



# Canadian Iris Society

## cis newsletter

Spring 2011 Volume 55 Issue 2





# Canadian Iris Society

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Cover photo "Carnival of Colour"  
[www.mid-america-garden.com](http://www.mid-america-garden.com)





# President's Message

By Ed Jowett



As I sit down to write this message and look outside at the weather I am disgusted with all the rain. A few days ago we had some sunshine and the daffodils blooming and bright sun made me go outside to do some spring cleanup in the garden. After about twenty minutes I decided it was so nice I would sit and enjoy the afternoon basking in the sun.

This year again we are offering the sale of fairly current irises at great savings, plus no import papers or duty to play with. We increased the medians this year as that seemed to be the new trend last year. The complete listing is included in this issue. The sale does not open until May 20<sup>th</sup> so as to give the mailers a chance to reply. Another thing we are looking at for members is the possibility of a purchase program of Siberian Iris, if we get enough response of interest to press on with the project. I have been communicating with suppliers for pricing and cultivars which I hope to publish in next issue if we go ahead.

I received some nice comments from readers of our last issue which shows they do read it all! A lady replied about planting veggies in her flower garden; as she had purchased some seeds for a good charitable cause. She decided to plant them and told me she had the best 10 pounds of carrots she ever had. **John McMillen** also sent in some comments on his stint at hybridizing after reading **Keith Kepple's** article by **Ann Granatier**. He also wrote a small article on wood ash. See them later in the bulletin.

This year at the Median Convention in Oklahoma City, **Chuck Chapman** was awarded the best SDB. We will give more details in our next issue. We also have a report from Chuck on his rebloomers. I made a few goofs in the last issue so I have a new heading called "Oops I Goofed". If anyone finds a goof don't be shy to tell me.

Some of you may be preparing for the convention in Vancouver by the time this arrives. If you are going, look for **Gloria McMillen**, one of our directors and **Nancy Kennedy**, our new secretary; as I know they are going.

This issue we also have an article by **Sawyer Denzil** a master gardener. A member asked if we could have something different rather than just iris which Mr. Denzil wrote in grand time. Thanks to Sawyer! His articles appear in a number of gardening magazines and landscape news.

*Ed Jowett*



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







# Oops, I Goofed!

I would like to fully apologize to **Keith Keppel** for misspelling his name in the last issue.

I would also like to apologize to **Terry Aitken** for missing mention of his AIS award; the 2010 Wister Medal for his 2003 introduction of *Crackling Caldera*.

My humble apologies gentlemen for these and any other goofs I might have made. (... which shows I need proof-readers and to check the source of info supplied! )



Editor.

## Wood Ash in the Garden

By John McMillen

If you have a fire place do not throw out your ashes. Ashes are a great source of nutrients. 0.8 – 3% phosphorous, 2.8 – 8.6% potash, 14 – 28% calcium, 0.8 – 2.8% magnesium, 0.3 – 5% sulfur, plus trace amounts of boron, manganese, copper, and zinc.

The variation in percentages depends on the type of wood you burnt. Apply at the rate of 15 to 20 lbs a year per thousand square feet. That is approximately a 5 gallon pail. Your soil pH will rise, benefiting your bearded iris if your soil is slightly acidic. Do not use on Siberian Iris or any plants that prefer the acidic soil, e.g.; rhodos and blueberries. Do not apply too much or the alkalinity of your soil will rise above neutral or 7%. This is not good for many plants, as it could tie up some trace elements.

Fall is supposed to be the best time to apply it. I apply mine in the spring mixed with bone meal before I plant my seedlings and have excellent results. For established plants other than iris, e.g.; peonies and day lilies sprinkle ¼ cup within the drip line every two years. Your lawn will also benefit from a sprinkling of ash.

The ashes can be used to keep away slugs and snails, but do not use too much, it will make your pH too high. They can be composted but no more than 5% of your compost pile.

This is an environmentally friendly way to fertilize your garden.



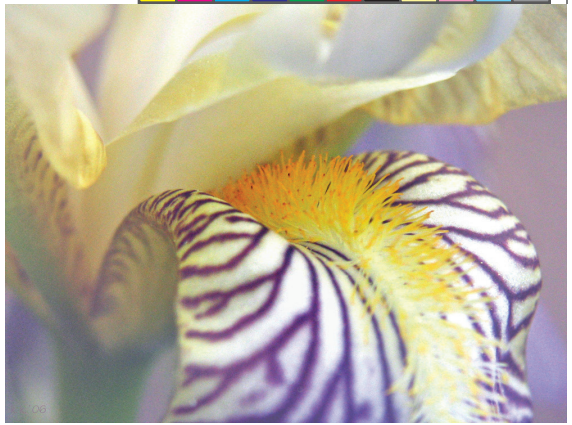
Happy gardening!





# My Hybridizing Experiences

By John McMillen



Pollen Dabbing: "*Iris Dream*" taken on May 24, 2006 © Kathy ~K~'s photostream <http://www.flickr.com/people/clovermountain/>

After reading Ann Granatier's comment about it being hard to get iris to bloom in two years from seed, I was prompted to write about my hybridizing experience. I'm not quite sure of the year, but sometime in the early 80's I tried my hand at pollen dabbing. Although I had grown thousands of iris, this was a completely new venture and a total disaster!

I had a specific colour combo in mind and picked iris by colour only. I paid no attention to form, branching, bud, count, etc. I planted the seeds directly in the garden—another mistake. Weed seeds germinate much faster than iris, and it was next to impossible to keep on top of them. When the iris finally bloomed, disappointment only mildly describes what I felt. In a couple of years I worked them under and put hybridizing on the back burner.

I'm no longer on the farm, but in 2006 I started again, and yes (as Keith says) I'm picking newer and better varieties. My first year I had poor seed set with only three pods and (as luck would have it) one of them was a bee cross on *Edith Wolford* and the best seedling from that year was is a nice ruffled light yellow from that cross. I've been making crosses every year since and now have been between 200 to 300 seedlings! Some are being evaluated for possible introduction.

Getting back to my reason for writing, this is my method of germinating seeds: I plant my seeds in the fall in pots filled with pro-mix. My germination has been 25% – 60% until this winter, when it jumped to 70% – 90%! The seeds are germinated under grow lights and are planted in the garden in late May. Before planting I work in some wood ash and bone meal. Using this method I have bloom on over 50% of my seedlings in the second year. I have made some selections and have a plot at **McMillen's Iris Garden** for evaluation in another garden. If you visit the garden, your comments would be appreciated.

If you have any questions on my methods, email me at [jmcmillen@xlpornet.ca](mailto:jmcmillen@xlpornet.ca). My garden is open. If you are in the area, drop in. If you're making a special trip please call me at 519-425-0596.





# Tidbits from the Pro's

*The following articles are taken from various “backwards” of Keith Keppel’s catalogues. Keith offers insight into his breeding program which will hopefully inspire you to giving hybridizing a try. I was once told that we were “pollen-daubers”, but you know even “pollen-daubers” can have fun and occasionally great results. Check out Mister Boy @ [www.trailsendiris.com](http://www.trailsendiris.com)*

*So in the hope of learning how the experts do-it, we’ll include some notes from the experts in each newsletter. Study the parentage of their new introductions to get some insight on where to start. Please note that Keppel’s mid-to-late varieties offer the best hope of surviving in our Canadian climate. — Ann Granatier*

## From a recent e-mail:

On a generalized statement, I would suggest avoiding anything noted as “very early” or “early”. Even here, I find the earliest growers are more prone to problems. Of course Barry Blyth is in a climate where he WANTS early bloom (before it gets hot) and now even has some tall that bloom in dwarf season in Australia! With mine, so many of the Luminatas are very early growers, more prone to damage from late freezes, plus Plicatas and Luminatas and glaciatas have a reputation for being more “bio-degradable” — soft rot. Later lines are being developed, so hopefully this will not always be true. — **Keith Keppel**

## 2001

There is nothing more exciting on a spring morning than to run to the seedling patch to see what has unfurled anew. Every seedling is somehow different from all the others and YOU are the one seeing it for the first time. The feeling is somewhat akin to un-wrapping a Christmas Present, but peeling back the petals on a bud is cheating (and besides, it damages the petals!). If you have never grown an iris from seed, it is a fascinating process, highly recommended. If nothing else, you begin to realize the time and work involved\_\_\_ and begin to understand the \$50.00 price tags on the new introductions! (New introductions are now \$50.00-\$75.00 American dollars)

## 2010

The most exciting part of iris season is seeing the new seedlings bloom for the first time. Almost as exciting as seeing what the first year selections do the following year, once they have been lined out and given a chance to grow...and the year after that, when they’ve formed established clumps. It is several years beyond that third blooming before a promising seedling passes its “final exam” and graduates from seedling number to registered name and introduction... ▶



Keith Keppel in his iris garden





So although we can get excited about new seedlings, it's always with the knowledge that they may, or may not, make the grade. That doesn't stop the excitement...or the plans for the next generation in that line.

What we haven't seen is a proliferation of enthusiastic younger hybridizers coming along to fill the impending void. The vast majority of 'name' hybridizers are now in the sixties or seventies or beyond. Obviously we're not going to be here forever. When we lay down our tweezers, who will be ready to pick them up? If interested, start making crosses in earnest and learn what it's all about.

### Some of Keith's comments on breeding combinations and results.

#### 2010

With the "dark tops" reverse bi-colors, it's encouraging to see them coming in more and better, darker colors, and better demarcation of colors between standard and fall. We've found that **Nouveau Riche '08** can add brightness and **Secret Rites'05** has the capability of throwing a wide range of interesting color combinations, unfortunately with loose standards on most. You make note of the shortcomings and (hopefully) make corrections in your course of action.

Over the years, Tangerine beards have migrated from the pinks and whites to oranges and orchids, then blues and blacks, to just about any color or pattern possible. Now, tangerine is splitting into many varieties, so we have beards of true red, red-gold, dark gold, strawberry pink, orchid pink and beyond. It's amazing how different an iris can look just by putting a differently coloured beard on the falls. We are also seeing the expansion of beard size both in width and length. On our own lines **Braggadocio '97** has played a major role, especially through its descendants **Gypsy Lord '06**, **Rio'01** (and Rio sibs) and **Brilliant Idea'09**. Big Bushy beards are definitely "in".

*Next issue: Keith discusses Plicatas and Luminatas.*



### 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 14, 2011 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](http://www.cdn-iris.ca).

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# NEW AND NEWSWORTHY...

