

Symposium Report, Fall 2007

The Symposium is in its usual state of flux for this date—most regional reports are in, and the rest are being tracked down. I will give up-to-date details at the meeting.

Hooker Nichols found an error in the Symposium ballot. It turns out that four iris which won HM's in 2005 did not make it onto either last year's ballot or this year's. I have no idea how the omission occurred or how my multiple checks failed to find it.

The four irises are:

DOROTHY DEVENPORT (Hooker Nichols)

PEACHES AND DREAMS (Joseph Ghio)

PEPPERMINT CREAM (Richard Ernst)

TROPICAL DELIGHT (Michael Sutton)

The standard way of handling such a situation is to give the iris an additional two years on the ballot after it would normally have dropped off. This is easy to do for the large number of iris that do not go beyond an HM. It also is not bad for an AM-winner (as DOROTHY DEVENPORT already is), either—in both cases, just fake the winning year as two years after the actual one. But it gets tricky if one of these iris makes it into the Symposium and stays for a while. I cannot even decide whether I think the time on the ballot should be extended in such a situation. I am leaning toward the position that yes, the time should be extended, but I want to discuss it with the Board.

There has been one significant change in how the Symposium is done by many RVP's in the last few years. For several years Kitty Loberg made available to the RVP's a program in MS Access for counting regional ballots and generating subtotals for them. It was a great convenience for the RVP's who had Access, but with the advent of the Photo Contest Kitty no longer had time to update it. To at least partially make up for that lack, I modified the program I use for doing overall totals so the RVP's could use it. Several have found it a useful timesaver, but others have had problems. Tally sheets are still available.

Gerry Snyder,
Symposium Chair