

American Iris Society
Colorado Region Newsletter

Fall 2010



'Queen's Circle'
photo by Steve Blecher
(see page 12)

**Innovative Iris Hybridizer
Vince Christopherson**

of Arlington, Texas, will present a program at the fall meeting of the
Mountains and Plains Iris Society.

October 30, time yet to be determined

Check www.coloradoiris.org or phone Steve Blecher at 303.798.9103

**Daniels Fund Building, First Avenue at Monroe St., Denver
Everyone Welcome. Plan to Attend!**



A Van Liere Seedling (World Premier X Louisa's Song)

**Two Van Liere
Hybrids Seen at
Iris 4-U
in Denver,
May 30 on the
Mountains and
Plains Iris
Society
Garden Tour**



'Crooked Little Smile' - Tall Bearded

NEWSLETTER

Colorado Region (Region 20) of the American Iris Society Fall 2010

Iris News: The highlight of the 2010 bloom season for your editor was the visit to Bob Van Liere's Iris 4-U commercial garden during the Mountains and Plains garden tour. In many years of visiting iris gardens across the country, I don't know whether I've seen such a fine display of healthy, well-grown modern irises.

2010 provided a very good iris season in most of Colorado. The two shows each attracted multiple champion-quality stalks. Iris Society member enthusiasm seems to be at a high level.

Elmohr Iris Society (Colorado Springs) Annual Show-

June 5. Shanna Holiday won the coveted AIS Silver Medal at the Elmohr show. The Silver Medal is awarded to the grower who enters the most irises that win blue ribbons. Shanna Holiday had five blue ribbon entries.

Pictured:
The Best of Show stalk of 'Shelter From The Storm', hybridized, grown, and exhibited by Bob Van Liere.



Blecher photo

(Colorado Springs Show, cont.)

‘Shelter From The Storm’, exhibited by Bob Van Liere, won the Best of Show award. Appropriately, ‘Shelter From The Storm’ is Bob’s own tall bearded introduction. It comes from the cross of ((Calm Stream x Thornbird) X World Premier). Last year ‘Shelter From The Storm’ was runner-up for the Best Seedling award at the Mountains and Plains show in Denver.



Blecher photo

Bob Van Liere’s “Best Seedling” at Colorado Springs

Bob Van Liere continued to accumulate honors by winning “Best Seedling” with his cross of ((Private Stock x Finalist) X Kevin’s Theme). A seedling is any iris that is not yet named and introduced into commerce. Bob’s winning seedling features distinctive color patterns and wide, modern form.

The Elmohr Iris Society in Colorado Springs takes its name from the only Colorado iris to win the AIS’ top award, the Dykes Medal.

The iris 'Elmohr' was hybridized in Colorado Springs by Dr. Philip Loomis and introduced through Long's Gardens in 1942. 'Elmohr' is not only the single Colorado iris, but it is the only arilbred iris to win the Dykes Medal.

Mountains and Plains Iris Show, Denver Botanic Gardens.

May 29. The Mountains and Plains Iris Society was formed as part of the reorganization of the Colorado Region of the AIS two years ago. Their second-ever show, held in Mitchell Hall at the Denver Botanic Gardens, was a great success.

For Best of Show, the AIS judges had to make a difficult decision between two magnificent stalks entered by Lisa Story. The verdict went to the huge red 'Dynamite' from Schreiner's Gardens. A very close second was the well-known 'H.C. Stetson', bred by the late Rob Stetson of Denver.



**Lisa Story with 'H.C. Stetson', 'Dynamite' and Van Liere
seedling 23EW25**

(Denver Show, cont.)



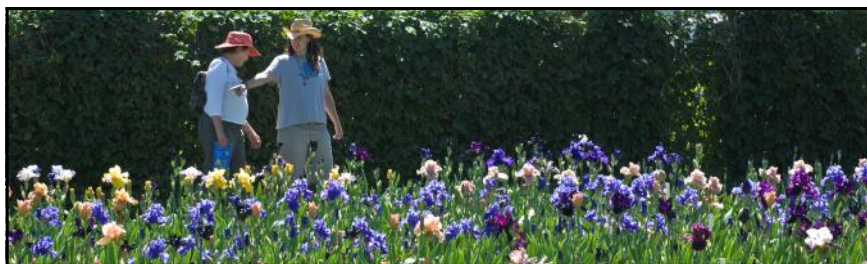
Admiring the Irises on the Awards Table.

