
Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

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Canadian Iris Society

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Editor & President	Ed Jowett , 1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0 ph: 905-936-9941 email: jowettfarm@copper.net	2011-2013
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Hon. Director	David Schmidt , 18 Fleming Ave., Dundas, ON L9H 5Z4

Newsletter Designer	Vaughn Dragland ph. 416-622-8789 email: v Vaughn@e-clipse.ca
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Cover photo "Black Magic Woman"
by Terry Aitken
Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

Presidents Message

By Ed Jowett



I would like to congratulate one of our own — **Alan McMurtry** — on his most prestigious award: the Foster Memorial Plaque, awarded each year by the British Iris Society. This is a world wide award. See more later in the bulletin.

Sometimes it would be better to stay home. As I cannot sit and do nothing and am always trying to promote the Iris, I decided to go visit some hort society meetings and take along a couple of our bulletins. This was a big mistake for me as I was immediately asked to join their board and do a meeting on the subject of Irises. (I told them to contact me later.) I thought more about this and think it is very good except for a few minor problems: 1. I do not have a laptop in order to do a PowerPoint presentation. 2. I don't have slides to do a slide show even though I have a projector. 3. How do you make a slide of a drawing you would like to use but needs enlarging? So as you see—it gets involved!



One of the most prestigious honors in the iris world is the Foster Memorial Plaque, an award of the British Iris Society. Instituted in memory of Sir Michael Foster, it is reserved for individuals of any nationality who make substantial contributions to the advancement of the genus *Iris*.

What I did learn from this though is that now through January is the time to advertise our show and sales because by end of February most of these societies are no longer meeting.

So we need to get busy with our sales promotion now. I also asked anyone interested in our sale to give me their email addresses.

If you are planning or thinking about your next year's vacation Vancouver maybe well worth thinking about. The B.C. Iris society are hosting the AIS convention and are offering some real good side trips and rates besides the convention, and a real collection of Irises are to be seen. See more in this bulletin.

I would think by now most of you have completed your fall cleanup and are now ready to sit back and relax a bit. It is our intention to have a write-in sale again this year (2011). We will publish the list of available cultivars as soon as we receive it. We are asking for more medians this year and a little less Tall Bearded as the small ones seem more in demand. We hope those who purchased this year had good results. I know all of mine look good going into the winter.

As we no longer have a Region 16 and all provinces are now part of U.S. Regions, I have approached the AIS for a list of where our Canadian members belong; and who their reps are, so I can contact them and give them a publication schedule so as to include the AIS news in your area.

At time of writing this we got our first snow fall. (October)

A quip I just saw on a health store sign:

"May your life be like a roll of toilet paper — long and useful"



Ed Jowett

Ed Jowett
Editor & President

From your board of directors:

***Iris you a merry Christmas
Iris you a merry Christmas
Iris you a merry Christmas ...
And a Happy New Year!***

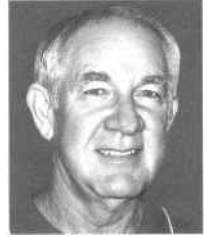
Editors Note: The comments and statements in this bulletin are those of the writers and not necessary those of the board or society.

To Be or Not To Be

The Issue of Deadheading

By Paul Black, Oregon; courtesy of the American Iris Society

I think the debate over whether to deadhead or not to deadhead irises has been around since I've been attending conventions and also well before my appearance into the iris world... Perhaps it would be helpful for us to open a dialog and examine the purpose and impact of deadheading or not deadheading. I have written this from the point of view of a hybridizer. The feelings I have as a hybridizer parallel those feelings I have as an AIS member attending a convention to enjoy irises that are blooming.



When I attend a convention, I do so anticipating beautiful bloom, beautifully grown and displayed—subject to the whims of nature. I don't come as a judge expecting to fill out my ballot from what I've seen growing and blooming. Counting buds is definitely not my top priority. What are the justifications for not removing spent blooms? One of the justifications for leaving spent blooms intact is so the number of buds can be counted. There is a very simple compromise to accommodate this need. The spent bloom can be snipped or pinched off just above the ovary leaving the tell-tale ovary as evidence that there was a bud there.

Another expressed reason for not deadheading is so one can see if the bloom is self-cleaning; does it dry up and drop off in a timely manner so the clump remains tidy. In my experience, the ability to “self-clean” and substance go hand in hand. Excellent substance means the flower isn't going to dry up and drop off like one with tissue paper substance. Take your pick—great substance and flowers that last longer but that may also hang around a bit too long or blooms with tissue paper substance that last a day and are thoroughly dried and out of the way the next day. Life is a compromise. Many of us walk through our gardens looking and dead-heading as we look. It is an involvement with our plants that many of us enjoy and are willing to tolerate in order for one of our favorite flowers to stay around just a little bit longer. My point is that I like to see a garden that is neatly groomed. It is a great pleasure to visit gardens that have been neatly groomed.

What are the effects of leaving the entire spent bloom intact? It greatly diminishes the visual impact and beauty of the irises being viewed. It also causes problems with back-up buds being able to open properly. In warmer, more humid and wetter climates, it promotes a proliferation of bacteria which causes buds and branches to rot off. For me personally, I want to see flowers at their very best; all tidy, clean, and ready to wow the public and us with their beauty, not their spent blooms. Being able to shoot pleasing photos is also an important consideration that photographers will have opinions about.

