

Flags



Flags, Issue #2 July, 2011

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From the Webmaster:

Each spring for several years I have had the enjoyment of Mike Fusaro's beautiful photographs to look forward to. It is with pleasure that I print several of his favorites from this spring's bloom for you to enjoy as well. Thanks to everyone for all the positive feedback I received on the first issue of this experiment in publishing we're calling **Flags**. I'm glad so many folks found it enjoyable, and I hope this issue is as well received. Your comments and contributions are always welcome.

Mike Unser

At Right:

Chalice
Sturtevant,
1924, in bud.
Part of:

The Iris
Photography
Of
Mike Fusaro
pg. 9-11
Plus: Cover &
Last Shot



Welcome!

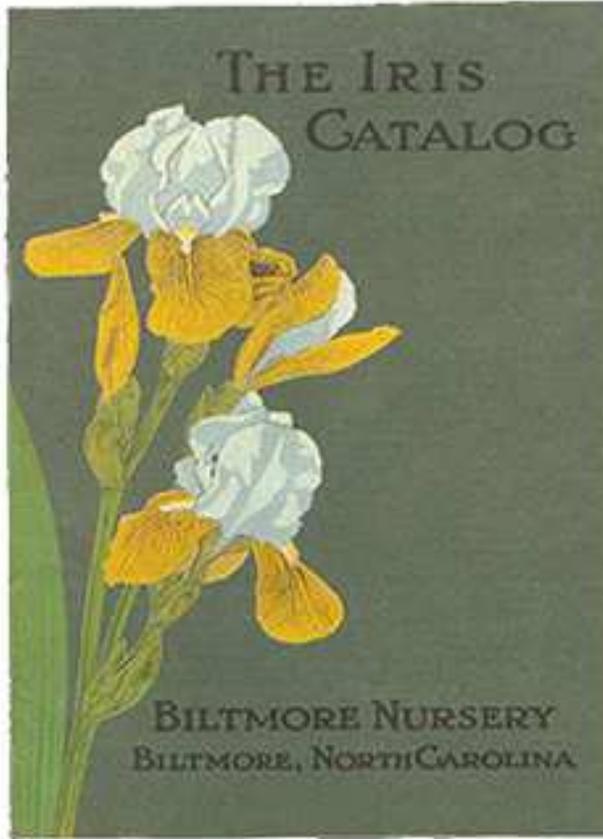
HIPS is proud to welcome the following Board Members: Gary White, President, Judy Eckhoff, Vice President, Sondra Tillou, Acting Treasurer, Jean Richtor, Secretary, Janice Thompson, So. Central Director, Velta Childress, Southeast Director.

Thank you for your service to the cause!

BILTMORE NURSERY

Looking back: 1912

Innocenza



Lady Margaret

Pallida Dalmatica



Mme. Chereau

The Digital Messenger

Iris News from around the Internet

- Check out an amusing anecdote on irises from a young lady who fell in love with them at Presby Memorial Iris Gardens: <http://www.baristanet.com/>
- **The World of Irises**, the AIS Blog, continues to surprise and delight with a great stable of writers (yours truly included!). I'm mostly trying to highlight historic but the topics cover just what the title promises. Check it out at: <http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>
- Have you searched 'irises' on **Youtube**? Give it a try! There are numerous videos of interest to the iris lover, from instructionals to garden tours to slideshows of blooms. Enjoy the spring show all year long. <http://www.youtube.com/>
- This summer John Jones takes over as **AIS Registrar**. Watch for the announcement of the specific date of changeover at the AIS webpage: <http://www.irises.org/News/News.html> Many thanks to Mike Lowe for his many years of service.
- From **Presby Memorial Iris Gardens** on Facebook:
Commenting on the iris called 'Barbara Walther' – "It really is strange that it is not more popular today. A white beard like no other, lovely form, hardy and tall, good grower! I have a feeling it was never really designed for commercial venue. That is why it never became more well known. Perhaps that is the charm of it all...we have a rare 'jewel', something found almost nowhere but Presby, that can be admired and appreciated in the setting it should be in." – Laetitia Munro, Check out the gorgeous photo here: <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10150202866307013&set=a.376252787012.153973.272102717012&type=1&ref=nf>



Got a link to share? Drop me a line at garden.of.mu@gmail.com

Lucky Lindy and His Iris Namesake

By Mike Unser

The early days of aviation were dangerous times and pilots had short life expectancies – in such experimental conditions we can understand that crashes were quite common. But during the 1920's traveling by air was slowly becoming safer and the myriad possibilities of powered flight had caught the public's imagination. The world was primed for a daring new hero of this new age when 25 year old Charles Lindbergh threw his hat in the ring for the \$25,000 Orteig Prize for the first nonstop aircraft flight between New York and Paris. On May 20th, 1927 he took off from Long Island, New York, and headed across the Atlantic where he touched down 33 1/2 hours later outside Paris. He was greeted by 100,000 cheering people and set off a media firestorm that catapulted him to worldwide celebrity.

