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## **Canadian Iris Society**

## cis newsletter

Winter 2012 Volume 56 Issue 1





## **Canadian Iris Society Board of Directors**

#### Officers for 2012

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President's Report	2
New and Newsworthy (Nancy Kennedy)	4
Our Siberians are Sold Out! (Editor)	8
Musings From Manitoba (B. J. Jackson)	10
Can-West Iris Society News (B. J. Jackson)	11
Board Meeting Minutes - October 2011	12
Terra Greenhouses (ad)	14
AIS 2011 Convention Report	15
Eclipse Design Studio (ad)	18
Irises and Weed Control (John Moons)	19
In Memoriam: Christopher Robert Graham	21
Winter 2012 Garden Diggings (Chris Hollinshead)	22
Questions, Answers, and Opinions	25
AIS Regional News	26
AIS Convention 2012 (Chris Hollinshead)	27
How to Design Gardens with Bearded Irises (Ann and Bob Granatier, Trails End Iris Gardens)	30
Language of Flowers	37
Canadian Iris Hybridizers Update (Don McQueen)	38
CIS Annual Iris Tentative Show Schedule	40
American Iris Society (ad)	46
Coming Events and Dates to Remember	47
Canadian Sources for Irises	48
Liaisons and Regions	49

Cover Photo: Backdraft by Hugh Stout 2010 Courtesy: Stout Gardens at Dancingtree



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Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

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## President's Message

By Ed Jowett



ell we are over the festive season now and I believe we are all looking forward to spring. Since our last news bulletin we have taken on a few things. We have set up our committees and are looking forward to having a good year for two thousand and twelve.

I would like to thank those guests who received our bulletin for taking the time to send their comments. It is nice to hear they think we have an

informative bulletin and great colored pictures. (These people only receive our electronic copy. It is usually only sent to those we are printing articles of or awards about; or those who send us their bulletins.) I have also received a couple of letters from teaching facilities acknowledging that our web site is recommended as a place for educational information to their students.

Our Siberian program has gone well but there is a few days left to still make a purchase. We have one or two of most cultivars. With twenty four varieties it is amazing to see the different orders; some seem size-oriented and some colour-oriented and some of us no reason; just the love of the flowers!

I would like to personally thank all the hybridizers and suppliers that have supported our organization over the last 8 years for all their help and contributions. These made our share program work and grow.

We will have the listing of Bearded Iris available this year in our next bulletin.

I was into a florist to pick up some flowers for a birthday girl and the owner turned out to be a retired horticulturist. As I looked around I noticed a plaque she was displaying. I asked her where she had obtained it. She immediately offered to make me a copy; and asked me why I would like it. This lead to a long talk about every thing from weed control to goodness knows what. I learnt that in the summer she grows a lot of her own flowers; for instance she has around one hundred white peonies which she uses for weddings. She has four beds of Iris. She does not know their names, but each bed is a separate colour. She has a yellow, a purple & white plicata, a real light blue, and of course a pure white one. These irises surround their swimming pool and her husband is insisting they go as they cause too much work to keep the pool clean. So she has agreed

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







to move them this year. As you do not notice much when you come into the place; a small parking area maybe ten cars, and of course the pool with a fence around it that does not look to be much more than ten feet wide around the pool. I had to ask where she grew all these plants then; which she replied, "I have ten acres here". However back to the plaque; I have included it in this bulletin. It is entitled "Language of Flowers". I intend to revisit her come spring and summer as she is only about thirty kilometers away.

If you would allow people to visit your gardens during bloom season let us know and we will post it. I would suggest you only give your name and phone number so you can control who and when people may visit and you are not an open public garden. This is how your friends learn of the beauty of flowers. Who knows — you may make a few coppers by selling some of your gems.

The society is now the owner of a great collection of slides. This was donated to us by Trevor Cole; who worked for the experimental gardens in Ottawa before his retirement. Many thanks to Trevor. The cataloging alone must have taken forever. Any club or society wanting to borrow these can do so by paying shipping cost to and from destination. For more information contact myself by email or phone or slow mail.

Over the festive season I must have spent more than twenty four hours looking at online catalogues which gave me the idea for the "Question, Answer, or Comments" page. This also made me ask why it is that we humans want to change everything...

Ed Jowett

#### Canadian Historical Iris

We are trying to locate any Historical Canadian iris; but in particular we are looking for the following – *Toranda*, *Canadaway*, *Sultan's Glamour*, *W.J. Moffat*, *Okon*, *Kum-on*, *Centennial Gold*, *Point Petite*, *Judean Star*, *Richmond Gold*, *Richmond Pink*, *City of Stratford*, *Shah Jehan*, *Snow Glory*, and *Fancy Biscuit* or any other Historical Canadian Iris. If you have any of these or know of anyone who has any of these would you please let the editor know at the following address:

CIS Editor 1960 Side Rd 15 R.R. 2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0 E mail jowettfarm@copper.net





## NEW AND NEWSWORTHY...

By Nancy Kennedy

The iris are coming! The iris are coming!

nd it's been a terrific week or so getting the jump on spring with the newest iris catalogues and websites out for 2012, even though winter has yet to arrive here in Southern Ontario, for on January 16 as this article is being written it's pouring rain and 55° F. By the time this newsletter is delivered, everyone will probably be advertising the new and newsworthy iris of 2012, but it's nice to acknowledge the early birds and their efforts, plus for 2013 you'll know who to tap into just after Christmas to lift your spirits again. If you don't count **Tempo Two** in Australia, who are actually experiencing the heat of their summer right now, **Trails End Iris Gardens** in Brantford, Ontario, along with **Keith Keppel** and **Blue J Iris** in Nebraska are the first to have their catalogues available online.

Although fledgling hybridizers, the folks at Trails End are themselves not introducing this year, however, are offering up an amazing number of new varieties for purchase from all the top hybridizers. Many a variety that was introduced just last year from **Black**, **Blyth**, **Keppel**, etc. all are being grown on site and available for purchase this coming year. As an example, the extremely popular *Dazzling*, *Star in the Night*, and *Man's Best Friend* (top winners of the popularity poll at last year's AIS Convention) are just three of over 500 varieties of award-winning iris offered from this grower. Supplies will no doubt be limited for the newbies so if there's something you want you had better act fast. I already have.



Man's Best Friend

4 Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

Australia currently is experiencing a "pleasantly warm" summer with temps hovering in the low 90's and occasionally some rain. Barry Blyth and Tempo Two again this year have some two dozen new introductions. Barry was expecting a lovely bloom season this year, due to a smooth growing season last, with an abundance of rain, apparently a deviation from the 50 year norm. A couple in particular I'd like to be the proud owner of, but indeed they are all lovely. Word of mouth has it that some are sold out already! *First* Avenue is being released jointly in





Captain Thunderbolt

Australia and the USA. Keith Keppel actually had it last year. Obviously not having seen it yet, in picture it looks like a modernized *Jurassic Park*, with dull amber-yellow standards brushed with violet and serious violet falls rimmed in grey. Horizontally held falls are huge. The flower has almost a magical form with billowing ruffles and fluting (to quote its hybridizer).

This one is certainly a star in the garden – *Captain Thunderbolt* makes a wonderful show. Standards are lavender/lilac. Deepest violet veins are raked all over the falls on a white backdrop, radiating outward and down from the tangerine beards. Plenty of show stems here on this early to mid bloomer. For the feminine romantics, it doesn't get any better than *Are We in Love*. Peach/pink standards, closed and ruffled, over falls of soft pastel pink with a blended area in the

centre of the falls of light violet veins. Indeed veins are a prominent feature in this year's introductions. This is a beautiful pastel iris in typical wide ruffled form.

SDB's on sale this year include a pretty dwarf plicata in apricot, a trio of yellows and a single pink. Many an attractive intermediate is up for grabs too. One I particularly like is *Edgy*, it's so different. I hope somebody closer to home decides to grow it. Light brown

standards with a little deeper veining at the midribs. Falls are deeper brown with an outer banding of dull gold and inner margin of lavender. Beards are mustard, lavender toward the tips. A lovely flared form that I so like. One of my iris buddies is ordering from Australia, so just maybe it will indeed find a way here.

It has been a few years since Tempo Two has offered bearded iris collections but this year there are 9 different collections available –



Are We in Love



colour combinations, brights, whites and SDB's – all at substantial savings and way more bang for your buck. The printed catalogue is something to behold and too extensive to cover in one short essay, so grab a comfy chair, grab the catalogue and settle in for a long, wonderful read (or look). Even though each year Barry Blyth says he is downsizing, each year the catalogue remains the same girth, so I don't think there is any real attempt at retirement yet – iris virus is hard to eradicate.



