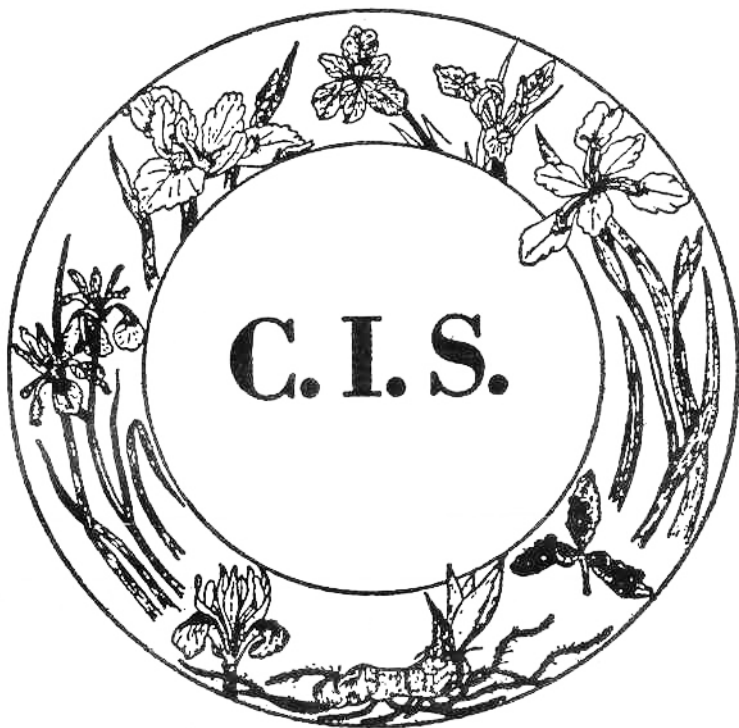

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Winter 2010 Volume 54 Issue 1



Canadian Iris Society

Board of Directors

Officers for 2010

Editor & Past President	Ed Jowett , 1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0 ph: 905-936-9941 email: ed.jowett@hotmail.com	2008-2010
	John Moons , 34 Langford Rd., RR#1 Brantford ON N3T 5L4 ph: 519-752-9756	2008-2010
	Harold Crawford , 81 Marksam Road, Guelph, ON N1H 6T1 ph: 519-822-5886 e-mail: hrcrawford@rogers.com	(Honorary)
Secretary	Ann Granatier , 3674 Indian Trail, RR#8 Brantford ON N3T 5M1 ph: 519-647-9746 email: ann@trailsendiris.com	2007-2009
Treasurer	Bob Granatier , 3674 Indian Trail, RR#8 Brantford ON N3T 5M1 ph: 519-647-9746 email: bob@trailsendiris.com	2007-2009
Membership & Webmaster	Chris Hollinshead , 3070 Windwood Dr, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3 ph: 905 567-8545 e-mail: cdn-iris@rogers.com	2007-2009

Directors at Large

Director	Gloria McMillen , RR#1 Norwich, ON N0J 1P0 ph: 519 468-3279 e-mail: gmcmlen@execulink.com	2008-2010
Director	Eleanor Hutchison , Box 13 Group 55, RR#1, St. Anne, MB R5H 1R1 email: eleanore@mts.com	2009-2011
Director	Alan Mc Murtrie , 22 Calderon Cres. Willowdale ON M2R 2E5 ph: 416-221-4344 email: alan.mcmurtrie@gmail.com	2010-2012
Director	Pat Loy 18 Smithfield Drive, Etobicoke On M8Y 3M2 ph: 416-251-9136 email: pat_loy@yahoo.ca	2010-2012

Hon. Director **Dr. Leslie Laking**, 4151 Kilmer Rd. Apt 409 Burlington, ON L7M 5A9
ph: 905-315-2595

Hon. Director **David Schmidt**, 18 Fleming Ave., Dundas, ON L9H 5Z4

Hon. Director **Verna Laurin**, 3 Golfink Dr Unit 216 Aurora ON, L4G 7Y4

Newsletter Designer **Vaughn Dragland** ph. 416-622-8789 email: vaughn@e-clipse.ca

Table of Contents

Editor's Report	2
New & Newsworthy (By Nancy Kennedy)	5
Terra Greenhouses	10
Garden Diggings (By Christopher Hollinshead)	11
Fences and Decks and "Better Gardening"	14
More Garden Diggings (By John Moon)	15
Iris Borer and Burning Iris (By Chuck Chapman)	17
The Iris Borer (By Ella Porter McKiimey)	17
Florence Int. Iris Competition (By Harold Crawford)	20
Eclipse Design Studio	23
Edward Roy Epperson (Obituary)	24
AIS Region 16 Winter Report (By Kate Brewitt)	26
AIS Convention 2010 (Madison Area Iris Society)	27
Musings From Manitoba (By B. J. Jackson)	29
Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS)	30
All About Fertilizer (Submitted by Bob Granatier)	32
Letter to the Editor (from John McMillen)	34
Coming Events and Dates to Remember	35
Canadian Sources for Irises	36
Liaisons and Regions	37



Editor's Report:

By Ed Jowett



You are receiving the printed version of this bulletin to ensure that you get a chance to vote on this important issue. If you normally get an electronic version you will get that also.

As a Board we have tried twice now to hold an Annual General Meeting, and under the present terms of our constitution, have failed. The present terms state that we must have twenty members present for a quorum. I did a study of our current membership

and found only sixty-five members who live within one hundred kilometers of Hamilton. We know that some of these members cannot travel, thus making the potential number of attendees even less. This would mean 1/3 of the members would have to attend, which never happens. It is therefore that we recommend the changes below to our constitution. We have included in this issue a self-return postage-paid voting card for your use. We have also given space on this card for any comments and recommendations that you would like to make. We are open to your suggestions and encourage you to make them.

The following are the recommended changes.

Article IV – Board of Directors

Section 5. Ballot Election and Term of Office

Original:

All members in good standing may vote their choice of the nominations proposed at the Annual General Meeting. Election shall be by majority vote. Ballots may be used if necessary. No proxy votes are permitted.

- All terms begin at the close of the Annual General Meeting.
- The full term for all elected directors shall be three years. Five directors shall be elected at each AGM to ensure overlapping terms of office.
- A director filling a vacancy is considered to have served a full term when they serve more than half of that term's duration.

Change To:

All members in good standing may vote their choice of the nominations proposed at the Annual General Meeting. Election shall be by majority vote. Ballots may be used if necessary. No proxy votes are permitted.

- All terms begin at the close of the Annual General Meeting.
- The full term for all elected directors shall be three years. Three directors shall be elected at each AGM to ensure overlapping terms of office.
- A director filling a vacancy is considered to have served a full term when they serve more than half of that term's duration.

