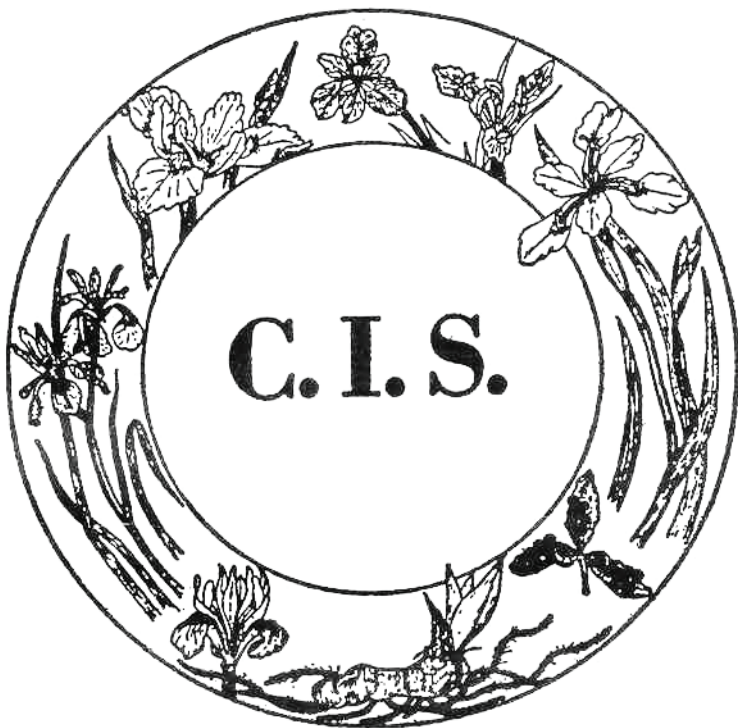

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Winter 2009 Volume 53 Issue 1



Canadian Iris Society

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President's Message

by Ed Jowett



I hope everyone had a good holiday season. With this cold snap I am sure everyone is just hoping for spring. Since our last newsletter we have had two (2) directors' meetings. Our November meeting was mainly spent on having timely events, primarily our news letter. We have twelve (12) people who have volunteered to contribute articles. This means we have twelve (12) different areas of interest. I took on the position of editor as we never received anyone willing to volunteer. I, along with the board, set up a schedule of events involved to produce the newsletter. I send out notices for time to start, a reminder time is soon ending, and a final notice stating we have not received their article. I then have five (5) days to edit and assemble and submit to the printer. We have allowed five (5) days for printing and mailing with hopes the newsletter will reach the mail on the first day of the month we selected for release. We set the following dates: Winter issue Feb 1st, Spring issue May 1st, Summer issue Aug 1st, and Fall issue November 1st. Enough on the newsletter.

Once again this year we are going to offer our share program with the same groupings and pricing as last year. We are looking into some things that occurred last year and when we get the answers we will publish more and final details in the May issue. The four groupings again will be:

Schedule	Type	Description
2008-09	T.B.	Tall bearded years 2008 & 09 intro
2004-07	T.B.	Tall bearded years 2004 thru 2007
2008-09	Medians	Medians including SDB's 2008 & 2009
2004-07	Medians	Medians including SDB's 2004 thru 2007

Once again this year we have scheduled our show and picnic to be the same day. See our calendar of events for time and place.

Since we are a Canadian organization, I have asked each region or province to give a list of their coming events or open gardens to visit in their perspective areas; also to send in articles of their interest, since we all have different interests.

If you feel you could help BCIS in any way with their AIS convention in 2011, I am sure they would love to hear from you. They have a lot of work involved in the next couple of years. You can find who and where to contact from our Liaisons and Regional Groups page.

Some of the new areas of information we hope to include in each issue are Growers Corner, New Introductions, Botanical Corner, and Around the World.



I have learned recently that Verna Laurin (a long time active member of the board and a great promoter of both the CIS and the AIS) has moved from her home in Willowdale to Aurora. I am sure most people in Ontario would have met her as she was a master judge and could always be found judging at our shows in the Hamilton, London, and Toronto areas. I am sure she would like to see people and reminisce about old times. Her address can be found at the front of this bulletin as she has been an honorary director since 1996 up until as late as 2005, and maybe a little later still came to the board meetings.

One of the new writers sent me this comment with her article and I quote "I had a blast doing this and (providing it sounds O.K. to you) can't wait to continue for the next article. I already have a plan for its format. Cheers!

A tip I learned while complaining about crab grass: John Moons who is a professional gardener answered question, "Where does it start?" Answer: At the edge of the garden nearest the lawn. He mentioned that you don't find it out in the middle of your garden, but at the edges. He suggested keeping the garden edges near the lawn well cultivated and see how much this helps. I am hoping this is correct because I am tired of hand weeding and not really cultivating the edges. Thanks John. I am sure to try it.

If you have any questions or tips send them to us and we will try and get you the answers.



Ed Jowett



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New and Newsworthy

by Nancy Kennedy

Welcome to a new series of articles featuring iris introductions of the past year and the recent efforts of our more well-known hybridizers, near and afar. Here we will focus on the new and newsworthy iris introductions, with this first article featuring two West Coast growers, the **Aitken Salmon Creek Gardens** of Vancouver, Washington, and **Mid-America Gardens** located in Salem, Oregon (neighbors, you might say).

As a thick blanket of snow now covers most Canadian gardens, I find myself eagerly awaiting next bloom season and flowers from the 2008 introductions which I invested in last year from Aitken's. Top of my want list, and one to surely impress, was *Going Green*, not only for its unusual coloring but also for its purported massive height at 42" and ability to survive our challenging growing conditions owing to its origins. This is a sultry offering from hybridizer **Mego of Poland** featuring olive green/gold under white domed standards with a flush of olive up the midribs and soft yellow beards. Also from Aitken's comes *Sprint*, a border-bearded, born of award-winning parentage and a prolific increaser, a beautiful combination of smoky blue-violet standards, darkening in the centre, over wide-splayed white falls sporting bright coral red beards. Another must have for me.

The Salmon Creek hybridizers (Aitken/Markham/Smith/Fisher) have introduced several interesting combo yellows for 2008. *Color Me Different* is just that. Its standards have a light green/yellow sanding on a white ground, ditto for the falls. A pastel flower, it has darker tan/gold hafts, style arms and beards of yellow/gold, atop tall 40" strong stalks. *Copper Fusion* is said to be a vigorous plant with nicely bud-proportioned show stalks of some 35". It's an interesting color pot of reddish/copper domed standards over bright white flaring falls rimmed in a muted yellow/orange, and sporting a bright bushy coral beard. *Polished Bronze* from Lynn Markham is aptly named for its shimmering bronze flowers with antique gold beards, held high at 40" – sounds impeccable!

Other offerings from this family of hybridizers include several whites and near-whites, some spaceagers and romantic pastels. *Battlestar Atlantis* is a massive (at 42") pure white spaceager with spoons, horns and/or flounces – depending on what the flower chooses to provide. *Snow Lion* is a midsize early bloomer which opens cream and fades to white, petals tipped in gold with a touch of coral at the shoulders and an orange-tipped beard; good bud count and length of bloom here. For those who want to add to their Victorian gardens, there are a couple of lovely ruffled and laced romantic peaches and pinks. *Pink Presence* is a particularly beautiful star-dusted pale pink. Rounding out their TB introductions for 2008 is a phenomenal cosmic, shimmering ocean blue in *Island Pearl* from **Terry Aitken**. One can see tinges of red-purple distributed top and bottom and all around the round falls. A tall, medium to late variety, truly a break from the traditional with its overlay of pearly wash. Must be seen to be appreciated, I'm sure.