By Nancy Kennedy

With everything that's going on in the iris world right now, I was for some reason at a loss regarding what to write about this time, with Iris Virus lying semi-dormant just now, being mid-April and waiting, waiting, waiting for the first blooms... Virtually the only thing on my mind presently is the upcoming AIS Convention in Victoria. It will be a first for me but I'm attending with a fellow irisarian who is a seasoned veteran of conventions, a master judge, and an oh-so-smart in the iris department friend. I'm sure she's already sick of hearing my "I'm so excited" chants every time we talk, however, I really am so looking forward to this convention, being held in a place I love and a place where I would love to live. I'm still in the learning phase, being an apprentice judge, so I'm planning on hoovering up every little crumb of knowledge that I can – and hopefully coming home an expert – ha ha!

We indeed have five Canadian hybridizers with guest irises on display in the convention host gardens: **Todd Boland** of Newfoundland, **Tony Huber** from Quebec, **Joyce Prothero** of BC, as well as **Val Saari** and **Chuck Chapman** from Ontario. Hopefully all five will have a super showing of their efforts.

The schedule is heavy and densely packed with all sorts of excitement – meetings and speakers on Monday, touring Butchart Gardens on Tuesday, followed by two full days of host garden visits, ditto for Friday morning, then an all-day trip to Salt Spring Island on Saturday (maybe seeing some famous faces too), dotted along the way by evening banquets, judges' training and a marketplace to shop away that very last dollar. *I'm so excited!*



Butchart Sunken Gardens, Vancouver, BC

A good many hybridizers have been quite prolific over the past year in providing us with new varieties of iris this spring. If memory serves, **Keith Keppel** has a dozen or so new introductions, all of which I consider newsworthy, and believe **Schreiner's** is introducing some 15 new iris, but **Mid-America Garden** has released no less than 70 introductions this year. These guys oughta get out more often! For all their hard work they earned many awards this year too, including the coveted Dykes Medal going to **Thomas Johnson** for his TB **Paul Black**, plus the top MDB and SDB medals, et al.







Toronto

in short white horns, an all-over blush of yellow can be seen in the zone joining standards to falls, and with just slight spillage down over the shoulders. Thin gold rims adorn the closed standards. The snow white flowers of *Wish List*, another bonus, are decorated with short purple veins over the hafts and just a touch of yellow on the outer edges. Said to be a long-time bloomer with show stalks sporting 4 branches plus 2 spurs, this translates into a whole lot of flowers. *Shake It Up* is a fine example of how the beard can transform the flower. Putting a big, bright red/orange beard on an otherwise nondescript reverse blue amoena transforms it into something marvelous. And these are all bonus plants!

My favourite three of the Mid-America TB intros this year are *Pretty As A Picture*, *Grandstand* and *Patchwork Puzzle*.



Grandstand





The first adorns the cover; its name says it all. The standards are a mid terra-cotta buff, adorned up the midribs with a sultry dark orchid. The falls, while generally a lighter tone as above, pale further toward the centers, then receive a light dusting of orchid. Heavy substance and a satiny finish lends a surreal look to this beauty, adorned with fat orange beards to complete the artist's palate.

I really like *Grandstand*, a child of *Dancing Star* (new in 2009), with its blindingly white standards, glittering sapphire/purple falls and mega white starburst adjoining bright yellow hafts and huge yellow caterpillar beards. I'm not sure which I like better; I think I'd like to have both. *Patchwork Puzzle* is a crazy stitchery of sorts. Bright white standards are edged gold, which continues around to band the falls, encompassing a gradation of fine lines of dark purple that become solid by the lower half. Beards are golden yellow.

There are indeed many intriguing standard dwarfs and medians for offer this year too, so order a catalogue or steal your friend's for a day or two of study. One in particular that really stands out is a part aril-bred, *Parable*. An amazing colour of blue to red-violet with a strong round black signal (encompassing the navy beards) is typical of aril heritage. Purple-based foliage is clean and healthy.

*Pulsator* – you're not likely to overlook this little guy in the garden. He's a dark purple and black bitone with the added intrigue of a multifaceted beard of bright yellow, white and violet! This little SDB is anything but ordinary. Yet another exciting dark royal purple, *Purple Tiger* sports a web of black veins through the falls, just like its sib *Raspberry Tiger*. White whiskers at the hafts and tanglo-white beards effectively adorn this very tall SDB. Give him a bit of extra fertilizer and he's into the next class...



*Pulsator*

www.mid-americaigarden.com

There is just so much from these guys this year; some might have a hard time choosing—what to select and what to leave behind.





**Schreiner's** this year also has some really distinctive and attractive plants for introduction. For those who love the dark browns and coppers, *Cinque Terre* is a handsome and very tall (43") late bloomer in the garden. Henna hues bless this darktop bitone, the standards with the terra-cotta tint, the falls definitely a lighter hazelnut. Very early-blooming *First Pick*, a novelty burgundy-carmine, certainly has colour going for it. This plicata's standards are a solid tropical orchid-burgundy while the falls show the plicata markings within a full inch-wide band of that same carmine. This is one gorgeous flower, however, a yield of only 5-6 buds per stalk will no doubt make you wish for more.

I really like *Queen Of The Mist* too, for any flower that has a waxy texture (think *Owyhee Desert*) seems almost surreal in the garden bed and beckons everyone to touch, and see if indeed it IS real. Such is the case here, this pastel jewel with the palest lavender standards has icy white falls delicately misted lilac. This late bloomer has huge, near 5x7" flowers with heavy substance and a waxed appearance. A real feminine beauty...

www.schreinersgardens.com



*Cleared For Takeoff*, no wait, that's *Dancing Star*! Seriously, the two are so alike, it's like somebody jumped the fence and went to visit the other guy but forgot the way home! Regardless, they are both lovely with stark glistening white standards, sharply contrasting with the sapphire/purple falls and big white starburst. Either, or both side-by-side, would surely enhance the beauty of any garden.

**Cleared for Takeoff**

Several bonus iris are also offered by Schreiner's, an exotically ruffled deep red (*Grateful Red*), a hyacinth violet with colossal ruffled flowers and sporting big blue beards (*Vicar*) and an intense and lively addition in the orange class as *Edgefield Glow*. The latter's flowers explode with a radiant glow, at the centre of which are the deep burnt tangerine beards. Think supernova!

With all these new introductions, the catalogues this spring are thick and chock full of varieties—the selections seem endless. Most of us have budgets, so good luck this year sticking within it. One friend seemingly has no boundaries and just loves iris catalogues. If she buys too many, she just knocks down the fence posts and expands the garden out further—how nice it would be to own a farm! Wishful thinking...





# Japanese Iris *I.ensata* in Japan

By Tohru Araki

Taken from the British Iris Society's 2010 year book

Living in the home country of Japanese Iris (JI), I don't need to grow JI for myself. I can visit commercial gardens, parks, and my friend whenever I want to enjoy the flowers during the flower season. Since I am not growing JI, the following is a report of my visiting to a commercial garden and my friend—a JI enthusiast.

There are hundreds of JI gardens in Japan, including some very famous ones with a long history of growing JI, and some more recently built.

JI is a water-loving plant. As we Japanese live on rice, rice fields are all over. Japanese self-sufficiency level in food is very low, but the one major exception is rice. As it is more than 100%, the Japanese government wants to control the yearly production of rice to save the space for reserved rice. If a farmer cuts back on rice acreage, the government will compensate his income to some extent. But then he would still like to make some use of the vacant rice fields...

Some pioneer farmers who live in the mountain areas and whose rice fields were of low efficiency in rice production tried to turn their rice fields into JI flower gardens. Rice fields can hold water very well with little leakage and the overall habitat is also good for JI. It was a big challenge because at the time JI commercial gardens were very few in Japan. The concept of the new challenge was "growing beautiful flowers to catch sight seers and selling the plants for flower lovers, in this mountain valley in the middle of real Japanese scenery".



Thirty five years ago this flower garden began. In its early years JI planting was variety-by-variety only. But now mainly random planting, and at some spots variety-by-variety. Rainy or cloudy skies are good for JI flower watching.







They felt unsure whether people would come to this remote countryside and enjoy the flowers, and even pay an administration fee. But there was no need for such anxiety. People did come, and their numbers increased year by year. After some years their business style has changed to a more commercialized one. Now they don't sell as many plants—instead they sell mostly souvenirs and run restaurants. And they have also planted other plants, for example: peonies, phlox, etc. to elongate the growing season.

So these successful pioneers of commercial JI gardening were followed by many other newly built gardens with similar concepts.

A JI enthusiast lives not far from my house. I visit him and talk with him every year, watching flowers. Blooming season is the first half of June here. About half of approximately 200 varieties are named ones. My friend is still trying not to lose the name plates, which are very easily lost somewhere during weeding.

He does not always keep water in his JI beds. He supplies water after the soil surface has dried up. This is because he believes that oxygen supply to the plant roots is necessary and water kept above the soil surface prevents it. It is the same when JI are grown in containers. Never let water stand above the soil surface.

JI flowers typically have rather thinner petals and when they have lots of ruffles, it is difficult to keep the flower shape neat. As its colour easily fades under strong sunshine,



Once this was a rice field and was turned into a JI garden.





the early morning is best for flower viewing. Often people cut the flowers and enjoy them indoors. They last longer and fade less. Although I visited his garden at 10:30 am under the rather strong sunbeam, some varieties had already faded and curled out of shape. Very delicate! Taking good photos of JI is more difficult than with TBs.



Some varieties in my friend's garden will really catch your eye, such as the variegated leaved one with old type flower and crest edge fringes.



Nihonbare (日本晴 “Japanese clear sky”) with simple and neat shape.



Senhime - pink with ruffles  
(千姫 “a noble lady's name”)



Sinsei - blue (新世 “New World”)

JI does not have soft rot problem like TB. It grows better on new soil, but does not grow well or dies if it is fertilized too much on old soil, my friend says. He does not hybridize. One of his goals is to have a good time with his many friends viewing flowers and talking on irises and other plants.

These are some aspects of growing Japanese Iris in Japan. I hope you find it interesting and enlightening.





# Spring 2011 Garden Diggings: Canadians Win Iris Awards

by Christopher Hollinshead

**G**arden 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](mailto:cdn-iris@rogers.com).

Interesting notes from the iris world reveal that some Canadians are recipients of some major 2010 iris awards. **Thomas Johnson: Dykes Medal winner 2010/ Cook Douglas Medal winner 2010 and Alan McMurtrie: Foster Memorial Plaque winner 2010.** Read on for more:

**Thomas Johnson: Dykes Medal winner 2010/Cook Douglas Medal winner 2010**



Exciting award news is that the TB iris variety “**Paul Black**” won the 2010 AIS Dykes Medal for its creator, Canadian **Thomas Johnson**. This iris was introduced in 2003 through Mid-America Garden, a **Paul Black** and Thomas Johnson enterprise located in Salem, Oregon.

**PAUL BLACK** is a 2003 tall bearded iris introduction by hybridizer Thomas Johnson. In addition to being named **the Dykes Medal winner 2010**, this iris won the 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= 42inches | 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.