Section 6. Office Holding Limitations and Vacancies

Original:

No director may serve more than two consecutive terms. (Note: Removed)

The Board of Directors may declare a position on the board vacant due to the following circumstances:

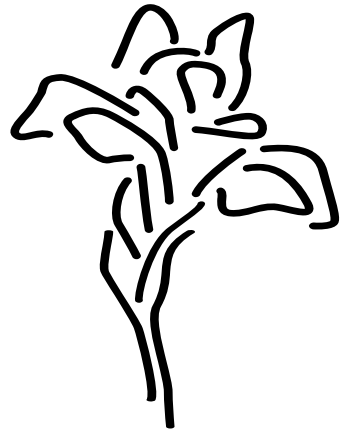
- i. The Director in question having submitted a written resignation to the Secretary or the Secretary pro tem,
- ii. The Director in question failing to maintain an active CIS membership,
- iii. Other circumstances as defined in the Standing Rules

Change To:

No director may serve more than two consecutive terms. (stricken)

The Board of Directors may declare a position on the board vacant due to the following circumstances:

- i. The Director in question having submitted a written resignation to the Secretary or the Secretary pro tem,
- ii. The Director in question failing to maintain an active CIS membership,
- iii. Other circumstances as defined in the Standing Rules



ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 3. Holding Limitations and Vacancies

Original:

No selected officer excepting the secretary and treasurer may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. (President, VP, etc)

The Board of Directors may declare an office on the board vacant due to the following circumstances:

- i. The Officer in question having submitted a written resignation to the Secretary or the Secretary pro tem,
- ii. The Officer in question failing to maintain an active CIS membership
- iii. Other circumstances as defined in the Standing Rules

Change To:

No selected officer excepting the secretary and treasurer may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. (stricken)

No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. (President, VP, etc)

The Board of Directors may declare an office on the board vacant due to the following circumstances:

- i. The Officer in question having submitted a written resignation to the Secretary or the Secretary pro tem,
- ii. The Officer in question failing to maintain an active CIS membership
- iii. Other circumstances as defined in the Standing Rules

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting

Original:

The CIS will have an Annual General Meeting of the membership; this meeting is generally held in late September of each year. Quorum is set at twenty members. The business meeting shall be for the purpose of electing directors, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Change To:

The CIS will have an Annual General Meeting of the membership; this meeting is generally held in late September of each year; but maybe changed to coincide with another event by the board as seems fit. Quorum is set at least 50% or more of the current Board of Directors and a minimum of one regular, non-board member in good standing.

The business meeting shall be for the purpose of electing directors, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 2. Board Meetings

Original:

The CIS will have quarterly board meetings during which the regular affairs of the CIS are addressed. All officers and directors are expected to attend; the general membership is welcomed to attend the open sessions. Quorum is set at five with a minimum of two officers.

Change To:

The CIS will have quarterly board meetings during which the regular affairs of the CIS are addressed. All officers and directors are expected to attend; the general membership is welcomed to attend the open sessions. Quorum is set at 50% of current board of directors and with a minimum of two officers.

The deadline for return votes is April 10, 2010. Thank you for your co-operation.

I have heard though the grapevine that the London Region is going to hold an “Iris Festival” sometime in June 2010. Look for more to come on this in the Spring issue. We hope to continue our share program again this year but also have some other plans to allow purchasing of fairly new cultivars at reduced prices. I hope to have this finalized and printed in the Spring issue, too.

If you have a computer and are not receiving our news bulletins by email, I highly recommend you buy a memory stick and save them on there. You will have full color and can make yourself an index and keep multiple years in one little memory stick. It makes the storing so easy—no big pile of paper to look through or find room for.

Sincerely,

Ed Jowett

Ed Jowett, Editor & Past President



NEW AND NEWSWORTHY...

By Nancy Kennedy

This article was originally destined to be not much more than a short essay on essentially nothing—attesting to the paucity of news in the iris world at mid-January—the point when pen went to paper.

Happily, **Paul Black** and **Tom Johnson** are first out of the gate this year with their just released new introductions for 2010. Obviously they're still afflicted with Iris Virus. The website is not updated in toto (that's medical speak for "were done") but you can browse the new stuff. More on that later...

I thought it might be nice at this time to update CIS members on the happenings surrounding **'IRIS-ISTIBLE VICTORIA'** – the **AIS Convention** being held in Victoria, B.C. in 2011 (May 29 to June 3). The is first time since 1955 that the American Iris Society's National Convention has been held in Canada. Not ever having attended one of these functions (yet), I was personally interested in knowing what goes on during one of these extravaganzas and what I might expect to experience while there. Contact was made with **Ted Baker**, Chair of the Convention, who put me in touch with the Publicity Committee, who very graciously provided an excellent overview of the happenings to date, containing some very interesting snippets of information you wouldn't normally think about. Many thanks to the Publicity Committee for their contribution to this article.



Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria, BC – site of the AIS Convention 2011

The Fairmont Empress Hotel, rising majestically over Victoria's Inner Harbour, showcases the spirit and energy of Vancouver Island in grand style. With the turn-of-the-century architecture and timeless beauty, this resort regally captures the grandeur and elegance of a bygone era. If you have never had the pleasure of staying at this hotel, here is the opportunity of a lifetime. The 2011 Convention Committee has secured a convention rate of \$139 per night (regular rate \$300 and up). Bookings are already being accepted at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ais>. To book your reservation, call 1-866-540-4429 and say you are with the 2011 American Iris Society National Convention.

IRIS~ISTIBLE Victoria — The 2011 AIS National Convention

Will you be there? Come join us and experience the excitement!

The British Columbia Iris Society and its Convention Committee have been diligently working on this event since April 2008. The next 15 months will be most crucial as plans are finalized. Everyone from the Hospitality Committee to the Publicity Committee is preparing for what promises to be an event not to be missed. To give you an idea of what goes into the planning of a Convention plus some of the things you will be seeing if you attend, here are some "crunched numbers":

- 4 host gardens
- 2 trips to the USA to pick up the guest plants
- 1249 guest bearded irises
- 223 guest beardless irises including 10 Pacific Coast irises
- 14 BCIS members who planted those irises
- 16 BCIS members who continue to maintain the host gardens
- 13 volunteers (nonmembers) also helping maintain the host gardens
- 17 2011 Convention Committee members
- 400 anticipated Convention attendees
- 40 sleepless nights waiting for confirmation on the Convention Hotel
- 1 world-class hotel, The Fairmont Empress, booked for the Convention

Guest irises have been sent in from 46 hybridizers including 36 US hybridizers, 5 Canadian hybridizers, and 5 hybridizers from outside North America. We have an

excellent effort from the Canadian contingent:

Todd Boland (Newfoundland), **Chuck Chapman** (Ontario), **Tony Huber** (Quebec), **Joyce Prothero** (B.C.) and **Val Saari** (Ontario). No doubt we will see some exciting plants in bloom from these hybridizers!



Katy Witha Y

In 2010, **Trails End Iris Gardens** in Brantford, Ontario, is now seeing its iris hybridizing program come to fruition with the introduction of two new irises this year. *Katy Witha Y*, a late-bloomer tall-bearded, somewhat on the shorter side (at 34") is a reverse amoena with lacy, warm light yellow standards

over white falls with a light green veining thru-and-thru, brown sandusting at the hafts and a lacy pale yellow fringe. The catchy name here comes from longstanding back-and-forth banter between **Grandpa Bob Granatier** and his granddaughter **Katie** on just how her name should be spelled... A very delicate and feminine flower, just like Katie (or Katy).