In the offerings also are several miniature tall bearded – a lavender/tan combo, white, orange and a handsome purple amoena named *Bit of Royalty*. One absolute standout amongst their SDB's this year was **Marky Smith's** *Extraterrestrial*, truly looking like a visitor from outer space. Soft upright peach standards top a wizardry of purple streaks and stitches on white falls inside an orange halo containing bushy tangerine beards. Cosmic? Can't wait to see that one. *Ninja Turtles* by Aitken, with 3 buds per stem and mid-season bloom, is a quick clump-former producing masses upon masses of



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BE BRIEF

MDB , 7" (18 cm) , Mid-season Late

flowers, described as turtles. These olive green plicatas sport blue halos around white thumbprints on the falls, encasing the blue beards. Yet another winner from Marky Smith, *Anubis*, will satisfy those who crave the black iris. This little ruffled wonder isn't all black though; on looking inside one sees style arms in old gold and jazzy root beer beards. There are even a couple of new mini dwarf bearded iris to start the season off with.

Moving on now to Mid-America Gardens, **Paul Black** and **Tom Johnson** introduced a myriad of wonderful plants in 2008, far too many to describe in one short essay. These fellows offered near 50 new varieties in 2008, predominantly TB's, so in summarizing their work I will have to **Be Brief** – the name of their single MDB introduction. This little 7" pixie is a butter color base with black/purple plicata and plum dotting, becoming a near-solid mass of dark purple at the hafts, and profiling brown beards. Exquisite little thing when viewed from above, as most DB's should be. Some six yellow-spectrum SDB's, a few reds and a couple of blues are offered this year, mostly from Paul Black. *Peanut Butter Swirl* is a mid to late bloomer, crinkled and ruffled. Standards are diamond-dusted old gold with chocolate infusion creeping upward, the falls sporting red-brown spots, gold rays and veins around rich gold beards. *Juicy Tidbit* is a lovely pinkish/apricot cream and gold gilt combo with tangerine beards on horizontally flared and ruffled falls. *Intergalactic* is an eye-popping canary yellow early SDB with an overall sanding of light brown on the standards, just a touch on the falls - a most interesting plicata pattern and certainly something for the collector. *Life* is a rather tall and late-blooming mauve over smoky wine combo while *Lavender Lynx* is a little lighter in colour and a later bloomer. *Ocean Pearl* is a tall SDB at 15", light pearly blue with white beards, a ruffled flower with a hint of lace. An interesting pattern appears in *Prowler*. The dark purple flowers are riddled with a network of navy-blue veins and an occasional white ray shooting out from the tangerine beards. ▶

For those who enjoy the bold statements that some iris can make, there are several offered this year. *Snapshot* by **Tom Johnson** is a very short TB at 32" but will establish a powerful presence in your garden with its blazing gold standards and a gold thumbprint in the centre of the mahogany falls, with mahogany veins streaking through the gold. A strong and robust plant, just like *Scatterbrain* with its equally wild markings of the same general color combination. Its gold-rimmed white standards are a grounding point to the wild red imagery here on this tall 40" late bloomer. Paul Black has produced a couple of strong and flashy TB's this year also, in *Cat Call* and *Cheap*. Again, to standards of the medium yellow/apricot spectrum has been added vibrant dark plum and red-purple, one sporting dark orange beards, the other old gold. If you are looking for a wow factor, any of these will fit the bill. *Fly Your Colors* uses a similar color combination, yet a little



CAT CALL
TB , 36" (91 cm) ,
Mid-season Late

more reserved. At 36" this heavily ruffled and uniquely-colored robust plant takes you into the late season, as does *Man's Best Friend*, an intermediate-bearded (25"), said to be one of the best performers in the garden. Its slate violet standards are held open over strongly flared falls of a rich red-brown, narrowly banded in slate violet. White darts peak out from the yellow beards. One of the tallest at 44" and probably the last to bloom, *Magic Masquerade* will dominate your late season iris show. This heavily ruffled large flower is a rich velvety dark wine topped by tan-banded white standards held somewhat open. Gold beards and white rays at the shoulders complete the show. Growth is strong and vigorous.

On a more subtle note, and one of my personal favorites, *Gothic Romance* (Black) is that inspiring combination of dark over light. Upward-creeping smoky grape haze infuses the ribs of the standards. At the peach-buff shoulders can be seen wide tropical tangerine beards and clearly visible veins through the off-white falls. Come in close to admire this beauty and smell the exotic spices. A vision of romance is apparent in several beautifully ruffled varieties from the pink, peach and mauve palate – *For Lovers Only*, *Love Me True*, *Romantic Melody* and *Luscious Lace*, amongst others, and a pastel lemon chiffon reverse amoena in the small-flowered *May Debut*. A small-flowered TB is an interesting twist in breeding, something for collectors, and Paul Black has offered a couple of new introductions this past year. Many beautiful blues were also offered in 2008 – *Cloudscape* and *Baltic Sea* being two of their late season varieties. Once again, for black iris fans, *Lady Of The Night*, a border bearded, and *Crete*, a mid-season by Johnson, are sure to impress.

Check out the web sites of these two hybridizers for more in-depth information and beautiful pictures.

The April issue will profile two well-known hybridizers, one right here at home and the other a world away. We will look at our Canadian award-winning hybridizer **Chuck Chapman** as well as **Barry Blyth** from Australia, and what they have contributed to our iris world in 2008 and 2009.



Garden Diggings Winter 2009

By Christopher Hollinshead

What to do in the winter? There are quite a few useful iris related activities to keep you occupied. This is considered the off season, a time for renewal, a time to plan for the upcoming season.

Get yourself some iris catalogues to peruse. These are available each year from iris specialists small to the mega-large. Don't discount the smaller sources as they often have very interesting product that is unavailable from the large iris growers. The larger businesses provide printed color catalogues while many of the others are providing listings or internet only type catalogues. You will want to do your homework so that you are knowledgeable about your iris purchases. Spend a little time to get yourself lined up with some reputable iris sources. I would suggest using two to three sources per year maximum. Enough for variety but not too many that you are overwhelmed with too many varieties to plant, manage and properly assess. If you are just starting out, perhaps start with one source and a smaller quantity of quality varieties so you can learn how to grow them properly and appreciate the each varieties characteristics in your garden. The AIS Bulletin has a listing of iris sources in each issue which covers about a dozen pages. These folks are all AIS members/supporters and are usually extremely reliable both in providing only correctly named AIS registered iris varieties and executing the delivery of your order in a timely manner with quality plants. The CIS newsletter has a similar listing but it is much shorter. You may wish to go with a Canadian source as the importation of plants from USA can be costly and much more involved.



Every year there are hundreds of new iris varieties registered with the AIS. The AIS is the recognized official world registry of iris. Each iris variety is first "registered" with the AIS and later on it is "introduced". An iris is considered "registered" when the application is accepted and approved by the AIS Registrar. Following this, when an iris is offered for sale to the general public and when proof of that is submitted to the AIS Registrar it would then be considered "introduced". The date/year of registration and introduction are usually different. The year of "introduction" is the year date you commonly see published next to the iris variety name in articles or catalogue listings.

So at this point with catalogues in hand, and thousands of irises out there, how does one decide which new iris to acquire? There are several ways to start your acquisition ►

list; You may have admired a particular variety in someone's iris garden the previous season and hopefully made note of the specific variety name. This first hand observation is an excellent method for picking not only good looking iris bloom but good growing iris. Not all irises have both attributes but the better iris hybridizers strive for a good combination of both. Maybe you attended an iris convention or iris garden tour and saw potential candidates for your garden. Maybe you have added an iris to your want list from an article in the AIS Bulletin or CIS Newsletter. Another great way to condense your listing or even to start one is to go to the AIS Awards listings that are produced each year. These irises that made this list have already been judged as higher quality by accredited AIS iris judges. These folks know quality iris when they see them. While this may not be a perfect method on its own as there is some subjectivity involved, it trims the list to some very current, quality plants. Look at the AM listings, HM listings and of course the main medal award winners. You may already find that you grow some of these irises. The award listings for the last few years are available on both the AIS website (www.irises.org) and the CIS website (www.cdn-iris.ca)

Another good starter point for someone starting out growing TB irises is the AIS top 100 TB iris ranking. This is a yearly listing of tried and true varieties that are popular but not necessarily the latest innovative plants. Later on with more knowledge and experience you may want to graduate to the more current listings such as the AIS annual awards mentioned above.