**Hearty Burgundy** 

Keith Keppel's 2012 catalogue was readied just after New Year's also. Here, there are many a beautiful iris to behold. For me, looking at this makes me wish for no borders between our two countries, for I would own everything. There is so much here to comment on and so little space. **Decorum**, a little apricot SDB, has bushy deep powder blue beards that seem 3D, or alive. SDB *Brevity* is a mushroom pink little self with such intense, bushy navy beards ending in small hooks – so much colour it seems to bleed into the petal substance of the falls. *Hearty* 

**Burgundy** is of the darkest, deepest, velvety wine red substance, a TB or possibly IB, its colour set ablaze by glowing pumpkin beards. And now for something different – **Joviality** – seemingly the white standards are being conquered by fine ascending yellow veins that abruptly terminate half-way up, while the reverse is happening in the golden falls, with a white lava flow pouring out from the yellow-tipped white beards. The ruffled falls are rimmed in a fine picotee edge of white. Is there anything else like that out there? I think not. The online pictures are profiling near as many SDB's as TB's this year, somewhat of a change for Keppel, yet included in the TB count are some fine examples of the luminata pattern he is so well-known for. Although he doesn't export outside of the USA, there are ways to accomplish the task for those intent on collecting his works. This is a website not to be missed; you will want to see them all.

Blue J Iris in Nebraska also (I believe) do not export outside of the US, but their hybridizing efforts are becoming more known to us in Canada as they gain in popularity. They have been hybridizing for years and have an interest in the space-age and luminata patterns as well. One really interesting TB is simply called *Sprinkles and Splatters*, and it's just that; it's an almost exact carbon copy of Keppel's *Flying Circus*, one of my all-time favourite IB's. Peach standards preside over round flaring falls of sprinkles and splatters! A very attractive flower. There is a trio of new luminata TB's here, the most attractive being *Rufflelata*, as well bearing a striking resemblance to *Mind Reader* and *New Leaf*. Have you ever been told you look "just like your mother"? That statement holds quite true here. Standards are lavender/pink. Peer inside to see the lacy style arms



and experience the inside of the flower illuminate with a light lemon glow. Bright yellow beards give way to a white stripe nearly bisecting the velvety dark purple falls. This one is a winner. Soft pastels make *Fruit Sherbet* a tall sweet treat. At 42", this early to mid bloomer has pale pink/peach standards with a lacy yellow edging. Style arms inside are orange with yellow lace. Fall centers are white yet enveloped by a wide band of pineapple yellow with peach hafts, and big bushy tangerine beards complete the dessert. Big bushy orange/red beards are also the notable feature to *Rudolph's Red Nose*, aptly named – for the beards no doubt could be a beacon from across the garden. Short for a TB at 33" it emerges mid season with snowy white standards and falls sporting a light blue blush which fades within the day, leaving a glistening white lacy flower with a giant red beard – just like Rudolph's nose......

Space-age iris are of interest also to this husband and wife hybridizing team at Blue J. For many years they have been perfecting their space-agers (check out previous

years on their website www.bluejiris.com). You will see some nice photos of their iris fields too. High Flying Flamingo is a pink sister to the High Kicking Rockettes introduced in 2010. Some hooks can be quite pronounced and indeed this bird sports large fringed hooks standing near vertical. This is a nice medium pink lacv and ruffled flower held on thick stalks with nice branching. *Leroy's Silverback* has pretty high flying hooks too, standards of light violet with a pinkish/purple infusion over extremely flared and rounded falls coloured a silver wash over pale violet. Yellow beards sport 1/2" fuzzy mauve horns. A very pretty flower indeed but apparently not destined for the show bench, as branching is described as only so-so.



High Kickiing Rockettes

**Bohemian Girl** is one of the nicest crosses I have seen to date using **Starship Enterprise** in the parentage, resulting in softer, more pleasing colours and less glare. The lovely soft lemon diamond-dusted standards combine with round, flared, smoky violet-banded falls with a slim, almost imperceptible, reddish brown rim on an overall white ground. Soft orange beards finish the composition nicely.

Blue J Iris is an extremely large operation, comprising some 4,000 named varieties, not including their own seedlings, and as mentioned their garden pictures are worth a look. It will take more than an afternoon to go through this website.

Here's hoping spring is just around the corner and those little green tips will soon be seen...

## **Our Siberians are Sold Out**

By the editor (some text copied with permission)

e are basically SOLD OUT (only a few left)! Our goal was to introduce the Siberians to our iris lovers. The ones we selected we believe were good choices — for color, price, and season. In the year 2010 *Tree of Songs* (which was introduced in 2006) won the Franklin Cook Cup. This award is presented to the best Iris seen at the convention which originated outside the Region. (Madison, Wisconsin 2006). This is only the second time a Siberian has won the award. This award is usually awarded to a Tall Bearded. Congratulations to **Schafer/Sacks**.

*Tree of Songs*, a small flowered, warm bright yellow is a child of *Crème Carmel* 



pollinated by a sibling of *Lady's Chain*. Most of the seedlings in the cross were very interesting combinations of blue and yellow, and several were considered for introduction, but in the end only *Tree of Songs* was introduced from the cross. It was selected for its clean, clear colour and its habit of producing many bloom stalks, good branching and many flowers held nicely out of upright foliage, like a tree of songs.

*Miss Apple*, a more recent introduction, was included in the top 15 favorite Irises at the same AIS Convention. *Miss Apple* is a new generation of "red" Siberians. For so



long the term "red" in Siberians meant wine-red. While we have a long way to go before we get to anything approximating true red, this new red is a significant advancement, say our breeders. It is achieved by an overlay of the old red and yellow which blend together — more or less. The effect can be anything from a gravel red (as described by the RHS colour chart) to an ashes of roses [breeder's description] to a coppery red brown. Usually this colouring is confined to the falls, and the standards are a

more purplish red. Getting the new colouring into the whole flower would be another significant improvement.

*Here Be Dragons* also won the Morgan-Wood Medal. It is one of early 2003 overlays of blue and yellow. It is basically a yellow Bitone, lighter standards and darker



falls, with blue-violet markings on the falls, styles, and centre of the standards. Its parents were *Tom Schaefer* (a bright yellow) crossed onto *Sarah Tiffney* (a speckled lavender and yellow overlay and a child of a white I. Sibirica *Snow Prince*). This background gives *Here Be Dragons* great vigor, branching and bud count and it puts on a long display. The name was chosen because the colour combination seemed so outrageous at the time and wondering where it might take them. Since then they



have questioned whether or not this blue over yellow pattern in Siberians would lead to flowers that were truly stunning rather than just interesting.



**So Van Gogh** introduced in 2006 was a step forward as was its child (*Tree of Songs* 2010) although both are extremely small flowered. This was the year that the answer came with a resounding yes!

Unfortunately, of these, we only have a few *Here Be Dragons* left. *Tree of Songs*, *Miss Apple*, and *So Van Gogh* are completely sold out.

Sibe	rian	Iris	Ord	er	<b>Form</b>
OIDC	Hall	1113	<b>UIU</b>	CI	1 01111

Cultivar	INT	Season	н	Colour	Price	SUB
Book of Secrets	00	М	28"	White	\$ 6.0	
Cold Frosty Morning	00	L	27"	White		
Fond Kiss	99	M & RE	33"	White	16	
Sandy River Belle	11	EM	36"	Pink	2.50	
Jacks Health	00	Е	30"	Pink	6.00	
Pretty Polly	07	EM	30"	Pink	2,50	
Sound & Spirit	07	M	35'	Pink	9.00	
So Van Gogh	05	Е	30"	Yellow/Bi-to	16.2.5	
Here Be Dragons	03	EM	28"		ار.00	
Just Cruising	01	EM	33"	Yellov	6.00	
Tree of Songs	06	М	31"	"ow	13.50	
Harmony Hill	04	EM	36"		6.00	
Fresh Notes	04	EML	23"	Blue	9.00	
Sun Comes Up	04	M	25"	Blue	7.25	
Ships are Sailing	98		77	Blue	9.00	
Riverdance	97			Blue	7.25	
Bells & Whistles	06	Ē.	2	Violet	10.50	
Plum Frolic	শ্	М	27"	Violet	6.00	
Charming Billy		M	25"	Violet	10.50	
Devils Dream	2	& F	33"	Violet	6.00	
Miss Apple	09		30"	Violet	22.50	
Sugar Ru		LM	27"	Watermelon	18.00	
New Mow		М	30"	Beige	22.50	
Croon d	02	Е	25"	Grey	10.50	

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ntroduction, E - Early season, M - Mid Season, L - Late Season, RE Rebloom, H - Plant Height, SUB - Substitution (Y, N)

