

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Summer 2012 Volume 56 Issue 3



Canadian Iris Society

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**Cover Photo: "Padded Shoulders"
Iris Hybridized by Paul Black 2005**

President's Report

By Ed Jowett

I hope everyone has had a good summer so far; as for the growing season it has been anything but good. I have over one hundred irises and only had six blooms, although the plants look great.

I am sorry to report that everyone who purchased Siberian Iris this Spring lost forty (40) to sixty (60) per cent for reasons unknown. I have contacted the supplier to see what they may say or do. As of this printing I have not heard back.



For those members receiving the newsletter electronically, if you would like to find out when your



The cedar gazebo near the entrance of the parking lot/gift shop/start of the long slender gardens that run sandwiched between the Sturgeon River and a road.

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



membership expires, contact the membership chair or myself. For those receiving it by postal your expiry date is shown on the mailing label.

I was visiting Alberta this July and had the good fortune to be taken to **Saint**

All three photos on this page are of the same garden bed.

Albert's Botanical Gardens which is run strictly by volunteers. Most of the gardens are a separate garden for each floral type. The peonies were just finishing and the lilies were in full bloom along with the roses and many other perennials. I was disappointed in the



The lady is Dianne, Ed's daughter.



Note that the identification stakes are consistent.

Iris as they were labeled like so many gardens. Dwarf iris purple and yellow or white iris; while everything else seems to have its proper name. If you every get a chance to visit it in late June or early July it is worth the time.

The layout of the gardens is something different; there are many different shapes for each type of plants for example Day Lilies, Asiatic Lilies, and Peonies — but as you walk around each garden it is surprising how it brings you back to start the next one. The volunteers have their own vegetable garden which is not open to the public but I took a sneak look. Everything was looking real good and growing well which is unusual for veggies in Alberta. They also pot plants and sell them to make money to help support the gardens They had many large Day Lilies for eight dollars each (\$8.00). ▶

Our spring show was well supported in spite of the crazy weather. (See results further on.) I would like to thank our American friends and judges who came to help make the day. This was the first in a long time but we are always glad to see and visit with them.

Sylvia Chapman gave a judging clinic on "Garden Judging". I understand this was great. (Many thanks to Sylvia.) It seemed to me to be well attended.



This stump has been turned into a flower box.



The garden has features, like this twig constructed arbor, that set off the blossoms.

Our Bearded Iris have been received and shipped to our members who participated. It was unfortunate some of the cultivars we had ordered were not available due to growing and weather conditions this spring. The members did get a replacement of 2012 introductions of choice at no extra cost which was very good on the part of **Salmon Creek Gardens**.

Thanks to **Barb Aitken** for all of her support to CIS.

Late arrival update: I am informed that Siberian Iris should be planted within four days of digging; I am afraid maybe only one or two had this opportunity. The growers replant as they separate and plant immediately, and say they get a 5% loss.

Ed Jowett



Editors Note: The editor would appreciate contributions to the newsletter from the general membership. If you have news of an Iris event; or looking for a particular variety or type of Iris; growing or cultivation advice. If you have plants to sell or anything you would like to share. Send them to the editor for submission. This way we can make our newsletter bigger and of more interest to our readers. (For address see inside front cover)

Musings From Manitoba

By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

It certainly has been one of the oddest growing seasons here on the prairies in 2012. First the early and fast warm up, then plunging us back to winter and back again several times. The poor iris had no more idea of what was going on than we did! But through it all, once again it was a good iris year despite what Mother Nature threw at us.

Gardening Saturday was a huge success at Canadian Memorial University in Winnipeg. Thousands of people passed by our table that we shared with the Manitoba Regional Lily Society. New members signed up, we sold out of the iris we had for sale and we talked so much that by the end of the day I was starting to lose my voice.

The Region 21 Spring Meeting that was to have been held in Lincoln, Nebraska the last weekend in May didn't happen. The organizers had to cancel due to the vagaries of the season. Their bloom season was so early, there wasn't much left to see and since seeing iris is the main activity at a regional, with regret it was cancelled. I guess I will have to just wait to see the Sass Memorial Gardens again.

The 5th annual show on June 10th at Bourkevale Community Centre went off without a hitch (well, maybe a couple small ones) and though the number of entries was down, it wasn't by a significant number and the two and a half tables of tall bearded entries certainly made up for it. And the visitors, all the volunteers were kept busy all afternoon talking to people, selling at the sale table and just trying to keep up. Without our volunteers, we could not do this show every year!

Our summer members rhizome sale is our next event after which we will be ready for a well deserved rest after all our new acquisitions are planted. If it ever cools down, maybe I'll get a rest, too!



A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.
— www.gardenhumor.com

Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

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Can-West Iris Society

CWIS 5th Annual Show

By B. J. Jackson, Show Chair,
(All photos courtesy of Brenda Newton)

It was a special day for CWIS. Our 5th annual iris show Sunday, June 10th at Bourkevale Community Centre. 5 years since we gathered our courage and resources and decided to do it. And 5 years later we discovered what we have known since Day One, that **CWIS Rocks!** It was an amazing day. Despite the slightly lower number of entries. Despite the unusual season thrust upon us. We had 101 stems from 14 exhibitors which comprised all bearded classes except MDB and BB as well as several beardless, species and Siberians. Not including the unknowns, there were 64 different varieties presented in the regular classes. The table and a half of Tall Bearded's was a visual delight as was the full table comprising the Historic Class. A significant number of MTBs and on and on and on.