The Dykes Memorial Medal was first awarded in 1927 and is the highest award of the American Iris Society (AIS). This medal is awarded to no more than one iris per year. Irises are eligible as a Dykes Medal candidate for three years following the winning of a classification medal; in this case the qualifier was the Wister Medal for tall bearded irises. AIS accredited and registered judges vote annually on these awards. This award is a testament to Thomas Johnson's creativity, eye for quality and ambition. At the 2011 AIS Convention in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Thomas Johnson will be the first Canadian to receive a Dykes Medal at an AIS convention held in Canada, his native country. Congratulations Thomas Johnson.

The distinction of the first Dykes Medal of Canadian origin winner went to *Great Lakes* – the Dykes Medal winner 1942. The last AIS Convention held in Canada was in Burlington, Ontario in 1955. On both counts, quite some time has elapsed in between!

The entry for *Great Lakes* as it reads from the 1939 AIS Check List: GREAT LAKES (Cousins' 1938). TB-M-B1L. (A Tall Bearded light blue self which blooms midseason) A notation indicates it has a fragrance similar to magnolias. A catalog description of the time: "Clear sky-blue. Crisp, flaring flowers. Rugged and Hardy. 35 inches tall".

From another garden catalog of 1949: "Winner of the Dykes Medal in 1942, this is about the finest light pure blue. Splendid with a pronounced flare, stiff, crispy petal texture, it is strikingly fine. Fine stems of good height, well branched, Rugged and hardy, we highly recommend it."

Additionally, Thomas Johnson took the **Cook-Douglas Medal for 2010** with his 2003 introduction, the SDB iris *Ultimate*. This is the top AIS award for Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB) irises. An iris catalogue description of Ultimate reads as follows: "Ultimate (Tom Johnson, 2003) SDB, 13" (33 cm), M Standards and style arms medium yellow; Falls dark mahogany spot, precise yellow band narrower at haft, few gold rays on haft; beards yellow; slight spicy fragrance. Snugglebug X Smart. Striking! Very bright and showy. Winner Cook-Douglas Medal in 2010, AM in 2007, HM in 2005."

To understand Thomas Johnson's iris background and how he arrived at this point as the 2010 Dykes Medal winner, a little history of the commercial iris enterprise Mid-America Garden is needed. Thomas has been associated with Mid-America Garden since 1994.

Mid-America Garden came into existence in 1981 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It was a product of Paul Black and his love for plants and a search to find a hardy perennial for his own home garden. That hardy perennial turned out to be irises. Paul Black had first become acquainted with irises on numerous trips to see his grandmother **Ruth Black**. His quest for irises led him to a rhizome sale of the local iris society and then to becoming a member of that society. These events eventually led to the formation of Mid-America Garden as a commercial garden.





The first Mid-America Garden catalog came out in 1981 and Paul's first introductions were featured in the 1982 edition. Paul quickly learned that his favorite class of iris was the SDB's. Great success came early when a seedling made its maiden bloom in 1982. Paul knew it was something special when it bloomed with its very round and fat form. It would later be named and introduced in 1985 as *Chubby Cheeks*. Chubby Cheeks has become one of the most used parents of all time. It won Paul his first Cook-Douglas medal. That was a good year for Paul as the popular IB, *Red Zinger*, and the reblooming TB, *Blazing Sunrise*, were also introductions that year. The laced blue white TB, *Bubbling Lace*, and the blue-white reverse TB, *Undersea Adventure*, were released in 1986. In 1988 the wildly colored TB, *Glitz 'N Glitter*, was introduced and won Paul his first TB Award of Merit. He followed that up with AM winning, *Oklahoma Crude*, the totally unique SDB, *Tu Tu Turquoise*, and the MDB, *Spot Of Tea*, which went on to win Paul his first Caparne-Welch Medal.

Paul seemed to be on a roll and 1990 saw a wealth of great things. The TB, *Sighs and Whispers*, would win an AM and also first place in the Premio Firenze competition in Italy. This year also saw the release of Paul's first AB introduction, *Prairie Thunder* that went on to win the William Mohr Medal in 1998. It was also in 1990 that two important SDB parents were introduced, the wonderful fancy plic, *Privileged Character*, and the well formed plicata, *Transcribe*. That's not all, as this year also saw the introduction of Cook-Douglas winner, *Pumpin' Iron*, and Caparne-Welch Medal winner, *Cinnamon Apples*. A great year!

The next two years saw such exciting things released as *Inky Dinky* (SDB 91) and *She Devil* (AB 92.) It was also 1992 that Paul's next exciting hybridizing break was cleverly named and released as *Tweety Bird*. Paul was so excited when it bloomed that he called *Miss Kitty*, (*Kitty Dyer*), whom he fondly refers to as his iris mom, to come quickly and see it. She was in such a hurry to get there to see what all the fuss was about that she got a speeding ticket! Paul's excitement over *Tweety Bird* wasn't misplaced. With its wonderful ruffled form and tangerine beard, it would come to be as important a parent as Chubby Cheeks. It would go on to be a runner up to the Cook-Douglas Medal two years running. The popular white TB, *Goldkist*, with its gold hafts and wild purple haft veins, was the highlight of the 1993 introductions. It was voted an AM and also third place and the award for most uniquely colored TB in the Premio Firenze competition of 1995.

In 1993, a major catastrophe occurred, continuous rains through a hot Oklahoma summer promoted a devastating and unstoppable epidemic of soft rot. 1993 was indeed a tragedy for Mid-America Garden and years of hybridizing work were lost in a matter of weeks. Many wonderful seedlings slated for introduction were gone and it would be three years before a bearded iris listing would return to the catalog. The next several years were not kind to Mid-America Garden.

In 1994, Thomas Johnson, from the province of Alberta, Canada decided to move to Oklahoma and become a part of Mid-America Garden. Thomas Johnson's move from Canada resulted in becoming a partner in the business. With their combined efforts,





bearded iris finally returned to the catalog in 1996. Two now well known TB varieties, *Tom Johnson* and *Ruth Black*, were released that year.

After a couple more years of major problems and loss of commercial and hybridizing stock, Thomas and Paul decided to move the business to Salem, Oregon to what is considered to be the Iris Mecca.

The year 1998 brought changes, as the business was moved to Salem, Oregon. The move to Oregon was difficult but proved well worthwhile. Both the business and the plants themselves would thrive and grow well there. After years of struggling with many weather and disease related problems, hybrid work progressed in a way that it was never able to in Oklahoma and has been reflected in the recognition and the awards that the work is receiving. ▶



Paul Black on the left and Thomas Johnson on the right, with irises all around them!





Exciting introductions followed. Notable among them is TB, *Deep Dark Secret*, MTB, *Blue Chip Stock*, IB's, *This and That* and *Sinister Desire*, and SDB's, *Hot Jazz* and *Yippy Skippy*. In 1999, the TB's, *Big Squeeze*, *Habit*, and *Vibrant* were put on the market as well as the MDB, *Wiggle*.

The start of a new century saw the release of the dramatic red bearded black IB, *Devil May Care*, and crisply patterned plicata, *Infinity Ring*. Other highlights include SDB's, *Artful* and *Cachet*, and the daintily ruffled MDB, *Tingle*. This year also saw the introduction of TB's, *Keeping Up Appearances* and *Dude Ranch*. Dude Ranch went on to win Paul his second Premio Firenze award.

Through the years, Paul's introductions have been awarded a total of 93 HM's, 22 AM's, two Cook-Douglas Medals, two Caparne-Welch Medals and one William Mohr Medal. They have also received awards in the International Iris Competition in Florence Italy, including two first place gold medals. There looks to be no slowing him down. A stroll through his seedling patch in the spring shows it is clearly the SDB's that still have his heart. Paul has a fantastic eye for emerging patterns and colors to which his peers can attest.

For the 2011 season, Thomas Johnson has quite a number of wonderful iris introductions; a total of 22 TB varieties plus 13 SDB varieties. Watch them closely over the next couple of years as potential new award winners are very possibly waiting to emerge from these irises. The new introductions have an emphasis on distinctive flowers produced by vigorous, hardy plants and borne on strong, well-branched and budded stalks. There is also a noticeable obsession with Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB) hybridizing.

Years of hard work have been invested into making Mid-America Garden a delight for visitors. Thomas and Paul are always making changes, creating and adding more new plants, and as they like to say ...the best is still to come.

## Alan McMurtrie: Foster Memorial Plaque winner 2010

*In our previous Autumn 2010 CIS newsletter issue we had an article reporting that Alan McMurtrie had been awarded the Foster Memorial Plaque for 2010. I thought that perhaps a little further background on this would make an interesting read.*

Photo: Aitken







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*.

Previously, these are some North Americans who have been honored by the British Iris Society with the award of the Foster Memorial Plaque. You may recognize some of the names. These most deserving honorees and the years of their award are: **Robert Schreiner** (1963), **Dr. Currier McEwen** (1978), **Ben Hager** (1981), **Keith Keppel** (1993), and **Bennett Jones** (1995).

In 2010, **Alan McMurtrie** of Toronto, Ontario, received this very prestigious award, the Foster Memorial Plaque from the British Iris Society for his breeding work with *reticulata* irises. Longtime Canadian Iris Society (CIS) member Alan McMurtrie meticulously pursues his hybridizing goals in this area. For many of us, after our long Canadian winter these small irises are a welcome harbinger of spring.

Perhaps at this point you are wondering ...what exactly is a *reticulata* iris? These irises originate from the eastern mountains of Turkey, Iran, and the Caucasus mountains where they can be found growing in mountain meadows and rocky hillsides, locales where it is very dry during the summer. The *reticulata* irises start to bloom just as the snow is melting (in Toronto this is typically around the end of March or early April). *Iris reticulata* is relatively well known with colors from blue to violet to purple. The main exception is the bright yellow species *Iris danfordiae*.

Alan McMurtrie has been hybridizing with these irises for over 25 years. At first he started working with named varieties but soon thereafter realized there was a very limited gene pool. In order to create something interesting, plants from the wild would be needed with different characteristics. In 1985 and 1986 Alan embarked on a plant collecting expedition in Turkey, traveling 9,000 km over a two week period each time. With some local assistance and some persistence he was lucky to succeed collecting the required plants for proceeding with this endeavor.

In 1987 Alan obtained bulbs of *Iris sopherensis*. (At that time it was known as *Iris histrioides* var. *sopherensis*). Numerous crosses with *danfordiae* were made with many proving unsuccessful, from the seeds that were produced, most did not germinate. The big break came in 1989 when it happened that Alan made three crosses between *danfordiae* and *sopherensis*. Sixteen bloomed for the first time in 1994 (it takes 5 years to go from a seed to a flowering bulb). They were “just blues,” but the crosses were true because their standards had been turned into hairs only 1 to 3mm in width. This was simply the result of normal standards, 7 to 10 mm in width, being crossed with *danfordiae*’s standard, which is actually just a bristle. At the time it was expected that these hybrids would be sterile but Alan decided that he simply had to make some crosses even if they could potentially be unproductive. Chances were best that if anything would work, it would be from intercrossing the 16 clones.