Shipph	Marges	extra
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Shipping Costs	Ontario	Other
Special Packaging plus	\$4.00	\$4.00
Shipping Cost 1 – 7 Rhizome's	\$9.00	\$13.00
8 – 14 Rhizome's	\$13.00	\$17.00
15 & up Rhizome's	\$17.00	\$21.00

Canadian Iris Society Newsletter



9

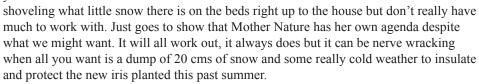
Musings From Manitoba

Winter 2012

By Barbara-Jean Jackson

E-mail: jacksonb@mts.net

hat an interesting autumn and winter it has been so far in south west Manitoba! Record warm temperatures and very little snowfall seem to be the order of the day. And although I really like waking up to temperatures of just -7 in the morning and taking my afternoon walk when the highs are above zero, I know it is not good for the iris or the gardens in general. Who would have thought it would be like this after last year's record snowfall and cold. I have been



Because it is the "off season", there isn't much going on except inside. I have several late purchases in pots under lights and most appear to be doing well with only a few minor incidents with aphids so far. It certainly doesn't take those wee critters long to form an established colony that can't be seen unless you pull foliage apart and keep an eagle eye on them. So far, so good. The seeds in the fridge don't come out until the end of February so nothing to do there either. So, I am keeping myself busy adding photos to the Iris Encyclopedia when I can and browsing websites for the new to me and unusual. A few trades are in the works for spring, too, for several MDBs I just couldn't resist.

My usual winter routine is to update databases, pictures and get ready for the coming iris season. I have to confess, however, that this year I am feeling quite lost. Because of the flooding and moving of several iris gardens, I can truthfully say, about one-half of my irises are question marks this year. Will the flooded gardens have higher than normal winter kill rates because of the still too high water table? Will the moved ones survive in their new temporary homes? How long will it take me to see them bloom and verify their IDs? And so, I look toward the 2012 iris season with anticipation on the one hand, and with dread on the other. I don't think I like it but it is what it is.





t is pretty quiet in Can-West Iris Society news, too. A new year brings new opportunities and challenges along with it. Work has begun on planning our participation in the Gardening Saturday event of the Friends of Gardens Manitoba late in March as well as picking a date for the annual show in June and getting that process started while wrapping up the paper work for 2011 which, I have to say, has been our best year ever! Our members have shown great confidence in CWIS and we have several who have renewed their memberships for 5 to 10 years in the future. I hope we can live up to their expectations. More details on the show and other events will appear in the next CIS newsletter for those who may be interested.

Before we know it, iris season will be upon us with all the flurry of activity that brings. And so CIS friends, I wish you a Happy New Year and the best iris season 2012 can bring regardless of where you live on behalf of myself and the Can-West Iris Society. Think Spring!

— B J Jackson



### 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.

Official membership applications and other information will be available at the show or on the official CIS website: www.cdn-iris.ca.



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

Membership: Chris Hollinshead 905-567-8545

3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3

<cdn-iris@rogers.com>







#### CANADIAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

#### Sunday, October 16, 2011

#### 1:30 p.m. at Royal Botanical Gardens

#### **Subject to Board Approval**

President's Welcome: Ed Jowett

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

Regrets: Pat Loy, Chris Hollinshead

Email: El Hutchinson

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

1. Adoption of Agenda:

**MOTION:** To adopt the Agenda

Gloria McMillen / Ann Granatier ...... CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes from August 7 and 14, 2011:

**MOTION:** To adopt the Minutes

#### 3. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- (a) CIS Cooperating Society within AIS Bob reported there had been no response from AIS yet. Gloria had not contacted Jim Morris. Bob will send appropriate information to Gloria.
- (b) Southern Ontario Iris Society No activity has occurred since last meeting.
- (c) Online Iris Forum Those involved not aware/knowledgeable on how to move forward.
- (d) Library Ed reported RBG didn't want trophies, books are housed at RBG somewhere, RBG did not respond after contact made.
- (e) Siberian Group Purchase Ensata did not reply to the enquiry. Schafer/Sacks will provide 1 ½ times the product for the price. Chris and Ed purchased this past season from them independently and were quite impressed. Group Purchase will arrive in April. Agreed to charge list price plus shipping. Ann/Nancy to create a list to be offered, @ 24 varieties.
- 12 Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

- (f) Election of Officers Board made selections, all officers agreed to return for this next year.
- (g) Fall Show Cancelled due to lack of judging material available. Perhaps next year it could be combined with a Board Meeting.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report:

Bob presented the treasurer's report. Current projected balance is \$4,900.04 as of September 30 – monies up compared to last year. Iris sale went well, @ \$450 profit.

#### **MOTION:** To accept the Treasurer's report Bob Granatier / Alan McMurtrie ...... CARRIED

- 5. New Business:
  - (a) Honorary Director status no further discussion.
  - (b) AIS Convention Guest Irises all dispersed and/or returned to exhibitors.
  - (c) Region 2 AGM 2013 Donna Lowry asked CIS to host same, not possible as CIS is not an affiliate of AIS (a requirement).
  - (d) Judges' Training A good turnout at Chuck Chapman's on date of Fall Show, many attendees from the US as well as Ontario.
  - (e) Meeting dates 2012 January 15, April 15, June 10 (Show at Trails End), July 15, August 19 (Sale/AGM), Sept 30 (?Show), January 13 (2013) – all Board Meetings in Library
- 6. Reports of the Standing Committees:
  - (a) Membership –no report
  - (b) Website no report
  - (c) Newsletter always looking for more articles
  - (d) London Region disappointing iris sale in August, concern expressed re 2012 sale
  - (e) Ottawa Region no report
- 7. Correspondence:

(none reported)

9. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn at 3:45 pm

Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING:** April 15, 2012 @ 1:30 p.m. in the RBG Library

Minutes prepared by Nancy Kennedy

13

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



## Report from the AIS 2011 Convention: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

By Jill Bonino

Article collected and edited from AIS region 15 Fall 2011 Bulletin by Christopher Hollinshead

he AIS 2011 Convention took place May 29 – June 3 in beautiful Victoria, BC, Canada – with visits to official iris tour gardens in the surrounding area. *DAZZLING* (Black IB 2008) won both the President's Cup and the Hager Cup at the Convention. And that, in one word — "dazzling" — was my experience of 9 days in 2011.

The ivy covered **Empress Hotel** with a view of the Harbor was the Convention Hotel. Built in 1905, it is a wide ranging place of multi-levels, and you needed a map to get around the first few days. It has old wood floors that creak when you walk down the hall. Our room even had drapes and a bed ruffle with flowers — including a large iris — in the pattern. There was a bed of Siberian iris planted at one end of the Hotel and a mixture of Tall Bearded iris on the other side. The TBs and Sibs were finally in bloom the last couple of days we were there. From the hotel, we could easily walk around Victoria to find cheaper places to eat and souvenir and book shops. The weather was overcast a lot of the time. But we had a couple of days of blue skies, and no actual rain while we were out in the gardens.



Photo: Dazzling (Black 2008) IB season mid-late, height 24 in/61 cm. HM award 2010. The color of the dazzling white standards and styles is repeated as precise narrow bands around vibrant mid purple-blue falls. Bright orange beards arise from a cluster of short white darts surrounding them. Dazzling creates a bright splash of color in your garden.

15





**Finnerty Gardens** 

Finnerty Gardens and Woodlands was our first Convention garden to visit. Several PCIs, such as *BANNER FOR IONA* (Prothero PCN seedling) and *PACIFIC GLAZE* (Aitken PCN seedling) were in bloom, but the Tall bearded iris except for a couple were still in bud. Winding paths led through blooming ferns, hostas, ground covers, and many different wildflowers. Rhododendron plants in colors ranging from white to deep magenta popped up all over the place. Finnerty Gardens is supported by the

University of Victoria alumni and community members.



Hatley Park

The second garden was in **Hatley Park**. This garden was established in 1910 by the **Dunsmuir family**, and the ivy covered family castle is still on the grounds. The castle and gardens are now a National Historic Site of Canada. The gorgeous Japanese garden was a large pond surrounded by flowering cherry, azaleas, and Japanese maples. The Guest Iris were planted in a walled area previously used for vegetable, fruits and flowers to supply those living on the estate. Many large clumps of Median iris were in full bloom like *LIMONADA* (Keppel IB 2007) and *MAN'S BEST FRIEND* (Black IB 2008). The grounds of the Park also

included several native Pacific Coast Native iris in full bloom.



Glendale Gardens



Government House

The third garden was **Glendale Gardens and Woodland** which is the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific.
This garden also had a nicely trimmed and tailored Japanese garden, an Italian garden and a charming children's garden with gnomes, a play house and lots of garden ornaments.
The Guest Iris garden had more Tall Bearded iris blooming in it such as *CELTIC WOMAN* (Aitken 2009). The garden weather on the day we were there was quite cold, but not raining. In the general display gardens there was a black Siberian iris in full bloom! Very unusual.