Mister Boy, the other Granatier intro this year, is named after a grandson. This extremely tall mid to late bitone dark purple/black has ruffled domed standards of the deepest plum with deep, dark, black/violet falls. Striking bushy gold beards, whiskered on the sides by white veins, call visibly from across the garden. Sturdy, thick stalks with clean foliage and a hint of purple here and there make for a very neat specimen plant. Evident in its parentage is *Before the Storm*, a former Dykes success. Act fast, the relatives are after this one, as am I!



Mister Boy

Next year at Trails End, future potential introductions will be available for viewing in the display gardens, so a trip to the farm is definitely in order. Trails End is a 10 acre iris farm in the Hamilton/Brantford corridor, showcasing 400+ varieties and some 6,000 plants in total, intermixed with companion perennials and grasses, for one magnificent display that shouldn't be missed, especially during peak bloom season from about May 20 to mid June. Come earlier in the season as well for an exhausting display of standard dwarfs and other medians—the little ones which are so often overlooked but equally as beautiful. They have a fabulous website too, www.trailsendiris.com, that can amuse for hours.

As mentioned earlier, Oregon is first up to display their new plants. These guys were really busy hybridizing last year—they've got scads! **Mid-America Garden** has page upon page of desirables for introduction this year. Obviously once again, homage can't be paid to each and every one, so visit their website at www.mid-america-garden.com and feed your head...



Nosferatu

Starting with the little ones, and starting with my favourite, *Nosferatu*, by **Paul Black**, has burning hues of deep reddish/brown/black. The Indian red standards have a shimmering satin sheen; the falls are almost on fire with an infusion of yellow around a near-black central spot, around burning orange/gold beards. Said to hold its deep dark colours well in full sun—certainly an attribute in something this striking. Deep, dark, vampiristic... ▶



Open Your Eyes

Another midseason/late SDB, *Open Your Eyes* commands you do to just that—a pristine white flower with big, dark inky blue eyes as thumbprints on the falls appearing to stare at you. Said to be fast growing and free flowering. *Pawn* packs a big punch in bloom with its medium slate blue standards over flared, iridescent, dark red/grape falls sporting a narrow slate lavender rim. Neon orange over white beards say wake-up! *Create*, a smaller SDB at 13” has slightly smoky medium grape standards with pink plicata markings up the midribs and buff pink falls with darker buff/apricot hafts and beards of a plush coral orange. Below the beards is a zonal spot of pale pinkish white. This is a striking flower!



Beatnik

Want to welcome psychedelia to your garden? *Beatnik*. Stark white standards are covered in fuchsia purple plicata bands and marks. Horizontal white falls are decorated with fuchsia here, there and everywhere. Screaming orange-gold beards make sure you won't forget the experience (a direct quote)... *Fido* seems born of psychedelia too. What a bizarre pattern and wild colour combination—although subdued. A mere 12” and one of the later SDB's, the apricot styles glow from within butter standards rimmed by extra-wide rosewood plicata bands. Light yellow falls have a narrow tan-brown plicata band. You'll see dots and dashes, vapors and colours beckoning a closer look to be “experienced”.



Murder Mystery

Of Paul's tall-bearded newbies, how about a good *Murder Mystery*? These deep, dark, metallic purple flowers with dark indigo highlighting stand atop 40” strong show stalks, loaded with buds. The most striking and unusual features to this flower are found in its dark brown beards and deep texture veins through the falls.

Act Surprised has as its parent *Announcement* (and in its pedigree *Sky Hooks*); therefore we have a lovely light pink and orchid bicolor whose tangerine infused beards end in short, hairy orchid horns. This is a very pretty flower and a mid to late bloomer, which guarantees something superb in the



Opening Number

garden toward end of season. Strong growth produces show stalks 3 feet high with 9-10 buds, for a terrific garden display.

Look inside the pale white/blue standards of *Opening Number* and be amazed to find dark gold styles agitating to burst forth. Reinforcing this are big, bright gold beards almost with a space-age lift-off. The standards have a gilt rim of gold, the falls sport a white vein pattern concentrated around those bushy beards, subdued underneath a purple/black cloak. If you crave the unusual, this one should be part of the collection. Striking and impressive...

As the end of the page draws near, the website will be needed to bring forth the remainder of **Paul Black's** introductions in living colour. He has several introductions in the BB and IB classes this year, and many, many more TB's than have been profiled here, from all shades of romanticism—hues of pink, lemon, peach, white—to the bold and brash of the kaleidoscope combos, as in *Gaudy Is Good*.

In the Spring 2010 newsletter, we will visit the **Tom Johnson** arm of Mid-America and profile his introductions for this year. By that time, spring will have rolled itself out and we will all once again be afflicted with Iris Virus. Oh happy days ... I can't wait.



TERRA GREENHOUSES

For all your gardening or landscaping needs
Visit our corporate sponsor
at one of their sites



Terra Greenhouses
2273 #5 Highway
Burlington, ON
(between Brant St
& Guelph Line)
T: 905.332.3222

Terra Greenhouses
11800 Keele Street
Vaughan, ON
(one block north of
Teston Road)
T: 905.832.6955

Terra Greenhouses
280 Britannia Rd
Milton, ON
(just West of Trafalgar)
T: 905.876.4000

Terra Greenhouses
#8 5th Concession
Waterdown, ON
(3km north of
Clappison's Corners)
T: 905.689.1999



Where colour lives!

www.terragreenhouses.com

Winter 2010 Garden Diggings:

Iris Catalogues-research and buy!

By Christopher Hollinshead

Its wintertime 2010! ... Let us see what we can dig up from the frozen ground this issue.

Iris Catalogues

Iris catalogues will soon be available from the various providers of such things. Order some iris catalogues today for some serious armchair gardening. You may or may not be new to iris gardening and are considering putting together a request list of catalogues to order. Here are a few questions and some answers on the subject of catalogues. Hopefully you will find the following information helpful in one way or another.

Question: where do I find list of suppliers of iris?

Answer: Check our Canadian source listings that occur at the back of the CIS Newsletter each issue. You may also wish to consult the American Iris Society Bulletin and the extensive commercial listing in the back of that publication. Just be well aware of the import restrictions and extra costs associated with ordering from USA sources. The CIS also runs fund raiser sales events each year to provide a source of newer iris introductions to our members.

Question: From what I have heard, it sounds like late January or February is the time to request the catalogs. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes, you can order them any time now. Most commercial sources are compiling their catalogs now for the season.

Question: When do the catalogs start arriving?

Answer: Well, the first to arrive here is generally Keppel's—touching down in January/February. After that, you'll likely get the bulk of them in March/April with a few more trickling in later. Some commercial suppliers provide internet on-line versions available for download or on-line viewing. A mixture of the two catalogue types, printed and electronic, could be correct for you. ►



Question: When should you place your order? And when do the rhizomes arrive?

Answer: You should order right away and the rhizomes will arrive at the proper planting time for your area (July/August here in our northern climate). Perhaps super early ordering is not as crucial in iris-dom as it is in other types of plant catalogues, but if you really have your heart set on something special, the suggestion is to place your order as soon as possible.

Question: On the average, how many catalogs does everyone request each year? I was considering requesting about seven but didn't know if that was too many? ... Or too few?