Altho not the first person to fly across the Atlantic, he did go further than anyone else and he did it solo, which was good enough for most people. The fact that he was young, dashing and charismatic helped fuel the 'Lucky Lindy' hysteria in America and around the world. His notoriety set a new bar for being a media sensation while his flight, along with the resulting media attention and educational and commercial efforts he promoted, helped usher in the age of passenger air travel. It is easy to see why an iris hybridizer would want to commemorate this young man and his heroic feat by naming one of her choice seedlings after the flying ace, and that is just what one hybridizer did.



'Lindbergh', the iris, is a tall bearded variety in a two-toned blue-violet. It was registered in 1927 by Mrs. J. C. (Mabel) Arbuckle and introduced in 1928. The velvety falls are edged in the lighter tone of the standards and are

topped with a white beard tipped pale yellow. It was described in the Longfield Iris Farm catalog for 1934 as "S. light blue violet; F. rich Pansy Violet shaded lighter at the edge. A flower of very pure liquid coloring. An attractive flower in every way, changing with the light of day, of good form, good habit, thrifty and free blooming under all conditions. Unsurpassed for massing. Recommended as a garden iris of very highest quality. 40 inches." And in the Iris City Gardens catalog for 1940 as "Brilliant electric blue bicolor. Not large but tall and quite showy."

In spite of such glowing descriptions, 'Lindbergh' was never a renowned iris, nor an important ancestor in the development of modern varieties. Franklin B. Mead wrote in AIS Bulletin #31 "Another iris of the few he singled out was the debated Col. Lindbergh of the late [A misattribution. -ed.] Mrs. Arbuckle. The sinuosity of the waved margins of the standards and falls was appealing to the sculptor. This iris is tall and graceful with a slender spike. The flower is of good size and substance and it is unsurpassed in its color. Mrs. Arbuckle sent it to me as an improved B.Y. Morrison. It is certainly the superior flower but I would regard it of the Perfection type, a variety long since discarded here, although its color is very beautiful when it comes unblotched. Azure and Rheindraube have been discarded for Col Lindbergh, which is of

even finer garden effect than the almost similar toned Swazi." However, Ethel Peckham had earlier said in the article 'Jaunting with the Judges' (AIS Bulletin #29, pg. 24) "Mrs. J.C. Arbuckle showed a very nice violet blue seedling of pallida type which she proposes to call Charles Lindbergh. As shown, we did not rate it other than a



Lindbergh

pleasant garden flower, though Mr. F. B. Mead, who has grown it, waxes enthusiastic over its pure color." It would seem there were mixed opinions on this variety, but isn't that true of all irises?

Only mention of the highlights of its creator's life have turned up. Mrs. Arbuckle lived in the small community of Shepard that is now just a neighborhood close to city center in Columbus. In the iris circles of the day, she was most notable as the founder and first president of the Columbus Iris Society, of Columbus, Ohio. Tho not a charter member of the American Iris Society, she did become a member in 1921 shortly after it had formed, and remained an active member of the AIS until 1949. She died in Franklin, Ohio, in April of 1968 at the age of 93. Altho Mrs. Arbuckle wasn't an acclaimed hybridizer, she was the person with enough foresight, or perhaps luck, to first register the name 'Lindbergh' in 1927, and has thereby left us an iris variety that's become a lasting heirloom as well as introducing a piece of American pop culture and aviation history into our iris history.

Little else is known of Mrs. Arbuckle in the records. We know from a letter in AIS Bulletin No. 17, Oct. 1925, that she spoke out clearly against the infamous 'Black List' and in favor of keeping historic irises on their own merits, ending with "I feel that when an iris has lived as long as 'Honorabilis' that it has earned the right to live if anyone wants it." Her creation 'Lindbergh' has certainly lived long enough for it to be admired by the connoisseurs who enjoy it, regardless of its lack of a place of renown in the history of iris development. I think she would have been supportive of the Historic Iris Preservation Society and its goals, and I am sure she would be happy to know her lovely iris is still grown and enjoyed.



Two other irises were named in honor of Colonel Lindbergh's achievement:

'**Lucky Lindy**' (Stahlsatz, no R&I noted in 1939 checklist) a white & red-violet amoena TB.

'**Spirit of St. Louis**' (Wolff, 1959) a pale violet self TB with a white beard.

Charles Lindbergh photo by Hailey Francis. Photos of Iris 'Lindbergh' by Mike Unser. The painting of Mrs. Arbuckle is by noted Ohio artist Alice Schille. Many thanks to Anne Lowe for compiling the biographical information on Mrs. Arbuckle. Biographical information on Colonel Lindbergh from Wikipedia and also from *Made In America* by Bill Bryson. Below: composite of Lindbergh related images form around the World Wide Web.



Shekinah



Chalice



Afterglow



Irises by
Grace Sturtevant

Photographs by
Mike Fusaro



Afterglow

Shekinah





Chalice

Know...The Red Douglas

By Laetitia Munro



THE RED DOUGLAS

Created by Jacob Sass, this iris represented the next generation of large 'red' iris, after the likes of Dauntless, Indian Chief and Joycette ruled that color class in the early 30's. It was introduced in 1937 and became the Dykes' Medal winner in 1941. It was extremely popular, sold by almost every major nursery thru the 40's.