The Silver Medal for most Blue Ribbons was won by Orvid and Lois Olsen. Bob Van Liere's well-branched 23EW25 (pictured on page 5) was named Best Seedling by the judges.

Denver Iris Gardens Tour

May 30. A beautiful spring day awaited the participants in the annual tour sponsored by the Mountains and Plains Iris Society. Gardens visited were Iris 4-U, Hudson Gardens and Iris Colorado.

The highlight of the tour was Iris 4-U. Bob Van Liere has done an outstanding job of creating a spectacular huge iris display. The tall bearded irises were wonderfully well grown and at peak bloom.



Iris 4-U is a commercial garden and is a popular spring destination for Denver area flower enthusiasts. Bob exclusively grows and sells tall bearded irises.



At Iris 4-U

Peak iris bloom also greeted the tour party at the iris display bed at Hudson Gardens in Littleton. Created and maintained by the Mountains and Plains Iris Society, the nicely designed display bed has a fine selection of new tall bearded irises and a few nice beardless varieties.



Hudson Gardens Iris Display Bed

(Denver Iris Tour, cont.)

The tour's final destination was Lowell Baumunk's Iris Colorado in Douglas County. Unfortunately, the tall bearded irises had only just begun blooming. Visitors were able to see some nice smaller irises and arilbreds as well as Barbara Lewis' fine rock gardens.



The Arilbred 'Byzantine Ruby' at Iris Colorado

Loomis Iris Society

Due to various circumstances, the Loomis Iris Society chose to cancel their annual show. We look forward to its return in 2011. The Loomis Society serves the lower Arkansas Valley and is centered around Ordway and Rocky Ford.

American Iris Society Convention, Madison, Wisconsin

June 1 - 5. The beautiful Madison, Wisconsin, area provided a fine setting for the annual AIS convention. Each year iris enthusiasts are treated to three days of touring gardens planted with the most recent introductions from hybridizers across the country and to a number of informative programs. Wisconsin had an early bloom season this year, so most of the tall bearded irises were well past their peak bloom. However, Siberian irises were at peak and "stole the show".



**‘China in Springtime’
Species-X in Madison.**

**Siberian irises in Wisconsin, with the
Cook Cup winner ‘Tree of Songs’
in the foreground.**



One of the convention tour gardens near Madison, Wisconsin.

Pete McGrath Presents Program at Region 20 Meeting

July 10. Cutting-edge hybridizer of aril and arilbred irises, Pete McGrath of Albuquerque was the featured speaker at the Colorado Region annual meeting. This year's program was hosted by the Elmohr Iris Society in Colorado Springs.

Aril irises are native to the middle east and are notoriously difficult to cultivate in gardens. Albuquerque's climate provides one of the better places to grow them. Pete has created many hybrids from the arils and has continued the breeding lines of the late Howard Shockey, also of Albuquerque.

Arilbreds involve both arils and regular bearded irises in their parentage. Pete has introduced several of the finest arilbreds available over the past few years. Please see the back cover for photos of some of his amazing pure aril hybrid seedlings.



Morgan photo



'Spirit of Caleb'
photographer unknown

'Spirit of Caleb,' a McGrath arilbred, won the C.G. White Medal in 2009. The C.G. White Medal is the AIS' highest honor for arils and arilbreds. Pete (left) was presented with the medal at the Region 20 meeting by Lowell Baumunk, who had accepted it for him at the AIS convention.

**Visit the Region 20 Website:
www.coloradoiris.org**

American Iris Society Awards for 2009 Are Announced.

'Paul Black', a tall bearded iris hybridized by Thomas Johnson of Oregon has won the Dykes Medal, the AIS' highest award. The awards are based on voting by AIS judges on eligible varieties.