Review the catalogue listings for your upcoming new iris acquisitions, make your want list and set up your new iris order. A suggestion is to place your iris order with your preferred supplier the earlier the better as some plants are in limited supply and sell out early. These you will receive and plant in July/August 2009 for 2010 bloom. Now that's looking ahead! The results will be worth it. Keep the cycle going every year. You'll get better at selecting irises each successive year and its fun too!

This is also an excellent time to plan your garden changes for the upcoming 2009 season, new gardens, bigger gardens, perhaps smaller gardens with updated content (quality over quantity). Keep track of your irises correct AIS registered names. This is an important activity for your own garden organization as well as if you ever want to donate extra plants to your local iris club sales. Update your garden map of the plantings and you could also make new or replacement iris signage for each of the plants over the winter. Knowledgeable garden visitors appreciate having the iris variety name readily available for their notes or photographs and you will find it useful too.

This time off lets you renew your enthusiasm for gardening and if you think about it you may accomplish some important gardening related tasks to make your garden a better one ...and that itself is a never ending task.

I wish you very good Garden Diggings in 2009.



Note: I will be doing Garden Diggings as a regular column for upcoming CIS Newsletters. Christopher Hollinshead

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Rosalie's Secret Garden

by Clarence Mahan

Most people who visit **Rosalie Figge's** garden in Towson, Maryland for the first time probably have the same initial reaction. Houses are quite close together on Maryland Avenue and the front grounds are, shall we say, limited. Rosalie's front garden is not only small, but also occupied by an old Norway spruce which has grown so large as to almost conceal the house. The borders of the small lawn are filled with a lush assortment of beautiful shrubs, perennials, dwarf trees and other assorted flora, both common and exotic. One border was for many years dominated by a huge planting of the wonderful pink tall bearded iris VANITY, widely known throughout AIS Region 4 as Rosalie's favorite iris. Still, the front garden is very "limited." And so, the new visitor immediately thinks to himself: "A tour of this garden will be over quickly."

The first impression that this is a small garden is soon discarded. The visitor proceeds through a garden gate and walks along a plant-lined path to the back of the house. Suddenly, a virtual garden of Eden comes into view. This is Rosalie's Secret Garden, made possible by the fact that our beloved Mrs. Figge owns the land behind several of her neighbor's lots on Maryland Avenue. It is a delight, a joy, an oasis of much pleasure for plant lovers.

Once I visited Rosalie's garden when the bloom season for plants was very late; consequently there were only dwarf and intermediate irises in flower. The lilacs and lilies of the valley, which are planted in abundance, were, however, in full bloom. The mixed fragrance of these two "old-fashioned" flowers filled the air. This was when I first realized just how great the sensual pleasures of a garden can be.

Over the years Rosalie's garden has been on many tours, but I do not remember it any more lovely than this year. There is so much to see and appreciate that a brief tour stop is simply not adequate to take it all in. Rosalie has been adding many exciting new plants. This year the mountain laurels, *kalmia latifolia*, in shades of pink and pink with red centers, were spectacular. Many of the coral bells in my own garden were gifts from Rosalie, so I know her fondness for this lovely perennial. One named 'Montrose Ruby' in her garden was growing well and has clear, vibrant red flowers—I marked it down to obtain at the earliest opportunity.

Some of the interesting and attractive plants to be seen in Rosalie's garden are *Styrax obassia*, *Styrax japonica*, the "Paperback Maple" (*Acer griseum*), the "Fullmoon maple" (*acer japonicum*), the "Coral Bark Japanese Maple" (*Acer palmatum*), "Serviceberry" (*Amelanchier laevis*) which blooms so early in the spring, "Katsura tree" (*Cercidiphyllum japonica*), "Chinese Fringetree" (*Chionathus retusus*), *Cornus kousa*, the seldom seen *Franklinia* tree, a spectacular "Pink-a-boo" *deutzia*, and scores of other trees and shrubs. It is altogether quite splendid.

The irises were growing very well, and there were lots of old and new cultivars to see. The first iris which caught my eye was the charming dwarf Siberian iris BABY SISTER (McEwen 1986) which is violet with a prominent signal. Next, I strolled over to look at Rosalie's nearly complete collection of all the American, French and British Dykes Medal winners. One seldom gets an opportunity to see all these award-winning irises in one garden, so it was a



Dykes Memorial Medal

real pleasure to see many of my old favorites. Suddenly, at the far end of the American Dykes bed I saw a beautifully ruffled clean white iris. Since a truly white iris has not won the Dykes Medal for many years, I became very curious. The iris was AMERICA'S CUP (McWhirter 1989). A sign in front of the iris read "Should be a Dykes." A political statement smack dab in the middle of the iris garden! It brought many smiles to the faces of the garden visitors. And based on its performance at the time of our visit, one must conclude that there is some merit to Rosalie's viewpoint.

My favorite tall bearded iris on display was CHANGE YOUR WAYS (Ernst 1995). The standards are a brown blend with mauve streaks and the falls are violet with brown rims. The yellow hafts give a glow to the flower which draws one's eye to it. It had other fine attributes, and I made a note to acquire it for my garden.



Rosalie Figge the Iris

By Christopher Hollinshead

Rosalie Figge (McKnew 1993), Type: Tall Bearded, Color: Purple, Style: Self, Hybridizer: Jane McKnew, Year of introduction: 1993, Height: 39", Bloom Season: Mid, Rebloom: Yes, Fragrant: Yes, AIS Awards: HM 1996, AM 1999

This tall bearded iris is a dark reddish-violet self and a descendant of the 1988 Dykes Medal winner Titan's Glory (Schreiners 1981). It has excellent growth and bloom habits. The moderately sized flowers have a slight ruffling and are completely saturated in dark reddish purple. This iris has a sweet fragrance during bloomtimes and is known to have reblooming genetics and tendencies.

It's always interesting to know the story behind a plant and we hope that you enjoy this one.

The Dykes Medal is the highest award of the AIS. Awarded to no more than one iris per year. Named for one of the co-founders of the AIS, William Rickatson Dykes (1877-1925). It is open to iris from any category starting the year after they first win the medal award of their own category.

Two other irises I thought attractive were DREAMSICLE (Schreiners 1995), a deep pink with tangerine beards and hafts, and GOOD LOOKING (Schreiners 1995), a really sensational dusky lavender with beards of the same color. And then there was the space age iris BUGLEBOY BLUES (Sutton 1996). This very blue iris has many fine attributes—good bud count, branching, foliage—but its most distinctive feature is its prominent blue “spoons.”

Although BUGLEBOY BLUES was the most beautiful blue iris I saw, it was not the most beautiful blue in the garden. The most beautiful blue was the color of little Justin Kleiber’s eyes. Little Justin is Rosalie’s great grandson, and he and his mother Beth, a life member of AIS, were at the garden to help her with her hostess chores.

Another tall bearded iris that received favorable attention from those on the tour included the bright near-red DYNAMITE (Schreiners 1997). One of the parents of this iris is WAR CHIEF (Schreiners 1992) which I consider the best red iris I have ever grown. If DYNAMITE performs as well as its parent, it may well become a garden classic. Many people also liked Terry Aitken’s SEIZE THE SIZZLE (Aitken 1997), a light red violet with a white area around the beard. The beard must be the “sizzle” for it is bright red. Visitors also commented favorably on the English iris AMERICAN PATRIOT (Bartlett 1997), with white standards, blue violet falls edged white, and a red beard; BLUE NOTE BLUES (Ernst 1997), a ruffled medium blue with pale yellow beard; ICE CREAM TREAT (Ernst 1997), with peach standards, near white falls edged and veined peach, and a tangerine beard; and COLOR ME BLUE (Schreiners 1997), a heavily ruffled light blue with white beard.

Among the many attractive garden features at Rosalie’s, one that many younger people might not have recognized is an old washing machine spinner. Even some older visitors might not have recognized it for this large white tub with many holes in it is now a flower planter, and teams with such plants as verbena and pelargonium. One woman’s junk is another woman’s useful garden ornament.