In 1999 after another 5 years, the first of these bloomed. Amazingly, it was white with a touch of blue and yellow. This plant was nicknamed “*Starlight*”. This name fits perfectly because its bud is a very pale yellow, which changes to creamy white when the flower opens. Alan McMurtrie notes that it is particularly exciting to see new colors or patterns appear for the first time.

Later discoveries uncovered that what had happened was that the blue got turned off and the yellow got turned off, leaving white. This then allowed an underlying pattern with a bit of blue and a touch of yellow to be displayed. It turns out that *danfordiae*, *sophenensis*, and the Çat Retic are all  $2n=18$ . Hence crosses between them are fertile. All other Reticulates are either  $2n=16$ , or  $2n=20$ .



**White Caucasus**

The initial F1 *sophenensis* x *danfordae* clones could be referred to as “just blues.” This statement is made in the context that there are already lots of blues available commercially. In 1997 a commercial grower in Holland indicated interest in testing a number of the other subsequent hybrids for commercial marketing under a test agreement.

Eleven years later and the commercial grower is building up stock of four of those first clones. They are also interested in a couple of others and are of course testing a few of the most recent varieties. A display at a Dutch flower show included three of these hybrids.

“*White Caucasus*”, which is actually a rare white form of a normally purple Reticulata from the Armenian Caucasus Mountains, was awarded Best Small Special Bulb of the show. Sales have started in the autumn of 2010. Large numbers are possible because there are no other whites available plus “White Caucasus” is a very good white. **William van Eeden’s** “*Natascha*” is said to be white, but it’s actually a very pale blue.

For Alan McMurtrie a very tangible reward is the knowledge that others are enjoying his creations. His primary interest is in developing the new colors and patterns. He is reasonably content to let the Dutch, with their ideal growing conditions and excellent distribution system, market them. It has not been easy to commercialize these hybrids through this type of channel; it has been a very long and involved multiyear process.

Other interesting hybrids that may not have the large scale commercial viability but are clones that are considered quite good will be introduced on a small/medium scale. **Janis Ruksans** of Latvia will introduce some of these on a much smaller commercial scale. He is a well known source for specialty bulbs that you cannot obtain anywhere else. These will include; *Avalanche*, *Orange Glow*, *Sea Green*, and *Velvet Smile* along with many others.

For further interesting reading and lots of images please go to: [www.reticulatas.com](http://www.reticulatas.com). (The plants available through Janis Ruksans are also shown here.)







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# CAN-WEST IRIS SOCIETY

## 4th Annual Iris Show

**Bourkevale Community Centre  
100 Ferry Road  
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**Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011- 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Free Admission!!!**

**Show Chair: B.J. Jackson, [jacksonb@mts.net](mailto:jacksonb@mts.net)**



*Photo: SDB Coney Island  
Courtesy: El Hutchison*





## **Can-West Iris Society**

The Can-West Iris Society is a not for profit organization with affiliate status in the American Iris Society.

Membership is open to all persons interested in iris regardless of skill or experience.

For membership information, please contact Deb Petrie at (204) 726 0245 or [petrie@mts.net](mailto:petrie@mts.net).

## **American Iris Society**

The American Iris Society is a not for profit institution incorporated in 1927. The Corporation exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the iris and is the official registrar for all but bulbous iris (e.g. Dutch and Juno iris).

You are invited to join the American Iris Society. Official applications and additional information will be available at the show or on the official AIS website: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org).

RVP Region 21 (Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba): Ron Cosner ([keighley15@msn.com](mailto:keighley15@msn.com)).

## **Awards**

AIS Award - Best Specimen (Queen of Show)

Horticultural Sweepstakes:

- AIS Silver Certificate - highest number of first place ribbons
- AIS Bronze Certificate - second highest number of first place ribbons
- Best Historic Stem in Show - Sponsored by OnRussell Gardens
- Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show - Sponsored by Chapman Iris
- CWIS People's Choice Award - Voted by those attending the Show

Exhibition Certificates are awarded to the outstanding seedling, plus any seedling that obtains at least five (5) votes from certified AIS judges.

*All AIS judges are asked to contact the Show Chair in order to pick up seedling ballots.*





## **Show Rules and Regulations**

1. This accredited show is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of The American Iris Society (AIS). Official rules and regulations of the AIS cannot be violated. Judges' decisions will be final.
2. All entries **MUST** be staged between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Late entries will be accepted for display purposes only.
3. Exhibition privileges are open to all, including judges.
4. This is a cultivar show. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag with the correct cultivar name and placed in the appropriate class. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per cultivar; otherwise the number of entries by an exhibitor is not restricted.

Containers are provided by the Society

The Placement Committee will aid exhibitors to correctly identify the appropriate section and class.

Seedlings must be entered under seedling name or number and in the name of the originator.

5. Judging will begin at 11:15 a.m. The show is open to the public from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Exhibitors may not remove entries prior to 4:00 p.m. Unclaimed entries will be disposed of as deemed appropriate by the Show Committee.
6. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care, but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.
7. Exhibits entered in the "Unidentified" and "Collections" sections are not eligible for AIS Awards or Best in Show but are eligible for CWIS ribbons.





## **Show Schedule**

### **DIVISION 1 - HORTICULTURE**

#### **Section A - Miniature Dwarf Bearded**

#### **Section B - Standard Dwarf Bearded**

#### **Section C - Intermediate Bearded**

#### **Section D - Miniature Tall Bearded**

#### **Section E - Border Bearded**

#### **Section F - Tall Bearded**

#### **Section G - Other Iris**

Class 1 - Species or Species X (bearded or non-bearded)

Class 2 - Siberian

Class 3 - Spuria

#### **Section H - Collections**

Class 4 - Collection of three same bearded cultivar

Class 5 - Collection of three different bearded cultivars

Class 6 - Collection of three same non-bearded cultivar

Class 7 - Collection of three different non-bearded cultivars

Collections are Eligible for CWIS Ribbons Only

#### **Section I - Seedlings**

- Any Named or Numbered Seedling, any classification

#### **Section J - Historic Iris, (introduced before 1982)**

- Variety and year of introduction must be indicated.

#### **Section K - Unidentified (no variety name known)**

- Judged on condition and grooming - eligible for CWIS ribbons only

**The Show Committee reserves the right to add any classes  
deemed appropriate to include all entries.**



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# Musings From Manitoba

October 2010

By Barbara-Jean Jackson

E-mail: [jacksonb@mts.net](mailto:jacksonb@mts.net)



There is still snow on many of the gardens as I write this in early April but things are starting to look up. Above zero temperatures over night and sunny days are literally eating the snow away as I watch. Although

I haven't been able to get anywhere near the gardens yet, I can see both good news and bad news out there. There are obvious signs of rot on several TBs right up next to the foundation. But, there are also signs of new growth on many newly planted late last summer.

Right now, those of us in Southern Manitoba are closely watching both the Red and Assiniboine rivers. Flooding this year, for the first time since the 70s, both rivers are expected to crest at virtually the same time the last week in April. Lots of work has gone into protecting properties all along the routes of both rivers, but our first spring flood fatality recently reminded us just how powerful Mother Nature can be.

South-western Manitoba has been on average 3 to 5 degrees cooler than Winnipeg just a short drive east. Not only does this keep the ground cooler but it also slows the melt of the ice on the rivers. But, the rivers are rising and my thoughts are with anyone affected.

In Can-West Iris Society news, the 2011 season has begun with our first crack at doing a big garden show. At the end of March we participated in Gardening Saturday sponsored by the Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. It was estimated that some 5 thousand people went through and we had a very busy day. Several volunteers were out to educate the public about our favorite plant and I made a presentation to a standing room only crowd. We were pleased to have a wonderful article published in the Winnipeg Free Press just prior to the event complete with lots of pictures so I am sure that had something to do with the interest in the early bloomers.





After the National AIS Convention in Victoria late in May at which several CWIS members will be attending, our 4th annual show will be held on Sunday, June 12th. If you should find yourself in the area of the Bourkevale Community Centre, please drop by! We are open to the public for viewing from 1 to 4 p.m. and will also have a sale table.

And then in July, I will be conducting a workshop on iris in Neepawa at the Lily Festival. It's not only lilies, I'm told but I usually don't make it out of the lily show tent! So if you happen to be visiting the Lily Festival on July 22nd, drop by the demonstration area at 2 p.m. The festival attracts people from all over the world and this is just another way to get the word out about iris and educate the public on all the beauties we CAN grow in our cold area. Till next time!



## The IRIS FIX for 2011



"The Iris Fix" returns for 2011! **Announcing the return of "The Iris Fix"**. The "Iris Fix" is a free e-mail subscription service available between early April-May and the summer. Each day (usually) you will receive an iris photograph via e-mail to enjoy. This is provided by Don McQueen of London, Ontario from his collection of very nice iris photographs taken in and around his garden. When you have had enough, all you need do is send him an e-mail saying "Thanks but no thanks", and he will remove you from the mailing list. **To subscribe, contact Don at [ddmcqueen@rogers.com](mailto:ddmcqueen@rogers.com).**

If you were a subscriber last year you are automatically on the list.

Don's Iris garden at 38 Lloyd Manor Crescent London ON will be open again this year to visitors. Directions can be had from Don at [ddmcqyeen@rogers.com](mailto:ddmcqyeen@rogers.com) or 519-471-8024.





# The Flowers for Early Summer

By Sawyer Denzil master gardener

The flowering plants that are blooming by the end of June can be generally expected to go on blooming throughout the month of July. Quite a number of our June favorites do not last too long and are gone all too soon. We must say “good bye” to peonies, lemon daylilies, columbine, many of the irises, Oriental poppies and lupines, although there are exceptions even with these.

If one wishes to fill the flower beds with blooms for any one month the choice of perennials is certainly limited. Annuals are often called upon as fill-in plants. If you are taking advantage of the annual garden tour offered by Brantford’s Master Gardeners you cannot but have failed to notice the same flowers in most of the gardens that are often coming to the end of their blooming period.

If you are selecting plants just for early summer you will want them to come into flower towards the end of June and go on blooming for up to six weeks or more. I would suggest some of the plants described here.

Catmint (*Nepeta* “Dropmore Blue”) is a nice, tidy 12-inch tall plant with bright blue flowers and dense, dark green foliage that stands up well to heat.

Aster x *frikartii* bears lavender-blue flowers and, besides being a long bloomer, is mildew resistant. It should look good with a silver-grey plant like *Artemisia* “Powis Castle”.

