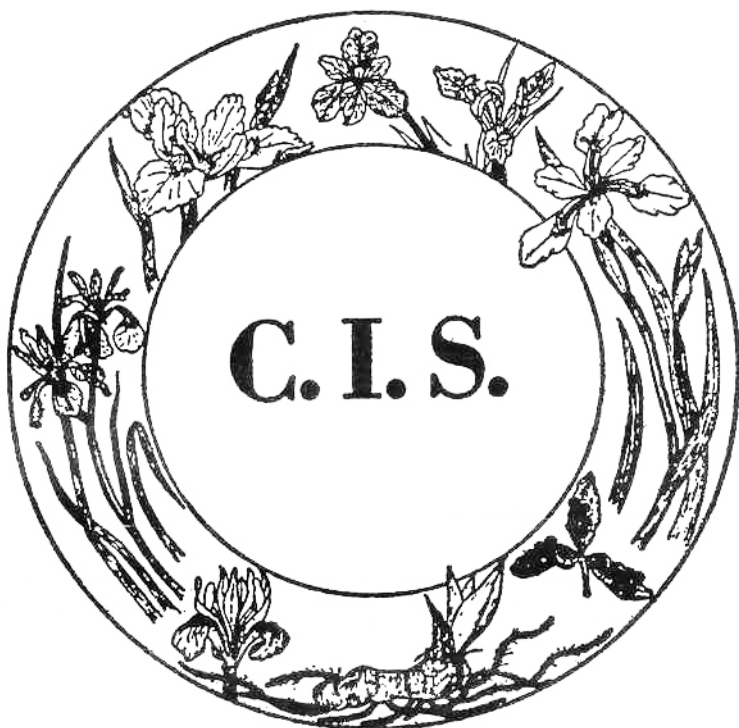

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Summer 2009 Volume 53 Issue 3



Canadian Iris Society

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President's Message

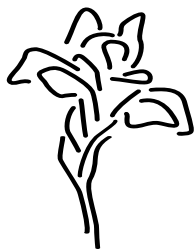
by Ed Jowett



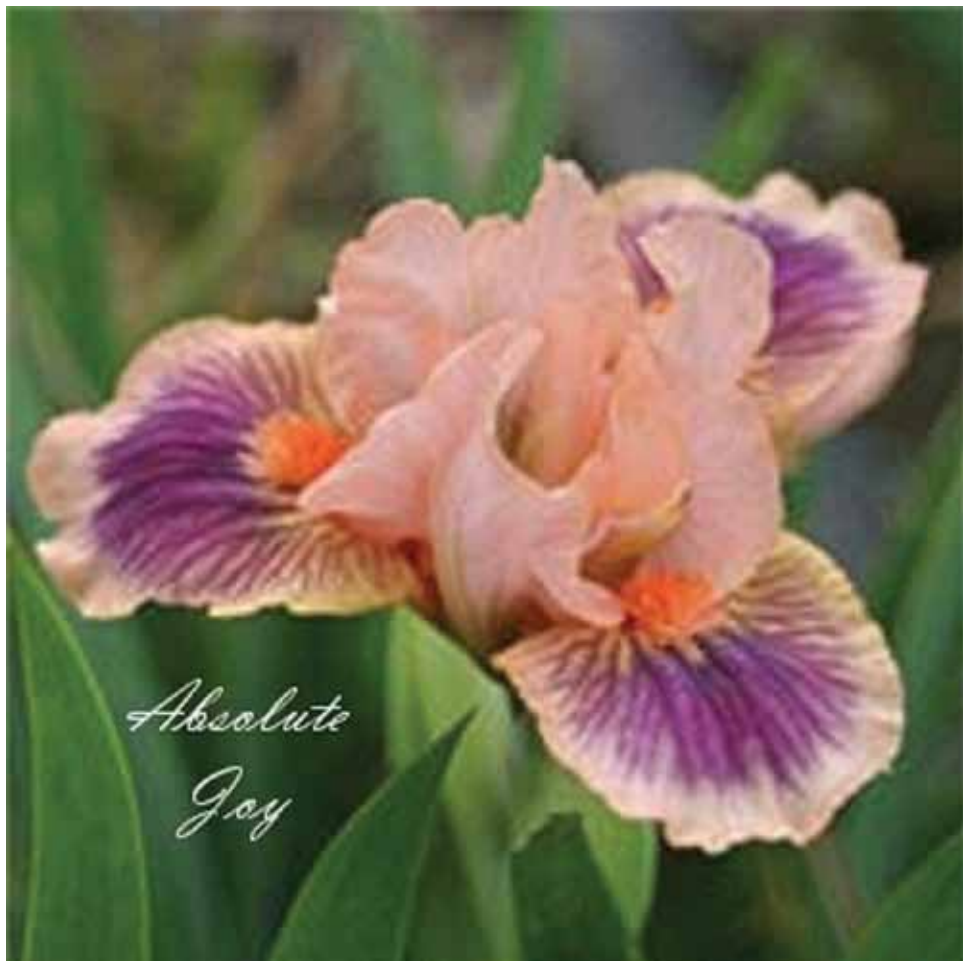
I write this message with mixed emotions as this is my last message as your president. The two (2) years have passed rather quickly but I must step aside as per the terms of our new constitution. Our Annual General Meeting is coming up and we have acquired a great speaker! (See more details later in this issue.) I was happy to see a number of old faces at our show and picnic (not old by age.) We had more exhibits than we expected, since a number of us in this area lost large numbers of irises this winter—due to wet and rot. I personally lost 52 clumps and only had 4 blooms this entire season and I'm still fighting wet conditions.