There was so much to see in Rosalie’s garden, and so little time. There were great refreshments to be had, and our gracious hostess, as always, made us all feel welcome and right at home. Thank you, Rosalie, for a great time. And thank you, too, for being such a good sport!



*Notes: Iris friend and former AIS President, **Clarence Mahan** resides in Falls Church, Virginia. Unfortunately since this garden visit article was originally written, Rosalie Figge passed away in April 2006. There is a nice tall bearded iris named for her, ROSALIE FIGGE (McKnew 1993)*

*Notes and articles provided by **Christopher Hollinshead**, former AIS RVP.*

Visit the CIS website for all the current news events and activities of the Canadian Iris Society: www.cdn-iris.ca

Rosalie Figge

by RosalieAnn Beasley

Rosalie Mary Yerkes Figge

Birth: July 30, 1909 Henderson Vance County, North Carolina, USA

Death: April 10, 2006 Baltimore County, Maryland, USA

Parents: Dawson Martin Yerkes (1882 - 1962) Myrtle Grace Harris (1882 - 1954)

Spouse: Frank H. J. Figge (1904 - 1973)

Rosalie Yerkes Figge, 96, an editor and AIS iris judge emeritis, for whom a deep-violet reblooming variation of the flower was named, died in April 2006. For the first half of her life, Mrs. Figge took care of her family and supported the research efforts of her husband, Frank H.J. Figge, chairman of the

department of anatomy at the University of Maryland Medical School. She oversaw a colony of 10,000 laboratory mice, and she assisted in the editing and proofreading of the "Sobotta/Figge Atlas of Human Anatomy" (1974).

Later, her garden, with its arboretum-quality specimen plants, attracted visitors from around the world, and was most recently featured on the 1995 National Tour of the Japanese Iris Society (a division of the American Iris Society). She herself attended almost every national convention and numerous international iris gatherings until she was 92 years old.

She was an editor of the Reblooming Iris Society "Recorder" (1978-1983) (RIS is another division of the AIS), past



Rosalie Figge loved irises and attended many AIS Conventions

president of the RIS (1996 - 1999); a recipient of the AIS's Distinguished Service Award; and past president of the Maryland-based Francis Scott Key chapter of AIS.

The late **Jane McKnew** of Pasadena, Maryland, one of her iris proteges, bred and named a beautiful deep-violet reblooming iris in her honor. The iris 'Rosalie Figge' is now one of the most popular garden irises in Europe as well as in North America.

Mrs. Figge was born in Henderson, North Carolina at her mom's home, and brought up in a suburb of Philadelphia near her father's family. She was a 1931 graduate of Goucher College in Towson. She married in 1932 and moved to Baltimore where she had two daughters.

Over the years, Mrs. Figge advocated for her causes and pursued her vocations as if they were full-time jobs. She belonged to numerous genealogical, horticultural and conservation organizations. She had been a chapter president of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a docent for the DAR Museum in Washington. She was editing a book manuscript for a friend the week before she died. She belonged to the Edith S. Stidman unit of the Maryland Association of Parliamentarians and was parliamentarian at the national meetings of the American Iris Society at the time of her death.

She served on the board of Florence Crittenton Services and was a life member of the Girl Scouts of the USA. She established a fund to support undergraduate biology research at Colorado College. Goucher College named her a "Goucher Treasure" for 2006.

Mrs. Figge, an intellectually curious and intrepid traveler, had visited all the continents except Antarctica. In her seventies, she took her grandchildren on trips to Europe, Africa and Asia. She studied German at a language school near Munich and visited five ancient civilizations in one calendar year. Her most recent trip was to England in 2002 for British Iris Society meetings and the Kew Gardens show.

A son died in infancy in 1943. Her husband of 41 years died in 1973. She was survived by her two daughters, seven grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.



CIS membership message:

Not sure of your Canadian Iris Society (CIS) membership term? Check your mailing label of the CIS newsletter for your current CIS membership term dates. If you receive the electronic version of the CIS Newsletter and you wish to know this information please e-mail the CIS membership chairman at cdn-iris@rogers.com and we will be pleased to advise you. Early renewals are always appreciated.

Notes: RosalieAnn Beasley, the author of this item is the daughter of Rosalie Figge.

*Notes and articles provided by
Christopher Hollinshead, former AIS RVP.*

The Genus Iris

by John Moons

When we study the Iris, it is useful to organize the different kinds of Irises in groups. This is useful when hybridizing; identifying preferred growing conditions, and predicting bloom and optimum transplant times. One simple way to do this is to look at the parts of the plant that are underground or right on the ground level.

We see 3 different plant structures:

Rhizomes – Rhizomes are basically creeping stems. The roots grow on the underside and the leaves stand on top. The rhizomes store the food supply that helps the plant come through the winter or periods of drought. Siberian and bearded fall into this category.

Bulbs or bulb-like organs – In this group the rhizomes are very short with roots at the underside and a bulb-like organ that is really a set of leaves on the top. This is also used to store food. The Juno Iris goes further and has a bulb and thick roots to store food. The spring-blooming reticulates are part of this group.

Tuberous roots – This grouping stores its food supply in its roots. We see this only in the Iris Nepalis, not grown often in this part of the world.

Another way to bring order to the genus iris is to look at more than the lower parts of the plant. Linnaeus gave us a classification system using two names. He distinguished plants mainly by the structure of the flowers. In this system, the genus Iris has been divided into about 200 species. Because the genus Iris has so many species, the different species have been grouped together into sub-genera. The six sub-genera are:

Iris sub genus Iris
Limniris
Nepalensis
Xiphium
Scorpius
Hermadactyloides

The different iris species are not evenly divided over the different sub-genera. Some of the sub-genus Iris has six sections:

Iris
Psamitis
Oncocyclus
Regelia
Hexapogon
Pseudoregelia ▶



Iris sub-genus Iris, section Iris is the place where you will find the well-known species Iris Germanic, Iris pallida, Iris spuria, iris pumila and Iris variegata. Iris Germanic includes the bearded Iris with all its hybrids. Here we find further divisions based on the height of the plant when it is in flower.

The divisions are:

Miniature Dwarf Bearded	MDB
Standard Dwarf Bearded	SDB
Intermediate Bearded	IB
Border Bearded	BB
Miniature Tall Bearded	MTB
Tall Bearded	TB

Iris sub-genus Limniris has 2 sections:

Lophiris
Limniris

Iris sub-genus Limniris section Lophiris has as best known species, Iris japonica

Iris sub-genus Limniris section Limniris is further divided into 16 series.

The Pacific Coast Irises belong to the series called Californicae. The hybrids in this group are more popular than the species.

The Hexagona series has a number of water-loving irises from the southern United States call Louisiana iris.

The Laevigatae series also have a number of water-loving species Some familiar names are Iris ensanta, Iris pseudocorus and Iris versicolor.

The Siberian series has plants that come from Asia. The best known is the Iris sibirica.

Iris sub-genus Xiphium. These irises are the bulbous plants and they develop into the hybrids that we know as English, Spanish and Dutch Irises.

Iris sub-genus Scorpiris. There we find the Juno Irises, with their bulbs, fleshy roots and quite often a lot of leaves. Some species are Iris albo-marginata, Iris bucharica and Iris persica.

Iris sub genus Hermadactyloides; in this sub genus are the dwarf bulb irises. The skin on the bulb is netted and they have one or two long leaves that are often square. The flowers have often bright colors and they bloom very early in the spring. The best know species are Iris danfordiae and Iris reticulate with its cultivars.




Editor's Note: I hope I copied and spelt the names correctly.

American Iris Society Region 16

2009 Winter Report

by Kate Brewitt, AIS Region 16 RVP

reetings to all CIS members. I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. The weather across Canada was 'crazy' during December; with snow from British Columbia to Newfoundland. Canada had its first coast to coast white Christmas since 1971. But let's think spring!

The Toronto Region Iris Society (TORIS) has its first garden show on February 21st. ***Get the Jump on Spring*** is being held Saturday, February 21st from 10 am to 4 pm at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (at Leslie Street), Toronto. Admission is free! This is the TBG's annual horticultural open house which showcases horticultural societies, garden clubs, environmental organizations, and nurseries from all over Ontario. Throughout the day there will also be informative seminars. Check the TBG website for details, www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca or call 416-397-1340.