*Geranium sanguineum* is the bloody cranesbill that bears showy magenta-pink flowers. It is not the only cranesbill but the only one with red flowers rather than the more usual blues. It makes a good choice for the front of the border and grows in tidy clumps.

Tickseed is a yellow-flowered plant that you will find growing in the wild around here. Two of its thread-leaved relatives—*Coreopsis verticillata* “Moonbeam” and “Zagreb”—are likewise drought-tolerant. Grow them next to dark reds for contrast. Other tickseeds come in different colours and make excellent cut flowers.



Catmint (*Nepeta* “Dropmore Blue”)

© Kwantlen Polytechnic University School of Horticulture [www.kwantlen.ca](http://www.kwantlen.ca)







Spike speedwell (*Veronica spicata*) is a bushy border plant with upright spikes of violet-blue flowers that last for weeks. There are also red and white flowered cultivars.

Blanket flowers (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*), with their flowers of reds and yellows, are always ready to brighten up any flower bed.

The re-blooming yellow day lily, *Hemerocallis* x “Stella de Oro”, is sought after as a front-of-the-border plant. You see it everywhere now. There are other continuous blooming day lilies for sale now that also bear flowers with colours other than yellow.

The pincushion flower (*Scabiosa caucasica*) has large, globe-shaped flowers of blue and pink all summer. It is well-named as it forms a mound of grey-green foliage.

The dark blue *Salvia* “May Night” is an alternative to *Veronica* with its tall spikes of dark blue.

Plants that should not be overlooked are the yarrows. Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is a vigorous plant that you will find growing along the roadsides and in the garden adds a natural, county-style look. Its relatives, “The Pearl” sneezwort and “Moonshine yarrow”, grow into long-lasting clumps that are suitable for bouquets.

You will notice that many of these are named cultivars but they are usually for sale at garden centres. There are many more popular perennials that bloom in July but their bloom time may not be as long as one would like.



## 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](mailto:cdn-iris@rogers.com) and we will be pleased to advise you. Early renewals are always appreciated.







# Rebloom Report, 2010

By Chuck Chapman, Guelph Ontario, Canada



**A**lthough I'm in a cooler agricultural region, I get good rebloom here. I'm in a cooler area of Southern Ontario, and my bloom is consistently about 4–10 days later than everyone else in this area. I'm Ag zone 5B, Canadian Rating, or about Ag zone 4 USA rating.

Last year rebloom started June 18<sup>th</sup> with one of my whenever



**AUTUMN JESTER** (Chapman 2000)  
E 13" A purple self that reblooms at IB height. Very reliable rebloom

rebloomers ***Autumn Jester***. This was about a week after it finished spring bloom, and while TB iris were still finishing off their spring bloom. ***Autumn Jester*** continued until it was frozen out in late October, after having several light frosts before then. It may have missed a day or two during that time, but not very many. It was in full clump bloom until mid to late September, when it was reduced to a stalk or so per clump. This has been rather typical of it for the past few years. It seems to like frequent divisions and moving.

The other whenever rebloomers followed shortly and bloomed periodically until hard frost. These included ***Forever Blue***, ***Blueberry Tart***, ***Wizard Of Hope***, ***Summer Recall***, and ***Forever Violet***. ***Royal Overtime*** also bloomed during this time, although it isn't one of this group, and only reblooms here occasionally.

This group of rebloomers performed as per usual, but everything else was very early in reblooming, and out of the usual sequence of rebloomer. A lot of the smaller plants: SDB, IB etc. bloomed before the TB, when here it is usually the other way around. But then the bloom season was very early, almost two weeks ahead of normal. So a lot of plants got a longer growing season than they usually get.





## Chapman 2011 Introductions

*Little Showoff* and *Precious Little Pink* (IB) started near the end of July. These were shortly followed by SDB seedlings, and these continued to open, until by the time bloom season shut down, I had a total of 36 SDB seedlings that had rebloomed. A number of them had rebloomed several times. In addition, a TB and a BB seedling rebloomed for me.

For SDB rebloomers we had *Autumn Embers*, *Cry Baby*, and *Be Little* in early August; and *Ruby Eruption* in mid September. In October, shortly before hard frost we had *Little Showoff*, *Grey Poupon*, *Autumn Surge*, and *Juiced Up*.

*Lo Ho Silver*, *Double Your Fun*, and *Blessed Again* rebloomed at the end of August/early September.

*Pure As Gold* opened on August 9<sup>th</sup> and was the first of the TB to open. I'm not positive that it bloomed in the spring, so it may be an off season bloom rather than rebloom. It was followed shortly by *Violet Music* (several periods of rebloom) and *Autumn Rain*. Then *Dorcus Lives Again*.

*Touch Of Spring*, *Immortality*, *Lilac Stitchery*, *English Cottage*, *Northward Ho*, and *Autumn Bugler*. *Twiggy* (BB) and *Pink Attraction* were the last of the tall to open.

There were about 30 TB that got frozen out in various stages of flower stalk, including a number that usually rebloom here.

All in all, a great rebloom season!

I have also included my 2011 introductions.  
(See photos at right...)



Captain Kirk



Naked Grape



C-Spock



Crash and Burn



Urban Myth





# WHAT DO JUDGES DO WRONG?

By Jim Morris, Missouri

[reprinted from an AIS Region Newsletter – late 1980's.]

Having been on both the giving and receiving end of show judging for several years, I have observed varying levels of competence. I'm sure you have too. The judges' decisions are out in the open, subject to close scrutiny and second guessing by exhibitors and the general public. As the Judges' Handbook states, the spotlight is merciless.

Let us make one statement up front. Judges are **biased!** All human beings are, but there is a difference between discriminating according to a set of criteria and discriminating because of personal bias. Discrimination is what judging is all about. SURPRISED? SHOCKED? You shouldn't be. Judges should strive to select the specimens most deserving of awards according to well-established AIS standards.

Okay, so what do show judges do that is wrong? How many of you have heard a judge say "that thing shouldn't get a blue ribbon, it's too old" or, "I can't give **that** a blue, I don't like the colour and it should have never been introduced in the first place".

**PREJUDICE** – Predetermined bias against a variety, because of its age or colour, is wrong even though it isn't covered by the Civil Rights Act. So is prejudice against a particular hybridizer or exhibitor – or even when that exhibitor might be unknown (and is, according to the covered name tags).

**LACK OF KNOWLEDGE** – Have you seen misnamed irises that were awarded ribbons? I have, and it is embarrassing, both to the Show Committee and the judges themselves. If in doubt, the variety should be looked up in the checklist that the Show Committee should have available. We have an obligation to members and the general public that specimens are properly identified. If someone selects a variety for purchase and is later surprised when that pink turned out to be blue, they are likely not to be charitable.

**TOO MUCH THE EXPERT** – Any judge that doesn't bring his Judge's Handbook to the show is automatically suspect in my mind. None of us knows all of the criteria that well. The aura of infallibility is not realistic. We ALL make mistakes. Mutual respect should exist between judges, but holding another judge in awe because they are a master or emeritus judge is probably not healthy nor in the best interest of the show.

**INADEQUATE EVALUATION** – Judges can go too fast, thus missing blossom tears, dirt, bugs, missing parts, and artificial help such as glue, toothpicks, wedges and lacquer. No ribbon should be awarded to "sport" blooms that are abnormal, e.g. four standards or falls, instead of a trio. Judges sometimes can go too slow, not respecting show time limits. The show clerk or show chairman have to help out by politely reminding the judges, because they may be so engrossed in their labour of love they have lost touch and track of time. They want to do such a good job, you see.





**FEELINGS** – Judging is an honour, an obligation and a job, but it should be fun too! Judges shouldn't hurt the feelings of other judges, but if a judge bleeds easily, he probably shouldn't be a judge in the first place. Bad tempers have no place in iris show judging. Differences of opinion do. The browbeating or bulldogging of others should not be tolerated. Each judge is entitled to his full say and opinion.

**FAVORITISM** – In some ways this is a form of prejudice. Favouring a particular iris for an award such as a section rosette or best specimen, if done because it is from the judge's region or from a hybridizer in the show's region, is wrong. On the other hand, if all things (meeting of criteria) are equal, selecting the pink you like over the plicata may be a sound decision.

**CONSISTENCY** – Before the start of judging, the show chairman will brief the judges regarding the show schedule and the weather conditions that affected the specimens in the local area. Also, the judges should take a quick walk around to get an overall impression of show quality. Judges should not walk around before the entries close. Sometimes judges start out either too severely and ease up, or too leniently and progressively get tougher. Then too, in the case of more than one panel of judges, one group may be very strict and the other very easy. I have seen silver medals won AND lost because of such inconsistency. The show chairman's "charge to the jury" (in this case, the judges) is extremely important and cannot be overly stressed. If the show chairman has any doubts or is insecure, he should seek the advice of more senior members of the sponsoring club. If he doesn't, and the judges lack proper instructions, they may make the wrong assumptions; the show may suffer. If there is a Youth Section in the show, sometimes the judges will not be as lenient as the Show Committee might desire. Young people need encouragement. If they have made a lot of effort, it probably should be rewarded. However, if their efforts aren't up to snuff... .

**TOUCH ME NOT** – Judges should NEVER touch show specimens or move the containers. That is why we have show clerks to assist the judges. If there is a clumsy clerk, the judges should instruct the clerk to be more cautious. Several years ago as a show clerk, I once dropped and completely smashed a specimen. I was mortified! It was a lesson I will never forget. I have seen show judges as well as show clerks break off standards and falls, and it knocks the specimen out of the box before it has had a chance to compete.

**POLITICS** – During judging, extracurricular discussions of AIS activities, politics, and the judges' health are inappropriate and to be avoided. Judges have a job to do and they should get on with it.

**STAMINA** – The Show Committee has a responsibility to have enough judges to assure completion of show judging in a reasonable time frame. However, if the show outstrips the judges' normal endurance, they should take a short break. They have an obligation to maintain the consistency we discussed earlier.







**EDUCATIONAL –** If judges set a proper example they have a real impact on everyone connected with the show. It could be a negative impact if they fail to train their apprentices and, of course, show clerks also receive training— albeit unofficial. When judging educational displays, too many judges do not adequately review the display. Judges should thoroughly **READ** them, **STUDY** them, and **UNDERSTAND** them. They shouldn't discount the display if they disagree with its thesis unless a significant portion of the display is incorrect.

### **ARTISTIC –**

AIS judges should not pretend to be experts in judging the artistic designs unless they truly are. If possible, this section should be judged by Federated National Council Judges.

**SO!** Do you want to be an AIS judge? We can always use more good ones. As you can see, all judges make mistakes, or they wouldn't be human. Try not to criticize the judges even though you may heartily disagree with their choices, for the shoe may be on your foot in the future. But, if you can tap dance, disco, or do a soft shoe in that merciless spotlight, then come join the party!