Our share program went well again this year. At first I thought it was going to be a failure as every thing seems to come in the last couple of days. After receiving the shipping notice our secretary and her husband spent a day pricing all of the items and sorting them and assigning them to the shareholders, making sure of no repeats from last year and every one getting the same value of plants—which for the period 2004-07 worked out to roughly forty-two (\$42.00) dollars U.S. For 2008-09 I do not recall the amount, but it looks like we got great value for our buck again. Many thanks to Barbara Aitken for all of her work selecting and supplying again. We were a little disappointed in the size but after checking with several growers in both the U.S. and Canada, the growth has not been there due to rains and no really warm days. A lot of the growers we approached will not do this for us. They are willing to give us great discounts but not in our groupings.

I am hoping to see a good number of our members at the AGM. This is also election of directors. We have four (4) people willing to stand but should really have six (6). If you would be willing to attend only 5 meetings a year or converse by e-mail please let one of the directors know.



I was in Alberta for a few weeks and visited some of their botanical gardens. I was very surprised talking with some that they did not know the various types of Iris or the great number of cultivars. I immediately had to get involved and have since sent them some Irises for their collections. Their forty (40) below winters sure make it hard but if the Iris are covered they seem to survive. This I have found out from my daughter and grandchildren as I sent them Iris three (3) years ago and got to see them bloom this year in mid July.



ABSOLUTE JOY - Standard Dwarf Bearded - 10"
www.trailsendiris.com

Good bye for now and I still hope to be around and active. It has been a great two (2) years. Thanks to the support I got from the board, the officers, and of course the members and writers for my two years in office.

Sincerely,



Ed Jowett

NEW AND NEWSWORTHY...

by Nancy Kennedy

Iris fanatics everywhere mark the beginning of each spring season with the arrival of the annual **Schreiner's Iris Lover's Catalogue**. For many years now I have ordered this weighty, high-gloss, magazine-style catalogue; I believe the postage this year from Oregon cost in the order of \$8. This 75 page must-have catalogue contains all the news on the "biggest and bestest" that the iris world has to offer. Schreiner's has been in business now for I believe 85 years and have won medal after medal for their iris hybridizing. Over the years they have created 10 or more Dykes Medal winners as well as received the American Iris Society's Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement—their Dykes repertoire includes such beauties as *Stepping Out*, an older but still remarkable plant, *Dusky Challenger*, which remains year after year as the AIS top pick in their popularity poll, *Silverado*, *Hello Darkness* and the beautifully feminine *Celebration Song*, among others.

The catalogue contains a myriad of their own cultivars as well as an extensive selection of plants offered by the best iris hybridizers world-wide. The catalogue offers 300 varieties of tall-bearded iris alone, as well as an extensive collection of medians and dwarfs. The photos are crisp, clear and vibrant, the descriptives packed with info on each cultivar—and there are many more varieties available at www.schreinersgardens.com.



Dracula's Kiss

Type: Tall Bearded

Color: Dark Purple

Style: Self

Originator: Schreiner

Year: 2009

Height: 36"

Bloom Season: Early Mid

By the time this edition of the newsletter goes to print, ordering time will nearly be expired for all growers in the USA, so if you haven't yet seen this catalogue, borrow one from an iris friend and be amazed. The challenge will come in being able to put this thing down!

Their introductions this year number over a dozen, so they too have been hard at work creating new flowers to dazzle us. *Dracula's Kiss* will excite those who love the dark iris. Its dusky reddish-purple standards darken to black-purple on the falls, just a slight color change from top to bottom, beautifully saturated. Its most outstanding feature, however, is the caterpillar-like bright tangerine beard, eye-popping to be precise. A few white rays surround this massive beard, looking almost like eyelashes. It's an early to mid bloomer, not overly tall at 36". Bringing us even closer to the elusive red iris, *Rio Rojo* is a silky red self with undertones

of claret wine. A very dark and handsomely ruffled flower, said to hold its color without fading. At 8-10 buds per stalk, this would make an amazing statement in the early summer garden. *Standing Proud*, a dark pansy purple self, completes the dark arm of their 2009 introductions. This late bloomer has wide ruffled petals with excellent flower form, thick substance and a velvet-like texture. With flowers said to be over 6" in size, what more could one ask for at the end of bloom season?