The 2009 AIS National Convention, ***3 Trails KC***, is being held May 11th to 16th in Kansas City, MO. It will be hosted by the Greater Kansas City Iris Society (GKCIS), an affiliate of AIS Region 18. The guest gardens will include three major public display gardens: Powell Gardens, Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden and Kansas State Research and Extension Center plus two private gardens, Murrain/Waddick Prairie Views and Hughes' Hidden Haven. The sixth garden is a National Historic Site, Lanesfield Historic School. Early bird registration deadlines are February 15th and March 15th. Check their website for details and registration – www.kciris.org.

From June 11th to 14th the Iris Society of Minnesota (ISM), an affiliate of AIS Region 8, will be hosting the Beardless/Species Iris Convention, ***Beardless Iris Tyme 2009***, in Bloomington, MN. This four day event will include judges' garden training at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Early bird registration deadline is April 1st. Check their website for details and registration www.irismn.org.

If you are interested in learning more about AIS Region 16, or the AIS, you can find all sorts of information on our website at www.aci.on.ca/~kbrewitt/AIS_Region_16.

And remember, think SPRING!





© Trails End Iris

ABOVE THE CLOUDS - Tall Bearded - 36"

Hybridizer Year Schreiner '01

Season Early to Mid to Late

Style Self

Standards Light, Cerulean Blue

Falls Light, Cerulean Blue

Beards Light Yellow With White Tip

Substance 2-3 Branches With 8-9 Buds

Comments Exuberantly Ruffled and Broad,
Wide Falls. Vigorous Plant

Awards/Year HM '03



© Trails End Iris

BABY BLESSED - Standard Dwarf Bearded - 10"

Hybridizer Year Zurbrigg '79

Season Early

Style Self

Standards Light Yellow

Falls Light Yellow with Small White Spot

Beards Cream

Substance

Comments Reliable Re-Bloomer

Awards/Year HM '83, AM '86, CD '89

Photos courtesy of: Trails End Iris Gardens

3674 Indian Trail R.R.#8 Brantford, ON N3T 5M1

ph: 1 (519) 647-9746 www.trailsendiris.com

CANADIAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Sunday, November 16th, 2008
1:30 pm at Royal Botanical Gardens
Subject to Board approval

President's Welcome: Ed Jowett

Members in attendance: Ed Jowett, Harold Crawford,
Bob Granatier, Ann Granatier, John Moons

Regrets: Gloria McMillen

Guest: Nancy Kennedy



1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION to adopt the Agenda

John Moons/Harold Crawford.....CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes from July 20th, 2008

MOTION to adopt the minutes

John Moons/Bob Granatier.....CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes

a) The Walker Ross award still needs to be presented.

Ed will arrange presentation and photography.

4. Treasurer's report:

The October 31st closing balance was \$3975.54. The Nov. 2007 GIC value \$1207.50 will mature on November 17th. (See written report for details.)

MOTION to accept the Treasurer's report

Bob Granatier/Harold Crawford.....CARRIED

It was agreed to cash out the GIC to cover new expenses.

5. Reports of the Standing committees

a) Membership: No report

b) Web-site: No report

c) Newsletter: No report

d) Historian: No report

e) London Region: No report

f) ORrIS report: Nothing to report

g) Northern Lights Regional Iris Society: No report

h) CIS rejuvenation Committee: No report

Ann to contact Maureen and request suggestion on how to proceed.

6. Correspondence: None

7. New business

a) Seed monies for the AIS National Convention held in BC in 2011. Discussion was held re the purpose/use of the money and any returns in the event of a profit.

MOTION to send \$1000.00 as seed money to help with expenses of the BC/ AIS 2011 National Convention. In the event that they realize a significant profit, it is expected that there will be some return of these monies to the CIS.

John Moons/ Bob GranatierCARRIED
Bob will check on the proper way to proceed.

b) Set meeting dates for 2009

Dates were proposed for 4 Executive meetings a year plus AGM. Ann to confirm availability with the RBG . She will also ask about possible partnering with Peony Festival for a combined flower show. (See proposed schedule.)

Tentative dates for 2009 (subject to room availability) are:

Jan. 11, April 19, July 12, and Nov. 15 with the AGM scheduled for Sept. 19.

c) Working schedule for 2009 events: (See proposed schedule.)

Dates were set for newsletter submission deadlines: Jan 15, April 15, July 15, and Oct. 15

d) Election of officers

Ed advised that all positions must be re-appointed after 2 terms. This ruling will need to be applied after the 2009 AGM. John Moons was appointed to First Vice-President. All other positions remained the same.

e) AIS relationship:

The status of the application to become a co-operating society was reviewed. The AIS may be re-organizing which could affect this type of relationship. It may be easier to pursue an Affiliation. Bob will explore.

f) CIS/ RBG relationship.

While the relationship with the RBG has recently been renewed, there is no formal liaison with the Board of Directors as per David Schmidt. It was agreed to look at this again after the Board has gone through its rejuvenation process. It may be possible to partner our Iris show with the RBG and the peony festival. Ann to inquire.

g) Flower Show Chair: Ann Granatier and Nancy Kennedy will Co-Chair this event, possibly held at the RBG. Ann will review the schedule and ask Sandy if he would be able to modify the schedule if needed. Ed will ask Sandy and Maureen if they are available to judge. Accommodations are available at the Granatiers.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:20pm: John Moons

Thirty Years Ago — Canadian Iris Society

by Chuck Chapman, *CIS Historian*

This is a brief review of the CIS thirty years ago, in 1979. Thirty years is the age when an iris cultivar is considered to be a Historic Iris. So all cultivars mentioned are now considered to be historic iris. Some of the people and iris will still be familiar, and a number of the people involved then are still involved now.

In 1979 the president of CIS was **Prof. Robert Forshaw** of Guelph. The Treasurer was **Mr. John Fenton** of Willowdale. Secretary was **Verna Laurin** also of Willowdale. The Newsletter editor was **Prof. Harold Crawford**. Region 16 RVP was **John McMillen**. At the annual meeting a new president, **Mrs. Lightheart**, was elected, and the other officers remaining unchanged.

The CIS iris show was held in the newly constructed Horticultural Hall at the Royal botanical Gardens in Burlington. The building replacing an older building which had been demolished several years earlier. The iris show was held in conjunction with a Peony show, sponsored by the newly formed Peony Society. The Queen of show (F. H. Garrity Trophy) was won by **John McMillen**, with a stalk of 'Country Manor' Best seedling trophy (WJ Moffat Trophy) was won by **John Laur**. Most points were won by **Walker Ross**. It was noted that there were 20 exhibitors. No record of number of entries, but about 145 cultivars won ribbons, so considerable more flower stalks were likely present.

Of note was that a book with pictures of all the top winning iris from all Canadian shows was being kept by **Murray Smith**. This included CIS (Burlington), Toronto and Vernon BC Iris shows. There is no information on what happened to this book. The Toronto show had 12 exhibitors and 113 entries. Queen of show was won by **Verna Laurin** with 'Country Manor', which probably has won more Canadian Queen of Show trophies than any other iris. (Side note, **Gloria McMillen** won CIS Queen of show with 'Country Manor' this past year, 2008.) Most points winner was **Mr. R D Little**. An Iris show was held in Vernon BC. Queen of show was 'Stepping Out' exhibited by **John Ricketts**, who was also high point winning exhibitor.

The big plaque commemorating **W J Moffat** and his contribution to the founding of the RBG iris garden was unveiled. This plaque can still be seen in the Iris garden at RBG. It was through the efforts and contribution of iris plants by **W. J. Moffat** that led to the founding of the iris gardens at the RBG. Still one of the world's best public display gardens of iris. A donation of median and dwarf Iris to RBG from Median Iris Society was received that year, to be added to the display garden.