And, like many older iris, impostors abound today.

So how can you tell if you have the correct TRD? Not so easy, but let's take a look at a few true TRD and some fake TRD to give you an idea.

TRD is deep red with a purplish cast. It's velvety falls look almost like plush. Compare to some of the older deep reds such as Dauntless and the difference will be apparent. Great descriptions can be found in the HIPS Photo Gallery under that name. But what else can we consider?

For one, it's tall, with large flower, generous rounded falls sporting a bright orange beard, somewhat brighter

than many of its predecessors. It has no PBF, and a slight fragrance.

It can be classified as a self, although because of its rich velvety falls, it may appear bitone in some light. Take a look at the pictures of the true TRD, and see how the same flower can 'show' differently.

The impostor pictures were all taken in gardens, lurking under the name TRD but sadly, they are not. One probable impostor, picture number 10 in the photos below, looks identical in many respects to TRD.

Why is it an impostor? It has standards that never open. The true TRD will gently part its standards as the flower matures. In addition, TRD is not a sturdy flowered iris, and will get battered on a windy day. Number 10 holds its form no matter what rain and wind are inflicted upon it. But the falls and the haft marks are identical. Since it does belong to me, I hope that we can grow it next to the real TRD, just to see if the observations hold up under identical circumstances. Wouldn't it be unique to have two identically flowered iris which behaved differently in the same setting?

Do you have TRD, or 'maybe TRD'? Or do you recognize one of your noids as TRD? Send in your photograph and let us take a look. TRD is a beautiful addition to your historic iris garden and one that we would like to see hang around for a long time to come.

TRUE TRD



1



2



3



4



5

FAKE TRD



6



7



8



9



10

Catalog Photo from Cooley's Gardens catalog, other photos by laetitia Munro & Mike Unser.

Varietal Spotlight:

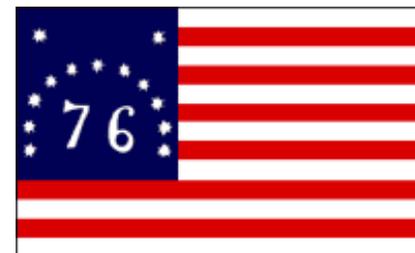
Fourth Of July

(Reynolds, R. 1962) Sdlg. 48H. TB, 36" (91 cm), M
Blue-white self; beard 2/3 bright blue, remainder bright
red. (Snow Flurry x Northwestern) X ((Memphis Belle x
Twilight Sky) x Sunray)



Here's a list of other historic irises with names that evoke this holiday and the imagery and history of America's independence. Are any still grown?

AMERICA Sass 1928
AMERICA Wayside 1927
AMERICAN Essig 1930
BATTLE FLAG Jesse Nicholls, R. 1932
BETSY ROSS Milliken 1943
BUNKER HILL Tobie 1944
COLONIAL Berry 1932
COLONIAL LADY Tharp 1939
CONCORD Waterer 1929
FIREWORKS Wayman 1940
INDEPENDENCE Nesmith 1931
INDEPENDENCE DAY Coll. Wild, Riggs, 1940
LEXINGTON Sheets 1930
LIBERTY Cayeux 1922
LIBERTY BELL Donahue 1931
OLD GLORY Blocher 1973
PATRIOT Fern Robinson, R. 1956
PAUL REVERE McKee 1943
TEA PARTY A. & D. Willott 1978
GEORGE WASHINGTON Washington 1931
MARTHA WASHINGTON Washington 1931



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Flowers
by
Forsyth



Kin-Na-Zin

Tiffanja



**Frances Kent
Grand Teton
Bayberry Candle**



Looking for more on Historic Iris??

If you're looking for more information about older irises check out these suggestions:

IRISES, *the Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, April 2011 A Second Look at the Great Clarence Mystery, by Michael Lockett. History in the making as some of today's top hybridizers try to unravel the unknown parentage of award winning, reblooming iris 'Clarence'.

The May 1959 issue of National Geographic had a wonderful article **History and Beauty Blend in a Concord Iris Garden**, by Robert T. Cochran Jr. with photos by M. Woodbridge Williams. Featuring the iris garden of Stedman Buttrick and the colonial history of his family's farm on the banks of the Concord River. Maybe your local library has a copy. It is well worth tracking down.

The Spring issue of **ROOTS** hit mailboxes in early June. If you did not get your copy be sure to check your membership status with Judy. Drop her a line at: judy67543@gmail.com

Follow HIPS on Facebook - New pics of historic irises are posted almost daily. Why not share yours!

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Please send your questions, comments, suggestions, corrections or any thing else you'd care to share with us to: garden.of.mu@gmail.com

Please feel free to share this file!

In the next issue:

History Reflected: The Boy King & A Royal iris Legacy
Photo Essay: A Plethora of Plicatas ala Jim Gibson
The Iris Photography of Don McQueen
A Preservation Report from Bluffton Memorial
... and much more!



Give me odorous at sunrise a garden of beautiful flowers
where I can walk undisturbed. ~Walt Whitman