Romance abounds with a trio of beautifully ruffled pastels. *Miss Moonbeam* is a creamy citrine-yellow self, just a little darker when looking inside the flower, like the sun about to rise. This late bloomer gives an air of quiet elegance and a calming effect seen in many delicate pale yellow flowers. Ruffling abounds, yet the flower has a glossy wax-like texture and crisp substance – elegant yet tough. *Winter Waltz* is aptly described as an iceberg, a glacially cool blue/white self. Its beards have just a deeper hint of blue, seemingly frosted at the tips. This rather tall variety will bloom mid to late and is graciously offered as a bonus iris this year, along with *Miss Moonbeam*, indicating both plants are indeed vigorous growers. Another late bloomer, *June Krausse*, is a romantic seashell pink and certain to be a star in any garden. An immensely ruffled and laced self, it sports bushy matching beards and quite intense coloration all around. *Enchanted Memory* will bloom mid to late season and is a magically laced concoction of lavender-orchid which, on the falls, lightens to a near white centrally around the beards.



Winter Waltz

Type: Tall Bearded

Color: White

Style: Self

Originator: Schreiner

Year: 2009

Height: 38"

Bloom Season: Mid to Late

All About Blue can be described as a true and clear cadet blue with perfectly formed flowers and white beards below domed, closed standards. Its tall 40" stems will tower above other varieties during the mid to late season. A striking blue-violet bitone, *Evening Tidings* is also offered as a bonus iris this year, so again a vigorous plant. The shoulders of this classically ruffled blue-violet bit one sport a tawny blending of brown around orange-kissed beards. *Captain's Choice* is a stunning amoena of pure icy white over dusky slate blue, lightening toward the edges. With great contrast, the large 6" rounded flowers of this variety will command attention from across the garden without a doubt. An upcoming show bench winner indeed can be seen in *Jazz Solo*, said to sport sturdy four-branched, triple-socketed stems—that translates into great bloom potential. This bicolor of peach-buff standards over violet-purple falls sports flaming orange beards. For the bright and sassy, check out *Salzburg Echo*. Dandelion falls are topped by creamy white standards, a few white rays peaking out from about the tangerine beards. These petite flowers will lighten up your early spring garden, whereas toward season end *Tumalo Sunset* will dazzle with a radiant flower of gold, amber and cadmium orange. The striking tangerine beards set the flower afire, glowing like a fall sunset. ▶

Last but not least, the front cover of their catalogue is graced by *Blueberry Parfait*. This hard to describe innovation reveals falls with two looping bands of color, swirling blueberry and creamy blue/white, the centre a clean white. White beards and pure white standards complete the picture. *Got The Melody*, a sparkling plicata of deep purple stitching and slim banding around stark white falls is seen much more heavily repeated in the standards. Prolific bloom is the hallmark of this variety, yielding 10-12 buds per stalk.

At home here in Canada, one of the coldest and harshest climates for commercial iris growing, **Chuck Chapman** has brought us for 2009 some amazing introductions. An award-winning hybridizer, Chuck specializes in the median varieties, primarily standard dwarf bearded iris. He has won countless awards for his standard dwarfs and this year's introductions will no doubt continue in that realm.

First and foremost, on the cover page of the brochure is found *Black Lightning*. Black over black, this tall SDB at 14 ½" is a must have for all gardens. It's horizontally flared and crimped falls sport contrasting and vivid bright violet bushy beards. With 4 blooms per stalk, this unusual quality in an SDB will extend its bloom season extensively. In stark contrast, *Lookout Sunshine* would look incredible planted next to *Black Lightning*. Again one sees the trademark flared falls and slightly open standards, allowing a view inside for further study. A beautiful light lemon self, the falls are vividly veined almost to petal's edge with a contrasting deeper yellow/green. A band of lighter lemon surrounds the falls, devoid of veining, matching the coloring of the standards. The bushy yellow beards are tipped orange. *Conondrum* is just that—a wild mix of colors including olive green, sanded, veined and splashed with violet, darker markings found near the edges, all on a white ground. Beards are white, tipped yellow. The parentage of *Summoned Spirit* is evident here, a personal favourite in my collection from this hybridizer.