Tasco photo

**The 2009 Dykes
Medal Winner
'Paul Black'
Hybridized by
Thomas Johnson.**

The complete list of
award winners may be
seen on the AIS Website,
www.irises.org

The following Colorado-bred irises received awards:

C.G. White Medal: 'Rivers of Babylon' (AB) L. Baumunk.

Award of Merit: 'Belle de Provence' (TB) L. Baumunk.

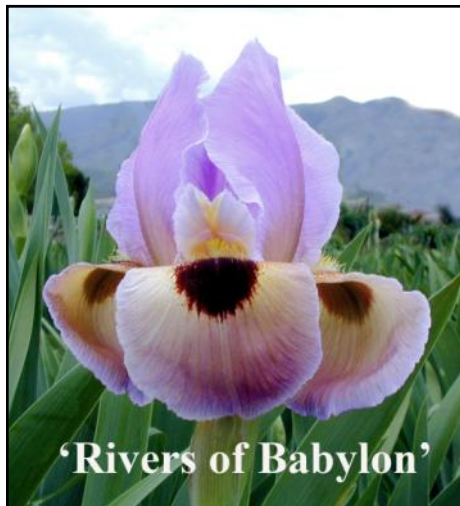
'Zingerado' (BB) L. Baumunk.

Honorable Mention: 'Phantom Ship' (TB) L. Baumunk.

'Loretto Heights' (TB) R. Van Liere.

'Vivaldi' (SDB) L. Baumunk

**Right: 2009 C.G. White Medal
Winner 'Rivers of Babylon'
Hybridized by
Lowell Baumunk**



'Rivers of Babylon'

The C.G. White Medal is the top
award for aril and arilbred irises.

**Join Your Local
Iris Club!**

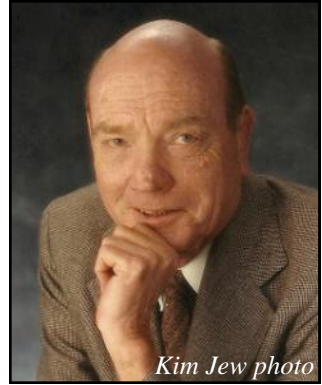
9 **Events & Programs**

Colorado Daylily Wins Top Award.

'Skinwalker', a creation of the late Ned Roberts of Colorado Springs has won the American Hemerocallis Society's top award, the Stout Silver Medal.



Hemerocallis 'Skinwalker'



Ned Roberts

Ned's widow, Colorado Iris RVP Betty Roberts, accepted the medal at the AHS convention in Georgia. 'Skinwalker' is the first "spider" to win the Stout.

Victoria, British Columbia, to Host 2011 Convention.



A huge treat awaits those who will be attending the 2011 American Iris Society Convention. The charming small city with an old-world feel on the tip of Vancouver Island is always a delightful destination.

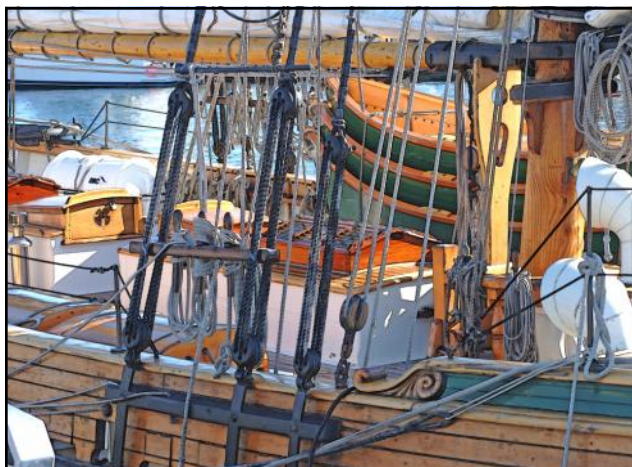
The convention headquarters will be the famous and historic



Empress Hotel. Tours will include the renowned Butchart Gardens.

If you only ever attend one AIS Convention, consider 2011 in Victoria!

For more information go to www.bc-iris.org or www.irises.org



Innovative Iris Photos by Steve Blecher

Mountains & Plains President Steve Blecher is an award-winning photographer. He has perfected a technique for mimicking botanic drawings in iris photographs.