Answer: You mean some people have limits? Seriously though, it is nice to have enough catalogs to keep yourself occupied till spring. Seven could be a number to keep in mind—perhaps a selection of three or four will get you started, maybe a few more if you have been at it for while and have developed some favorite suppliers. And although it's tempting to comparison shop, do take things like bonuses and shipping costs into consideration. Most commercial iris suppliers have a bonus policy—kind of a thank you



New 2010 iris introduction: Smoky Shadows (Tasco 2010) a TB (tall bearded) iris (and yes that is the registered spelling, smoky not smokey) height 34", mid-to-late season, parentage = Solar Fire X Secret Service



New 2010 iris introduction: One More Night (Duncan 2010) a TB (tall bearded) iris, height 38", late season, parentage = Shadows of Night X All Night Long

for your business. This is not to say that you should EXPECT a bonus, but many, many commercials will reward your order with carefully chosen extra irises. Some take special care too when selecting the bonus iris such as to make sure the "extra" wasn't ordered in the past. Other places may ask you for a wish list and then try their best to choose from those when selecting a bonus.

Have fun with your catalog reading, selecting and ordering. Perhaps let us know which new or special varieties have made your own special "want list". The extra time available in the off-season is perfect for planning those new iris variety acquisitions and how they will fit into your garden layout.

The research and buying selections made now will show for you the following season in 2011! Spring 2010 is coming sooner, at that time invite someone new to your garden to share your 2010 iris bloom ... then recruit them with a rhizome or two or three later in the year!

As always, happy garden digging. — C.H.



*"Garden Diggings" is a regular column in the CIS Newsletter. **Chris Hollinshead** lives in Mississauga, Ontario with his family, an ever-evolving garden and lots of irises. He may be reached by e-mail at: cdn-iris@rogers.com.*

**Fences
and Decks**
& "Better" Gardening



WINTER
is Here!

416-877-8733

A NEW DECK, FENCE, GARDEN, or WATER GARDEN is just what you need to enhance your outdoor enjoyment!

We offer:

- Weekly lawn maintenance, tree pruning / removal
- Pond opening and weekly maintenance
- Classic or one-of-a-kind fence and deck designs, stonework
- Seasonal yard clean-up and repairs
- Top quality materials, plants, trees, fish stock
- Dedicated, experienced estimators and installers
- 5 year guarantee against faulty materials or workmanship
(2 year guarantee on plants)
- Fast and accurate estimates
- Competitive pricing

Winter Bonus
Book your project now and **WE WILL PAY THE GST!**
CALL US TODAY (416) 877-8733 (TREE)
dave@bettergardening.ca



Serving Mississauga and Etobicoke

Copyright © 2009, FENCES & DECKS & "BETTER" GARDENING. All rights reserved.

More Garden Diggings

What to do with your clay soil

By John Moons

It is sometimes a bit hard to find a definition of clay. Clay particles are defined as those mineral parts of the soil that are smaller than 0.002 mm or 2 microns. Clay soils have at least 40% of the mineral material classified as clay particles. There is also sandy clay and silty clay.

Because the clay particles are so small, clay soils have a very big internal surface to make contact with water and fertilizers. That means that a heavy clay soil will be able to hang on to water when dry conditions occur. You will notice this when you plant a tree or shrub in the clay and you use light garden soil around the roots. The clay will pull all the water out of the light garden soil and your plant will dry out. The clay soil is still damp. To remedy this, work in a layer of mulch or manure around the plant that reaches past the dividing line of clay and the garden soil.



The Good Earth

In the spring it is not desirable that the clay hangs on to the water for a long time. The soil stays wet and it takes a lot of heat to make the soil dry enough to work. We call clay soils for that reason “late soils”. In the spring it is important not to work the clay until it has the right moisture level. If you work the land when it is still too wet, then all summer long you will have clumps and they will only be broken up by the frost of the next winter. If you wait too long to work the soil, then there is a good chance that your soil will be too hard. In that case you (or your machines) will have to work a lot harder to get the soil worked up so you can plant your garden. Here in the eastern part of Brant County, Ontario, the farmers with heavy clay soils will tell you that they have an average of only 2 or 3 days per year when they can work the fields. Unfortunately I find this quite often to be true. ▶

There are a few ways to improve your clay soil.

The main way to improve your soil is to drain it. Areas with clay soils are usually quite flat. Find the lowest spot on the property and lay out your drain lines from there. For a smaller garden I find a 2 inch line is enough, the lines should be at least 30 cm deep and 3 meters apart. It is not a good idea to have a drain line ending in a pond. Even after 10 years a lot of silt will end up in your pond after a heavy rain fall. All that silt is food for the algae. Put the end of your drain line in the exit ditch of your pond.

When you add lime to the clay, the positively charged calcium ions will make little balls when they are surrounded by negatively charged clay particles. All these little balls will make it possible for the air to penetrate the soil. We all know that roots need oxygen to grow, so all that air in the soil is very beneficial.

Adding organic material such as mulch, manure straw, sawdust or peat moss will help a lot to improve your clay soil. If you have soil with a high pH (6 or more) then you will notice that all that organic material will be broken down very quickly. Micro organisms work very hard when the pH is high. In a peat bog the pH is low and the organic material does not break down very fast. I have added manure to a grass field here and the first year the soil was quite nice. The second year the quality was not so great and the third year it looked like cement, because all the organic material had disappeared.



Unamended “dry” clay soil

soil because it is too hard. When you have added sand, you will see a lot of very fine cracks and you will always be able to work your garden. I try to add at least 5 cm of sand over the whole garden, but more is better. I have worked it in 30 cm deep. We are lucky to have an unlimited supply of manure and after 20 years, by putting in drainage, sand and manure we can say that we have the soil we want to have.

A long term and expensive way to improve your clay soil is to add sand. You almost make it sandy clay. Any sand will do, but the best sand to use is “sharp sand”, the material the roads department of your township puts on the roads in the winter. Under a microscope you will see sharp splinters. These pieces of sand allow the soil to hold air. When the conditions in the summer are very dry, **unamended clay soil** will have cracks that can be more than 2 cm wide. At that time you will be unable to work up your



Iris Borer and Burning Iris

By Chuck Chapman

I have been burning my iris foliage in early spring for a number of years. It effectively cleans up the old foliage and eliminates any borer eggs on foliage. The beardless iris burn very quickly, but some bearded clumps need a bit of fuel put on them first. I use some gasoline, although kerosene or any other flammable material works well. To ignite plants I use a weed burning tool that I got from Lee Valley Tools. It doesn't work very well with weeds, but starts fire on iris clumps very well.

I was going to write an article on this, but found this following article first published in 1924, and I can't improve much on what was said so I'm offering this reprint for your information. (By the way, I looked up what "corrosive sublimate" is. It is mercuric chloride.)



Reprinted from "American Iris Society
"Bulletin #11, May 1924

The Iris Borer

By Ella Porter McKiimey, New Jersey

(From Horticulture, Mar. 1, 1924)

A night flying moth, **Macronoctua onusta**, dusky dun in color, and about an inch in size, emerges from the pupa by mid-September in the latitude of North New Jersey and deposits eggs at the base of the Iris foliage. These eggs winter over and begin to hatch in early May. The hatching period, judging from the varying sizes of the worms at differing dates of examination of foliage, spreads over some days, perhaps even weeks.