## **Who Said it's Too Cold?**

**By Jim Ball**

**F**or more than 50 years I've been growing lilies; mostly Asiatic Hybrids, also some Martagons, LAs, Orienpets, Trumpets and Orientals. They occupied a large portion of my flower garden. However, 5 or 6 years ago when visiting my daughter in Hamilton, ON, we went to the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG). It so happened that the irises were in full bloom. I was so amazed with their beauty and wide range of colours. The Tall Bearded Irises in particular caught my attention—it was love at first sight. I decided then and there that I would start growing Tall Bearded Iris. The experts warned me they would not be totally hardy in our harsh prairie winters. This did not deter me. I ordered Irises from Chuck Chapman Iris, McMillens Iris Gardens, and Cooley's Iris Gardens in Oregon. To make sure they would survive their first winter, I ordered early so I could plant them no later than the last week of July or the first week of August. I'm now growing 32 standard dwarf bearded (SDB) and 82 Tall Bearded (TB's). Every summer, after they finish blooming, I fertilize with Bonemeal. Each spring when new growth is showing, I fertilize with 6-12 /12-12. In the fall, once the ground starts to freeze, a 2-3 inch mulch of "Walk on Bark" is applied.

Although one or two may not make it every winter, the overall results have been most rewarding. Although I'm approaching 90 years (young), I plan to continue adding to my selection. I'm really "hooked" on irises!

*[Editor's note: Knowing nothing about Lilies, I did some investigating and found Jim has taken the same approach with his lilies. "They won't grow"; not so! Jim has proven it can be done. Jim Ball is a resident of Regina, Saskatchewan.]*





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# Reader Rock Garden Redevelopment Project

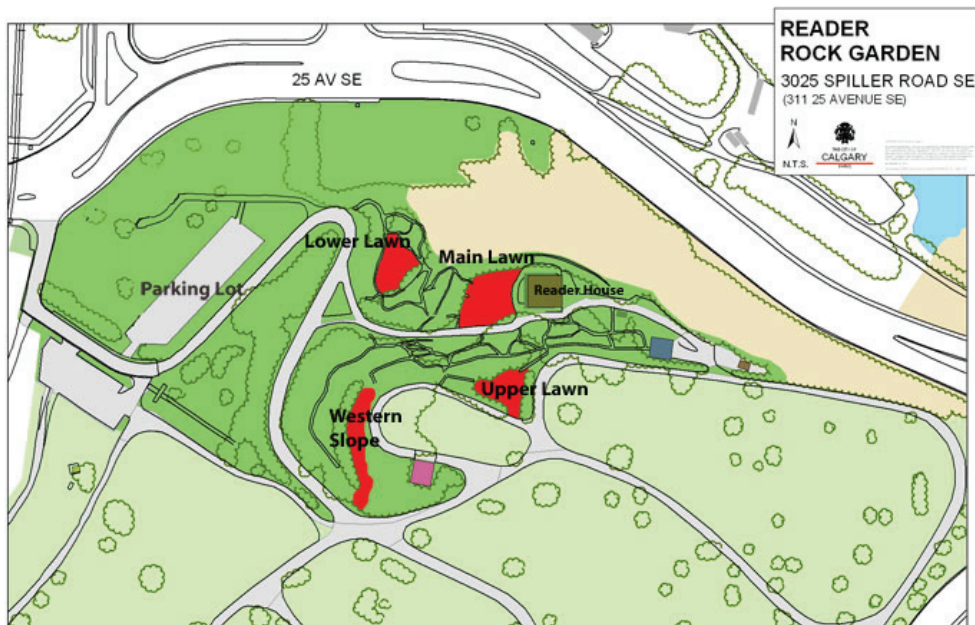
By B. J. Jackson

Calgary, Alberta

**J**anet Jones of the City of Calgary Parks, Reader Rock Garden is attempting to locate several varieties originally planted at the gardens in the early to mid-20th century. This redevelopment project has been assisted by the Historical Iris Preservation Society and the support so far has been wonderful. Janet is, however, still trying to track down many of the historic varieties that have been lost and has compiled a list from the records remaining at the garden. Her budget is, of course, woefully inadequate for a project of this size so every little bit helps.

## She writes:

“The Reader Rock Garden is one of Calgary’s most uniquely built cultural landscapes. For many years it lay neglected, but rehabilitation began in 2004. The project was honoured in 2008 with a National Achievement Award by the Heritage Canada Foundation, in 2007 with a national citation from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, and in 2006 with a Calgary Heritage Authority Lion Award in Landscape Preservation. This Provincial Historic Resource is one of a very few remaining historic gardens in western Canada.





The garden is a tribute to one man's passion for plants and beauty. **William Roland Reader** was the Superintendent for Calgary Parks from 1913 – 1942. He actively collected plants and seeds both locally and from distant countries, trialing over 4000 different plant species over the years. He transformed a bare hillside into an internationally-acclaimed garden as he demonstrated the horticultural potential of the Chinook Region of Alberta to Calgary's citizens. Since the re-opening of the garden in 2006 we have been working to reintroduce Reader's many plant collections, which include irises that William Reader introduced to his garden."

If you can help, please contact her directly at: [Janet.Jones@calgary.ca](mailto:Janet.Jones@calgary.ca)

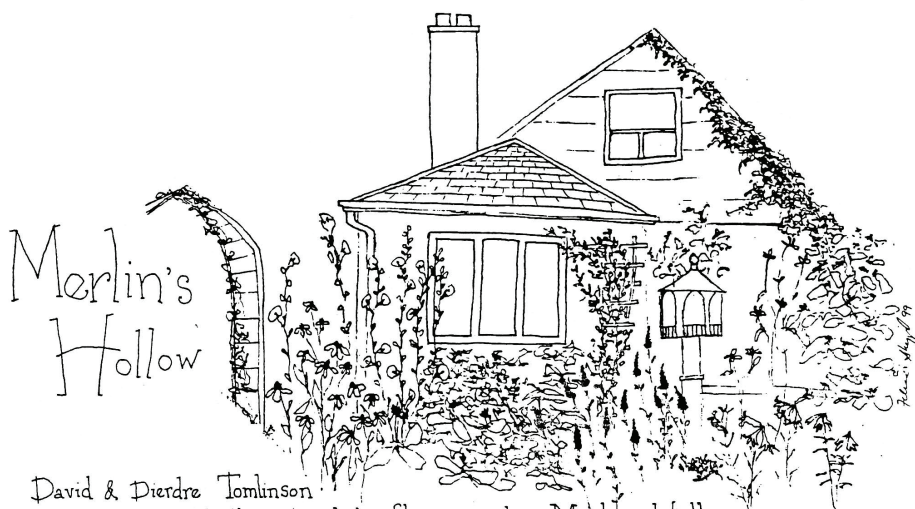


### Below is a list of the varieties she is still looking for as of February 2011:

Agnes Sorrel	Cluny	Iris	Mozart
Aika	Colias	Iroquois	Mrs. Allen Gray / Mrs.
Amber	Compte de St. Claire	Ivorine	Allan Gray
Apollo	Confederation Day	Izof	Mrs. Smith
Argymus	Concience	James Boyd	Mythras
Arnols	Corrida	Jenny Lind	Nancy Lee
Asia	Cynthia	Jungfrau	Oriflamme
Askabad	Dalmarius	Justinian	Pare de Meuilly
Assureus	Darby	Kathleen	Perfecta
Aurea	Donna Marie	Kayana / Kaysna	Phanage
Autumn King	Drake	King Edward VII	Prairie Gold
Azure	Dr. Bernice	King of Iris	Princeps
Bariensis	Dream	Lady Seymour	Prosper Laugier
Berchta	Du Bois de Milan	La Neige	Purple King
Bertoloni	Eburna	Le Pactole	Queen Alexandra
Black Prince	Eden Phillpots	L'Innocence	Queen of the Gypsies
Blue Jay	Edouard Michel	Lohengrin	Rainbow
Brittanicus	Etta	Lonte	Regina
Bronze Beauty	Florence Barr	Lunanberg	Sapho
Bruno	Frederick	Macrantha	Shelford Chieftan
Canari	Fritjof	Madame Cheri	Silver King
Canary Bird	Fro	Madame X	Sirius
Candelabre	George Yeld	Madawaska	Standard Bearer
Caroline de Sansel	Glory of Hillegom	Magnifica	Sunset
Carthusian	Glow	Mandraliscae	Tecumseh
Castor	Gold Crest	Mary Garden	Titan
Cecil Minturn	Halfden	Mary Gibson	Trautleib
Celia	Harriet Presby	Massasott	Virginia Moore
Charmant	Hiawatha	Medrano	Walhall
Chester J. Hunt	Hochelaga	Mercedee / Mercedes	White Nymph
Citrea	Hugo	Miranda	Zouave
Citronella	Ignatius	Mlle. Schwartz	
Clarence Wedge	Imperator	Moliere	
Clarissima	Innocenza	Moonstone	







David & Pierdre Tomlinson  
invite you to visit their English flower garden, Merlin's Hollow  
at 181 Centre Crescent, Aurora, which is open annually, rain or shine, on :

The 2nd Saturday in May : featuring spring bulbs, wild flowers & alpine scree

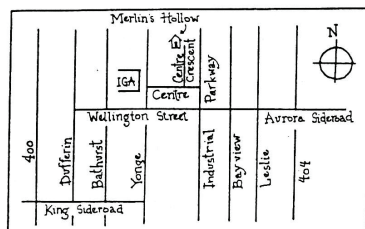
The 2nd Saturday in June : featuring the fragrant garden, thyme lawn, iris & peonies

The 1st Saturday in July : featuring summer flowering perennials, pond & water garden  
& The Sunday of the following weekend.

Merlin's Hollow was designed by David, a landscape architect, to create a series of gardens within a garden. Enclosed by high cedar hedges, each garden has it's own distinct character & a series of arches invite the visitor from one garden to the next. Features within the garden include woodland beds, a fern walk, alpine garden with scree beds, bog beds, & frog pond. Stone walls enclose raised beds of scented flowers, herbs, heritage shrub roses and a thyme lawn. A winter garden & knot garden were added in 1998.

The  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre garden was started in 1981 and contains over 1500 different plants of which many are labeled. Plants from the garden are sold on the four open days only.