Bellissinado– Spuria



Persona– MTB



Sierra Blue– Historic

***Right:*
For
comparison
is a
botanic
drawing by
the master:
P.J.
Redouté.
Belgian,
1759-1840.**



A Few Words from your RVP

First, let me thank Lowell Baumunk for editing the fall issue of our Region 20 Newsletter. It is incredible how much time and energy it takes to edit a newsletter, so we can all thank Lowell for accomplishing this task.

Next, I'd like to thank all those who made our first Regional Meeting such a success: Jackie Goodwin for chairing the event; the awesome panel consisting of Lowell Baumunk, Catherine Gates, Pete McGrath, Dave Miller, and Randy Penn who were willing to answer any and all questions relating to irises; and Pete McGrath from Albuquerque for presenting a great program on arils/arilbreds. The icing on the cake was the donation of iris rhizomes by Steve Blecher, Catherine Gates, Pete McGrath, Dave Miller, and Randy Penn. Thank you all for your generosity and for making all attendees happy campers with so many wonderful rhizomes, including many exquisite 2010 introductions. If you didn't attend the Regional, plan now to attend next year when it will be hosted by the Mountains and Plains Iris Society.

I have more votes now for the Symposium Ballot than I received last year, but there's still time to download your ballot from the AIS Website and vote for your favorite irises. My report to AIS isn't due for some time, so please vote!

I'm already looking forward to spring, 2011. My iris season was not the best after digging for Elmohr in 2009 and losing several new irises to a mean winter. I'm also looking forward with great anticipation to the AIS 2011 Convention in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and enjoying the luxurious Fairmont Empress Hotel. Run and get your passport and join us!

— Betty Roberts

*Help your Iris Society save \$\$\$
on mailings.*

If you have not already done so, please send your E-Mail address to the Membership Secretary, Lynda Love

RxIris@comcast.net

Beautiful Irises



Krill- Species Hybrid



Rayos Adentro- MTB



***I. missouriensis*- Our Native Species**



Vera- Aril Hybrid



Secret Service- Tall Bearded



Too Below Zero– Tall Bearded



Ruffles and Flourishes- Siberian



Doctor Moody- Historic



Oyez- Arilbred



Nine Lives- SDB



Parisian Dawn– Tall Bearded

Region 20, American Iris Society

Colorado

www.coloradoiris.org

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Revised By-laws

are posted on the Region 20 Website. Send any comments or suggestions to Betty Roberts for consideration by the Board.

*Right: Your Editor,
evaluating irises.
LaHarpe, Kansas, 1945.*



Thank You!

**To the Elmohr Iris Society for their contribution on behalf
of more color in the Region 20 Newsletter.**

Iris Show At Denver Botanic Gardens, May 29



Old Irises and Modern Art



**At the hospitality table: Sally Funk,
Dianne Franson, Carla Huffman
& Sue McCarthy**



**Can anyone identify this
beautiful historic iris
grown by Debra Scott?**



A Fine Photo-Op

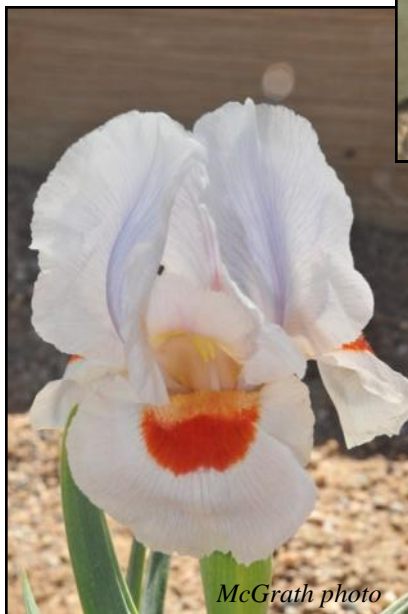


**Tabulating the judges' verdicts:
Donald Morgan, Bud McCarthy,
Randy Penn and Kayellen Daily**

Pete McGrath's Pure Aril Seedlings

See Page 10

Pete's garden in Albuquerque is the only place in the world where these and other spectacular aril hybrid varieties exist!



McGrath photo



McGrath photo