The CIS had a popularity poll in 1979. The winners of the top spots were:

- 1) Stepping Out
- 2) Kilt Lilt
- 3) Bayberry Candles
- 4) Ester Fay
- 5/6) Grand Waltz & Rippling Waters
- 7/8) Blue Sapphire & Matina
- 9/10) Going My Way & Mystique



Stepping Out (Trails End Iris)

This was called the 16th CIS popularity poll. Interestingly, none of the 50 places on the full poll were of Canadian Origin. Many of these iris cultivars are still available, and Stepping Out is still a popular iris. The winner of the Dykes Medal that year was **Mary Frances**. An iris that is still popular and available, although now a historic iris.

There was a slide collection and a number of slide programs were available to lend out for iris presentations. The Board of Directors motion to authorize the purchase of three rolls of film for further slides had been passed by the Board of Directors. I don't have any information as to what happened to this slide collection.

The annual Meeting was Held at West Plains church from 1:30 – 9:30 pm, on Saturday Sept 22nd. Fifty people attended. Presentation was by **John Simpkins** on peonies. There was an auction of Siberian and Spuria iris after the dinner and before the speaker. It would seem that this was a typical annual meeting of this time period. In 1979 there were 196 members, so the turn out at the annual meeting was quite high.

Iris plants purchased by CIS were being grown at the RBG for the annual auctions, both at CIS and Toronto. Thirty six new plants were purchased for this program in 1979. A motion was passed by the BoD to add a Canadian hybrid category to the iris show. This category is now used in all iris shows

There was quite an interest in hybridizing of iris in this time period. **Mrs. Joan Brown**, on staff at RBG, was doing hybridizing probably with Siberian Iris. The Siberian iris, 'Sapphire Blue' and 'Red Royal' may actually be from the hybridizing that she did. **Frank Preston** of Hamilton, had introduced 'Red Revival' (the best ever Canadian reblooming TB), in 1977 and was actively hybridizing iris. Others know to have iris seedlings or actively hybridizing included. **J. Laur, Walker Ross, Horst Allmendinger, Murray Smith, R D Little, Rose Barker, Ollie Kummer, Marietta Fenner, and Verna Laurin**. Several of these people later introduced iris plants. So iris hybridizing was very active at this time.

As I was researching for this article I came across other interesting information which will have to wait for another time.



Musings from Manitoba

by B. J. Jackson

It is January in Manitoba and it is cold. That is normal. True, BUT... it is not normal to have weeks of -20 to -30 temperatures (and that is the high!) for this long and this early. Add to that the severe wind chill values of up to -50 in places and you have a lot of unhappy people. For the month of December, Manitoba was a full 10 degrees below normal and it has continued into January with seemingly no end in sight. Usually the really cold weather starts at the end of January, not the beginning of December. Makes one wonder what we have to look forward to for the rest of this winter season.

The only good thing in this situation is that there is lots of snow and has been for a long time. I have often speculated that it is not so much the cold that kills plant material on the prairies but rather the freeze and thaw cycles of spring. A good thick (about 3 feet deep) blanket that stays around the entire winter (as it has so far this year) is a good sign for winter plant survival. We are due for the annual January thaw any day now and it can't come soon enough for we winter weary folks. What spring will bring... no one knows, but the snow should keep the iris safe. 'Should' is the operative word.



Winter sun setting on St. John's Park in Winnipeg, MB. (Photo by Slawek Borkowski)

Iris news is a bit sparse on the prairies these days, but we were very pleased to hear that our own **El Hutchison** has qualified as a full fledged AIS Garden/Exhibition judge. Further, we have an apprentice (myself) and one candidate as a result of the Can-West Iris Society (CWIS) hosting of classroom, show and garden Judges Training sessions last summer. These results were announced in November by Region 16 RVP **Kate Brewitt**. As a result, the future of the iris show in Manitoba is significantly improved. We will not have to rely exclusively on out-of-our-area AIS judges.

Along with this, the Can-West Iris Society has made overtures to Region 21 regarding the possibility of sharing judges where possible to bring new and fresh eyes to our shows. The details are yet to be worked out, but we are confident it will work out. North Dakota and Nebraska are not only closer to us than Southern Ontario, but they also share more similar growing conditions and challenges. We also plan to approach Region 8 (Minnesota and Wisconsin) in future with a similar proposal for the same reasons. And finally in CWIS news, plans are under way for a delegation to attend Minnesota's Beardless Iris Convention in May 2009. More JT garden sessions and networking in order to qualify more prairie judges is a goal we are working hard to achieve in time for the 2011 AIS National Convention in British Columbia.

Moving on, my iris activities in winter are being confined to seeds and seedlings. Last fall I was thrilled to have almost 100% germination of some 35 spuria seeds given to me by an Alberta iris friend. Over the past few months I have been watching them grow under fluorescent lights in the basement and although there have been a few losses; there are still more than 30 healthy seedlings that I recently transplanted out of seedling trays into individual pots.

Still with seedlings, I also have about a dozen seedlings from open pollinated MTB seeds sent to me in the fall of 2007 that I am nurturing. These seeds, sent to me from an iris friend in The Netherlands, had dismal germination last spring and so were returned to the fridge for another cold treatment where they were promptly forgotten about. I discovered them again in the fall when cleaning out and I was very pleased to see germination had finally started. I now have these seedlings to nurture along with the spuria seedlings, half a dozen rhizomes that were too small to plant out in the garden when they were received from **Augusto Bianco** in Italy late in summer and one or two from the CIS shares program that did not have a good root system before the cold weather set in.



Iris swords in winter
(Photo by Dan Shirley)

So, I haven't been idle, but winter can stop now.... I've had enough.

CANADIAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Sunday, January 11th, 2009
1:30 pm at Royal Botanical Gardens
Subject to Board approval

President's Welcome: Ed Jowett

Members in attendance: Ed Jowett, Harold Crawford,
Bob Granatier, Ann Granatier, John Moons

Regrets: Gloria McMillen

Guest: Nancy Kennedy.



Ed opened the meeting at 1:40pm.

1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION to adopt the Agenda

John Moons / Bob Granatier CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes from Nov. 16th, 2008

MOTION to adopt the minutes

Ann Granatier / Bob Granatier CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes

a) The Walker Ross award was presented to Sandy Ives by Ed. Jowett.

Pictures were taken. Sandy was pleasantly surprised.

b) CIS Rejuvenation Committee: There has been no contact with Maureen Marks.

c) CIS seed money: Bob advised that he needed re-direction from the Board since our GIC was inadvertently re-invested by the bank at renewal time and therefore the moneys are not available from this source. It was agreed to forward the moneys from our bank account. Bob to handle.

d) AIS relationship status: An email was sent to Chuck Chapman from Jim Morris advising that the request to become a Co-operating Society with the AIS will take some time since this would be a new process for the AIS, and also the AIS is re-aligning its regions. (See attached E-mail.)

e) RBG and Peony Show: Ann advised that she was in touch with the RBG. The atrium space is part of the main auditorium rental which is about \$750.00. It was agreed that this amount was too expensive for the club. She did not hear back from the festival co-ordinator.

f) Flower Show judging: Ann has been in touch with Sandy who has agreed to assist with the judging. She needs to clarify that Maureen will also be available. A third judge is required. Ann to contact Kate Brewitt and Ken Viner.

MOTION to hold annual Flower show and picnic at TrailsEnd Iris Gardens on June 7th 2009.
Ann Granatier / Nancy Kennedy CARRIED

4. Treasurer’s report:

The November 30th. closing balance was \$3975.54.
The December statement has not been received. Two cheques are outstanding.
(See written report for details).