As a hybridizer, I want to see my creations displayed so they look their very best. As hybridizers, we expend time and money to get plants to conventions. Convention attendees spend their time and money to come and enjoy one of their favorite flowers. Convention chairmen and convention gardeners donate hours of time and work to provide that experience. It is difficult for me to see the necessity of diminishing that experience for the sake of soggy, spent blooms. I think it would be well to put our heads together and develop a compromise that accommodates as many of us as possible and provides that ultimate, unobstructed, iris viewing experience.



<http://forums.gardenweb.com>

Iris: "Paul Black"

Class: Tall Bearded (TB) Family: Iridaceae, Genus: Iris
Cultivar: Paul Black, Hybridized by Johnson;
Year of Registration or Introduction: 2002
Bloom Color: Purple, Height: 36-48 in. (90-120 cm), Foliage: Herbaceous
Sun Exposure: Full Sun, Bloom Time: Late Mid-season

Awards:

Honorable Mention, Award of Merit,
Walther Cup, John C. Wister Memorial Medal (TB)
Dykes Medal 2010

AIS 2011 National Convention will be "Iris-istible"



By Ted Baker, Convention Chair
BC Iris Society President

Submitted by Kate Brewitt, Publicity Chair

The 2011 AIS National Convention will be unique with many firsts. Not since 1955 has the National been held outside of the United States, never in Western Canada or on an island! It will also be the first convention where the majority of hybridizers had to ship their guest plants to another country, adding time and expense. Thanks to all hybridizers for doing this—it is only because of you and your creations that conventions are possible. It will also be the first time a Dykes Medal will be presented to a Canadian at a convention in Canada. And finally, the BC Iris Society will be celebrating our fifth anniversary in 2011!

When preparing your plans to attend the 2011 Convention, I hope you will allow extra time to visit Victoria and the surrounding area. Victoria, the capital city of British Columbia, has immense charm and is located in a stunning setting. The Fairmont Empress Hotel has extended the convention rate for attendees for three days before and three days after the convention to encourage you to experience the city we all love so much.

Dykes Memorial Medal: The Dykes Medal is the highest award of the AIS. Awarded to no more than one iris per year. Named for one of the co-founders of the AIS, **William Rickatson Dykes** (1877-1925). It is open to iris from any category starting the year after they first win the medal award of their own category. They are then eligible to compete for 3 years, plus when an iris from a particular category wins the Dykes Medal, the following year both the category medal winner and 1st runner up in that category become eligible to move into the Dykes medal competition. Only AIS registered judges may vote.



We have received numerous questions and requests from people planning to come to Iris-istible Victoria in 2011. For many questions we can refer you to the British Columbia Iris Society website at bc-iris.org but for those of you who do not have easy access to the Internet I thought it would be best to cover some of the most common questions and concerns here. Many people will be coming long distances and have to book flights well in advance. We want your stay with us to be the best it can be and encourage you to



Adoree (Blyth '09)

New Mown Hay (Schafer/Jacks '08)



take advantage of Victoria and the fabulous experiences you can have while visiting our part of Canada.

There has been some confusion about the dates for this Convention. Usually the National runs from Monday to Saturday but in 2011 the dates will be from Sunday, May 29th to Friday, June 3rd to accommodate access to the

garden with the Master Planting. When you are planning hotel reservations and other activities, make sure you plan around these days. And don't forget about the Optional Tour to Salt Spring Island on Saturday, June 4th. On this charming island close to Victoria, you will experience the best of west coast living.

Many of the questions we have received concern the best way to get to Victoria. ►



Ora (Smith '05)

In anticipation of this, **Bill Dumont** Transportation Chair, has prepared a listing of options which can be viewed on the BC Iris Society website at bc-iris.org. If you still have questions, or can't access the website, please contact Bill at 250-743-9882 or at wedumont@shaw.ca. He will be pleased to help you. Also, everyone knows that parking is expensive in any major city centre, so we will be preparing a list of parking options while you are in Victoria to lower your costs wherever possible.

The three day hotel rate extension on either side of the convention is a great opportunity to enjoy a longer stay. The rate of \$139.00 plus tax is exceptional. There are also still a few moderate rooms available at \$109.00 plus tax per night. These rooms are described by the hotel as "intimate for two people". They have a queen bed and all the services of the other hotel rooms. To book one of these rooms please contact Kate Brewitt at 905-841-9676 or kbrewitt@rogers.com.



There are so many things to do and see while you are here. I know that some of you are planning a vacation before or after the convention to take advantage of the many opportunities to enjoy the area. Think about taking a cruise to Alaska, whale watching, or ocean kayaking in the waters around Victoria or off the west coast. Imagine fishing in some of our best sport fishing waters near Campbell River. How about a trip to the scenic and cosmopolitan Vancouver? It is a spectacular city and many of you will have seen how beautiful it is when watching or visiting the Winter Olympic Games this past February. Think about a circle tour through the interior of BC, possibly to visit the world-class wineries of the Okanagan Valley. We will also provide a list of BCIS members' gardens that will be open for you to enjoy. Contact Tourism BC for a great overview of what you can enjoy while visiting.

We look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful part of the world, made even lovelier by the iris-istible flowers we all love!