Safely inside the leaf, the eating goes on, the grub grows and works its way down the blade. It usually reaches the rhizome by or before August. There it gorges on the fragrant food at hand and grows rapidly to a repulsive dirty white grub, sometimes two inches in length and the size of an ordinary lead pencil. At this stage it soon passes into pupation, which is comparatively short (about three weeks with some well-grown sluggish worms, which I hatched out in a can of dirt, covered with gauze). Mid-September or even earlier, the moth emerges. This, in brief, is the life cycle which, kept in mind, is an aid to intelligent fighting.

An absolutely effective control, of course, is to destroy either the worm or the egg before the worm! With only a few clumps of Iris, watching for injured blades, as



described above, and pinching between the thumb and fore-finger is practicable and certainly efficacious. A more complete job can be made by drawing the entire blade, from the bottom up, between the thumb and finger. A pair of rubber gloves, if there is likely to be much of this to do, will be welcome equipment. In large plantings, this method is laborious and, for me, impracticable because of lack of time and labour.

In the war days when a garden that had required the services of an all-the-year man had to be maintained by twenty-four hours per week I hired labourer. A long border of Iris into which maple leaves had drifted the autumn before, was ordered in early March, and burned off to save time in cleaning. I was reckless of results because of the press of work and, possibly influenced also by the radio-activity of experiment and re-search going on all about us! This row of Iris went right along growing and blooming and a careful search up and down in the summer failed to show the work of the borer, though it was present in other parts or the garden.



Macronoctua onusta - larva

My notes show that conditions get right, in this section, for burning, about the middle of March. It is important that a good day be selected. From ten to five on a dry bright day, after several days of drying wind, is ideal.

When the planting is an established one, the dead blades of the Iris, lifted slightly, with fork or rake, a few hours before burning, usually make a sufficiently hot fire to cleanse the plants of eggs. On roots, planted the previous summer, leaves or other trash must be applied. Last year, in such places, I tried—and with such success that I shall repeat it this year—a torch made of discarded bags, bound with wire to the end of a long bean pole. This was set in a pail, containing a few inches of kerosene, until saturated. The operator rolled the blazing torch along the ground up one way and down the other, right over the plants. This saved carting material and made a quick, sharp heat which is essential. This torch-burning should not be used except on plantings well away from other perennials and shrubberies.

Clumps in long borders used in association with other perennials, I burn over successfully by making wet a circle with the watering pot and “standing by” with a pail of water and an old broom to dab out any encroaching flame.

The leaves, persisting on the rhizome at the time of burning will be, of course, cooked and will look unhappy and pallid. At that season with a good rain or two, new foliage soon puts out. For plants like *I. Trojana* and *I. Caterina* that keep fine foliage through the winter I have found it best to cut this back and then apply the sharp burning.

Clumps of *I. kaempferi*, *I. sibirica*, and all heavily-foliaged Irises, if in borders with other perennials, should have the dead foliage well shortened before burning, else the conflagration is too great for neighbouring plants.

I have tried the burning successfully and without injury on all species in my garden except *I. tectorum* and *I. gracilipes*. These emphatically resent the treatment. Even tiny *I. cristata* does not seem to mind a quickly racing small blaze. Emphasis should be laid upon getting the burning done as early as possible in the spring. The earlier the less likelihood of injury.

Stress must be laid also upon the necessity of doing the burning with a Spartan heart, fearlessly, quickly, sharply, and cleanly; even though it may, at times, touch the bare rhizome. It does not mind a quick racing fire, but certainly would resent a bonfire above it.

Wherever the fire is made hesitant, because of nearby shrubbery, there the summer will likely disclose bitten leaves. A row of newly planted roots was spared one spring, early in, my experimentation, because of nearby currant bushes. Three feet away a burned-over row showed scarcely a trace of the worm while every root in the row, nearest the currant bushes, showed summer evidence of the worm.

My observation has been that the moth selects newly planted and somewhat isolated roots and edges of rows for likely places of deposit for the eggs. Only five or six times have I actually seen this moth in the garden. The color is so that of earth, dead leaves, sticks and shadows it is practically impossible to see it. Once in mid-day it flew out from under my hand on a clump of Iris, and with swift parabolic, flight settled thirty feet away. The closest search failed to disclose it. The other times have been at dusk when it was flying sulkily and low about clumps of Iris.

Stipulation for July or August delivery of roots by the Iris buyer would be a helpful curb in the spread of the Iris borer. The presence of the worm at that time is easily detected and can be dealt with summarily. I believe the nurserymen would welcome the relief from the spring rush which this spreading of the orders would afford. I have formed the habit of dipping in a solution of corrosive sublimate, 1-1000 in strength, every Iris root which comes into my garden and every one which goes out. This is death to animal and bacterial life and harmless to the plant. The druggist supplies these tablets made up, one tablet to a pint of water giving the requisite strength of 1-1000, i.e., the tablet of 7.5 grains.

Each year I have grown braver in the matter of burning until now it is as much of annual routine as spraying the apple trees for scale, though I may see no scale. We can never know when the moth may make us an unwitting and unwilling host. I do not pretend to have exhausted the research, or presume to lay down the law for others. I love a garden. I specialize in Iris. For me, the burning is the best aid I have found.

I wish to say emphatically that the Iris borer, so far as my experience and observation goes, is not in any way responsible for the "Iris rot".



Florence's International Iris Competition

(With a Canadian Connection)

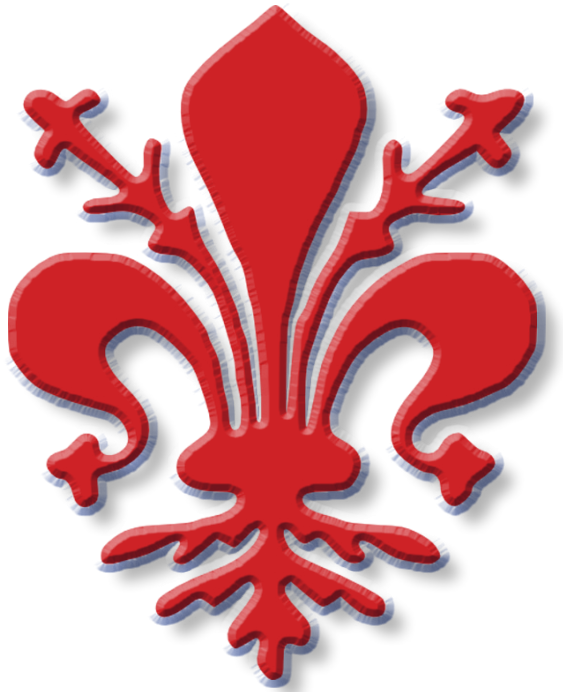
By Harold Crawford

Would you like to attend a unique iris show and at the same time visit the beautiful mediaeval city of Florence, Italy? There is still time to be at this year's International Iris Competition in May. If that is rushing it a bit plan for another year because it is an annual affair. The show is a result of collaboration between the Florence Council and the Italian Iris Society. Every year since 1954 Florence has presented this international competition for tall and other bearded irises. It takes place at the society's Iris Garden at Piazzale Michelangelo, and Florence becomes "the world capital of the iris." This year the awards will be presented on May 15. Each year iris breeders and iris lovers, and just interested visitors are attracted to the event from all over the world.