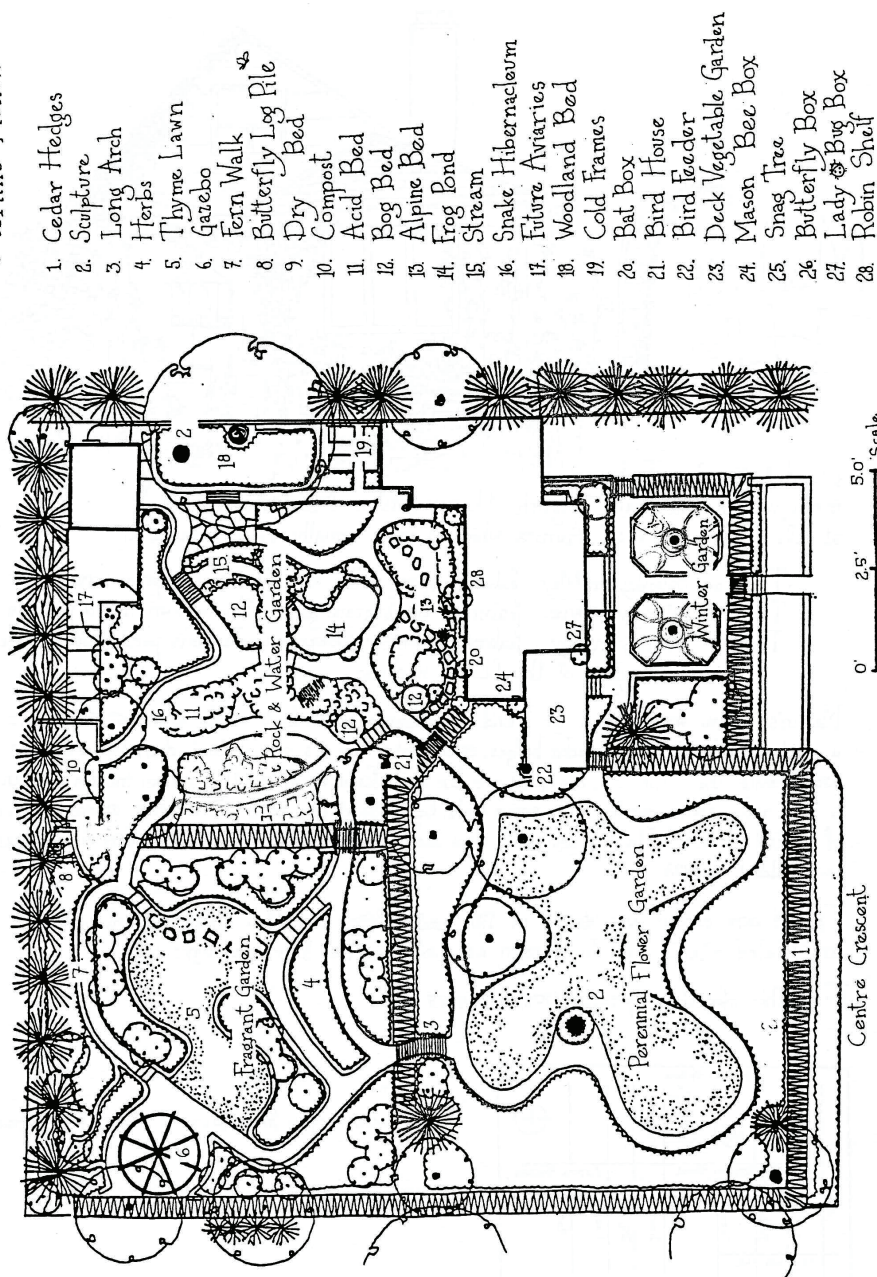
For further information phone (905) 727-8979



The garden is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. free of charge.



# Merlin's Hollow



1. Cedar Hedges
2. Sculpture
3. Long Arch
4. Herbs
5. Thyme Lawn
6. Gazebo
7. Fern Walk
8. Butterfly Log Pile
9. Dry Bed
10. Compost
11. Acid Bed
12. Bog Bed
13. Alpine Bed
14. Frog Pond
15. Stream
16. Snake Hibernaculum
17. Future Aviaries
18. Woodland Bed
19. Cold Frames
20. Bat Box
21. Bird House
22. Bird Feeder
23. Deck Vegetable Garden
24. Mason Bee Box
25. Snag Tree
26. Butterfly Box
27. Ladybug Box
28. Robin Shelf



# Juno Irises

By John Moons

The Juno Irises belong to the group of bulbous Irises. Some people wonder if the Junos are even Irises or if they should have their own genus, Juno. In addition to the bulb, the Junos have thickened storage roots that look a bit like the roots of a Hemerocallis. These roots are an important food source for the dormant plant so it is good not to damage them when transplanting the bulbs. The food in the storage roots is used up when the plant starts growing in the spring. Later on the plant will grow new storage roots for the next season.



© John Lonsdale <http://www.edgewoodgardens.net>

Juno Iris: *Iris magnifica*

Juno Iris plants sometimes look more like a corn plant than what a lot of people consider an Iris with its flat leaves growing out of a rhizome. The flowers will grow out of the leaf axils. Others have their flowers held on tall leafy stems that look like leek plants.

The plants of the Juno Irises are also different from other Irises. The standards are usually much smaller than the falls and are usually horizontal or even hang down. The style arms seem to have taken the normal position of the standards.

The Junos come mostly from an area that has central Turkey as its western boundary. Its southern border is Jordan and it grows east as far as Afghanistan and in a vast area of southern Russia. The area has hot dry summers during which the Junos are dormant. The winters can be very cold and especially in the mountains can have a lot of snow. Most Junos need a very well drained soil that is alkaline. Clay or peaty soils are really not suitable.

Of the more than 50 species of Junos, only a few are found in gardens. A lot of Junos have very specific requirements for temperatures throughout the year, pH, moisture and light. A good number of Juno Irises are considered very difficult to grow in cultivation. The Junos are best propagated by seed. It takes four years from seed to flower.





### Some of the species are:

Iris bucharica. This is the best known of all the Junos. It grows to about 30 cm and the plant without flowers looks like a corn plant. Standards and falls are creamy yellow and the style arms are white. A few selections of the I. bucharica are:

- *Dushanbe* with pure yellow blooms with lighter style branches.
- *Tony* is a greenish yellow form.
- *Swan Wings* has a lot of white in the flower.

A few other Junos are not too hard to grow. They are Iris aucheri, Iris cycloglossa and Iris magnifica.

Iris aucheri was introduced into the trade in 1890. It grows in the wild in the south-eastern part of Turkey, northern Iraq, Jordan and Syria. Iris aucheri is the same as Iris fumosa and iris sindjarensis. It grows to about 40 cm. The flowers are pale to deep blue. It seems to like a very warm summer. A few selections are *Shooting Star*, *Snowwhite*, *Leyled Ice*, and *Vigour*.

Iris magnifica is a taller species that can grow up to 60 cm high. It is good for a sunny rock garden. The flowers are pale lilac and yellow and are about twice the size of Iris bucharica flowers. A few selections are Iris magnifica *Alba* (syn. *Virginity*), *Blue Dream* and *Margaret Mathew*.

Iris cycloglossa was introduced into cultivation in 1969. It differs from other Junos with its large erect standards. They smell like cloves and are bright purple blue and up to 10 cm in diameter. It comes from moist soil in north-west Afghanistan.

### A few other Junos are:

- Iris aitchisonii comes from Pakistan. It is up to 30 cm tall with lilac purple or yellow flowers.
- Iris alba-marginata has pale blue and yellow flowers and will also grow to 30 cm.
- Iris caucasica is a very low plant with up to four pale yellow or green flowers.
- Iris galatica (syn. Iris purpurea) is very short with a few small flowers that are purple or lime green.
- Iris graeberiana is a small species with blue flowers. Some people claim that this species is very easy to grow.
- Iris nicolai is a dwarf species that blooms very early. It blooms before the leaves are out.
- Iris paleastina has pale green flowers and is less hardy than other Junos.
- Iris persica is a very low growing plant. The flowers are variable in colour.
- Iris planifolio is the only Juno native to Europe. The blue flowers grow on short stems. It has a lot of problems with virus diseases.
- Iris rosenbachiana has its flower grow to 10 cm. and the leaves later on to 25 cm. high. The colours of the flowers range from the almost white "*Harangon*" to the yellowish "*Varzob*". There are also purple selections and there is a white selection with yellow anthers.
- Iris warleyensis is a tall species with flowers that are violet or purple.







# 2011 CIS Purchase Offer Program

By Chris Hollinshead

This year the CIS again offers a selection of special recently introduced high quality iris plants for your growing pleasure. This program helps support the activity and function of the Canadian Iris

Society (CIS) and its registered affiliates, a further plus is that you get yourself some very nice flowers at the same time too! Please take note that the CIS Purchase Offer Program is reserved for current CIS members only. (if not a CIS member; see note below on how you can still participate by joining at the same time as you order)



SDB iris **ORANGE SMASH**  
(Black 2010 introduction)

## Here is how it works:

With this program you choose your special new irises from our 2011 listing, reserve them by prepaying for them now and then at the correct planting time later in the summer we ship them directly to your home. When your order is received the available plants are reserved for you. Order early for the best selection. All the plants are a limited supply and some of these go fast so do not delay! With the help of our iris friends at a major commercial iris garden we have available a selection of newer introductions from 2010-2009-2008-2007 and they are at great bargain prices compared to what you would normally pay. These will be top quality rhizomes that will be shipped directly to you! The plants on offer are American Iris Society (AIS) registered and named iris cultivars. Each will be clearly labeled and ready to pop into your garden. We will provide you with the info on the expected time of arrival once we have that information, but it will likely be near the end of July.

The plants listed below will be sold on a first come first served basis to CIS members. Place your order by e-mail, phone or postal mail. If a plant is sold out we will notify you by phone or e-mail so you have a chance to change your order or cancel. All payments must be received before any shipment will be made. Make your cheque or money order payable to Canadian Iris Society.

## The sale opening date:

So that everyone has a fair and equal chance to review the listing and obtain the available plants, **orders will only be received from May 20, 2011 onwards**. There is not a fixed end date but as the items are limited in quantity your available selection will be greatly reduced as time progresses. Additionally, by the end of July or early August most transactions should be completed so that your plants have time to become established before cold weather/winter arrives.





## Shipping Costs:

- Ontario: 1 - 9 rhizomes \$9.00 | 10 - 19 rhizomes \$13.00 | 20 - up rhizomes \$17.00
- Rest of Canada: 1 - 9 rhizomes \$13.00 | 10 - 19 rhizomes \$17.00 | 20 - up rhizomes \$21.00

Send your order with full payment+shipping fee by cheque or money order payable to the Canadian Iris Society. Send your order to the sale coordinator:

**Ed Jowett**, 1960 Sideroad 15,  
RR#2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0  
Telephone: 905-936-9941  
Email: [jowettfarm@copper.net](mailto:jowettfarm@copper.net)

Photos and descriptions of all the irises on offer are available to view in the special color mini-catalogue we have prepared for this event. The mini-catalogue is available to download from the CIS website [www.cdn-iris.ca](http://www.cdn-iris.ca). Once there please go to the Iris Sales Event area of the website.