CURIOUS ORCHID (S. Chapman)
SDB ML 14" Rosy violet washed on
violet-beige ground. White veining
around light violet beard. Interesting
patterns and mix of colours . Quite
unique and has drawn a lot of
attention in the garden. Parentage
unknown

Daughter **Sylvia Chapman** has introduced *Curious Orchid* for 2009. This mid to late tall SDB is a combination of a rosy-violet wash over a violet-beige ground—a very interesting flower, again with unusual patterns. The wispy mauve beards peak out from among striking rosy veins over a wash of even paler beige. Lots to talk about here from an up-and-coming hybridizer. Miniature talls this year include *Eramosa Cloud Drifter* and *Freckle's Sister*. The former echoes a historic iris revisited and revamped. Indeed it has historic parentage via *I. variegata/reginae*. On the base white ground can be found a stitchery of plicata markings of medium violet delicately covering the entire flower, a little less pronounced on the open standards. Looking very dainty, this mid to late bloomer gives up many flowers, for an extended bloom time in the garden. *Freckle's Sister*

has already achieved award status at the Median Convention in 2007. This sib of *Eramosa Freckles* gives us standards of light tan with some purple sanding, over falls with heavy purple freckles, less so around the white beards.

The extremely tall *Eramosa Ridge* (42") is one of two TB introductions this year. Excellent bud count and branching can be found on this super-hardy and strong-growing purple plicata. The open standards are royal purple, ditto for the falls, with a large zonal white area streaked and sanded inside with the plicata patterning. *Plum Ringer* is a three-color combination of award-winning parentage, a short TB at 30", its yellow standards having a hint of plum at the base, with violet falls enveloped in a precise rim of plum-brown.

Introductions from **Chapman Iris** are extremely cold-hardy and able to withstand the rigors of being born and bred in Canada. On a personal note, these varieties have out-performed time and again in my garden, dancing through Canadian winters as if nothing can touch them, and reblooming with amazing reliability. As our seasons grow more unpredictable as each year passes, these plants stand up to all this adversity with fantastic strength. For a complete lineup of what's for sale this year, visit www.chapmaniris.com.

There are several other excellent Canadian suppliers offering hundreds of iris cultivars for sale this year.

Trails End Iris Garden in Brantford, Ontario, grows award-winning bearded iris including a Dykes Collection, 500+ varieties on a 10 acre farm, and has a fabulous website. A recent foray into the world of hybridizing is yielding many interesting possibilities re future introductions; exciting things are happening there. **McMillen's Iris Garden** in Norwich (near London) is a large-scale iris farm with acre upon acre of bloom, offering also many hundreds of varieties. Their new website is currently being assembled and should be fully operational by 2010.

On Russell, located in Lindsay Ontario, offers a wide selection of iris, daylilies, hosta et al. They have some 200 varieties of iris plus an entire Dykes Medal Collection for show at bloom time. **La Vie En Rose Gardens** located in Ottawa has some 200 varieties of iris offered for sale as well as other garden plants and garden art.

Check out the "links" section of the Canadian Iris Society as well as the AIS for a complete list of retailers of iris on both sides of the border.

Our iris season for 2009 is rapidly drawing to a close. What will 2010 bring?



ERAMOSA RIDGE TB M 42" Excellent bud count and branching on this super hardy plicata. Standards are near solid royal-purple, and falls have a wide rim of royal-purple. With some dotting and streaking inside white centre. Violet-purple beards.



The Canadian Iris Society



**Annual Flower Show
June 7, 2009**

RESULTS

**TRAILS END IRIS GARDENS,
BRANTFORD, ONTARIO, Canada**

RESULTS OF SHOW – 95 ENTRIES

AIS SILVER MEDAL/CERTIFICATE – Val Saari

AIS BRONZE MEDAL/CERTIFICATE – Gloria McMillen

BEST SPECIMEN OF SHOW – GARRITY TROPHY

Division One, Section C, Class 7

- Gloria McMillen for Country Charm

BEST CANADIAN ENTRY & FIRST PLACE AWARD – KUMMER CUP

Division One, Section A, Class 2

- Chuck Chapman for Paradigm Shift (SDB)

BEST SEEDLING AWARD & BEST OTHER IRIS AWARD –
EXHIBITION CERT – RICHARDSON AWARD

Division One, Section F, Class 19

- Chuck Chapman for Seedling #98-B14-13 (MTB)

BEST TALL-BEARDED SEEDLING AWARD – MOFFAT TROPHY

Division One, Section F, Class 18

- Chuck Chapman for Seedling #03-350-1 (TB)

DIVISION 1 – SECTION A

CLASS 1

Ancaster Blue Ruffle	McMillen	first
Frontier Lady	Saari	third

CLASS 2

Blue Hat Boy	Chapman	second
Eramosa Freckles	Kennedy	second
Eramosa Miss	Saari	first
Eramosa Miss	Kennedy	third
Paradigm Shift	Chapman	first (best)

CLASS 3

Caesar's Brother	Saari	third
------------------	-------	-------



Seated L-R: Nancy Kennedy, Ann Granatier, Gloria McMillen; and standing Mary Thorne

DIVISION 1 – SECTION B

CLASS 4

Bayberry Candle
Before The Storm
English Charm
Flavescens
Mary Frances
Scene Stealer
Vanity

