

American Iris Society: Morgan-Wood Medal-SIB

History: History by Clarence Mahan

This medal is restricted to Siberian (SIB) irises. It is named in honor of F. Cleveland Morgan (1882-1962) and Ira E. Wood (1903-1977).

F. Cleveland Morgan was a pioneer Canadian breeder of Siberian irises and a founding member of AIS. Some of his magnificent cultivars still enhance gardens around the globe. Three of his best known irises are 'Caesar,' 'Caesar's Brother' and 'Tropic Night.' Educated in England and Switzerland, he was a director of the Henry Morgan Company and a patron of Canadian arts. Morgan's association with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts spanned a period of forty-five years, including 8 years as president of that institution. The museum held a special exhibition in 1961 to display more than six hundred works of art that he had donated.

AIS instituted the Morgan Award for Siberian Irises, the predecessor of the Morgan-Wood Medal, in 1951.

Ira E. Wood, who was known as Sandy to his friends, and his wife Betty were both scientists who worked for Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey. They shared their iris hobby and were active in the activities of AIS and the Society for Siberian Irises. They often undertook iris society projects as a team and one of these was the production of the Handbook for the American Iris Society Members and Officers. The AIS awarded them both the Distinguished Service Medal in 1974.

Wood hybridized Siberian irises, but he introduced only one cultivar 'Ong's Hat.' He also served as a director of AIS and as its second vice president.

Winners: The Morgan Award Siberians SIB

The highest award reserved exclusively for Siberian Irises within the American Iris Society from 1952 through 1984.

1952 Tycoon Cleveland
 1952 Eric the Red Whitney
 1953 Caesar's Brother Morgan
 1954 Tropic Night Morgan
 1962 White Swirl Cassebeer
 1963 Snowcrest Gage
 1964 Tealwood Varner
 1965 Violet Flare Cassebeer
 1966 Cool Spring Kellogg
 1967 Blue Brilliant Cassebeer
 1968 Pirouette Cassebeer
 1969 Velvet Night Edwards
 1970 Dewful McGarvey
 1971 Super Ego McGarvey
 1972 Ego McGarvey
 1973 Swank Hager
 1974 Grand Junction McCord
 1975 Halcyon Seas McCord
 1976 Orville Fay McEwen
 1977 Vi Luihn DuBose
 1978 Silver Edge McEwen

1979 Augury McGarvey
1980 Ruffled Velvet McEwen
1981 Butter and Sugar McEwen
1982 Steve Varner Briscoe
1983 Ann Dasch Varner
1984 Pink Haze McGarvey

Winners: The Morgan-Wood Medal Siberians SIB

The highest award in the American Iris Society reserved exclusively for Siberian Irises from 1986 to the present

1986 Butter and Sugar (McEwen)
1987 Steve Varner (Briscoe)
1988 Pink Haze (McGarvey)
1989 Dance Ballerina Dance (Varner)
1990 King of Kings (Varner)
1991 Mabel Coday (Helsley)
1992 Lady Vanessa (Hollingworth)
1993 Jewelled Crown (Hollingworth)
1994 Sultan's Ruby (Hollingworth)
1995 Aqua Whispers A.M. Miller
1996 Shaker's Prayer Warner
1997 Coronation Anthem (Hollingworth)
1998 Frosted Cranberry (A.M. Miller)
1999 Roaring Jelly (Schafer/Sacks)
2000 Over in Gloryland (Hollingworth)
2001 Strawberry Fair (Hollingworth)
2002 Lake Keuka (Borglum)
2003 Careless Sally (Schafer/Sacks)
2004 Blueberry Fair (Hollingworth)
2005 Where Eagles Dare (Helsley)
2006 Riverdance (Schafer/Sacks)
2007 Ships are Sailing (Schafer/Sacks)
2008 FOND KISS (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
2009 RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES (Robert Hollingworth)
2010 HERE BE DRAGONS (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
2011 BANISH MISFORTUNE (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
2012 SO VAN GOGH (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)