The last Convention garden was **Government House Gardens**. This house was purchased in 1865 and is used now as the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. The formal plan for the gardens did not begin until 1911 but now includes an Italian Garden, a large pond with fountains and pseudacorus, wild Garry Oak woodlands planted with gorgeous Dutch Iris among the rocks and lupine, and many rhododendrons. The Guest Iris included many blooming iris species, species crosses, Siberians, and PCNs.



And last and the most stupendous was **Butchart Gardens**, arguably the most famous garden in Canada. My husband and I saw it twice; the first visit was a half day afternoon on the buses with the Convention participants and again after the Convention was over.



Butchart Gardens, Victoria BC

Butchart Gardens was created by **Jennie Butchart** over an old stone quarry that the Butchart family had tapped out behind their large residence. It began in 1904 and is still owned and operated by family members today. Hanging baskets, trash cans with mini gardens planted on top, various sized pots planted with various annuals (fragrant stock and nemesia) and perennials (tulips, geraniums, asters), including iris popped up all over the various gardens. Winding paths took us through the Japanese garden, with wonderful waterfalls and BLUE Poppies. The rose garden was not in bloom yet but the Italian garden had wonderful water lilies and statues near the old Butchart residence. The sunken garden is the most well known part of the place and it took a whole morning of our second visit to walk through it. A large pond with a weeping willow and maples was tucked behind a large lookout (we had to walk up some very narrow stairs) that gave you a view of the entire area. Color was everywhere we looked. We could stop and rest here and there on many benches placed throughout the garden.

We were exhausted when it was over and actually lost weight from walking so much! Great vacation!





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## **Irises and Weed Control**

#### By John Moons



big part of garden maintenance involves weed control. I consider a weed as a plant that grows in the wrong location. In my lawn I want a healthy green grass plant, but when that same grass plant grows in my flower bed, it is a weed.

There are several ways to classify the weeds. The easiest I find is to divide them into two categories: weeds that spread by seeds, and the weeds that use roots to spread. There are not a lot of weeds that spread mainly by roots but they are very hard to get rid of. When we cut the rhizomes of quack or twitch grass, we soon get the feeling that there are a lot more of these plants. Every piece of rhizome that has a node or joint in it seems to grow into a new plant.

Some of the weeds that spread mainly through the root system here in Southern Ontario are:

- Twitch or quack grass (Agropyron repens)
- Creeping bell flower (Campanula rapunculoides)
- Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)
- Perennial sow thistle (Sonchus arvensis)
- Horsetail (Equisetum arvense)
- Yellow nut sedge (Cyperus esculentus)
- Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)
- Tufted vetch (Vicia cracca)
- Goutweed (Aegopodium podagraria)

If you have any of these weeds in your existing garden I feel sorry for you. It is very hard to get rid of them by just pulling them out or putting a hoe to them.

Of course we never do it, but before we make a piece of land into a garden we should look for these plants. If we find them we should consider delaying the planting of the garden by a full year and deal with these weeds first. I work for a big tree nursery (1,000 acres) and we always get rid of this type of weeds but it takes a season. If you spray glyphosate (Round-up) you will wipe out most of the weeds. Another way to get rid of them is to cultivate the land faithfully every 10 to 14 days all season long. The rhizomes are brought to the surface where they dry out and because you cultivate so frequently, any new leaves that may feed the rhizomes are destroyed. I would not recommend rototilling every 10 to 14 days. If you rototill that frequently, you will destroy the structure of the soil and you will also lose a lot of your organic material. At the end you will only have dust left.





John Moons: "A weed is a plant that grows in the wrong location."

20 Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

One option in dealing with these root weeds is planting your field with a fast growing cover crop. The plants will grow fast and choke out any weed in it. Examples of these plants are buckwheat, sorghum, or some rye grasses. Do not let buckwheat go to seed. At the end of the season you plow it under and it will work as a green fertilizer. If you try out a few square meters in a grassy field, you will be surprised how clean the field is after a year.

The biggest group of weeds is the weeds that spread by seeds. A lot of these weeds have a special mechanism to spread the seeds. Be it with the wind, the birds, or the seed with little hooks that hitch a ride, these seeds will be spread around all the time. All seeds need moisture to germinate and a lot of them need light too. If you use wood mulch, you take away the light and/or moisture and the seeds will not germinate. A problem with wood mulch is that the wood will slowly rot and this rotting process will use up a lot of the nitrogen in the soil. I also find that soil underneath wood chips seems to be more compacted than soil without chips. All plants needs oxygen for their roots to grow, so compacted soil is not a great idea. On the other side, a good layer of wood mulch certainly cuts back on the amount of weeding we have to do. We do use it in our garden.

Weeding in the garden is still done as it has been for centuries. We pull the weeds out by hand or use some kind of a tool to either lift the plant out or cut it off. In commercial settings machines can be used with the same results.



At the tree nursery where I work, we grow everything in rows. We use a cultivator to go between the rows every 10 - 14 days. We find that a cultivator works better than a disc. If you set the tines properly you should be left with a level field. If you want to use a cultivator it is almost necessary to have a tractor that has a three -point hitch so you can lift the cultivator and turn into the next row easily. If you have a bigger tractor you can do 2, 3, or 4 rows at once, depending on how you mount the tines on your cultivator. On our nursery we have never been able to find commercially available cultivators, so we have built our own. If you build them correctly, they will last you many years. Compared to rototilling, cultivating goes very fast. You have to run pretty fast to keep up with them. In the rows we hoe every 2 weeks. With Irises you have to be careful, because you do not want to cut the roots or hit the rhizomes. When you use a cultivator you will have to make the rows straight and the distance between 2 rows always exactly the same. The distance between 2 plants should be such that you can pull a hoe between them. Keep in mind that your plants get bigger as they grow.

I have not mentioned spraying with weed killers too much. I don't know if glyphosate even kills Iris -plants. It certainly kills daylilies (I know by experience!), but I have sprayed glyphosate many times over a Hosta albo marginata and it never harmed the plant. To keep a field more or less weed free for a season here in Southern Ontario, you have to spray at least three times in one season. If you spray by hand and you maneuver carefully around the Iris plants you will find yourself spending a lot of time spraying.

Meanwhile in our own garden most of the plants are now so close together that we have to pull all the weeds out separately by hand. My wife finds that an ordinary slotted screw driver works well to winkle the weeds out from between closely spaced Iris rhizomes. One last warning. Do not plant Irises and daylilies too close together. If these two grow into each other, you are best off to send everything to the compost pile.

### In memoriam: Christopher Robert Graham



On Jan. 14, 2012, Chris Graham of Flesherton, in his 61st year, passed away. Loving father to Liz (Andrew Greig) and Thomas. Dear brother of Sandra (Brian) Hinch. A recognized plantsman and mentor to many in the green industry, Chris Graham worked at the Royal Botanical Gardens for many years, first as a student, then foreman, superintendent and Director of Horticulture. He was a member and volunteer in a number of LO activities. A memorial visitation in celebration of his life took place at Corbett Funeral Home, 95 Dundas Street N., Cambridge, on Sat., Jan. 21, from 1 - 4 p.m. Cremation has taken place. He was interred with his parents in Mississauga. As an expression of sympathy, a donation may be made to the horticultural society of your choice.

Canadian Iris Society Newsletter



21

## **Y**

# Winter 2012 Garden Diggings:

By Christopher Hollinshead

ell another year has come and gone. I hope that the past one was a good one and that you were able to enjoy some great irises blooming in your garden.

It is late January as I write this and the winter for many parts of North America has been quite mild. As I wrote recently on our CIS website; the weather forecast shows: Good gardening is out there on the horizon. Spring is only days away! We will be looking forward to that vernal equinox which occurs this year on March 20, 2012 at 5:14 am. Then it's officially springtime. What's happening this next spring? Look forward a little and make some plans.



Hopefully you were able to take advantage of the opportunity the CIS presented in the Autumn 2011 Newsletter which was to purchase some excellent recent Siberian iris cultivars for a late April 2012 delivery. I am advised as of this writing that they are sold out. That is great news for the iris society as part of the proceeds from this and other sales go to support the functions of the CIS. Great news too for recipients of these special Siberian irises, as they will benefit by enjoying the beautiful blooms and foliage as they grow and develop into nice display clumps over the next two to three seasons and for many years after that too.

I will repeat here some of what I wrote last year because it's good, timely, and useful advice. At this time you may consider putting together a request list of catalogues to order. Iris catalogues will soon become available from the various providers of such things. Order some iris catalogues today for some serious armchair gardening.