Kennedy
Saari
Saari
Chapman
Kennedy
Saari
McMillen

second
disQ – not historic
disQ – not historic
first
second
second
third

CLASS 5

Nibelungen

Kennedy

disQ – misnamed

DIVISION 1 – SECTION C

CLASS 7

Anything Goes	Granatier	second
Armageddon	McMillen	second
Aryil Angel	McMillen	disQ – misnamed
Avalon Sunset	McMillen	second
Boogie Woogie	McMillen	first
Brazilian Holiday	McMillen	third
Burgundy Bubbles	McMillen	third
Cotton Carnival	McMillen	second
Country Charm	McMillen	first / court of honor / best
Cross Current	McMillen	---
Dark Passion	McMillen	second
Durham Dream	McMillen	second
Dynamite	McMillen	first
Eagle Control	Chapman	third
Edith Wolford	Granatier	first / court of honor
Gnu Again	Kennedy	second
Goodnight Moon	McMillen	second
Graphique	Chapman	second
Holy Fire	Saari	second
Hurricane Lamp	Kennedy	third
In Flight	Chapman	second



Kissing Circle	McMillen	---
Lord Jeff	McMillen	first / court of honor
Midnight Fire	McMillen	first
Northwest Passage	McMillen	third
Proud Tradition	Chapman	first / court of honor
Slovak Prince	Granatier	first
Social Graces	Saari	first
Star Sailor	McMillen	second
Toucan Tango	Granatier	second
Vibrant	Granatier	---

CLASS 8

Puppet Baby	Chapman	second
-------------	---------	--------

CLASS 9

Ace	Saari	third
Ageless	Chapman	third
Bangles	Kennedy	third
Batik	Granatier	third
Cranapple	Chapman	second
Dividing Line	Saari	first
Garden Imp	Saari	third
Hum	Granatier	first
Jersey Cream	Chapman	second
Little Bluets	Chapman	second
Ming	Chapman	second
Peebee & Jay	Saari	first
Scotch Hopper	Saari	first
Sequel	Chapman	first





Standing: John Moons; Seated L–R: Harold Crawford, Pat Loy, Katherine Viner, and of course Granatier's dog Maggie

DIVISION 1 – SECTION D

Butter & Sugar	Saari	first
Caeser's Brother	Kennedy	first
Lavender Bounty	Saari	first
Ruffled Velvet	Saari	first – court of honor

DIVISION 1 – SECTION E

CLASS 13

Iris pseudacorus	Saari	first
Iris sanguinea	Chapman	---
Iris variegata	Chapman	---
Iris versicolor	Saari	third

CLASS 14

Turnipseed (pseudacorus)	Saari	first
--------------------------	-------	-------

CLASS 17

Dutch iris	Saari	---
------------	-------	-----

DIVISION 1 – SECTION F

CLASS 18

03-350-1	Chapman	3 votes
W005101	Saari	3 votes
Ka2005	Saari	2 votes
THSW-1	Ives	2 votes
THSW-3	Ives	1 vote

CLASS 19

06-11-1	Chapman	2 votes
03-101-1	Chapman	1 vote
05-13-18-8	Chapman	1 vote
05-B18-2	Chapman	1 vote
98-B14-13	Chapman	1 vote

CLASS 20 – NO AWARD

BEST SEEDLING AWARDED EXHIBITION CERT

OTHER SEEDLINGS – 5 VOTES NEEDED FOR EXHIBITION CERT



DIVISION 2 – SECTION I & J

CLASS 28

Lavender Bounty	Saari	First
-----------------	-------	-------

CLASS 29

Aquilegia	Kennedy	First
Lupin	McMillen	Second
Alium	Kennedy	Third

CLASS 29A

Cypripedium parviflorum	Kennedy	First
Peony 'Red Charm'	Crawford	Second



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Irises as Memorabilia

by Joan Campbell

I recently read an e-mail on the daylily e-mail robin from someone who had expunged from his garden 35 trees and shrubs and all his old daylily varieties to make room for new varieties. I thought about all the stories he had thrown out along with the plants.

My husband and I are plant collectors. Irises are like the loaves and fishes. They keep on multiplying (if you can keep ahead of the borers and the bacterial rot) and you always have some to give away. That is how we have acquired a lot of our iris collection.

My first irises came from my mother's garden in Oakville. My mother went back to work full time when I was 12. If I wanted to talk to her in the evening, I had to keep her company while she weeded. That of course is how I came to love gardening. One of the irises in her garden, an intermediate butter yellow, arrived from the century farmhouse next door via the vacant lot across the road. That vacant lot served as the neighborhood compost pile. I rescued that cute iris, culled from the neighbor's garden, from the compos tables and brought it home to Mom.



