

Barbara Alexander
September 24, 1926 - February 23, 2024

Charlotte, North Carolina - Barbara Joyce Alexander, 97, of Charlotte, North Carolina, passed away February 23, 2024. Born September 24, 1926, in Stanly County, North Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Minnie Esther Kimrey and George Alexander Huneycutt.

Barbara is survived by her loving sons, Sam and David (Tassanee) Alexander, her brothers, C.J., Sherman and Gary Huneycutt & many more loving family and friends.

In addition to her parents, Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Robert P. Alexander, and sisters, Prudence McGinnis, and Jane Stetler.

Barbara was active in Mulberry Presbyterian Church and was a dedicated gardener. She was also active in many gardening clubs and had many rare and special plants. She loved to show visitors her garden, walking among the plants and telling their stories.

irises could grow so well in shade. It was in her garden that I first saw *Iris foetidissima*, also known as the stinking iris. I never found this to be true when I saw it blooming in any garden from Washington state at the Aitkins' gardens to North Carolina in Barbara's garden. It was in Barbara's garden, that I learned that beardless irises have an important place in a garden. Siberian irises, both species and introduced varieties, grew well with other species.

As we traveled between gardens during Regionals, Barbara often joined in the calamity of jokes, often started by Ruth Holbrook and picked up by other ladies. There were stops at roadside stands to look or to shop. Between Kathrine Steele and Barbara, I was slowly learning the names of companion plants. It was embarrassing that I would forget the names of those plants by the time it took to get to my car to write down those names.

It is sad to know that another mind vault of information was lost, another garden lost, but most of all a good friend was lost.



Barbara Alexander and Ruth Hoibrook



Iris foetidissima

Thoughts of Barbara Alexander
 by Anita Moran

Barbara Alexander was a member of my Carolina Ladies including Carrie Winter, Katherine Steele, June Hood, Ruth Holbrook, and Julia Hindle. Most of you know I love driving and it was my pleasure to drive these ladies around during Regional Meetings. I did not meet Barbara until she and Dr. Epperson presented species irises at one of the Regional Meetings. That presentation was the reason I went home to plant some seeds I received from SIGNA. I was still new to the American Iris Society, but when I went to Charlotte, North Carolina I was in love with her beautiful garden. I never knew crepe myrtles could reach fifty feet tall, or that