2011 AIS National Convention Condensed Schedule

Sunday May 29 and Monday May 30: AIS and Section Board meetings

Tuesday May 31: Morning: AIS Section Talks and Programs

Afternoon: Bus trip to Butchart Gardens

Evening: Welcome Dinner

Wednesday June 1 and Thursday June 2: Bus trips to Host Gardens

Friday June 3: Morning: 2nd bus trip to Master Planting (Hatley Park)

Afternoon: AIS Section Talks and Programs

Evening: Awards Banquet

Saturday June 4: Optional Tour to Salt Spring Island

ABOUT THE HOST GARDENS AND THE GUEST IRISES

The four Host Gardens are all public gardens. Space was designated for the Guest Irises which have subsequently been maintained by very dedicated BC Iris Society members. The distance to the Host Gardens from downtown Victoria is relatively short, so we will not leave the hotel until after 8:30 am and arrive back by mid-afternoon. This will give everyone time to enjoy more of Victoria.

Hatley Park at Royal Roads University has the Master Planting. A large lawn area was converted into 12 slightly raised beds with coarse wood chip paths. They are located in a walled area that was previously used for vegetables, fruits, and flowers to supply those living on the estate. Also within the walled garden is a very lovely, recently-restored greenhouse. There are 717 bearded and 79 beardless irises planted at this location.

Glendale Gardens converted and expanded an unused dahlia bed to create five raised beds with coarse wood chip paths. The irises are located in an area below the main display gardens. There are 240 bearded irises and 45 beardless irises planted here.

At **Finnerty Gardens at the University of Victoria** existing perennials along a berm on the south side of the gardens were taken out to make a long linear bed next to a gravel path. The beardless irises have been fenced to keep out rabbits. There are 54 bearded and 55 beardless irises planted at Finnerty Gardens.

Government House uses three existing iris beds plus one new bed for the bearded irises which can be viewed from the lawn and a gravel path. Two small existing perennial beds bordered by paved paths have been used for the beardless irises. There are 229 bearded and 44 beardless irises planted at this location.

American Iris Society

Dykes Medal Winners 1940 thru 2010

Year	Variety	Hybridizer	Year	Variety	Hybridizer
1940	WABASH	E Williamson	1976	KILT LILT	J Gibson
1941	THE RED DOUGLAS	J Sass	1977	DREAM LOVER	E Tams
1942	GREAT LAKES	L Cousins	1978	BRIDE'S HALO	H Mohr
1943	PRAIRIE SUNSET	H Sass	1979	MARY FRANCES	L Gaulter
1944	SPUN GOLD	H Glutbeck	1980	MYSTIQUE	J Ghio
1945	ELMOHR	P Loomis			
1946	Not Awarded		1981	BROWN LASSO	Buckles/Niswonger
1947	CHIVALRY	J Wills	1982	VANITY	B Hager
1948	OLA KALA	J Sass	1983	RUFFLED BALLET	E Roderick
1949	HELEN MCGREGOR	R Graves	1984	VICTORIA FALLS	Schreiner's
1950	BLUE RHYTHM	A Whiting	1985	BEVERLY SILLS	B Hager
			1986	SONG OF NORWAY	W Luihn
1951	CHERIE	D Hall	1987	Not Awarded	
1952	ARGUS PHEASANT	F DeForest	1988	TITAN'S GLORY	Schreiner's
1953	TRULY YOURS	O Fay	1989	Not Awarded	
1954	MARY RANDALL	O Fay	1990	JESSE'S SONG	B Williamson
1955	SABLE NIGHT	P Cook			
1956	FIRST VIOLET	F DeForest	1991	EVERYTHING PLUS	D Niswonger
1957	VIOLET HARMONY	F Lowry	1992	DUSKY CHALLENGER	Schreiner's
1958	BLUE SAPPHIRE	Schreiner's	1993	EDITH WOLFORD	B Hager
1959	SWAN BALLET	T Muhlestein	1994	SILVERADO	Schreiner's
1960	Not Awarded		1995	HONKYTONK BLUES	Schreiner's
			1996	BEFORE THE STORM	S Innerst
1961	ELEANOR'S PRIDE	E Watkins	1997	THORNBIRD	M Byers
1962	WHOLE CLOTH	P Cook	1998	CONJURATION	M Byers
1963	AMETHYST FLAME	Schreiner's	1999	HELLO DARKNESS	Schreiner's
1964	ALLEGIANCE	P Cook	2000	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	L Lauer
1965	PACIFIC PANORAMA	N Sexton			
1966	RIPPLING WATERS	O Fay	2001	YAQUINA BLUE	Schreiner's
1967	WINTER OLYMPICS	O Brown	2002	MESMERIZER	M Byers
1968	STEPPING OUT	Schreiner's	2003	CELEBRATION SONG	Schreiner's
1969	Not Awarded		2004	CROWNED HEADS	K Keppel
1970	SKYWATCH	C Benson	2005	SPLASHACATA	R Tasco
			2006	SEA POWER	K Keppel
1971	DEBBY RAIDON	L Kuntz	2007	QUEEN'S CIRCLE	F Kerr
1972	BABBLING BROOK	K Keppel	2008	STARWOMAN	M Smith
1973	NEW MOON	N Sexton	2009	GOLDEN PANTHER	R Tasco
1974	SHIPSHAPE	S Babson	2010	PAUL BLACK	T. Johnson
1975	PINK TAFFETA	N Rudolph			

THE 2010 DYKES MEDAL WINNER

Tall Bearded “PAUL BLACK” (Thomas Johnson)



Photo: **PAUL BLACK** a 2003 tall bearded iris introduction by hybridizer **Thomas Johnson**. Dykes Medal winner 2010, Wister Medal 2009, AM 2007, HM 2005. At the 2004 AIS Convention in Fresno, California, this iris was voted most the popular iris seen in convention gardens from a hybridizer outside of the host region (AIS Region 14). For this it received the Cook Cup, an annual award of the AIS Convention. Height: 42 inches Season: Mid-Late. This dark purple self demonstrates all around excellence. Show-bench stems bear 11-12 triple-socketed buds. Large flowers have excellent ruffled form and are smoothly saturated in dark purple color. The dark orange beards create a fascinating color combination and a pronounced spicy fragrance enhances its appeal.