A good number of her irises were TB purples which by comparison to later hybrids don't have a lot of substance in the flower. However in amongst the purples was a TB brown with lighter standards. It was special because it was in the minority. There was a similar iris in the exhibit at the annual picnic last year identified as *Prince Charles*. It is always gratifying to put names to those oldies.

Though the farmhouse is gone and so is my mother's house, to make way for monster houses, the irises which date back at least to the 50's, live on. They seem to be tougher and less susceptible to rot than some of the newer hybrids. They have moved with me from my first garden in Oakland to my current garden east of Brantford. When I see them bloom I not only enjoy them for their beauty, I remember their stories. My gardening experience is richer for that.



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Canadian Iris Society

Annual General Meeting

Saturday Sept 12, 2009
Royal Botanical Gardens, Room 5

Agenda

Fellowship: 10.30 – 11.00 a.m.

Meeting: 11.00 – 12.30 p.m.

Lunch: 12.30 – 1.30 p.m.

Presentation: 1.30 –

Speaker: **Mr. Sean James**

Biography: Sean is past president of Milton Horticultural Society. He is a graduate of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture and president and owner of his own landscape business. Sean has spoken at many horticultural societies, RBG, TBG, CNE, and the Canada Blooms Show. He is also speaking this year to the Ontario Horticultural Association general meeting and has a wide variation of topics.

Topics: This year Sean will speak to us on:

- Xeriscaping – The Necessary Wave of the Future,
- Drought resistant landscaping using perennials, shrubs, trees and annuals,
- Winter interest,
- and a short slide show.



Cost \$30.00 per person including lunch.
Please send confirmation and payment to:

Ed Jowett

1960 Side Rd 15 R.R.2
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

or e-mail confirmation to:
jowettfarm@copper.net

Wanted — Rebloomer Information

By Sandy Ives

I've been a regional director for the Reblooming Iris Society for two years now and will be entering my final year shortly. I've been trying to get as many rebloom reports from Region 16 members (that's Canada) with some degree of success, but I would like to get far more.

I think a large part of the problem is determining what exactly qualifies as rebloom. It is not fall bloom — I can guarantee fall bloom if you order from Australia and plant them when received.



Immortality - well known rebloomer

Here is the list of distinguishable forms of reblooming irises according to the RIS, plus some examples. See if you can find any in your area and drop me a line:

- 1. Cyclic:** These are the best known rebloomers. They have two complete growing cycles each year and the pattern is reasonably predictable. My experience has been very mixed, but the most reliable cyclic rebloomer for me is *Rosalie Figge*. The best known of all would be *Immortality*, the white self introduced by **Lloyd Zurbrigg** back in 1982... and one of the few bearded irises available at any box-store nursery.



Precious Little Pink (Byers '95)
Multi-rebloom

- 2. Multiple Blooming:** These send up stalks repeatedly throughout the year. They can be quite irritating if you are intending to divide the clump because you never get an honest break. Finally you bite the bullet, divide, and pray it survives November. I have one experience with these — *Precious Little Pink*. However there are multiple other examples in



Forever Blue

4. Sporadic: These are surprises, and I have a lot of surprises. Consider these to be similar to the cyclic rebloomers, but much less reliable. They do not rebloom every year, or at the same time each year. They are often reliable in the southern states or in the west. I find that *Ruby Eruption* is reliably sporadic for me—about three of five years.

5. Secondary Stalks:

The same rhizome sends up a secondary stalk in the same growing season; these are rare. I have seen one, a seedling in my own garden. I am somewhat suspicious

other people's gardens, especially in California. **Chuck Chapman's** well known rebloomer *Forever Blue* is an excellent example... just not in Ottawa!

3. Repeaters: Additional bloomstalks are sent up immediately following the main season, thereby keeping the clump in bloom for up to four weeks in Canada (and eight weeks in California). These are most common with beardless irises, but that isn't to say I have viewed any... yet.



Ruby Eruption in MY garden – it has bloomed much darker for me in a different bed. It is sporadic.

of this category, if only because if it is rare, then it may not be rebloom at all, but an internal problem within the rhizome itself—much like humans can have webbed toes. It isn't a fault, it is just unusual.

There is one additional item to be aware of with respect to reblooming iris. Iris classes all have height restrictions, and the reblooming iris is often much taller than its class height, let alone its reported height. The rule is that irises are placed in the appropriate class based strictly on their spring bloom. If they bloom much taller (quite common) during rebloom season, that does not change their class. The best example I've seen, and over many years, is the purple self *Autumn Jester* (Chapman '00); it is a solid 50% taller during rebloom—with additional buds!



Roy's Repeater... and I don't have this.
Picture courtesy of Terry Aitken

I reiterate my request for any report of rebloom in Canada. What I need in your report is the city or postal code, the cultivar name, and the month of rebloom. If the same plant reblooms twice, then report it twice. Any additional comments would be especially welcome. (Please contact Sandy Ives at: iris2003@rogers.com)



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.

