club Iris Pickup	Sat	7-14-18
Potluck and Auction	Sat	9-15-18
Fall Meeting	Sun	10-14-18
Joint AIS Region 3/SIS	Sat	11-03-18
Board Planning Meeting	Sun	12-02-18

Welcome New Members



We give a great BIG welcome to you, our sixteen new members enrolled in 2017: Virginia and Norman Badler, Rebecca Barnett, Elena Burashnikov, Millie B. Cutler, Thomas Federowicz, Nate and Betty Green, Stephen Janick, Stacey P. Morgan, Joe and Joanne Patti, Jean Smolens, Gayla Stewart, Charles A. Wagner III, and Lore Yao.

We are pleased that you are part of DVIS. New members are the very heart and soul of our organization. Your enthusiasm and curiosity stimulate all of us. We invite you to participate fully in all DVIS activities.

DVIS members are congenial and friendly. Our meetings and activities are new-member welcoming. At our meetings, for example, we have name tags and round tables to promote cordiality. We hope to see each of you at the Spring Luncheon and Meeting.

Publicity Chair Wanted

Contact George Hildenbrandt

Responsibilities include placing notices in the Inquirer and other local papers and magazines to publicize the sale and shows. Special emphasis is on social media including listing on Facebook. Initiatives welcomed.

Renewals

Those who are overdue in either DVIS or AIS dues are reminded to make payment to maintain your memberships.

Dues notices were sent to DVIS-only members in early January by email or USPS. DVIS dues are \$10 for one year or \$20 for three years. Make your check payable to DVIS and send to Ron Thoman (address on p. 1).

If you joined in 2017 as a new DVIS-only member, your dues are paid through December, 2018. This gives you a full year's membership.

There are no DVIS dues for AIS members.

IN MEMORIAM



ANNE McNELIS

A gracious and courageous lady, Anne was the vice president and publicity chair for the Delaware Valley Iris Society. Her warm and friendly personality at the hospitality table brought in many new members. All who knew Anne share a deep loss in her passing.

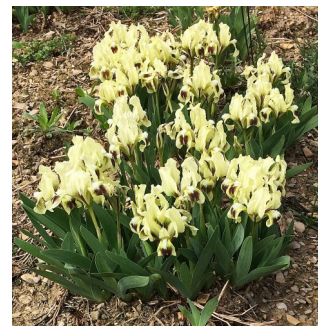


President's Note

Greetings to fellow DVIS members and friends. As I take on the official duties of president, I want to extend our thanks to Carol Ann Moyer for her long service as DVIS president. She promises to help me find my way as I temporarily spell her so she can fully indulge in a rare and fleeting opportunity – to spoil a new grand baby.

Many of you are familiar with my garden and have visited during tall bearded bloom time and perhaps later in the season when the various beardless types bloom. For my February *Note* I decided to brighten your winter with an iris valentine of my true loves, *Iris pumila* and the arils. These typically bloom in April and early May in my garden, so they are seldom seen by visitors or displayed at shows.

Pumilas are the earliest blooming bearded irises and are a welcome sight in mid-April. The accompanying photograph depicts a typical *I. pumila* plant, showing a clump of light yellow irises blooming profusely at barely four inches high. Typical is the maroon-brown spot on the falls and the elongated perianth tube visible under some of the flowers. At the lower end of this tube is the ovary, which attaches directly to the rhizome. If a flower is fertilized by human or bee, the resulting seed pod will be found right on the ground. These diminutive plants are well suited for rock gardens. As you can see in the photo, my soil is virtually a prefab rock garden; so the pumilas grow well in it.



All Photos: G. Hildenbrandt
Iris Pumila

Arils are my favorite type of irises, but they are difficult to grow in our climate. The accompanying photo of the red-violet flower with dark brown veining displays many typical aril characteristics. In addition to the veining, its domed standards and recurved falls are common features of arils. If you look very closely to the left of the style crest, which is in the center of the photo, you can see the beard on the inside of the standard. This is a characteristic of the Regelia group of the arils which includes *I. stolonifera*. Another characteristic of some Regelias is tetraploidy – four sets of chromosomes rather than the usual two sets found in most arils. Many people (including my wife) find Regelias, especially most forms of *I. stolonifera*, unattractive. I love it for its chromosome count as well as for its floral beauty. The flower shown in the aril photo grew from a seed harvested from an *I. stolonifera* plant in the garden of the late Lawrence Ransom in France. I am hoping that the mystery pollen parent was one of Larry's tetraploid aril hybrids. It is well known among plant breeders that tetraploid plants are much more likely to produce fertile hybrids than their diploid counterparts.



Aril

Iris hybridizers upon discovering that pumilas are tetraploids began breeding them with modern TBs which were known to be tetraploids. This resulted in the highly fertile group of irises now known as standard dwarf bearded irises. With the SDBs, hybridizers raised the carpet of flowers typical of pumilas to new heights — twelve inches off the ground. Crossing SDBs among themselves is producing seemingly endless combinations of colors, patterns and forms with a broad range of garden uses.