Alan McMurtrie Awarded the Foster Memorial Plaque

By Harold Crawford



Alan McMurtrie has very recently been notified that the British Iris Society has awarded him with the Foster Memorial Plaque. Alan says he was surprised and thrilled to be named to receive this very special honour. Those who know of his longtime work and his dedication to breeding reticulata irises are thrilled but not surprised.

The British Iris Society instituted the Foster Memorial Plaque in 1926. It recognizes the work of **Sir Michael Foster** in collecting and hybridizing irises. It is an annual award made to an iris grower in any part of the world and is reserved as a special and personal award to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the advance of the genus iris.

To realize the significance of Alan's accomplishment we could consider some other iris Arians who have received the award. He is in good company. **Clarence Mahan**, past president of the American Iris Society, referred to some of the recipients when writing for the International News in 1997. In that year the recipient was **Anne Blanco White**. She had been president of the British Iris Society for five years, before that secretary for ten years, and had for many years operated the publicity stand at the British Iris Society shows. In 1997 she was the driving force behind the publishing of "*A Guide to Species Iris*." Mahon mentioned that at that time of his writing there were five living Americans who had been honoured with the Foster Memorial Plaque: **Robert Schreiner** (1963), **Dr. Currier McEwen** (1978), **Ben Hager** (1981), **Keith Keppel** (1993) and **Bennett Jones** (1995). Since that time can be added **Dave Niswonger** (2000), **Clarence Mahon** (2007) and **Terry Aitken** (2008).

To quote from what I think (?) is a Russian website, "Our Canadian friend **Alan McMurtrie** is well known to iris lovers for his fanatical interest in reticulate irises. Alan has made thousands upon thousands of crosses which have been yielding unusual colours, flower forms, etc. Articles about his work have appeared in numerous publications. Request for his hybrids last year was so high that many were oversold." The item also notes that Alan has produced the first really pure white reticulate iris.

A Bit of History of the British Iris Society and the Foster Memorial Plaque

At the start of the 18th century collections of natural species hybrids were marketed by Dutch and French nurserymen. In the early 1800's **William Prince**, an American nurseryman imported some of these hybrids to Long Island, New York. While at this time there was no interest in growing and breeding irises in North America, this was not so in France. In 1823 a French amateur grower introduced the first named iris variety. Genetics as a science was unknown so the early hybridizers depended on insect pollination. Soon the main interest in iris breeding shifted to England. In 1860 Covent

Gardens was established in London by Barr and Sons. Here they hybridized and raised new varieties. Near the end of the 19th century Sir Michael Foster a noted English physician, became an iris enthusiast. Through missionaries and world travelers he collected iris from various places in the world. From Syria and Asia Minor he obtained several tetraploid TB species. These tetraploids produced much more spectacular flowers than the old diploids. Foster raised the pale lavender “Caterina” from crossing *I. cypriana* and *I. pallida*. He was an immense influence on **William Dykes**, who later became the greatest iris Arian of his day. The British Iris Society was formed in 1922. Two years previously in 1920, the American Iris Society had been founded, with **John Wister** as its president.



Alan McMurtrie is well respected for his extensive work with Reticulata iris, such as the 05-HW-1 pictured here.

John Wister (1887 – 1982) was a landscape architect. He visited England in 1922 and encouraged his many iris friends there to establish the British Iris Society. The British Iris Society later recognized him by making him a Honorary Member and by awarding him the Foster Memorial Plaque. (The John C. Wister Medal, the highest A.I.S. award for a TB iris, was first awarded in 1993.)

The Dykes Memorial Medal was created by the Society in 1927 to honour the memory of William R. Dykes (1877 – 1926), world renowned horticulturist and author of *The Genus Iris*. Tragically, Dykes’ life ended early through an unfortunate automobile accident. Dykes Medals acknowledge the best hybrid in any type of iris; it is offered not only in Britain and the United States, but also in Australia and New Zealand. Starting in 1928 a French Dykes Award was offered, but it was suspended in 1938 because of the Second World War, and was never re-instated.

The home page of the BIS reveals some interesting information. The society has three annual shows, and also exhibits at the Chelsea Flower Show:

- 1) The Early Spring Show, (often called the Reticulata Show) will be held on February 12 in 2011.
- 2) The Late Spring Show will be held on April 30 (featuring dwarfs and medians) and
- 3) The Summer Show on June 5 and 6 (no doubt featuring Siberians, TB’s and arilbreds).