Late January or February is a good time to request the catalogs. Order them any time now. Most commercial sources are compiling their catalogs now for the season. The bulk of them show up in March/April with a few more trickling in later. Some commercial suppliers provide internet on-line versions available for download or on-line viewing. A mixture of the two catalogue types, printed and electronic, could be correct for you. I still find it nice to sit in an easy chair and take pleasure in marking up a printed catalogue with check marks of potential purchases. Do what works the best for you.

**(** 

For specialty iris commercial suppliers please check our Canadian source listings that occur at the back of the CIS (Canadian iris Society) Newsletter each issue. You may also wish to consult the AIS (American Iris Society) Bulletin and the extensive commercial listing in the back of that publication. Just be well aware of the import restrictions and extra costs associated with ordering from USA sources. The CIS also runs fund raiser sales events each year to provide a source of newer iris introductions to our members. Watch for the CIS Purchase Offer Program to return again for 2012, there you will find an excellent selection of choice newer irises at excellent prices. Details will be published in the CIS Newsletter and also on the CIS website. (This is a CIS member's only opportunity.)

From whatever source you choose, to have the best selection of the offerings you should order as soon as possible and the rhizomes will arrive at the proper planting time for your area (July/August here in our northern climate). As in most cases these are newer iris varieties with limited availability, if you really want to obtain something specific or special, the suggestion is to place your order as sooner than later to avoid possible disappointment.

If you need a little guidance selecting from the huge number of iris varieties that you find in the catalogues then consulting the American Iris Society (AIS) Awards listing that is published each year can be helpful. Check the HM Awards for newer up and comers and the AM awards for ones that are new but a little older and have progressed further through the awards system identifying them as extra high quality irises. (Newer irises could be described as irises that have been introduced to commerce in the last ten years or so.) Have fun with your catalog reading, selecting and ordering. Prepare your own special "want list". The extra time available in the off-season is perfect for planning those new iris variety acquisitions and how they will fit into your garden layout.

One catalogue that is now sadly no more is the **Cooley's iris Gardens catalogue**. As of October, 2011, Cooley's Gardens in Silverton, Oregon, commercial growers of irises

for over 80 years, is officially closing its doors. Although the business is now gone, they will not be easily forgotten. A legacy of iris hybridizing and introduction spanning eight decades is not so easily erased. Iris lovers the world over will continue to cherish and enjoy the varieties that are with us due to the efforts of the Cooley family and all their heirs that have lovingly kept

the business going all this time. As well, historic iris lovers will continue to collect their beautiful catalogs, for which they were renowned.





Cooley's Gardens started as a back yard hobby of **Rholin and Pauline Cooley** in Silverton, Oregon. They produced their first commercial catalog in 1928, and went on to become one of the largest iris firms in the US, lasting 83 years as of 2011. The business was continued by subsequent generations of the family, most recently by **Rick Ernst and his wife Katie**.

In March of 2011 Richard C. Ernst passed away very suddenly. He was a bright star in the iris world and will be greatly missed.

Rick Ernst of Cooley Gardens made significant contributions to bearded irises with his hybridizing efforts during his lifetime. He was awarded the John C. Wister Memorial Medal for *Ring Around Rosie* in 2007. He also patented methods for modifications to iris at the genetic level which may yet produce a true red iris. Rick had a real passion for breeding red irises and introduced some very nice tall bearded reds: *Classic Bordeaux* (1996), *Red At Night* (1992), *Fire Pit* (1992) and *Forge Fire* (1991). He was kind and generous and will be missed by the iris community.

Cooley's was the primary introducer for many famous iris hybridizers. Early on, in 1929, **Dr. Kleinsorge** began introducing his illustrious varieties in their catalog with his beautiful *Klamath*. Cooley's continued to introduce almost all of his irises until his final varieties *Bengali* and *Buckaroo* in 1961. Another legendary hybridizer featured in Cooley's thru the 1940's, 50's, and 60's is **Dave Hall**, most famous for his line of 'flamingo pinks' that so captivated the iris world, he also brought us many other new color breaks as well. Cooley's later brought us the work of master hybridizer **Jim Gibson** and his ground-breaking work with plicatas, as well as the award winning productions of *Larry Gaulter*.

All things must eventually come to an end and Cooley's Gardens is definitely assured of their place in iris history. Their legacy will continue with all the beautiful irises they created and introduced, which will remind us of their contributions to the world of irises.

So iris friends, I wish you well in all regards for the coming new year and keep watch for signs of spring in your area ...wherever you may be located. Spring-like weather will be coming sooner for some, later for others but it is coming! When it does eventually arrive it is always a welcome and wonderful time of year.

Get set for your best ever iris gardening year!

...and as always, happy garden digging. C.H. January 2012



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



### Q. What every happened to the old style Iris? Two or three buds per stem.

**Answer:** Only our hybridizers can tell us for sure. I would like to hear their reasoning for the change.

**My opinion:** The new cultivars are too fragile while the old ones were too blah as far as colour went. The old ones seem to stand in all weather but were only approximately twenty five inches tall with their thin stalks. I would really like to see some of the new styles (ruffles etc) with the bright colours and Bitone but back to a maximum of three buds. (– editor)

#### Q. What other flowers/plants can I grow with my Iris?

Answer: This almost becomes preference. You can grow perennials such as Delphinium, Foxglove, Phlox, and Oriental Poppy; or annuals such as Asters, Marigolds, Snap Dragon, Verbena, Zinnia. Or even give some vegetables a try, such as clumps of carrots, parsnips, and beets. If properly thinned as they grow, these can give you colour and food. Perennials probably are the cheapest in the long run as they reseed themselves; but it is the same old same old each year. You do not want plants that will sprawl and cover your rhizomes. Use your imagination, give it a try. And yes send us a picture for all to enjoy.

If you have questions, or comments; please send them in. We will try to answer any questions. Comments and opinions are often enjoyed by others.

**Note:** If you like Delphiniums the Delphinium Society of England sells seed packages and have colours we do not see here in Canada.

#### **Special Invitation**

We ask all of our American friends in Region 2 (or any other region for that matter) to mark their calendars for Sunday June 3, 2012 and to come and join us at our show and picnic. This is held where there is a lot to see. The show schedule is printed in this bulletin but has not yet been approved. It is only a guide at the moment. Hope to see you June 3rd!

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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

No Report

#### Region 2

New York, Ontario, Quebec

#### **RVP Donna Lowry**

e-mail donnadonlowry@aol.com

No Report

#### Region 13

Washington, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia, Yukon

#### **RVP Alan Brooks**

e-mail ebb1012@aol.com

No Report

#### Region 21

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

#### **RVP Ron Cosner**

e-mail keighley15@msn.com

No Report

Full current details of the various RVPs and affiliated local iris clubs/societies of the AIS Regions are available on the AIS website: <a href="https://www.irises.org">www.irises.org</a>.

"A computer once beat me at chess — but it was no match for my kick boxing!"

# 2012 AIS Convention – Cali-Zona Gold 2012

#### By Christopher Hollinshead

AIS Region 15 proudly hosts the AIS Convention Cali-Zona Gold in Ontario, California — April 16 through 21, 2012.

he American Iris Society Region 15 welcomes you to attend the 2012 AIS Convention Cali-Zona Gold. The convention will be featuring guest irises at four fabulous gardens located in the southern California area. Ontario, California is located just outside Los Angeles.



**Photo:** "Cali-Zona Gold" iris hybridized by **Margie Valenzuela**: Cali-Zona Gold has a red "lines and speckles" pattern and is the name-sake iris for the 2012 AIS Convention. This iris will also be introduced in 2012 through Stanton Iris Gardens. You'll be able to see many other Margie Valenzuela iris seedlings, introductions and possible future introductions at the 2012 AIS convention."



Region 15 is part of the American Iris Society (AIS). The region held its first meeting on April 22, 1939. The American Iris Society Board of Directors designated AIS Region 15 as comprised of Southern California and Arizona. The varied climates provide the region with tremendous potential for hybridizers and commercial growers as well as those who simply enjoy growing irises.

AIS Region 15 currently has 11 affiliates in Southern California and Arizona. The Region and its affiliates provide education and support to local communities through programs on the care of irises, public shows and judges training sessions. The region conducts annual Spring and Fall Treks that provide a variety of programs and judges training sessions that are open to the general public. The Spring Trek includes tours of the gardens of club members to view the newer irises during bloom season.

#### More Information about the AIS Convention in 2012 By Jill Bonino, Convention Committee Co-Chair

By the time you read this, we will have all enjoyed the flowers, gardens, and Canadian hospitality at the AIS Convention in Victoria. How could we ever top this? Well, Region 15 of the AIS, which covers the southern California and all Arizona affiliates, is stepping up to the plate. Cali-Zona Gold 2012 will be happening from April 16 thru 21, 2012 in Ontario, California.