My loftiest hybridizing goal is to create a fertile family of arilpums. I was able to set a seed pod on the aril seedling using pollen from the yellow pumila seedling. Time will tell whether the seeds sprout. However, I have previously bloomed a seedling from a similar cross. It's too ugly to show you, but has breeding potential and awaits a liaison with any seedlings I get from this or another aril-by-pumila cross.

I should note that arilpums are properly classified as arilbreds (AB) with $\frac{1}{2}$ aril complement. As most of you know, there is a well developed fertile family of ABs containing $\frac{1}{2}$ aril complement. They are normally the product of tetraploid arils crossed with TBs (sometimes referred to as the fertile C. G. White hybrids).

A future *Note* will address some of the challenges to classification of the various AB types. And I'll also discuss AB culture and why you should all try them. I hope to see many of you on March 18 at our Spring Meeting. In the meantime, think spring even if the groundhog doesn't.

George Hildenbrandt



TERROR (TEAR) ON THE SHOW BENCH

By Ron Thoman

One sometimes hear show judges say, "It is only a growth tear" as if that is okay. But isn't it really a fault?

A tear can be caused by mishandling or your dog running through the garden. It can also be caused by wind or rain. But these are not growth tears.

It seems that very ruffled or laced flowers are the ones that are most subjected to growth tears. These tears are formed in the bud or as the flower opens.

What does the Judges' Handbook say: "A bad tear in a petal seriously affects

the form and must be heavily penalized. Flowers with heavy lace or extreme ruffling complicate the judging process. Unless one has grown these varieties, it is nearly impossible to determine if a small serration in the petal edge is a sign of damage or if it reflects the flower's typical form." p. 68

As I see it, if the growth tear is small or hides well in the folds of the ruffles, then the fault is minor. If the growth tear is large or very noticeable, the fault is major, as demonstrated on the fall of 'Free Will' — which is just tear-able.



Photo: R. Thoman

'Free Will' TB

PHOTO TIP

EPISODE 1

The Overall Garden

By Ron Thoman

When taking a photo of the overall garden, it is important to maintain focus and sharpness throughout the garden. This would be an ideal application for a tripod, except that it is burdensome to carry one into the garden. So how can we get good results with a handheld camera, such as my Nikon 5200 SLR?

First, lighting is important. It is best to take such a photo on a cloudy-bright or sunny day. You normally will be using a wider focal length on your zoom lens. For the accompanying photo, I selected 18-mm focal length.

To limit motion blur, I like to use a shutter speed near 1/200 sec. For good depth of field, I recommend f/8 to f/16. And I allow the ISO value to adjust itself. Don't be overly concerned by higher ISO. A digital ISO 3200 compares roughly to a film ISO 800.

At what distance you focus the camera is important in order to keep the entire garden in acceptable focus. Perhaps you have heard the following rule: "Focus one-half (or one-third) into the scene". I find this confusing. In easier to understand terms, it simply means: "Focus twice as far as the nearest foreground". That is, if the closest part of the scene is at 8 feet, focus the camera at approximately

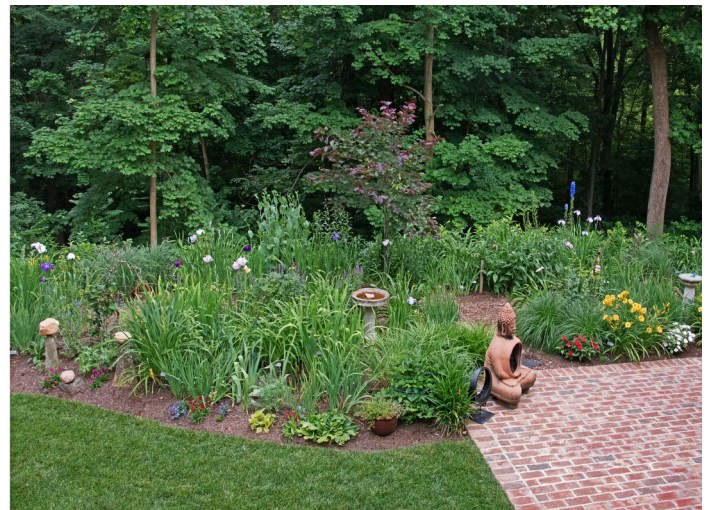


Photo: R. Thoman

Larry and Debbie Westfall Garden

Focal length 18 mm, vibration reduction on, aperture f/7.1, shutter speed 1/200 sec, ISO 1800, 2-sec delay for shutter release (discussed in October article), post-camera sharpening, focus point is about 10 feet past the Buddha.

16 feet. Then hold this focus distance and re-compose the scene.

I further recommend a 2-sec delay be set for shutter release to reduce camera motion due to pressing the shutter button. Also, take several photos. There is always one that is best. And try different camera parameters. Play back the taken photo and magnify it on the LCD camera monitor to check results.

Look for more episodes in this series to be coming soon.