A report of the 2010 Late Spring Show pictured an iris of special interest to us, the arilbred ‘Walker Ross’. Under culture, there is no mention of borers, and “in the main, iris is not prone to major pests in the UK.” The worst pests are slugs and snails. The three major diseases are rot, scorch and rust. Sounds familiar. The society’s Annual Yearbook is a highly respected and very readable iris reference.



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McMillen's Iris Garden Iris Festival

By Gloria McMillen

The First Annual Iris Festival was held on June 5. Entertainment by local folk artist. There were several workshops on growing iris. Refreshments, special draws, and great weather added to the success of the event. We had a good turnout for the London Iris Society Show. Show chairpersons were **Gloria McMillen** and **Ken Viner**. **Pat Loy** was clerk.

Show Report

Date: June 5, 2010

Location: McMillen's Iris Garden, Norwich, Ontario.

Number of exhibitors: 4

Number of entries: 42

Number of cultivars: 48

Types of iris exhibited: TB, MTB, SDB, BB and SIBERIANS

Queen of the Show

Katherine Viner Trophy:

CLEAR MORNING SKY Chuck Chapman

Gloria McMillen Trophy

Most Points: Chuck Chapman

Court of Honor

TOKATEE FALLS (TB)	John McMillen
KENTUCKY WOMAN (TB)	Marion Potter
SARGENT PRESTON (TB)	Chuck Chapman
LARK RISE (TB)	Chuck Chapman
UNCLE CHARLIE (TB)	Chuck Chapman
Best Seedling 03-664-3 BB	Chuck Chapman



I would like to thank the Exhibitors for taking the time to show their iris and thank the CIS Members for helping with the show.



CANADIAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Sunday, July 17, 2010

1:30 p.m. at Royal Botanical Gardens

Subject to Board approval



President's Welcome: Ed Jowett

Members in attendance: Ed Jowett, Harold Crawford,
Bob Granatier, Nancy Kennedy, Alan McMurtrie, John Moons,

Regrets: Gloria McMillen, Pat Loy

Ed opened the meeting @ 1:40 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda:

MOTION: To adopt the Agenda

Alan McMurtrie / Harold Crawford CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes from April 18, 2010:

MOTION: To adopt the Minutes

Bob Granatier / Harold Crawford CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- (a) MidAmerica purchase – There are leftovers, mostly the more expensive plants / new introductions. A representative selection will be brought to the iris sale for offer at 60% of retail catalogue price to general public, 50% to members and 50% to new members joining CIS day of sale. It was discussed whether Bob would bring photos of sale irises to entice/educate the general public. Ed will arrange advertisement in RBG newsletter and the Burlington Spectator.
- (b) Flower Show – Ed reported 18 attendees at the Show/Picnic with 28 stalks exhibited by 8 exhibitors. Heather Brown won the seedling award. See next Newsletter for detailed results of show re cultivars and awards.
- (c) AGM Program and Sale – The layout for this event was accepted as proposed in the April 18 minutes with an additional period of time allotted before the public sale for a member trade at 12:45, sale to begin at 1 p.m.

4. Treasurer’s Report:

June 30, 2010 closing balance \$3,824.72 with a decrease of \$292.01 including a supplementary report on progress of the on-line iris sale (see written report for details).

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer’s report

John Moons CARRIED

5. Reports of the Standing Committees:

- (a) Membership – Updated to 112 members
- (b) Website – No report
- (c) Newsletter – Aug 1 is newsletter mailing deadline next year in order to disseminate info re: iris sale
- (d) Historian – No report
- (e) London Region – No report
- (f) Ottawa Region – No report
- (g) AIS report – This item should be removed now with dissolution of Region 16

6. Correspondence:

RBG Garden Show and Booth for 2011 – Alan motioned & Bob seconded to participate again. The turnout was mediocre for the event. Sunday attendance was better.

7. New Business:

- (a) Nominating Committed for Officers – Election of expiring officers at AGM next year – terms for Ed, Gloria and John expire 2010
- (b) Region 16 – It was discussed that the AIS had disbanded Region 16 as a whole. Individual provinces of Canada will be absorbed by their respective US counterparts (directly below each province or in close approximation to such). Becomes effective Sept/Oct 2010 when current Region 16 RVP term expires.

8. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn at 3:35 pm

John Moons CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: October 17 @ 1:30 p.m. in the RBG Library



CANADIAN IRIS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, August 15, 2010
Held at The Royal Botanical Gardens

Subject to approval

1. Call to Order:

Ed called the meeting to order.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

MOTION: To adopt the Agenda as presented

Pat Loy / Gloria Mc Millen CARRIED

3. Adoption of 2009 AGM Minutes:

MOTION: To adopt the 2009 Minutes as presented

Bob Granatier / Pat Loy CARRIED

4. Business Arising from 2009 AGM:

NIL

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's report as presented

(See written report August 2010 Balance \$3,463.84)

Bob Granatier / Pat Loy CARRIED

6. Committee Reports:

- a). Membership:-Chris Hollinshead, There are approximately 111 members.
- b) Picnic The picnic was held at Chapman Iris with 18 attendees. A nice day.
- c). Show The Kummer Cup was won by Heather Brown. The Court of Honour winners were Heather and Chuck Chapman and Ann Granatier.