MOTION to accept the Treasurer’s report
Bob Granatier / Harold Crawford CARRIED

5. Reports of the Standing committees:

- a) Membership: No report
- b) Web-site: Ed advised that he received an email from Chris Hollinshead that the web-site has been updated. Eleanor Hutchinson has agreed to a 3 year term as director.
- c) Newsletter: Ed advised that Chris has sent him 3 articles, Garden Digging, AIS news and a reprint. John Moons provided a report and Nancy will e-mail her copy to Ed. Ed to check with Chuck for Historian report. John suggested an article on borer prevention be prepared for next year’s January issue. Ed advised that Barry Blyth is willing to provide an article but not during his busy time. Open Garden dates should be sent to Ed.
- d) Historian: No report
- e) London Region: No report
- f) ORrIS report: No report
- g) Northern Lights Regional Iris Society: No report
- h) CIS rejuvenation Committee: No report

6. Correspondence: None

7. New business:

a) CIS share program for 2009. Ed Jowett suggested that Barbara Aitken did an amazing job for us last year by providing only one of each variety. Perhaps that is too much work and she should be given the opportunity to change the arrangements. Bob is to contact her and ask for her preference and willingness to continue with this arrangement. Ed will promote in the newsletter.

8. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 3:10pm: John Moons

THE GROWERS CORNER

CLIMATE CHALLENGING IRISES

by Terry Aitken, Aitken Salmon Creek Gardens, Washington

About ten years ago, **Lynn Markham** in Massachusetts and I had a discussion about TB's that grew in New England. Out of that discussion came the opinion that **VANITY** was the most durable pink and **TENNESSEE VOL** the best orange. This was most fascinating for me since **Vanity** was a **Ben Hager** iris from California and **Tennessee Vol** was a **Dave Niswonger** iris from southern Missouri. I am always looking for iris plants that do well away from their home territory. (Hindsight would suggest that I should have crossed **Vanity** with **Tennessee Vol** to produce a population of plants likely to be hardy in New England.) We did cross **TENNESSEE VOL** with **PURE AS GOLD**, an early summer reblooming iris out of California. That project is now three generations down the road.

We have asked writers in the northern tier of states and across Canada to report in on varieties that seem to survive or even thrive for them where many other varieties languish.

Similarly, it can be useful to note international show reports and see that **Barry Blythe** (from Australia) irises are doing very well in Russia. I hope this concept will be useful to new hybridizers. With time, the iris world could offer a superior product to the gardening world.



(This article courtesy of the American Iris Society and the author, Terry Aitken.)

This article emphasizes the need to observe and keep records of those irises that do well in our Canadian climate and those that do not. Members are encouraged to e-mail their comments to Bob Granatier, bob@trailsendiris.com, for consolidation with other reports and publication in a later newsletter. We will also send our findings to Terry Aitken for his use in a broader study.

Join the American Iris Society

\$25.00 one year, \$60 for three years

Send payment to:

Tom Gormley

10606 Timber Ridge Street

Dubuque, IA USA 52001-8268

aismemsec@irises.org

or visit www.irises.org for more details



Walker Ross Service Award

The Walker Ross award for 2008 was awarded this year to **Sandy Ives**. He is seen here receiving the award from CIS President **Ed Jowett**. This award is awarded for outstanding work and performance to the Canadian Iris Society which was donated to the society in memory of **Walker Ross** by the Owls club of Burlington of which Walker was a member.

Awarded in 2008 to Sandy Ives of Ottawa, Ontario for his dedication to promoting the genus iris through the following endeavors:

For his many years of promoting the Canadian Iris Society and specifically for his excellent guidance and unwavering determination in the creation of the revised CIS Constitution. This was an arduous task taking a number of years to complete. The new CIS Constitution was ratified in November 2007 and the final result is a vastly improved document which will guide the functioning and structure of the CIS now and in the future.

Previous winners of the Walker Ross Service Award:

- 1994 Don Fritshaw
- 1995 Bruce Richardson
- 1996 Verna Laurin
- 1997 Ollie Kummer
- 1998 Not awarded
- 1999 Ed Jowett
- 2000 Gloria McMillen
- 2001 (not awarded)
- 2002 (not Awarded)
- 2003 Cathy Boyko
- 2004 Not awarded
- 2005 Al Hutchins
- 2006 Harold Crawford
- 2007 (not awarded)




Photo: CIS President Ed Jowett presenting the 2008 Walker Ross Award to Sandy Ives of Ottawa, Ontario



Open Gardens 2009

Prepared by our Web Master Chris Hollinshead

anadian Iris Society members invite you to visit the following Iris gardens across Canada during the iris bloom season (May-June). The listings below are organized by province. Additional listing submissions are welcome! Some of the gardens are commercial, and others are private gardens. In almost all cases please call ahead to arrange and confirm the visiting times.

Ontario:

Alvinston, Ontario

Garden Owner – M Berdan, RR #7, 4162 Old Walnut Road.

Phone: 519-847-5242, Fax 519-847-5942.

website: www.walnutgardens.ca

Open Tuesday to Saturday (usually closed on Sundays). There are weekend open houses during peak bloom periods. See the website for details. Turn off 402 Highway (London to Sarnia) at Watford exchange (#44), go south on Lambton # 79 through Watford to Petrolia Line (Lambton # 4) [about 8 miles]. Turn right onto Petrolia Line and go west for 1 mile. Turn left on Old Walnut Road.

Ancaster/Brantford, Ontario

Garden Owner – Trails End Iris Gardens, Bob and Ann Granatier, 3674 Indian Trail, between Hamilton and Brantford.

phone: (519) 647-9746 or e-mail: ann@trailsendiris.com or bob@trailsendiris.com

website: www.trailsendiris.com

Open 9:00am to 5:00pm weekends May 2 – 18, May 19 – Jun 21 Mon – Thur 10.00am – 4.00pm, Fri 1.00pm – 8.00pm, Weekends 9.00am -5.00pm.

Bobcaygeon, Ontario

Rural Roots Gardens (formerly Cedar Ridge Gardens) at 2369 County Rd. 36 (Hwy 36, between Dunsford and Bobcaygeon at Scotch Line Rd.)

e-mail: rrgardens@nexicom.net

phone: (705) 793-1332 or (705) 928-7668

website: www.cedarridgegardens.com

Burlington, Ontario

Iris and Peony Celebration - Laking Garden

The Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario

website: www.rbg.ca

Early June. Make a visit to RBG gardens part of your family day. Step into the waist-high bearded irises and have your senses dazzled with wild colour combinations. Explore the peony collection, perennial borders, the Barbara Laking Heritage Garden and the hosta walk. There is an admission fee.

Guelph/Eramosa area, Ontario

Garden Owner - Chuck Chapman Iris - Chuck Chapman, 8790 Wellington Rd.124, located between Guelph and Erin.

phone: (519) 856-4424, or e-mail: chuck@chapmaniris.com

website: www.chapmaniris.com

Open houses scheduled through the peak iris bloom season during May and June. See the website for details.

Mississauga, Ontario

Garden Owner - Erin Mills Iris Garden - Chris Hollinshead, 3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, Ontario

phone: 905-567-8545 e-mail: erin-mills@rogers.com

2009 website coming soon. Collection of SDB iris, TB iris, and Siberian irises

Call ahead to set up visit and verify iris bloom status. iris bloom time is normally mid May through mid June

Norwich/Woodstock, Ontario

Garden Owner - McMillens Iris Garden - Dan McMillen, 285112 Pleasant Valley Road, Norwich, Ontario

phone: 1-866-468-3063

Open during the iris bloom season mid-May to mid-June, Monday-Friday 11:00am – 8:00pm, Saturday and Sunday 9:00am - 8:00pm.

Tottenham/Barrie area, Ontario

Garden owner - Ed Jowett, 1960 Side Road 15, off Hwy 9

Call to check for bloom 905-936-9941 e-mail: jowettfarm@copper.net

Open weekends May 20 until July 31 through the week by appointment

London, Ontario

Garden Owner - Don McQueen, 38 Lloyd Manor Crescent (in north west London)

The iris garden of Don McQueen of London, Ontario is open for visits throughout the season on weekends, and during the week by appointment. Send an e-mail to ddmcqueen@rogers.com for week-day confirmation and/or directions. In our garden the SDB peak during the first week of May; the IBs mid-May and the TB the last week of May/first week of June.

Prairie provinces-Manitoba/Saskatchewan/Alberta:

Brandon, Manitoba

Garden Owner - Barbara-Jean (BJ) Jackson.
(204)-761-3973 (Cell) or E-mail: jacksonb@mts.net or jacksonb@brandonu.ca
Any time during the iris season (late May to early July).
Please call or email if you are planning to be in the area for details and to ensure someone is there to greet you.