Our Convention hotel is the Doubletree Hotel Ontario Airport.... No, not in Ontario, Canada, but in Southern California, in the heart of the Inland Empire. It is located at 222 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, CA 91764. Reservations can be made by calling toll-free 1-800-222-TREE (1-800-222-8733) or by calling the direct line at 1-909-418-4848. You will be able to make on-line reservations directly with the Hotel from their website.

Our Convention reservation system is up and running now. The group code word for the Convention is "AIS". The cut-off date for Hotel reservations is March 15, 2012. Our group rate for the Hotel is \$125 plus local tax and will hold for up to 4 people in a room. In addition, this room rate will be applicable for 3 nights before and after our Convention dates of April 16 - 21, 2012.

#### Many, many amenities come with the DoubleTree Hotel.

- The Ontario International Airport is just down the street. All major airlines fly into Ontario and the Hotel has a FREE SHUTTLE to and from this airport. You do not need to hassle with the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) and pay for a shuttle bus to the Hotel. The Hotel lobby also has a monitor with the current flights and gates leaving Ontario Airport and you can print your boarding pass FREE.
- Each room in the Hotel has a microwave, small refrigerator, coffee maker and TV at no extra charge. You do not need to rent anything extra.
- The Hotel has FREE parking should you decide to drive to the Convention or rent a car from the airport. The Hotel also has a car rental desk if you decide you want to do any spontaneous excursions on your own.



- There is FREE Internet in the spacious lobby and lounge area as well as the nearby Business Office.
- The Hotel is Pet-Friendly. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will allow your pet in your room if it is under 25 lbs.
- There is a FREE SHUTTLE to Ontario Mills Mall, a huge multi-store indoor shopping mall near the Hotel. It has a large Food Court, all of the usual large anchor stores, as well as a movie theatre.

The discounted cost for early registration for the 2012 AIS Convention will be \$299 for Full Registration until February 1, 2012. Full registration includes two banquets, 3 full days of garden tours including one full day at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, transportation to the gardens, one breakfast and 3 lunches in the gardens... among many other things. The registration form is available online at www.region15ais. org/convention. If you have any questions, registrars John and Carol Huffman can be reached at chuffy@gmail.com

There will be TWO Guest Iris Master plantings, one at Mystic Lake Gardens and one at Stanton Iris Gardens. The 949 guest irises include Tall Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Border Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded, Aril and Aril Bred Iris, and Spuria iris. The Huntington Gardens has a guest iris planting of about 450 irises and the Herb & Sara Holk Memorial Garden at Jurupa has about 500 guest iris. Several In Garden Judges Training sessions are planned in more than one garden. In addition, there will be a Blind Iris Judging at Stanton Iris Gardens. The Herb & Sara Holk Memorial Garden at Jurupa Cultural Center also has a Louisiana iris area.

Please mark April 16 - 21, 2012 on your calendar for Cali-Zona Gold 2012 - Visit the convention website at: <a href="www.region15ais.org/convention">www.region15ais.org/convention</a>.

#### **Important Notice**

The CIS books and old new letters have been returned to the library shelves at the Royal Botanical Gardens. They had been removed and packed away in boxes. These are available to members who wish to borrow them. You can look up years of introduction and all related information; also read past-year's bulletins and a lot more things about Irises...

The library is not open on a regular schedule but is usually open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings (pending volunteer help.)

It is important you call Dr David A Galbraith PhD Head of Science; Science Department at the RBG at 905-527-1158 or 1-800-694-4769 extension 309 to prearrange an appointment.





# **How to Design Gardens That Use Bearded Irises**

to enhance your landscapes and fill your gardens with glorious colour.

By Ann and Bob Granatier, Trails End Iris Gardens

he following article is a brief summary of a portion of a Power-point presentation that we made at Canada Blooms in 2009. We were asked to speak on Designing with Irises, and therefore needed to gear the presentation towards the general public. Hopefully, there are some thoughts here that even experienced Irisarians will appreciate ...



In this presentation, we will take you through the Spring and early Summer season and then marvel at the Irises that flower again from August till late Fall. You will see many of the newest award winning varieties inter-planted with evergreens, grasses and your favourite perennials.

Irises are often overlooked by designers and yet their foliage can be a strong counterpoint to the foliage of other plants. They are particularly attractive with the popular tall grasses. Our newer planting beds are actually gardens featuring Iris interplanted with grasses, shrubs and evergreens.

However... before you start planting, there are a few things to consider:

#### **Cultural Requirements**

Bearded Irises love hot, dry conditions and flower best given at least 6 hours of sun daily and good drainage. If you are planting in a swamp, there are other types of Iris that will tolerate and even enjoy those conditions.



but... we are primarily talking about Bearded Iris, so let's keep things sunny and reasonably dry.

#### **Environmentally Friendly (Water-Wise)**

Irises are extremely good plants in drought conditions. They actually show no signs of stress when other recommended "Xeriscape" plants often wilt. For example, one summer when there was almost no rain, Rudbeckia and Yarrows struggled in our garden. The Irises thrived. Therefore, why shouldn't Irises be part of the environmental movement?



#### Texture

Iris leaves add a strong texture to other soft perennials. The spiky leaves add drama and height. Some leaves even have a wonderful purple colour at the base of their leaves and those with variegated leaves have silver and gold highlights. When the outside leaves get tired, just remove them and let the new leaf growth shine.



#### **Long Bloom Season**

With careful designing and a varied selection from the six classes of Bearded Iris, it is possible to have Irises blooming from late April through late June and then again in the late summer & fall with some of the re-blooming varieties.



#### **Different Heights**



Bearded Iris grow in a wide range of sizes — from 10 cm to over 100 cm (5" to 40") tall depending on their class. If you have a very windy spot, choose the newer and stronger stemmed varieties of Tall Bearded. Last summer we had a huge wind storm with funnel clouds. Although there was damage to our locust trees, the irises stood tall — with the exception of a few thinstemmed older varieties.

Maybe... you would like something a little shorter but blooming around the same time as the Tall Bearded. Take a look at the Border Beardeds. They have excellent flower size, form, and appearance; but with shorter stalks of about 25". They also look great at the front of a border. (Wonder where they got their name?)





32 Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

#### Delicate and Graceful; Samson and Delilah

Some gardeners are really impressed by the size of a flower and irises do not disappoint. *Supreme Sultan* is a huge, dramatic, Tall Bearded. The gargantuan flowers are the largest known at 7-1/2" x 5" on ramrod stiff stems. However... other gardeners prefer their flowers dainty and delicate, swaying softly in the breezes. Miniature Tall Bearded fit the bill. They bloom with the Tall and Border Bearded irises from late May to mid June. The difference





is that they are not only shorter(about 25") but they also have smaller and more delicate flowers. They are often referred to as "Table Irises" because they are the perfect size for table vases. They fit nicely into a quiet, sunny corner of your garden. For smaller gardens, particularly rockeries, the Standard Dwarf and Miniature varieties fit the bill. Extremely hardy and flowering very early, they fit perfectly into tight spaces.

#### **Colour Schemes**

They don't call Iris the rainbow flower without reason. Colours range from white to black and all the colours in between. There is an Iris for every colour scheme. Many visitors to our gardens are surprised to see that Irises are not limited to yellow and blue. We had so many interesting and remarkable colours that we actually had to make a conscious effort to grow yellows. Even blues come in a huge range from light to dark and a combination of both.





Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

33



C-V56N1\_layout.indd 33



White flowers make the garden sparkle. Check out *Laced Cotton*, a spectacular Tall Bearded that is a pristine white goddess in the garden. Or... plant a white Iris along with a variety with a contrasting colour to intensify the hue of both.





#### **Coordinating Colours**

Select Irises that repeat a colour from one Iris to another. *Thornbird* has purple-wine veining on soft ochre falls. Plant it with a purple-toned Iris such as *Sailmaster* or *Gypsy Romance* 





**Contrasting and Dramatic** 

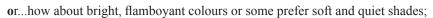
Choose from eye-catchers and the "wow" appeal;







34 Canadian Iris Society Newsletter







maybe...just plain feminine;



or perhaps...a mixed bag of riotous colour.



Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

2/8/2012 1:22:28 PM

#### **Extend Your Iris Season**

Be sure to plant a variety of Miniature and Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris. They bloom as early as April and throughout May. Also, remember the re-blooming varieties of Iris. They bloom during the May – June period and then again in August, September and even October.

#### **Companion Plants**



Ponds are popular and nothing looks nicer than a tall stand of Siberian Iris. Blooming throughout June, their slender foliage continues to add a reed-like vertical form to the garden.

Peonies and lilies are wonderful companion plants for Irises. The Iris foliage also complements later blooming perennials and shrubs.