- d) Share program: The program was negotiated in advance with Paul Black at Mid-America. We were able to provide variety names so that members could order in advance. Smaller varieties are more popular due to their hardiness especially for northern climates.
- e) London report: The rhizome sale will be held the 3rd week of August . Their Iris festival was held on June 5th at McMillen Iris gardens. Chuck Chapman won best in Show

7. Old Business:

NIL

8. Correspondence:

NIL

9. New Business:

NIL

10. Election of Directors:

Three directors were elected for 3 year terms: . John Moons, Gloria McMillen, and Ed Jowett accepted these positions

The vote was cast by acclamation

11. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn at 2:30 pm

Bob Granatier.....**CARRIED**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Sunday, October 17 @ 1:30 p.m. in the RBG Library



For Sale

Greenhouse

Glass / Aluminum construction. Size: 6 X 8 X 7.
Easily dismantled and reassembled.
If interested contact the Editor

Musings From Manitoba



October 2010

By B. J. Jackson



October again and what a difference from this time last year. The temperatures have been in the high teens and early twenties the last few weeks and just a few frosts have been received so far, just enough to make the annuals into compost.. And unlike a year ago, NO SNOW!

Although no reblooms have been sighted in my gardens (as usual), several folks in Winnipeg and surrounding areas have reported rebloom in their iris gardens. El Hutchison in the southeastern corner of the province reports just two reblooming iris to date, SDBs Artful (Paul Black, 2000) and Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, 2002). Several other iris friends on the prairies are also experiencing some rebloom with Forever Blue (Chapman, 1999), Jillaroo (Ensminger, 1983), Summer Recall (Chuck Chapman, 2003), What Again (Ensminger, 1990) and a species spuria (yellow and white). That one was not expected.



Multiple new increases are a survival mechanism for stressed iris

September was a different story. Cloudy, windy and wet. I expected lots of rot and was pleasantly surprised when it did not happen. I did, however, have a few iris that had their foliage rot off from the inside of the fans outward. The rhizome remained firm, just the mature foliage died back. This has resulted in very atypical looking iris gardens. In the past few weeks though, new increases have started to pop up everywhere.

In a more normal year there would be one or two increases, this year many are putting out 3 or 4 per rhizome (see photo). I'm thinking it is a survival thing. The plant is stressed horribly and in order to survive it will need to increase or die. I am worried, however, that this tender new growth may not survive the winter without the protection of the foliage to protect them. I guess I'll find out next spring.

Another challenge was moss from all the moisture. Once it was dry it was easy to scrape off but it didn't get a chance to dry much throughout the season and is just now drying out. There are some clumps that still have it adhered to the rhizomes and it will not come off! I am going to assume it will not harm the rhizomes and leave it. There was moss in areas of the garden that have never seen it before.



Excessive moisture causes moss to cling to rhizomes

In CWIS news, we look forward to joining our new AIS region in November and to participating as best we can given the long distance between us and the border but we are optimistic it will work out. We will, however, miss the uniquely Canadian flavor of the former Region 16 Canada, as well as RVP Kate Brewitt who has done so much to help us along the way.

Our annual rhizome sale was almost a complete sell out after a few tense moments with Canada Border Services not releasing the boxes from Snowpeak Iris on time. The sale had to be put back a few days but it didn't deter our members who were on the lookout for the new introductions from Denise Stewart (IB Zia Ida, SDBs Ferm's Magic, ►



Caramel Topping.) and several from Augusto Bianco. We also had a number of Siberian iris on our list for the first time from Ted Baker in British Columbia. And we have more in the ground for our sales next year from a member in Alberta. It would appear our membership is evolving in their iris tastes and we will do our best to bring them what they want.

We were also fortunate to have one of our members bring in to our show this summer a new species spuria that has been identified as *I. halophilia*, not previously seen here. We received two divisions late in August and they are settling in nicely and putting on new growth. One will be passed on to El Hutchison next spring and we will grow it on for further distribution. It had been part of a garden at the University of Manitoba but had escaped from the garden and was growing in the middle of a pathway when it was rescued. We are very thankful for an observant member who saw its value as something different and brought it to us for identification. Another good reason to have an iris show!

The long range forecast shows a return to more normal temperatures soon so I will now put the garden to bed and start thinking about next season. Hopefully there will be good snow cover before the real cold arrives!



Join the American Iris Society

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

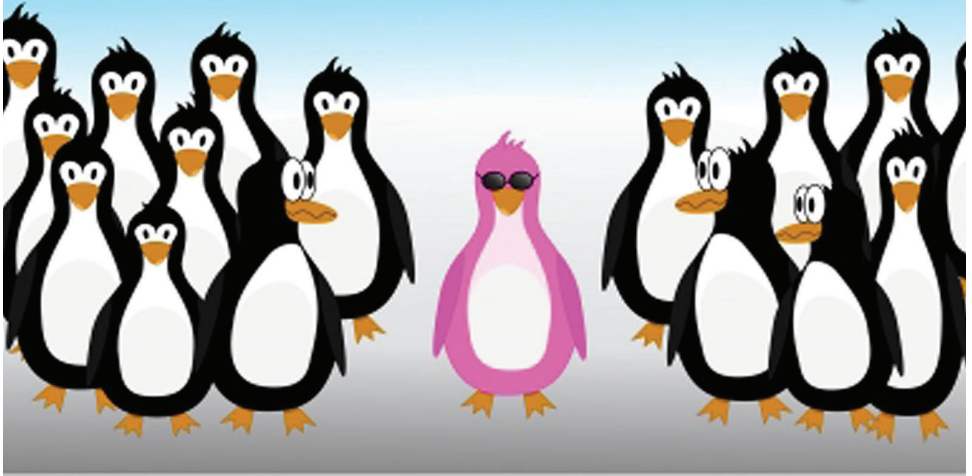
Send payment to:

Tom Gormley - AIS Membership Secretary
205 Catalonia Avenue
P.O. Box 177
DeLeon Springs, FL 32130

Phone and Fax: 386-277-2057
Email: aismemsec@irises.org
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Labeling and Tracking our Plant Collection

By Joan Campbell and John Moons

My husband and I have a hoarding problem, collecting plants being one of our passions. With a fantasy of having a display garden when we retire, we have tried several methods to label and keep track of which plants are where, and also what their bloom time is.

