



## *Susquehanna Iris Society* *Newsletter*

**Officers:**

*President: Jay Holcomb (jayh530@comcast.net)*

*Vice President: Gayle Griffie*

*Secretary: Carl Rojahn*

*Treasurer: Jason Leader*

*Vol. 1, No. 2*

*April, 2008*

*Editor: Jay Holcomb*

*814-777-6774*

### *From the President's Desk*

This is a good time to evaluate how your iris made it through the winter. I know that there has been some discussion about the need for mulching iris over the winter and what that mulch should be. I have used straw and that seems to work pretty well as long as it does not blow off. Currently, I am using a heavy white over-wintering cloth. Both the straw and the cloth moderate the temperature so that there is less freezing and thawing; thus, less frost heaving. The thing that I am not sure about is if it is even necessary to mulch plants that are well rooted in the fall. I have seen frost heaving of poorly rooted iris, but don't recall seeing well rooted plants pushed out of the ground by frost heaving. If you wish to weigh in on this mulching issue, please send me your comments, and, maybe before the next mulching season, I will have enough comments to create an article for the fall newsletter. I did find that this year the iris that were covered were not eaten by the deer, but a few that were uncovered were eaten. Maybe that is another reason to mulch.

The next meeting will be April 26, 2008, at our house at 2:00 pm. The program will be presented by Harold Griffie and Jason Leader and is titled "Grooming Iris for a Show". For people that have entered an iris show, this is a good opportunity for you to brush up on the skills you need to prepare your iris for the Show in May or June. If you have never entered an iris in a show, this is an excellent opportunity to find out how to do it. If you know of someone who might be interested in entering an iris in the Show, bring them to the meeting on April 26. Harold and Jason will provide all the information they will need so that they can enter the Show. I remember a long time ago when I was just getting started in iris that Sterling Innerst did such a program and I found it very helpful.

**A How-To demonstration will be presented  
at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**Come and learn how to prepare your prize winning irises  
to be entered into a sanctioned Iris Show.**

**It's easier than you think!!**

### *SIS Chatter*

Do any of you have ideas about rebloom on Siberian Iris?

I ran across another interesting article in The Siberian Iris magazine. Terry Aitkin, in an article titled ‘A Siberian Rebloom Theory’ put forth a hypothesis that some cultivars, such as ‘Halealala’, ‘Coronation Anthem’, ‘Careless Sally’ and a few others, will rebloom until the soil warms up. Based on his experience if the soil temperature is 60°F, then those cultivars will rebloom and flowering will continue until the soil temperature goes up to 68°F. This was based on his experience so the temperatures may not be exact. It is a very interesting theory, and it reminds me of another plant, alstromeria. Alstromeria is a plant that is grown as a cut flower in the greenhouse, and, as we started to grow this plant, often it would stop flowering in the summer but flower fine in the winter. The reason that it would not flower in the summer was that the temperature in the soil was too high in the greenhouse. By cooling the soil, flowering could be extended into the summer. Is this same phenomenon observed in alstromeria also in some Siberian iris? While we await the answer to the question, if you want extended bloom (or rebloom) on some Siberians, it would be important to use a heavy organic mulch that would insulate the soil from the heat of the sun and keep the plants well watered.

### *Featured Iris*



**My Ginny**

*‘My Ginny’ was introduced by Don Spoon in 2000. It is a pink bitone that usually flowers in the mid to the later part of the flowering season. Culture is pretty much the same as with all other tall bearded iris. A nice pink is always nice for the garden.*

## *Calendar of Events for 2008*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>*April 26</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Meeting and program at our house in Wrightsville, PA</b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>9:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Tall Bearded Show at West Manchester Mall</b>
<b>June 21</b>	<b>9:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Beardless Show at West Manchester Mall</b>
<b>July 12</b>		<b>Rhizome Sale at West Manchester Mall</b>
<b>August</b>		<b>Picnic</b>
<b>*September 20</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Meeting and program at our house in Wrightsville, PA</b>
<b>*October 18</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Meeting and program at our house in Wrightsville, PA</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>End of Season Dinner Meeting</b>

*\*Meeting dates are subject to change as necessary.*

### *Directions to the meeting:*

1200 Trinity North Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368

Leaving York on US 30, travel east until exit for PA-462/Wrightsville.  
Slight right onto Cool Springs Rd which becomes N 9<sup>TH</sup> St . At light, cross over  
PA 462 and the road becomes Cool Creek Rd. Go past Eastern York School on your  
right and go down the hill. Near the bottom, take a left onto Trinity North Road.

1200 Trinity North is a yellow house on the right side of the road.