In a hot pool location, Irises are the perfect partner to groundhugging rockery plants like thyme and veronica.

Or how about with grasses?

and sometimes even without blooms!





We hope you enjoyed this article, a little different perhaps.

If you would like to know the name of an iris pictured, just e-mail us at bob@trailsendiris.com.



Ann and Bob Granatier, www.trailsendiris.com



#### The Language of Flowers

AGAPANTHUS: Love
ALLIUM: Strength
ALSTROEMERIA: Patience
ANEMONE: Expectation
ANTHURIUM: Lover
ASPARAGUS FERN:
Fascination

AZALEA: Temperance BABY'S BREATH: Innocence

BALSAM: Ardent Love BIRD OF PARADISE:

Magnificence

BUTTERCUP: Childishness CALA LILY: Magnificent

Beauty

CARNATION: Ardent Love, Good Luck

CHRYSANTHEMUM:

White - Truth, Loyal Love Yellow - Slighted Love Pink - Fickleness Purple - First love

CORNFLOWER: Delicacy DAFFODIL: Chivalry,

Regard

**DAHALIA**: Insatiability **DELPHINIUM**: Big-hearted,
Fun

EBONY: Blackness

**EUPHORBIA**: Persistence **FLYTRAP**: Deceit

FORGET ME NOT: Hope, True Love, Remembrance

FREESIA: Thoughtfulness
GARDENNIA: Sweet Love,

Good Luck

GERANIUM: Comfort.

Gentility

GINGER: Strength
GLADIOLUS: Admiration

HEATHER: Beauty

C-V56N1\_layout.indd 37

HIBISCUS: Delicate Beauty

**HOLLY**: Foresight, Enchantment

**HYACINTH**: Play

**HYDRANGEA**: Heartless

IRIS:

Blue - Faith & Hope Purple - Wisdom, Compliments

Yellow - Passion White - Purity

IVY: Marriage IXIA: Happiness

Attachment

JASMINE: Sensuality,

LADY SLIPPER: Capricious Beauty LARKSPUR: Levity,

Lightness

LEATHERLEAF FERN:

Fascination

LILAC: Confidence

LILY: Yellow - Falsehood

White - Purity, Modesty LILY OF THE VALLEY:

Return of Happiness

LOTUS FLOWER: Estranged Love

MIMOSA: Sensitiveness MONKSWOOD: Danger

MYRTLE: Love NARCISSUS:

Self-admiration

PEONY: Good Health and

Prosperity

OLIVE BRANCH: Peace ORCHID: Love & Beauty,

Long Life

POPPY:

Red - Consolation White - Sleep, Rest POINSETTIA:

Merry Christmas

ROSE:

Red - Respect, Courage,

Beauty

White - Humility,

Innocence Pink - Grace, Admiration

Yellow - Joy, Freedom

Coral - Desire

Red and White - Together,

Unity

The Single Rose: Love

SALAL: Zest SNAPDRAGON: Presumption

STAR OF BETHLEHEM:

Purity

**STATICE**: Success **SWEET PEA**: Departure **SWEET WILLIAM**: Smile,

Finesse

SUNFLOWER:

Haughtiness, Adoration

THYME: Activity

TULIPS:

Red - Declaration of Love, Fame

Yellow - Hopeless Love Variegated - Beautiful Eves

Purple - Thoughts of You

Blue - Love White - Youthful Innocence

Yellow - Love of Country **TUBEROSE**: Dangerous

Pleasure

VIOLET: Faithfulness,

Modesty

YARROW: Sorrow ZINIA: Absent Friends

#### 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.

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37



## **CANADIAN IRIS HYBRIDIZERS**

Registrants and Introducers, 1896 to 2009. 2009 Canadian Introductions; with Errata & Addenda for 1896 to 2008.

#### Compiled by Don McQueen

#### **I: 2009 CANADIAN INTRODUCTIONS**

There were nine new Canadian Iris registered during the year with the American Iris Society, seven by Chuck Chapman, and one each by Sylvia Chapman and Penny Santosham.

Chapman, Chuck: (102) 2009: 7 BLACK LIGHTNING (SDB) CONUNDRUM (SDB) ERAMOSA CLOUD DRIFTER (MTB), ERAMOSA RIDGE (TB) FRECKLE'S SISTER (MTB) LOOKOUT SUNSHINE SDB), PLUM RINGER (TB)

Chapman, Sylvia: (3) 2009: 1 CURIOUS ORCHID (SDB)

Santosham, Penny: Penticton, B.C. 2009 (1) 2009 1 GRAHAM THOMSON (TB)n

# II: 1896 to 2008 CANADIAN INTRODUCTIONS ADDENDA & ERRATA

New and corrected material has been added to the original article which appeared in the CIS *NEWSLETTER*, Vol. 54 Issue 2 (Spring 2010) pp. 30-44. Changes are **bolded red**.

#### Bartlett, Eva L:

1944: LEMON CHIFFON (TB)n [3]

[3] The RGB marker plate (in 2009) has 'Bartlett - England - 1944'

#### Chapman, Chuck:

2000: TWILIGHT CLOUD is a **TB** (not a SDB)

2001: **APACHE** CARPET (*misspelled* in the original)

#### **Dumas-Quesnel, Monique:**

1992: CHAGALL [4]

[4] Introduced in 2000 by Dominion Seed House, Georgetown, Ontario and Horticlub, Laval, Quebec.

#### Edmison, Rev. Alex K.:

1953: PIANISSIMO [4]

SULTAN'S ARMOR [5]

[4] The RGB marker plate (in 2009) has 'Zurbrigg - Indiana - 1953'

[5] It is now considered a BB.



2002: SOUTHERN WANDERER [7] is the correct footnote

#### **Kummer, Oliver A.:**

1967: CENTENNIAL GOLD [3]

[3] The RGB marker plate (in 2009) has 'Kimmer - 1967'

#### **McMillen, James (Jim)**: (with addenda and corrections)

McMillen's Iris Gardens began in June of 1973 when the McMillens purchased the iris stock of Bruce Richardson and issued the first catalogue in the spring of 1974. Jim (1971-), the eldest son of John and Gloria began crossing iris at 10-12 years old, and had his introductions made by the McMillen Iris Gardens. John, Gloria and Dan have continued to operate the Gardens.

#### Morgan, F. Cleveland:

1924: MOUNT ROYAL [2]

[2] The RGB marker plate (in 2009) has 'Morgan - Washington - 1929'

#### Pearson, Hugh:

1991: RED ROYALE [2]

[2] Whitehouse Perennials is located in Almonte, Ontario

#### **Royal Botanical Gardens**

Additional planting varieties from the 1980s: (nr= not registered; n= not introduced)

bf.1958: Amethyst (W inslow TB) nr,n

bf.1960: Mt. Assiniboine (Rolf TB) nr,n

1960: Irene (Burr TB) nr, n

1965: Sheila Gracey (Burr TB) nr,n Sheila's Lantern (Burr TB)? nr,n

1966: Canadian Northland (Burr TB) nr,n

#### Saunders, William E.

William (1861-1943), a brother of A. Percy Saunders, raised some iris seedlings and wrote articles about irises. He, Percy, and his brother Sir Charles Saunders of London, Ontario (1867-1937) who created the Marquis variety of wheat, were sons of William Saunders [Sr] (1836-1914). William E., an ornithologist at the University of Western Ontario, a charter member of the AIS in 1920, ...

## Winslow, ?. ?. ?, British Columbia (Canada) Before 1958. pre 1958: 1 Amethyst (TB) nr,n [1]

.....

[1] Before the name was registered for a Japanese variety by John Childs (Long Island) in 1919, the name was unofficially applied to a TB (1901), a Juno (1909), and a Spanish Xiphium (1911). All of the latter have been recorded as obsolete, not in commerce, and not in existence. In 2009 a clump resided in the RBG's Laking Garden with a tag labelled 'Winslow BC pre 1958'.

#### **Zurbrigg, Dr. Lloyd:**

The RGB has plates (in 2009) which have misleading information about Lloyd's registered Canadian iris crosses. The *erroneous information* on the plates is identified below.

1953: PRINCESS ANNE: The plate reads 'Indiana'

1954: OEDIPUS REX: The plate reads 'Virginia'

1959: ALGONQUIN PARK GENTIAN FALLS MARY WHITE PRINCE CHARLES-2:

All have plates which read 'Virginia'



# **The Canadian Iris Society**

Presents its

# **Annual Iris Show**

Sunday, June 3rd, 2012 1 p.m. through 4 p.m.

#### **Trails End Iris Gardens**

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

#### **Free Admission**



## CIS Awards

#### F. A. Garrity Trophy

-best iris stalk exhibited in the show

#### W. J. Moffat Trophy

-best stalk of an unnamed tall bearded iris seedling.