Labeling

I started off many years ago with metal labels purchased from Lee Valley. These are the ones with a galvanized piece of sheet metal attached to a wire. They cost about \$20.00 – 70 cents a piece. I used pencil to identify the plant variety on the markers. They lasted about 5 years, but with some problems. The labels eventually fell off the wire posts and heavy snow caused the wires to buckle at the knees. Eventually the face of the labels seemed to corrode and the names became illegible. This type of label is also available in stainless steel but they are more expensive and we have not tried them.

One year I received some green fancy plastic labels as a gift (also from Lee Valley). Over time the plastic became brittle due to the destructive influence of ultra violet light. They tended to break in the winter or if the soil you were trying to stick them into were too heavy.

Finally we came up with a solution that worked, although not one that perhaps anyone can try. John designed and made his own markers out of aluminum (metal is his preferred medium – mine is fabric). They consist of an aluminum plate 75 x 37 mm that is 3 mm thick. This plate is welded or riveted onto a 30 cm high post that is U shaped and measures 10 x 6 mm. The post material is 2 mm thick. The aluminum costs us about a \$1.00 per marker.

We print the plant information onto clear Avery labels #5620 (25 x 70 mm, 30 labels per sheet costing about 25 cents each) on our laser printer. So long as you use tweezers so you don't get finger prints on the sticky side of the labels and you make sure that the label is pressed down well onto the marker, these labels will withstand the weather and UV for years. We stamp a number in the back of each marker and keep a record of which marker corresponds with which plant name, as insurance against labels that might peel. The marker for *Iris Immortality*, #264, was made in the spring of 2004. There is still no sign of fading or peeling. It takes being run over by a truck to bend them (we tried that!). In some cases the labels are outliving the plants. The good news is that by applying some heat, you can remove the Avery label from the marker and start again. Cleaning with solvent and sanding the surface lightly before you apply the new label ensures good adhesion the second time around.



Aluminum labels (shown third and fourth from left) stand up well to the weather.

One year we trialed several different marker types from C. French Ltd., a company that sells labels to the wholesale horticultural market. The aluminum marker/Avery label system performed better than all the labels from C. French for fading and withstanding the weight of heavy snow.

In the veggie garden we use the same aluminum labels but here we stamped the veggie and herb names into the aluminum. These labels will outlast us. It is very handy to go through the garden and see which tomato is doing well (out of the 16 varieties) or which one has blossom end rot. Of course if you like to try different cultivars each year, that means an ever increasing number of labels. ▶

Tracking

We have named each of our flower beds after our brothers and sisters, parents, and grandparents, so far 13 beds (yikes, that is a lot of weeding!). This leads to an easy system for recording where plants are located. Oh, Iris Immortality is in Amy! I keep an excel spread sheet of my 230 odd daylily varieties that records not only their flower bed, but also colour, height, flower size, fragrance, flower form, bloom period, chromosome count, source and how much I paid. I go back to this regularly to find things, and am also adding information about bud count so I (perhaps) can make some decisions in the future about what needs to be jettisoned. So far I have not developed a comprehensive spreadsheet for my iris species and varieties, although we probably have 40 – 50 of them.

Most of our perennial borders are about 10 years old. Every two years, John takes inventory of what is blooming every week. His notebook has one flower bed per page. The varieties are listed on the left hand side and the record taking dates are across the top of the page. The aluminum/Avery label markers make identification easy as he does his Sunday inspections. Each week he gives the plants in bloom a score according to where they are in their bloom cycle. A score of 1 denotes a plant that is in bud and just opening. A 3 is in full bloom and a 5 is on its last legs in terms of flowers.

So far the plant with the longest bloom time is surprisingly *Corydalis lutea*. It blooms exactly 6 months. Other long-term bloomers are *Rudbeckia* Indian Summer, *Coreopsis* Moonbeam, and *Geranium* Rozanne. Some of our *Phlox paniculata* have a surprisingly long bloom time too.

This inventory system allows us to easily track what is blooming at the same time (eeks, those colours shriek) and whether we have any gaps over the season in terms of what is producing colour in each bed. It also helps us to track what is hardy. Things that were on the list 2 years ago may have disappeared. This is good to know when you are tempted during those June sales to make further acquisitions. Do we act on this? Not really, at least not yet. It's another retirement project. And now I must go and ponder on what to do with the two new peony roots that arrived last month.



Editors note:

I also make aluminum labels 3 ½" X 1 ½" riveted to a flat bar 9" long ½" wide and 3/32" thick (also Aluminum) and use my HP label printer to make labels in colour and multiple widths, depending on what I want on each label; such as colour, height, and in the case of irises—the type (TB, SDB, etc.) So far I have had labels for three years with no troubles, but I do the same as the authors: stamp a number on the tag which corresponds to my computer inventory number.