American Iris Society Region 16

2009 Summer Report

by Kate Brewitt, AIS Region 16 RVP (aisrvp16@irises.org)



plant sales.


s I type this report the Spuria irises are blooming in my garden. These tall, stately beauties indicate the end of the iris season for me. If you haven't tried Spurias I suggest you look into getting one or two for your garden. In fact, now is the time to start thinking about buying

irises as both AIS Region 16 affiliates are having their end-of-season

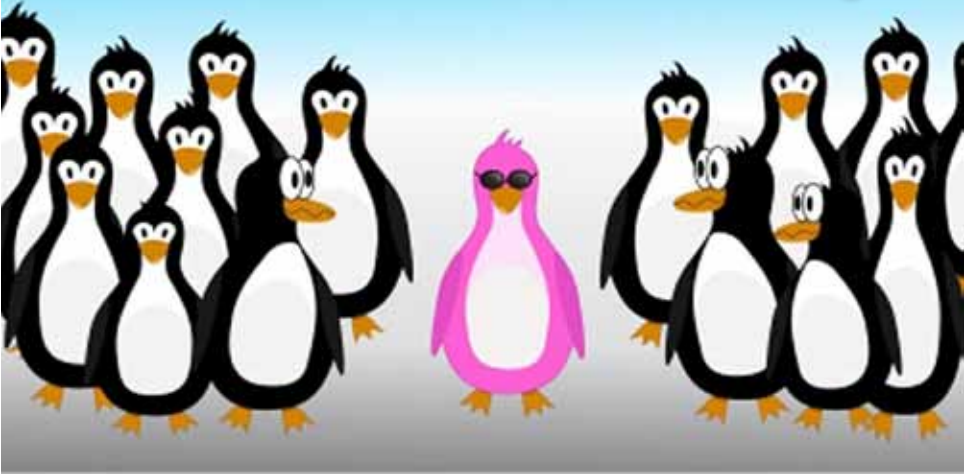
The Can-West Iris Society (CWIS) is holding their annual Members Only Rhizome Sale in late July or early August. This year they will be offering irises from Sutton's Iris Garden...well worth the price of a one-year membership (only \$5) when you think of what you will save in shipping and phytosanitary certificate costs. This is a major fund raising event for CWIS. The club is very enthusiastic and sales guarantee to be brisk so don't hesitate. Last year irises sold out within the first three days! Contact B. J. Jackson for information; e-mail jacksonb@mts.net. Internet access is required to participate.

The Toronto Region Iris Society (TORIS) is having its annual auction and rhizome sale on August 16 at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), 777 Lawrence Ave. E. in Toronto, ON. They will be auctioning off bearded irises plus some Siberians and Spurias. This is your chance to get irises not offered at your local garden centers. The auction starts at 1 p.m. When the auction is over, table sales will begin. Here rhizomes of named varieties dug from members' gardens are offered to the public at unheard-of prices. Proceeds help support the club's future events. To view a slide show of the irises being auctioned, go to www.webshots.com. Do a search for "tjlaurin". Then do a search for "albums of tjlaurin". Click on "change". Select "TORIS August Auction". Also, check www.torontoirissociety.com for details.

AIS Region 16 has a new on-line communication forum: <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/aisregion16/>. It was set-up so that iris lovers within AIS Region 16 could stay connected. Hopefully members will use it as a means for exchanging information and ideas, swapping photos, and, in general, sharing their enthusiasm for growing and hybridizing irises in Canada. You do not have to be an AIS member to join this forum. It's open to everyone and it's free!

AIS Region 16 also has a new website; <http://sites.google.com/site/aisregion16/>. All the same information pertaining to open gardens, plant sales, iris events, and judges' training is still found on this site. Take a look! And, enjoy your summer! 

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Musings From Manitoba

By B. J. Jackson (jacksonb@mts.net)

Summer is fleeting in Manitoba at the best of times, and 2009 has definitely not been the best of times, weather-wise. Iris-wise, not so bad—surprisingly enough—given what they have had to contend with.

The one good thing about cool temperatures and iris bloom is that the color intensity this year was amazing. Colors appeared more vibrant and richer. The standard for a lasting bloom is set at 3 days before fading. Many iris had fresh looking blooms for up to a week with little fading. Of particular note was TB *French Perfume*. Although it had just three blooms, the plant was in bloom for three weeks. The other that held its color particularly well was SDB *Truly*. Such a wonderful blue in an ordinary year, this one was stunning and the clump was in bloom for almost five weeks from first to last bloom.

The frosty nights, however, were another story. Several bloom anomalies were noted in the iris garden including additional standards and falls, no standards or falls, aborted bloom stalks (first time I've ever seen that!) and blooms way down in the foliage. Rot was a minor inconvenience in SW MB but in other areas of the province (particularly Winnipeg and South-Eastern MB) where they have had torrential rains almost weekly for the past month, it has become a bigger problem. And the weeds! They certainly are healthy and happy! I have given up trying to have a manicured garden and am settling for pulling tree seedlings and thistles. Some I swear grow a foot over night!