#### Les Richardson Award

-best stalk of an unnamed iris seedling other than tall bearded.

#### O.A. Kummer Cup

-best stalk of a named iris of Canadian origin.

#### **Novice Cup**

-awarded to exhibitor winning most points in novice section

#### **Junior Trophy**

-awarded to exhibitor winning most points in junior section.

#### **AIS Awards**

#### AIS Silver Medal and certificate

-Most red ribbons Division 1 Sections A-E

#### AIS Bronze Medal and certificate

-2nd most red ribbons Division 1 Sections A-E

The individual ribbons awarded to the entries are provided by the Canadian Iris Society:

Red -First

Blue -Second

White -Third

Pink -Honourable Mention

#### **Exhibition Certificates**

-best seedling and any other seedling receiving five or more votes from qualified judges.

#### **Show Committee**

Chair John Moons 519-752-9756 Co-Chair Ed Jowett 905-936-9941



#### **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 19, 2012 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 website.

CIS website www.cdn-iris.ca

#### CIS Officers:

President: Ed Jowett 905-936-9941

Membership: Chris Hollinshead 905-567-8545

3070 Windwood Drive Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3

#### **American Iris Society**

You are invited to join the American Iris Society (AIS)

Official membership applications and additional information will be available at the show or on the official website. New members are welcome.

AIS website: www.irises.org

#### **RVP Region 2 Donna Lowry**

email: donnadonlowry@aol.com

AIS affiliates are in place and also sponsor iris shows.

### Show Rules

- 1. The judging standard will be that of the American Iris Society's Judge's Handbook and cannot be violated. The decision of the judges shall be final.
- 2. Exhibition privileges are open to all, including judges.
- 3. All horticultural exhibits must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.
- 4. All entries MUST be staged between 8 am and 11 am to allow judging to conclude by 1 pm. Late entries will be accepted for display purposes.
- 5. All entries must be entered under name and in class number specified in the show schedule.
  - Containers are furnished by the Society except class 30 & 31.
  - The number of entries by an exhibitor is not restricted, but they may enter only one specimen of each cultivar per division.
  - The placement committee will aid the exhibitors to correctly identify the appropriate section.
  - Cultivars are to be arranged alphabetically in each class to facilitate staging and judging.
- 6. The show area is open to the public only upon completion of the judging (approximately 1:00 pm). No one is allowed in the exhibit area excepting the judges, the clerks, and the show chairman.
  - Special arrangements can be made for photographers before the show is open to the public. Please contact the show chairman.
- 7. Exhibitors may not remove entries prior to 4:00 pm. Unclaimed entries will be disposed of.
- 8. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care, but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.

The major awards of the CIS are perpetual and remain the property of the society.

All judges are asked to contact the show chairman in order to pick up seedling ballots.



## **Entry Classes**

#### Division One — Iris Species

#### Section A: An iris cultivar introduced by a Canadian hybridizer.

Class 1 Tall Bearded

Class 2 Other Bearded

Class 3 Other Iris

#### Section B: Historic Iris (introduced prior to 1982)

Class 4 Tall Bearded

Class 5 Other Bearded Iris

Class 6 Other Iris

#### Section C: Bearded Iris

Class 7 Tall Bearded

Class 8 Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Class 9 Median (SDB, IB, MTB, and BB)

Class 10 Aril

Class 11 Arilbred

#### Section D: Siberian

Class 12 Siberian iris

#### Section E: Other iris not specified above.

Class 13 Spec-X: Iris species, named

Class 14 Spec-X: Iris species crosses

Class 15 Japanese

Class 16 Spuria

Class 17 Other classes

#### . Section F: Seedlings

Class 18 Tall Bearded

Class 19 Other Bearded

Class 20 Other Iris

#### Section G: Novice

Class 21 Tall Bearded

Class 22 Other Bearded

Class 23 Other Iris

#### Section H: Junior

Class 24 Tall Bearded

Class 25 Other Bearded

Class 26 Other Iris

#### Division Two — Exhibitions

#### Section I: Collections

Class 27 Collection of three named Tall Bearded cultivars Class 28 Collection of three named Siberian cultivars

Section J: Herbaceous perennials & biennials as companions for iris Class 29 Three blooms or stalks as appropriate, all same species or cultivar Class 29A Single bloom or stalk as appropriate

**Note:** Bulbous irises entered in Class 17 are eligible to receive award ribbons and special section awards. Award ribbons are included in the tally for Silver and Bronze Medal/Certificates, but these entries are **not eligible for the "Best Specimen of Show" award**.

Class 29 & 29A are eligible for **points only - no awards**.

Points are awarded as follows:

C-V56N1\_layout.indd 45

Major Trophy awards10 pointsCourt of Honour10 points1st prize (red ribbon)5 points2nd prize (blue ribbon)3 points3rd prize (white ribbon)2 points

Exhibitors complete a point credit sheet during the show and have it approved by the Show Chairman. This credit sheet is applied to purchases at CIS sponsored sales..

#### **JOIN IN THE FUN!**

Bring along your best flower stems.

## **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 <a href="mailto:cdn-iris@rogers.com">cdn-iris@rogers.com</a> and we will be pleased to advise you.

Early renewals are always appreciated.







Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

2/8/2012 1:22:29 PM



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

Send payment to:

Tom Gormley–AIS Membership Secretary 205 Catalonia Avenue P.O. Box 177

Phone and Fax: 386-277-2057 Email: aismemsec@irises.org

DeLeon Springs, FL 32130

or visit: 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 <u>nsveal@aol.com</u> 30 Franklin Park East, Rockville, CT 06066

Region 2 New York, Ontario, Quebec

Donna Lowry <u>donnadonlowry@aol.com</u> 9660 Ridge Road, Brockport, NY 14420

**Region 13** Washington, Oregon, Alaska, **British Columbia, Yukon**Alan Brooks <u>ebb1012@aol.com</u>

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

Ron Cosner <u>keighley15@msn.com</u> 328 Central Ave SE, Lemars, IA 51031

AIS newly updated web site: www.irises.org

# **Coming Events and Dates to Remember**

#### **2012 Meeting Dates**

 Sunday Apr 15
 Library "RBG" 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

 Sunday Jul 15
 Library "RBG" 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

 Sunday Jan 06, 2013
 Library "RBG" 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

#### 2012 Event Dates

April 16 – 21 AIS Convention Ontario, California USA

#### Sunday June 3

Annual Show & Picnic 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Trails End Iris Gardens 3674 Indian Trail Rd Lynden, ON (R.R. 8 Brantford)

#### June 7 - 9

Siberian & Species Iris Convention Lansing, Kalamazoo, MI For info <a href="https://www.socsib.org/convention2012.pdf">www.socsib.org/convention2012.pdf</a>

#### **Sunday August 19**

Annual Sale & AGM 1:00 pm RBG Gardens Room 3&4 680 Plains Rd West Burlington, ON

#### **Sunday September 30**

Late Season Show & Judges Training 9:00 am – 3:00 pm RBG Rooms 3&4 680 Plains Rd West Burlington, ON (not yet confirmed)

#### 2012 Publication Dates

May 2012 Vol56 No2 Spring Issue
August 2012 Vol56 No3 Summer Issue
November 2012 Vol56 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: <a href="mailto:chuck@chapmaniris.com">chuck@chapmaniris.com</a> Website: <a href="mailto:www.chapmaniris.com">www.chapmaniris.com</a> On-line catalogue: \$3.00

#### McMillen's Iris Garden

RR1 285112 Pleasant Valley Rd.
Norwich ON NOJ 1P0
Phone 1-866-468-6508
Email: info@mcmillensirisgarden.ca
e-mail or call for Price List

#### **Tara Perennial Farm**

123 Concession # 6, RR2
Tara, ON N0H 2N0
Call for availability/price list
Marion Kuhl 519-934-3447
Website: www.taraperennialfarm.com

#### **The Plant Farm**

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

#### **Trails End Iris Gardens**

3674 Indian Trail, RR#8
Brantford, Ontario N3T 5M1
Phone: 519-647-9746
Email: bob@trailsendiris.com
Website: www.trailsendiris.com
On-line catalogue



## **Liaisons and Regions**



#### **British Columbia Iris Society (BCIS)**

Ted Baker, 185 Furness Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7

ph: 250-653-4430 www.bc-iris.org

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

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

#### **London Region Iris Society**

Gloria McMillen, RR#1 Norwich, ON N0J 1P0
ph: 519 468-3279 email: <a href="mailto:gmcmillen@execulink.com">gmcmillen@execulink.com</a>
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: <a href="mailto:mmark@rogers.com">mmark@rogers.com</a>

# cis website 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**

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

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