The Season That Almost Wasn't

By El Hutchison, Ste Anne, Manitoba

It sure was a very different, yet interesting season this year, rainy and cold for most of it. Normally, I would just be guessing when I say how much rain we had this year. However, some of us are taking part in **Chuck Chapman's** TB trial, so I've been logging minimum and maximum temperatures, plus rain and snowfalls since August 2009. From April to September 2010, we had close to 27" of rain, 9" in May alone! Sometimes we even had over 3" in one night! Unbelievable! ▶



<http://plants.ritchiefeed.com>

MDB Little Drummer Boy

It started out to be an early spring, so farmers had sown their crops early, near the end of April. But soon after, the fields around me looked like lakes. I felt even more sorry for my local farmer than for myself.

A few beds still haven't totally dried out all summer, even after this last week, October 4 to 11, of temps in the mid 20 C's and no rain. Thankfully, those are mostly hosta beds, which sure did love all the rain. So did the daylilies, which put on an awesome show this year.

Needless to say, the bearded iris finally started to show signs of rot. Oh man! What to do, what to do! Most beds were too soggy to even step in to weed, let alone dig iris. In some cases, that's exactly what I did though, to save clumps that had no backup

elsewhere. I continued to do that throughout the entire garden season. Even clumps that I sprinkled with comet, to try and save them in situ, had rain wash it off almost the very same day. Overall, I ended up with around 75 pots of iris by the end of July. Now what! All the beds were still too wet to plant anything. And I still had about 30 or so more iris to come yet.

By mid August, panic had begun to set in, as now I had 100+ pots of iris lined up along the driveway, with it still raining almost daily and no end in sight. I could almost hear those iris grumbling above the thunder.

Even so, throughout the season, starting on May 3 with **MDB Little Drummer Boy** (3 weeks early), over 650 different iris bloomed this year, close to 100 more than last year. Many of my siberian iris bloomed exceptionally well.



SDB Artful



SDB Blueberry

Two of my four Japanese iris bloomed too, which was a lovely surprise at the beginning of July, one of them even yielding a seed pod. After the spuria finished blooming a week later, that was it for iris bloom here, when there's usually at least one iris blooming every day from spring through to frost.

I'd long given up on any rebloom this year, when **SDB Artful**, new last year, sent up a lovely rebloom stalk the first week of August. Imagine my joy when **SDB Blueberry Tart** also started reblooming just the other day! I see it several times a day, beside my deck entrance. However, more than few iris have succumbed to rot, even after they bloomed. I just couldn't catch them all in time, alas. In September, I also discovered some of my older spuria clumps were also starting to rot, although at first I thought their neighbours were just shading them too much. They've all been moved to sunnier beds, and seem to be doing alright. ▶

As for all those pots of iris, instead of replanting them in the landscape, I buried the pots in the nursery beds, which are all about two feet higher than the landscaped beds. They seem to be doing fine. I hope to get more weeding done before a hard frost hits, but most of the beds with iris along the edges will have to be redone in some spots next spring. Our long Manitoba winter will give me a chance to work on a plan to rework those beds. Even though they're all sloped, the lower edges will need some serious revamping.

In the last few weeks, while working in some of the beds, I've noticed lots of increases on many iris. It's almost like they think it's spring again.

All in all, most iris bloomed well and long. But I have to say, I sure hope next year is a "normal" year, after 3 years of way too much rain.



GARDEN NOTES...

Walker Ross Award:

This is an annual award presented to a person who has given outstanding effort and performance to the Canadian Iris Society. If you know of someone you feel is deserving of this award; please send in your nomination to our secretary.

Canadian Iris Society:

You are invited to join the Canadian Iris Society. Membership in the CIS is open to all persons interested in irises regardless of skills or experience. New members are welcome. Join us at our next regular event, the annual iris rhizome sale on Sunday, August 15, 2010 at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Plains Road West, Burlington, ON. Visitors (non-members) are very welcome at this sale/auction event. This is an opportunity to obtain some of the same beautiful iris on display here today for your own garden. We look forward to seeing you again. Official membership applications and other information will be available at the show or on the official CIS website: www.cdn-iris.ca.

CIS Officers: President: **Ed Jowett** 905-936-9941 <jowettfarm@copper.net>

Membership: **Chris Hollinshead** 905-567-8545

3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3

cis website
www.cdn-iris.ca

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

Coming Events and Dates to Remember

2011 Meeting Dates

Sunday January 16th	Library	1:30 pm	Board Meeting
Sunday April 17th	Library	1:30pm	Board meeting
Sunday July 10th	Library	1:30pm	Board Meeting
Sunday August 14	RBG Room	3/4	Annual General Meeting
Sunday October 16	Library	1:30pm	Board Meeting

2011 Event Dates

Sunday June 5th	See schedule	Annual Flower Show & Picnic
Sunday August 14	RBG See schedule (later)	Annual Sale

2011 Publication Dates

November 2010	Vol54 No4	Fall Issue
February 2011	Vol55 No1	Winter Issue
May 2011	Vol55 No2	Spring Issue
August 2011	Vol55 No3	Summer Issue
November 2011	Vol55 No4	Fall Issue

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.

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 2010 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@trailsendiris.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.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



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Walker Ross

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