Florence, Italy

As in all iris shows, prizes are given to various categories of iris. The first prize for TB's is the Premio Firenze, and the breeder receiving this honour also wins the Gold Florin, which is presented by the Florence Tourist Organization. While some categories are awarded to Italian entries only, this coveted prize, and many others, is open to breeders throughout the world. In recent years C.I.S. past president **Chuck Chapman** was honored by being invited to be a member of the judging panel. Chuck has also entered his hybrids, and has twice won the Florence Garden Club Prize competition for the most original colour in a TB. In 2002 he won that award for *Artist's Palette* (2000) and in 2005 for *Frontier Lady* (2001).



There is a special prize for the best red variety in the show, presented by the Florence Council. This award reflects the historic significance of the iris to the city, for the iris has been on the city's coat of arms for more than 750 years. The white wild iris *I. alba fiorentina* of the Arno River Valley first appeared on the flags of Florence around 1250. The white iris was on a field of red. However, in mediaeval times two parties, the Guelphs and the Ghibellines contended for dominance in Italy and Germany. The Guelphs defeated the Ghibellines in 1266 and took control of Florence. From that day till this the banners flown throughout Florence have had a red iris on a field of white.

There is a rather interesting Canadian connection here in regard to the naming of the city of Guelph. According to author **Leo Johnson**, "descendents of the leaders of the Guelph party ruled as crowned heads of many of the small German states, and eventually one of these princelings became George I, King of England." **John Galt**, as manager of the Canada Company in 1827 chose the name of Guelph to compliment the royal family. Today Guelph is still known as the royal city. (Only recognized by royalists!)

Hybridizers throughout the world can send their rhizomes to Florence between June and September. They are cultivated at the Garden of Piazzale Michelangelo for three years before being judged by an International Jury. To enter an iris in the International Iris Competition a hybridizer must first register it with the A.I.S., which records the international registry for iris varieties. The iris must also be introduced, that is, offered for sale in a commercial catalogue. For show entries and show rules contact the Italian Iris Society in Florence. ▶

In looking over the years at the list of first prizewinners (Premio Firenze) it is obvious that most of the world's hybridizers are in the United States. From 1957 to 2009 the winners were from these countries: (some years no prize was awarded)

- United States – 43 times
- Italy – 3 times
- Australia – 2 times
- France – 2 times
- Britain – 1 time
- Uzbekistan – 1 time



I. alba fiorentina

with Wednesday off for a guided tour of the Tuscan countryside. Each day they were lavishly and royally treated as honoured guests by the city and the Italian Iris Society. Saturday is an exciting day when the awards are presented, followed by a formal closing luncheon.

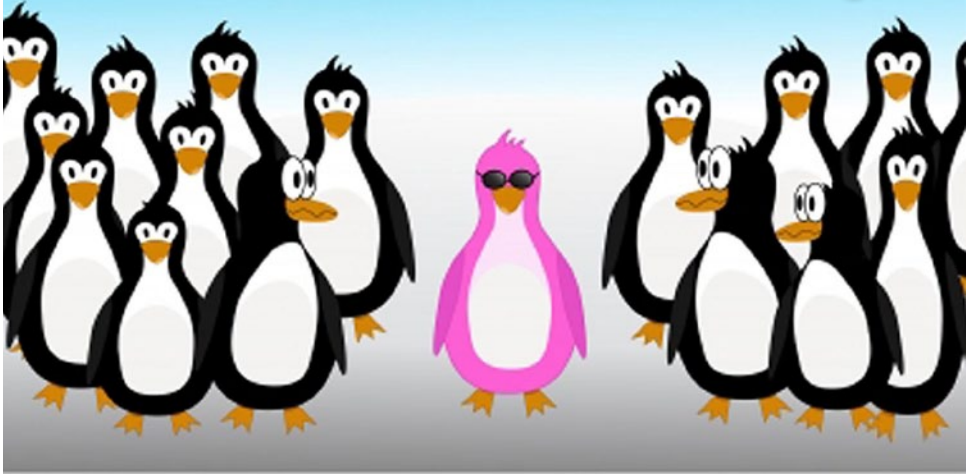
One judging practice particularly impressed this judge, i.e. “blind judging”, or judging a plant known only by a number. It made the judges focus more intently on the merits of the iris rather than cultivar/hybridizer-identified judging. The 2012 Convention Committee in Southern California is working on having a plot to be judged in this manner.

Bob and his wife had a wonderful once-in-a-lifetime experience. He describes the garden as being like a picturesque oil painting, with olive trees under-planted with irises. The terraced gardens, however, would seem to take some careful pedestrian navigation, a point which might be kept in mind by handicapped or older visitors. Florence and its irises certainly look very appealing on this wintry January day.



Eclipse Design Studio

Individuality!



- Logos
- Posters
- Graphics
- Web Sites
- Brochures
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Ad Layouts
- Annual Reports
- Business Cards
- Photography
- Photo Editing

***Let Eclipse help you to
stand out from the crowd.***



Eclipse Technologies Inc.
www.e-eclipse.ca • 416-622-8789 • 1-877-644-4482



It is with sadness...

By Christopher Hollinshead (ex-AIS RVP Region 16 2005-2007)
and Chuck Chapman

Dr. E. Roy Epperson passed away at his home on Thursday, January 21th, 2010.

Edward Roy Epperson was born on October 14th, 1932 in Burnsville, MS. He received his doctorate in Chemistry from the University of the Pacific in 1965. Dr. Epperson was married to Virginia Albert Epperson on August 19th, 1960; who preceded him in her death in 1996. They were both on the faculty at Elon College from 1957-1966, where Dr. Epperson was an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Epperson was a respected faculty member and director of administrative affairs at High Point College for over 40 years.

Dr. Epperson demonstrated his commitment to his community through his dedicated volunteer service to many agencies. He was a devoted member of Christ United Methodist Church. Dr. Epperson's avocation was his garden, with a particular love of iris and hostas.

Dr. Epperson greatly enjoyed the art of cooking, which he learned at the age of 14 from his mother on a wood-burning stove. He was known locally for his wedding cakes, Yorkshire pudding, for hosting Christmas open houses for friends and University personnel, and for feeding his family really well!

Dr. Epperson is survived by two daughters, Sandra Epperson of Southern Pines and Melanie Cramer and her husband Scott of Norfolk, VA; four grandchildren, Epperson Lebeck-Jobe and his wife Sarah of Mountain View, Calif., LT Patton Epperson and his wife Rebecca of Alexandria, VA, and Virginia Alice Parsons and Annie Cramer of Norfolk, VA.

The family received friends on Thursday, January 28th, at High Point University's Plato S. Wilson School of Commerce Ballroom.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Friday, January 29th, at 11 a.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the following organizations: The Roy Epperson Endowed Scholarship at High Point University, Christ United Methodist Church, The Hospice of Guilford County, United Services for Older Adults, High Point Area Arts Council, Colonial Williamsburg.

Online condolences can be made at www.mem.com.