In other news, the second annual Can-West Iris Society's AIS accredited show was a huge success! Held on Saturday, June 13th in Winnipeg, MB there were 167 stems entered and the judging was a marathon session for **Terry Laurin**, **Kate Brewitt**, and **El Hutchison**. It was made even longer due to the fact that exhibition judges training was also provided to myself as well as CWIS member **Ed Czarnecki**.

This year's winners were:

- AIS Best in Show – SDB *Wish Upon a Star* (Black, 2006) – exhibited by El Hutchison
- Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show (sponsored by On Russell Gardens) – SDB *Ruby Eruption* (Chapman, 1997)
- AIS Silver Medal (horticultural sweepstakes) – El Hutchison
- AIS Bronze Medal (horticultural sweepstakes) – Brenda Newton
- CWIS People's Choice Award (voted by the public attending the show) – IB *Double Your Fun* (Aitken, 2000) – exhibited by B. J. Jackson

Of the total of 167 stems, there were over 135 different cultivars entered by 11 exhibitors and they covered all classes of bearded iris. There was also a single Siberian, a single Species and a single Species-X exhibited. There was just one TB iris that was coaxed into bloom by the exhibitor just so it could be there.

Garden judges training was also provided by Terry and Kate in the gardens of **El Hutchison**. Earlier in June I had traveled to Ontario and received exhibition and garden judges training at the TORIS show Sunday, June 7th so I should be done this initial round although I'm told official notification doesn't come until later. Ed Czarnecki will qualify, we're told, just in time for the 2011 show in BC. I was also able to see first-hand for the very first time, iris borer damage to an iris. It is about the one and only time I've been very glad that our MB climate is so cold. As of now, the wee beasts will not survive here for which I am eternally grateful.



Photo © www.mid-america-garden.com

AIS Best in Show - Wish Upon a Star

We certainly learned a lot over the show weekend and will put that knowledge to good use in future. We are already planning a hands-on workshop prior to the show dedicated to grooming and staging iris. Since most of our show experience out here has been with liliium, we had been grooming the iris the same way and that just doesn't work. So, one of our members has offered her gardens to host a show preparation staging and grooming workshop in 2009. Interest has been very keen.

My own hybridizing program continues to grow and the results so far are not too bad if I do say so myself. I have selected two 2005 seedlings to evaluate further and several 2006 seedlings bloomed for the first time. Several will hit the garbage and some will be farmed out to friends who liked them when visiting but space is now becoming a distinct problem! Even with two home gardens and space in two public gardens, I am about out of room. I edged one bed another 6 inches but that is the limit. I don't have any other room. Anybody know of a small acreage in this area with lots of good soil I can buy for a reasonable price?

I made several crosses this year, too. The ones I am most excited about is those involving SDB *Mikey Likes It*. It was crossed with several SDBs, an IB and a BB but so far just three pods are in evidence. I also crossed a few MDBs (now that was an experience that brings some pictures to my mind's eye) and am very excited to see a pod on *Grandma's Hat* and another on *Coral Carpet*. All of the appendages will be appropriately crossed that the pods mature and are full of shiny black seed in a few weeks.

So that's it for Manitoba news for this time. If you'd like to write, I can be reached at jacksonb@mts.net.



Canadian Iris Society announces 2009 Annual Iris Sale



Photos: These are Tall Bearded type of iris; all of them are AIS registered cultivars
top left: Kitty Kay | top right: Sea Power | bottom left: Midnight Oil | bottom right: Fall Fiesta

...Looking for unique and beautiful irises like
these ones? Come out to our annual sale
August 9th, 2009 @1:00 P.M.

Location: Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) 680 Plains Road West,
Burlington, Ontario (RBG main building, rooms 3 and 4)
Pick up some really excellent high quality irises at this event. The plants on
offer are American Iris Society (AIS) registered and named iris cultivars

Event contact: Ed Jowett
1960 Side Rd 15 RR 2 , Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0
905-936-9941 | ed.jowett@hotmail.com

For more information on this and other events please go to our
Canadian Iris Society (CIS) website: www.cdn-iris.ca

Dates to Remember

Rhizome Sale See insert	RBG	Sun Aug 09
CIS Annual Meeting of Members & election of directors RBG (See details on page 18.)		Sat Sep 12
Board of directors meeting	RBG 1.30 p.m.	Sun Nov 15
A.I.S. Convention For more details contact: tedbaker@shaw.ca	Victoria, B.C.	May 30 – Jun 04/11

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



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: info@mcmillensirisdgarden.ca
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: bob@trailsendirises.com
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: info@mcmillensirsgarden.ca
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

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Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0



Walker Ross

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