Beausejour, Manitoba

Beausejour Daylily Gardens located in the town of Beausejour, Manitoba, 46 km north-east of Winnipeg. This two-acre community garden has something blooming from spring to snowfall. The Zone 2b Beausejour Daylily Gardens is the only American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) Display Garden on the prairies; the perfect place to test any tree or plant. It is also home to the most amazing collection of iris and peonies. Our goal is to become an official iris display garden. Currently this is a Zone 2b American Hemerocallis Society display garden and Canadian Hemerocallis Society display garden. We anticipate 3000 visitors in 2009.

- June 20th 2009 Garden Tour with Artist in residence
- July 18th 2009 Garden Tour with Artist in residence
- August 8th 09 Poker Derby-unique eco tourist attractions/demonstrations
- August 15th 2009 Garden tour with Artist in residence
- October 12th to November 1 Scare Crow Contest

Ste Anne, Manitoba

Garden Owner - Eleanor Hutchison
e-mail: eleaneore@mts.net
Date and time TBA. Email for directions and other details. Also, to verify there is bloom. Specialty is miniature and dwarf bearded irises, with over 400 different varieties.

British Columbia:

Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

Garden Owner - Baker's Gardens, Ted and Sonja Baker, 185 Furness Road.
(250)-653-4430 or e-mail: tedebaker@canada.com
OPEN each Friday and Saturday in May and the first weekend in June from 10:00 am to dark. Also, any time of year by appointment. Early in May, Rhodos and Median iris are at their best and later in May and early June the Tall Bearded and Siberians are blooming. (Note: a tour of three or four Salt Spring gardens can be arranged if given two weeks notice).



Around The World

by Harold Crawford

Iris in New Zealand

To write a column on iris in an international context gives me a fine excuse to wander the globe—at least in my mind—to find interesting items on iris. Having once had a very enjoyable vacation in New Zealand, what better place to begin. Even though there are no irises native to New Zealand, there is certainly much interest in growing them. If you go on the Internet and search out NZ iris Society the introductory page will jolt you with fabulous clumps of Siberian iris in a border. It is the NZ bred ‘Castlegrace’ (**Mrs. P Nelson, 1972**). In the background is a plant with striking large grey foliage, not commonly grown in Canadian perennial beds—the cardoon. (I must say though to my surprise the University of Guelph Arboretum had an excellent cardoon in one of the gardens last summer.) Also on the page are pictures of two NZ Dykes medal winning iris, the blue Siberian ‘Emma Ripeka’ (**Mrs. E. Love, 1990**) and the pink TB ‘Salute D Armour’ (**Shirley Spicer, 2001**).



While most iris species flower during the NZ winter and spring many of the newly developed iris will flower though summer and autumn too. So in fact New Zealanders can have iris flowers nearly all year. Their climate is warm enough to grow bamboo-like ‘orchid iris’ from Himalayan jungles as well as Japanese iris, beardless iris from Alaska, the bearded iris originating in Europe, bulbous iris from the Mediterranean, and the ▶

Pacific Coast iris, (which we can only grow successfully in parts of B.C.). The Society has iris groups in most parts of the country. Their local membership fee is \$30 NZ, and as overseas members we could join for \$40 NZ.

On the Society’s website is a colorful photo gallery, which though not extensive offers an enjoyable way to spent some time on a Canadian winter’s day. This section makes reference to **Alan Mc Murtrie’s** fascinating website with over 1300 pictures. The New Zealand Iris Society (NZIS) by the way has a photographic competition for its members. The winning photos are displayed on the website.

If you are considering a possible trip down under, you may be interested in a couple of things mentioned in the site. You could click on the section ‘Gardens to Visit’. These gardens are not specifically iris gardens, but many will no doubt have irises. There locations are conveniently pinpointed on a NZ map. The other thing of interest is that if you are traveling in November, you could take in the 2009 NZIS convention in Cromwell on the south island, Nov 21 – 25. This is in the Queensland area where there are cold winters and dry hot summers.

The Society was founded in 1949, and the first president was **Jean Stevens**, an iris grower and breeder, best known for her TB amoena “Pinnacle”. Sometime during her term of office the NZIS and Australian Society became one, but communication was too difficult and the two went their separate ways.



← Left: 2008 Convention in Gisborne (crowd in Eric’s garden)

Right: Rangitikei Flower Show November 2008 →



Photos copyright The New Zealand Iris Society

Dates to Remember

Get the Jump on Spring See AIS report for details	Toronto	Sat Feb 21
Board of Directors meeting	RBG 1.30p.m.	Sun Apr 19
3 Trails KC See AIS report for details	Kansas City	May 11 – 16
CIS Hamilton Flower Show	Trailsend Iris Gardens Brantford	Sun Jun 07
CIS Picnic	in conjunction with flower show	Sun Jun 07
Beardless Iris Tyme 2009 See AIS report for details	Bloomington MN	Jun 11 – 14
Board of Directors meeting	RBG 1.30p.m.	Sun Jul 12
Rhizome Sale More details next issue	RBG	Sun Aug 09
CIS Annual Meeting More details in future issues	RBG	Sat Sep 12
Board of Directors meeting	RBG 1.30p.m.	Sun Nov15

cis website
www.cdn-iris.ca

up to date information on CIS activities and many
useful links to other iris sites and information

Canadian Sources for Irises

We provide this listing as a resource for our members and readers. This listing does not necessarily imply endorsement of the businesses by Canadian Iris Society (CIS). The sources listed have paid donations/contributions to help support the society. If you know of someone who should be added to the list please send the information to the editor. The listings in BOLD are members of the CIS

Chapman Iris
RR #1 8790 Wellington Road 124,
Guelph, ON N1H 6H7
Phone: (519) 856-4424
Email: chuck@chapmaniris.com
Website: www.chapmaniris.com
On-line or 2009 catalogue: \$3.00

McMillen's Iris Garden
RR1 285112 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Norwich ON N0J 1P0
Phone 1-866-468-6508
Email: mcmillen@execulink.com
e-mail or call for Price List

The Plant Farm
177 Vesuvius Bay Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1K3
Phone: 250-537-5995
Email: hello@theplantfarm.ca
Website: www.theplantfarm.ca
On-line catalogue

Trails End Iris Gardens
3674 Indian Trail,
RR#8
Brantford, Ontario N3T 5M1
Phone: 519-647-9746
Email: trailsendirises@sympatico.ca
Website: www.trailsendiris.com
On-line catalogue

Liaisons and Regions

British Columbia Iris Society (BCIS)

Ted Baker, 185 Furness Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7
ph: 250-653-4430 www.bc-iris.org

Can-West Iris Society

B.J. Jackson, 2421 McDonald Avenue, Brandon, MB R7B 0A6,
ph: 204-725-4696 email: eleanore@mts.net

Halton/Peel Iris Society (HAPEIS)

Chris Hollinshead, 3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3
ph: 905-567-8545 e-mail: cdn-iris@rogers.com

London Region Iris Society

Gloria McMillen, RR#1 Norwich, ON N0J 1P0
ph: 519 468-3279 email: dan@mcmillensirsgarden.ca
(attn:Gloria)
Please inquire for membership and group activities.

Northern Lights Iris Society (NLIS)

Virginia Prins, 296 Furby St, Winnipeg MB, R3C 2A9
e-mail: inanda1@mts.net www.nlris.ca

Ottawa River Iris Society (ORrIS)

Maureen Mark, 1077 Guertin Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1H 8B3
ph: (613) 521-4597 e-mail: mmark@rogers.com

American Iris Society

AIS Region 16 RVP

Kate Brewitt, 120 Glass Drive, Aurora, ON L4G 2E8
ph: 905 841-9676 e-mail: justonemoreiris@yahoo.ca

AIS Region 16 Judges Training

Sandy Ives, 1077 Guertin Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1H 8B3
ph: 613 521-4597 email: rives@rogers.com

Canadian Iris Society
1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0



Walker Ross

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