Dr. E. Roy Epperson – (AIS) American Iris Society President and Siberian Iris Society (January 2010)

It goes without saying that Roy will be greatly missed not only by those of us who knew him and worked with him for many years, but also by many others in the world of iris.

The (AIS) American Iris Society Officers are now:

- Judy Keisling - President, AIS
- Jill Bonino - First Vice President, AIS
- vacant – Second Vice President, AIS



[Note: the two articles were combined by the editor.]

American Iris Society (AIS) Region 16 2010 Winter Report

by Kate Brewitt, AIS Region 16 RVP

Greetings to all CIS members!

By the time you read this, winter will probably be more than half over and spring will be on our minds! It won't be long before we are strolling through our gardens, looking for that first iris of the season! Speaking of spring, the Toronto Region Iris Society (TORIS) will be attending its first garden show, Get the Jump on Spring, on Saturday, February 20 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto. Admission is free, however with a \$2 donation visitors' names will be entered in hourly draws to win exciting garden-themed prizes! Visitors will also enjoy a full day of programs and events including meeting over 40 horticultural and specialty garden societies as well as 12 dynamic speakers and demonstrators. There will also be a marketplace featuring over a dozen vendors offering a wide variety of interesting garden-related merchandise. Check the TBG website for details, www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca or call 416-397-1340



Mad About Wisconsin – AIS 90th Anniversary Convention

Just a reminder: this year's AIS National Convention is taking place May 31 to June 5 in Madison WI. It will be hosted by the Madison Area Iris Society, an affiliate of AIS Region 8. Details about registration, accommodations and guest gardens can be found on their Convention website at www.madisoniris.org/Convention/Welcome.htm.

“A Spuria Spectacle” 2010 Spuria Iris Convention

From June 12 to 13, the Greater Portland Iris Society (GPIS) will host this year's Spuria Iris Convention in Portland, Oregon. There will be one day of tours on June 12, with GPIS activities and Judges Training on June 13. Registration is \$120 US before May 1 and \$150 US after May 1. Full registration includes breakfast, lunch and dinner plus the bus ride to all four gardens; Abbey Gardens, Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens, Chehalam Gardens, and Wildwood Gardens. Details can be found at www.spuriairis.com.

Don't Forget Our Special Membership Offer October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010.

If a person/couple join the AIS for a triennial single or dual membership, either a new membership, or a renewing membership from a single or dual one year membership, AND join at least one AIS Section or Cooperating Society for a triennial membership, THEN all memberships will run for FOUR years for the price of THREE years.

NOTE: This special member discount plan will apply only to AIS Sections or Cooperating Societies that have agreed to accept the 'four-years-for-three' discount. To date, only the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA) section is not participating in this offer.

If you are interested in learning more about AIS Region 16, or the AIS, you can find more information on our website at <http://sites.google.com/site/aisregion16/>. You can also email me at aisrvp16@irises.org.



Madison Area Iris Society

AIS Convention 2010

May 31 – June 5, 2010

Madison, Wisconsin

item submitted by Christopher Hollinshead (ex-AIS RVP Region 16 2005-2007)



The Madison Area Iris Society invites you to enjoy Madison and the state of Wisconsin during the week of May 31st through June 5th, 2010 when we host the American Iris Society National Convention. We hope your Iris Madness brings you to Madison and Middleton for a great experience of "Mad About Iris" in 2010.

The Madison Area Iris Society (MAIS) is a nonprofit organization affiliated with The American Iris Society. MAIS is part of AIS Region 8, which is comprised of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The club is centered in Madison and includes south central Wisconsin. MAIS is a group of garden enthusiasts who promote the culture, appreciation and study of iris. MAIS members enjoy building friendships with other iris enthusiasts. Convention beds have been planted and many of the other plans are well underway. Visit the convention website for future updates for this event.

The club garden is located on Skyline Drive in Stoughton. We have nearly 1,000 varieties of iris donated by several members in addition to the newly planted 250 convention iris. We have several group weeding events during the year, a great chance to visit with other members. The public is welcome to visit the garden in bloom in June. ▶



2010 Convention Chairperson:

John Baker,

4601 CTH TT, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Phone: (608) 825-7423

Email: johnwbaker1@verizon.net

Web: www.madisoniris.org/Convention/Welcome.htm

Convention Hotel Information

Madison Marriott West Hotel,

1313 John Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI 53562

Phone: (608) 831-2000 Toll Free 888-745-2032

Website: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/msnwe-madison-marriott-west/

The Madison Marriott West will be the Convention Headquarters. The Hotel is located just off the junction of HWY 12/18 (the Beltline) and Greenway Blvd. We are sure you will enjoy this newly renovated hotel. It is conveniently located on the edge of Middleton and Madison, just minutes from downtown Madison and The University of Wisconsin. Reserve your room by May 1st to receive the special group rate of \$119 per night. To make your reservations use Group Code: aisaisa.

Area Airports:

Dane County Regional Airport (airport code MSN)

Phone: (608) 246-3380

Hotel direction: 15 miles SW

Airport shuttle service, on request, complimentary

Estimated taxi fare: \$36.00 (one way)

Optional Tours

For convention attendees who wish to do a little sight-seeing before the official garden tours begin on Thursday, an interesting optional tour will be available on Tuesday, June 1, 2010. Tours will be based on demand first-come first-served and must be scheduled at time of registration, but no later than April 30, 2010. If insufficient registrations are received for any optional tour, money will be refunded.

Geek Dinner and Auction

Going to the AIS Convention? Sign up for the 2010 Geek Dinner! This is a very popular event every year. As usual, the registration for the Geek Dinner-Auction will be separate from the regular convention registration.

An iris convention is a fun event to attend and you will meet like-minded folks as well as see some awesome iris gardens full of the newest and nicest irises! For the latest on the 2010 AIS Convention details, such as the Schedule of Events, registration form (PDF), Geek Dinner and Auction (as information becomes available) please check the AIS website: www.irises.org.



Musings from Manitoba

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



If it weren't for the weather, I'm sure prairie folks wouldn't have much to talk about in winter! We are experiencing our normal January thaw but what isn't so normal is the amount of snow on the ground and the length it is lasting. My iris gardens have barely a foot of snow on them and closer to the house it is less than 6 inches in most places. I am starting to get worried about them. If it has to be winter, I want lots of snow and lots of cold, not this up and down yo-yo stuff!

In my last Musings, I sent a photo of my garden covered in snow on the Thanksgiving weekend. That snow disappeared completely and for November, there was not even a trace. I think Environment Canada reported a trace some places in Brandon but not at my house! Totally bone dry for the entire month. December saw some good snow fall on various occasions but once again the temperatures fluctuated far too much from just below zero one day, to -52 with wind chill on other days. This swing between extremes is becoming far too frequent for my liking!

My next job is putting together the event schedule for Can-West Iris Society in 2010. Although we operate mostly as an on-line group, our members tell us they like to get together and want to learn about iris. So, the Organizing Committee has decided to put together a workshop and member garden tours this season. And, the show schedule for the 3rd annual CWIS show needs doing. Guess I had better get at it.

Until next time...