Sale coordinator Ed Jowett

## Notes:

Again please remember that to participate in this you need to be a current CIS member. If you are not a CIS member and wish to participate in the sale you may include the applicable CIS membership fee + membership form along with your order.

We are considering a similar Siberian iris version of the sale. This would need to be a separate sale later in the 2011 season so that the plants arrive at the correct planting time. Please indicate to the sale coordinator if you would be interested in a sale of Siberian irises. If there is enough interest one may be arranged.



CULTIVAR NAME	YEAR	QTY	CATALOGUE PRICE	MEMBER PRICE
<b>TB</b>				
ALL MY DREAMS	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
CALGARY	2010	4	\$ 28.00	\$ 17.00
CARNIVAL OF COLOR	2008	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
CIRCLE OF LIGHT	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
CLOUDSCAPE	2008	4	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.50
CORAL SPLENDOR	2008	4	\$ 15.00	\$ 9.00
CRETE	2008	4	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.50
FASHION DIVA	2009	4	\$ 20.00	\$ 12.00
FLASH OF LIGHT	2008	4	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.50
GRAPETIZER	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
GUILT FREE SAMPLE	2007	4	\$ 9.00	\$ 5.50
INSPIRED	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
LOVE ME TRUE	2008	4	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.50
MAGICAL MOMENT	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
POLKA	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
SORDID LIVES	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
STOLEN SWEETS	2009	4	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00





CULTIVAR NAME	YEAR	QTY	CATALOGUE PRICE	MEMBER PRICE
<b>BB</b>				
ALWAYS LOVELY	2010	2	\$ 15.00	\$ 9.00
BALLERINA PINK	2010	2	\$ 18.00	\$ 11.00
BONJOUR	2008	4	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
HOODOO BLUES	2008	4	\$ 9.00	\$ 5.50
BUNDLE OF LOVE	2008	4	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00
LADY OF THE NIGHT	2008	4	\$ 9.00	\$ 5.00
<b>IB</b>				
ALBERTA CLIPPER	2007	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
CAT IN THE HAT	2009	5	\$ 12.00	\$ 7.00
DATE WITH DESTINY	2009	5	\$ 14.00	\$ 8.50
DAZZLING	2008	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
FRISKY FROLIC	2008	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
INTOXICATING	2009	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
MAN'S BEST FRIEND	2008	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
PARTING GLANCES	2009	5	\$ 9.00	\$ 5.50
PRESTO CHANGE-O	2009	5	\$ 9.00	\$ 5.50
STAR IN THE NIGHT	2009	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
<b>MTB</b>				
REDROCK PRINCESS	2006	4	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00
TIC TAC TOE	2010	2	\$ 15.00	\$ 9.00
<b>SDB</b>				
BAD INTENTIONS	2009	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
BOMBAY SAPPHIRE	2007	5	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00
CLEVER	2007	5	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00
COLOR BLIND	2010	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
ELECTRIFYING	2009	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
EYE OF SAURON	2009	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
EYE OF THE TIGER	2008	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
FIDGET	2009	5	\$ 9.00	\$ 5.50
GOLD DIGGER	2009	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
IGNITE	2009	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
INTERGALACTIC	2008	5	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00
KACHING	2009	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
LOONEY	2007	5	\$ 6.00	\$ 4.00
MEOW	2008	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
NOSFERATU	2010	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
OPEN YOUR EYES	2010	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
ORANGE SMASH	2010	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
PEANUT BUTTER SWIRL	2008	5	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00
RASPBERRY TIGER	2009	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
STUNT DOUBLE	2009	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00
SWEET AND INNOCENT	2010	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
WARM AND FUZZY	2010	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
<b>MDB</b>				
CUTE AS A BUTTON	2010	5	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00
KEENO	2009	5	\$ 8.00	\$ 5.00





# AIS Regional News

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## **Region 1**

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

**RVP Norine Veal**

e-mail [nsveal@aol.com](mailto:nsveal@aol.com)

- No Report
- 

## **Region 2**

New York, Ontario, Quebec

**RVP Donna Lowry**

e-mail [donnadonlowry@aol.com](mailto:donnadonlowry@aol.com)

**Greetings: from Donna Lowry**

I hope that the weather has been kind to you. The harsh winter and spring winds have left me with lots of broken tree limbs to pick up. Some of my trees do not shed their leaves as early as I would like. Therefore, the snow arrives before all the leaves have been removed. So, I also have lots of leaves to clean up.







I don't like to use pesticides, so I try to remove all the iris foliage before the winter snows arrive. This helps to rid my garden of the iris borer.

I am one of those "awful" people who buy plants without knowing where I will be able to plant them. Therefore, my garage is full of plants in pots. If anyone wants help with storing potted plants through the winter, send me an e-mail. I have become an expert!

As I look forward to better weather, I note that the irises in my garden have started to grow. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I didn't get my newly purchased bearded irises planted until very late last year. I was very happy to see that I had lost only a very few of them. Naturally, they were 2009 introductions.

Currently, I have some *reticulata*'s that I planted last fall in bloom. They are so dainty, and I just love them. They must be some critter's favorite food because I need to keep replacing them. Only a few older ones survive each year. But when they bloom with the snowdrops, I know that winter will soon be over and spring is on the way.

It is amazing to me how the sunshine lifts my spirits and how I ache to get out in the garden and dig in the soil. My wish for you is lots of sunshine and happy gardening.

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## **Region 13**

Washington, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia, Yukon

### **RVP Alan Brooks**

e-mail [ebb1012@aol.com](mailto:ebb1012@aol.com)

- There will be no regional show this year because of AIS convention.
- The spring 2012 regional show will be held in Seattle, Washington

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## **Region 21**

Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba

### **RVP Ron Cosner**

e-mail [keighley15@msn.com](mailto:keighley15@msn.com)

- No Report

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Full current details of the various RVPs and affiliated local iris clubs/societies of the AIS Regions are available on the AIS website: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org).



# 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](mailto:aismemsec@irises.org)

or visit: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org) for more details



## Your new AIS RVP's for the regions aligned with Canada:

**Region 1** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, **Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island**

Norine Veal [nsveal@aol.com](mailto:nsveal@aol.com)  
30 Franklin Park East, Rockville, CT 06066

**Region 2** New York, **Ontario, Quebec**

Donna Lowry [donnadonlowry@aol.com](mailto:donnadonlowry@aol.com)  
9660 Ridge Road, Brockport, NY 14420

**Region 13** Washington, Oregon, Alaska, **British Columbia, Yukon**

Alan Brooks [ebb1012@aol.com](mailto:ebb1012@aol.com)

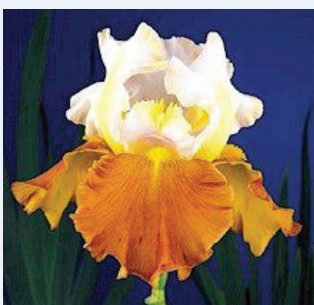
**Region 21** Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, **NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba**

Ron Cosner [keighley15@msn.com](mailto:keighley15@msn.com)  
328 Central Ave SE, Lemars, IA 51031

AIS newly updated web site: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)



## Canadian Iris Society announces 2011 Annual Iris Sale



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

...Looking for unique and beautiful irises like  
these ones? Come out to our annual sale  
August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @1:00 P.M.

**Location:** Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) 680 Plains Road West,  
Burlington, Ontario (RBG main building, rooms 3 and 4)

Pick up some really excellent high quality irises at this event. The plants on  
offer are American Iris Society (AIS) registered and named iris cultivars

**Event contact:** Ed Jowett  
1960 Side Rd 15 RR 2 , Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0  
905-936-9941 | [jowettfarm@copper.net](mailto:jowettfarm@copper.net)

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

### **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.





# Coming Events and Dates to Remember

## 2011 Meeting Dates

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

## 2011 Event Dates

May 29 – June 3rd      **Iris-Istible Victoria “AIS” convention Victoria, B.C.**

Saturday June 4th      **McMillen's Iris Garden - 2nd Annual Iris Festival**

(Canada's largest iris garden) 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

R R #1 285112 Pleasant Valley Road, Norwich, ON N0J 1P0

Phone 519-468-6508 (1-800-468-6508) [www.mcmillensirsgarden.ca](http://www.mcmillensirsgarden.ca)

See 15 acres of Iris, over 1200 varieties, workshops on iris growing, grooming, & planting, XQZT floral design, ideas, and arrangement demo, what to look for when buying iris.

Entertainment: Local folk artist Bruce Jakeman

Sunday June 12th      **CIS Show and Picnic at Trails End Iris Gardens**  
(See page 26 for details.)

Sunday June 12th      **Can-West Iris Society 4th Annual Iris Show**  
(See page ?)

Tuesday July 26th      **Tara Perennial Farm Iris Sale**  
(See advertisement on pages 20 & 21)

Sunday August 14th      **CIS Annual Iris Sale at  
Royal Botanical Gardens Burlington ON**  
(See page 38 for details.)

Saturday August 20th      **CIS London Region annual Iris Rhizome Sale at  
1368 Hastings Drive, London - 08:00 to 12:00**

All TB rhizomes are \$2.00; MDB, SDB & IB \$1.00

With a wide range of selection from historic to later varieties

For directions contact Ken Viner at [kenviner@sympatico.ca](mailto:kenviner@sympatico.ca) or

Call 519-660-0313

## 2011 Publication Dates

August 2011      Vol55 No3 Summer Issue

November 2011      Vol55 No4 Fall Issue





# 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](mailto:chuck@chapmaniris.com)  
Website: [www.chapmaniris.com](http://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@mcmillensirsgarden.ca](mailto:info@mcmillensirsgarden.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  
Website: [www.taraperennialfarm.com](http://www.taraperennialfarm.com)

## **The Plant Farm**

177 Vesuvius Bay Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1K3  
Phone: 250-537-5995  
Email: [hello@theplantfarm.ca](mailto:hello@theplantfarm.ca)  
Website: [www.theplantfarm.ca](http://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](mailto:bob@trailsendiris.com)  
Website: [www.trailsendiris.com](http://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](http://www.bc-iris.org)

### **Can-West Iris Society**

B.J. Jackson, 2421 McDonald Avenue, Brandon, MB R7B 0A6,  
ph: 204-725-4696 email: [jacksonb@mts.net](mailto:jacksonb@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](mailto:cdn-iris@rogers.com)

### **London Region Iris Society**

Gloria McMillen, RR#1 Norwich, ON N0J 1P0  
ph: 519 468-3279 email: [gmcmlen@execulink.com](mailto:gmcmlen@execulink.com)  
Please inquire for membership and group activities.

### **Ottawa River Iris Society (ORrIS)**

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

**cis website**  
**[www.cdn-iris.ca](http://www.cdn-iris.ca)**

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





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



Walker Ross

### **CIS Newsletter**

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