Barbara-Jean Jackson
Brandon MB
jacksonb@mts.net

Can-West Iris Society

The Mission Statement:

The Can-West Iris Society is an on line group dedicated to the promotion of the genus iris in cold climates.

The Mandate:

- to promote interest in growing iris in cold climates
- to provide information needed to successfully grow different types of iris in cold climate areas through Society publications, access to the CWIS website exclusive members area, educational opportunities, a discussion group at Yahoo! (To subscribe to the discussion group send an e-mail message to CWIS_Open_Forum-subscribe@yahooogroups.com)
- to encourage iris hybridizing and recognize hybridizing achievements (in future).

Events:

- member open garden tours
- sale of iris rhizomes
- iris show and judges training

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS)

Annual Rhizome Sale

Notice and Call for Donations

It is time to check your gardens for extra rhizomes of historic iris, those registered prior to 1980. Although it is winter and the iris is sleeping, please check your lists and gardens, if able, to see what you might have to donate this year.

The rhizome sale is the largest fundraiser for HIPS. There is a demand for historic iris other than tall bearded. If you have older dwarfs or medians of all classes (including non-bearded), please consider donating these as well.

This year, we are excited to be sharing our unidentified historic iris ("Unknowns" or "NOIDS") in the sale. These can also be donated if you give a short description and provide a photo.



Historic Iris - TB Black Douglas Sass 1934

Send your list of available rhizomes (names and numbers only) by March 1st to Canadian liaison Barbara-Jean Jackson (BJ) by e-mail to jacksonb@mts.net or by snail mail to: 2421 McDonald Avenue, Brandon MB R7B 0A6.

A list of available varieties and rules for ordering will be published in the spring issue of the HIPS newsletter "ROOTS" and will also be listed on the HIPS website (www.hips-roots.com). Membership in HIPS is not required to order, but members are given first priority.



IB Apache
Warrior

Historic Iris - IB Apache Warrior -
Innereast 1971



Sib
Sparklin
Rose

Historic Iris - Sibe Sparklin Rose Hager 1967

Details and deadlines will be sent
directly to donors.

The HIPS Board of Directors and
the Rhizome Sale Committee have
been working hard on resolving several
issues from past sales and are hopeful
the glitches have been worked out.
Please do not hesitate to contact BJ if
you have any questions or concerns
dealing with the sale.



All About Fertilizer

Submitted by Bob Granatier

Questions and Answers

(re-printed from AIS October 2004 magazine)

QUESTION:

Could you please explain the significance of the three numbers on the fertilizer labels? I know what the numbers mean—the percentage of Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Potash—but what does that really mean? I know that nitrogen affects leaf growth, but what else does it do? And what do the other two do? Thanks...

Rick Ernst, Oregon



ANSWER:

Actually the three numbers represent Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium.

Nitrogen: It is the single most important plant nutrient. It is a constituent of plant proteins, chlorophyll, nucleic acids, and other plant substances and it is necessary for vegetative growth.

In irises, too much nitrogen can cause production of thinner cell walls and in extreme cases can produce cell walls so thin they collapse causing the bacteria soft rot we all dread. This is why it is so important not to over-fertilize iris. In most plants, usually more nitrogen is better, producing bigger plants and therefore bigger crop yields, this just doesn't work in bearded irises.

Phosphorous: The nucleus of each plant cell contains phosphorous, so cell division and growth are dependent on adequate amounts of it. Phosphorous is concentrated in the cells that are dividing rapidly – the actively growing parts of roots and shoots (leaves).

The Phosphorous is really phosphoric Acid or P_2O_5 and is stored by the plant for flower production, that's why it's good to apply it in the fall usually as Super Phosphate or Treble (triple) phosphate.

Potassium: helps maintain cell permeability, aids in the translocation of carbohydrates, keeps iron more mobile in the plants (aiding photosynthesis and keeping leaves green) and increases the resistance of plants to certain diseases. It stays in a mobile form in the plant. If not used by the plants, soluble potassium becomes fixed or unusable in the soil once it dries.

Interesting, that manure* carries a balance of all three nutrients, Nitrogen being the primary nutrient. It is also important to recognize the eleven or so other nutrients like boron, copper, molybdenum, manganese, sulphur, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and iron. Heavy metals also accompany fertilizers and you want to avoid the build up of nickel, arsenic and a few others.

Source of information, other than statement directly related to iris: *Soils, an Introduction to Soils and Plant Growth, Fourth Edition*. Prentice Hall Publishing, Copyright 1977.

** Please Note: Manure must be used sparingly and only if it is extremely well aged, otherwise it is likely to induce rot.*



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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ARE WE CANADIAN?

Yes we are Canadian, or I like to think we are. There are however within our ranks, the powers to be that are trying to destroy the CIS, and have only AIS members. This country is being gobbled up by Americans; let's keep this one small thing CANADIAN. I'm furious that someone in a position of "power" would have the audacity to destroy our society. I've been a member of the CIS since the early 70's however not so active these past years. I'm a past president & past RVP.

Is this position a power trip or what? It does not give anyone the right to eliminate the society. The "CIS" is region 16 and as such the RVP should be a CIS member. It's hard to believe that anyone would have the nerve to destroy our society. I say to all of you who want to remain CIS members let's fight and put a stop to this movement.

It may sound like I'm against the AIS, far from it. I'm a life member and proud of it. The AIS bulletin is fantastic; it's an invaluable source of suppliers, breeders and information from the world of Iris both past present and the direction we are heading in the future.

There is a definite place for both societies. Let's stay Canadian and remain a CIS member, and also join the AIS if you wish and share in the knowledge our American friends have to offer.

Anyone wishing to contact me on this matter may write me at; John McMillen RR5 333968 PlankLine, Ingersoll ON N5C 3J8 or email info@mcmillensirisgarden.ca.

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.

Coming Events and Dates to Remember

Announcement from Don Mc Queen

I am currently (with the help of Chuck Chapman) finishing up a list of Canadian hybridizers and their registered introductions (1915-2008). It was a project I undertook because I personally couldn't find a great deal about Canadian iris registered with the AIS. Don expects this to be ready for our Spring issue

The following dates have been reserved
with the RBG co-coordinator **Pam Bowen**:

Executive meetings

- Sunday April 18 1:30 - 4:00 Library board room 2nd floor
- Sunday July 18 1:30 - 4:00 Library board room 2nd floor
- Sunday October 17 1:30 - 4:00 Library board room 2nd floor
- Sunday January 16, 2011 1:30- 4:00 Library board room 2nd floor

Hamilton & GHA Flower Show and Picnic

Sunday June 6/11 @ Chapman's Iris Gardens

8790 Wellington Rd 124, Guelph, ON

Judging to start at 11:00 am

Open for public viewing & picnic 1:00 pm

For more details see full show schedule in the Spring issue

The AGM and Plant Sale

will be held on Sunday August 15th

from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Rooms 3 & 4

Please note your calendars.

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

Tara Perennial Farm

123 Concession # 6, R.R.2
Tara, ON N0H 2N0
Call for availability/price list
Marion Kuhl 519-934-3447

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: gmcmillen@execulink.com
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.nliris.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

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



Walker Ross

CIS Newsletter

Published four times a year at
Canadian Iris Society
1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2
Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

Publication Agreement #41247546