And the people! Oh, yes, the people. The show visitors came in droves from the minute the doors were opened to the public until it closed for the day. They came armed with questions, with notebooks for taking notes and they



Tall Bearded Table



The hordes descend

came with enthusiasm! Although we have no way to know exactly how many visitors came out, there sure were a lot of them! Once they had browsed the show winners on the Court of Honour and made their way through the exhibition area, they found the sale table ably presided over by **Wilma and Gerry Maurice**. To say they were busy would certainly be an understatement.

And then there were the awards. The People's Choice Award was hotly contested this year with just one vote between the top two contenders.



Court of Honour

After checking the numbers several times to make sure no error was made, the winner was announced to be TB *Stepping Out* exhibited by a first time exhibitor, **Hildegard Karchevsky**. Her iris also took home the CWIS Section Certificate in the Tall Bearded class. B. J. Jackson had the *Best in Show* winner with MTB



CWIS Members and show visitors talking iris

Ace. This is the second year in a row that this iris has won the award as Queen of Show. Last year it was exhibited by **David Hutchison**.

And finally, here is a listing of all the awards from the day.

CWIS Awards: Section Certificates

Section A Miniature Dwarf and

Section B Standard Dwarf Bearded - Not Awarded

Section C Intermediate Bearded - Brenda Newton for *Raspberry Blush*

Section D Miniature Tall Bearded - B. J. Jackson for *Ace*

Section E Border Bearded -Not awarded

Section F Tall Bearded - Hildegard Karchevsky for *Stepping Out*

Section G Other (bearded and non-bearded species, Siberian and Spuria)
- Ted Sobkowich for I. *Rudskyi*

Section H Collections and Section I Seedlings - Not Awarded

Section J Historic Iris - B. J. Jackson for TB *Ranger*

Section K Unknown - Wilma Maurice

Best Historic Iris in Show - (OnRussell Gardens Cup) - B. J. Jackson for *Ranger* (Kleinsorge, 1943)

Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show (sponsored by Chuck Chapman Iris) - Sandy Eggertson for *Garden Bride* (Chapman, 1998)

People's Choice (voted by show visitors) - Hildegard Karchevsky for *Stepping Out*

American Iris Society Awards

Silver Medal and Certificate for most first place ribbons -
B. J. Jackson

Bronze Medal and Certificate for second most first place ribbons -
Sandy Eggertson

Best Stem in Show (Queen of Show) -
B. J. Jackson for MTB *Ace*.



El Hutchison presenting Best in Show award for MTB *Ace* to B J Jackson

Gardening requires a lot of water — most of it in the form of perspiration.
— www.gardenhumor.com

The 2012 Iris Bloom Season in Southwestern Ontario — *an Unscientific Analysis*

Compiled by Don McQueen, London

The southwestern Ontario iris bloom season which followed the open, wet winter, the summer in March, the freeze in April and drought in May, produced a very different sort of result - at least in my iris patch in London. Now that this year's bloom is history, I thought I'd compile some casual statistics to analyze how my iris fared. Knowing full well creating any statistical report is fraught with limitation, interpretation and suspicion, I offer the following for what it's worth.



Robert Riehl Photography

Don McQueen

In particular, I was interested in two aspects of bloom resulting from the weird winter and spring; first - to find if indeed there was a change in the number of varieties which bloomed in 2012; and second - to ascertain whether the time of bloom had been altered.

I: Blooming Varieties in 2012

Here's the unscientific approach I took to identify which iris bloomed this year and which ones opted out. The scope of the analysis will no doubt be immediately suspect as my own iris patch was used as a basis for investigation. I then have potentially skewed the result by choosing only my Tall Bearded varieties. However, as I have been keeping bloom dates for my iris since 1989 (although casual iris collection began in 1979, becoming serious in 1983) I was able to select iris for this part of my survey which had bloomed consistently for the past two years. I then grouped those varieties into the decades in which they were registered, and tallied those which did (or didn't) bloom in 2012. Here is what I found, organized in the table at right:

Date of registration:	Number of varieties checked:	% bloomed	
1500 to 1929:	15 varieties	100%	
1930 to 1949:	25 varieties	92%	
1950 to 1959:	15 varieties	66%	
1960 to 1969:	18 varieties	51%	
1970 to 1979:	53 varieties	56%	[1]
1980 to 1989:	39 varieties	54%	[2]
1990 to 1999:	25 varieties	54%	
2000 to 2011:	7 varieties	53%	

When Intermediate Bearded varieties were checked:

[1] 1970 to 1979: 19 varieties - 78%

[2] 1980 to 1989: 20 varieties - 86%

Thus it seems the older TB varieties had no trouble with the winter and spring weather, whereas half of the newer iris decided to take rest this season. However the earlier blooming IBs appeared to do their usual thing.

II: Bloom Dates in 2012

Continuing to be unscientific, I chose random samples from the different decades of registration and compared this year's bloom date with an averaged date based on the number of years I have been keeping records. However I did control the 'random' selection by choosing iris which had not been moved about the garden too often.

In the chart below I have entered the length of time I have grown the variety, the 2012 date being the earliest ever for bloom, then the average date over the years, and the latest date ever recorded for bloom. The 'Days Early' column shows how much earlier this year's flowering was in comparison to the averaged data.

A question mark indicates the name of the variety which has yet to be determined, and there is one Border Bearded variety included as a comparison.

Iris Name	Year Reg	Years Grown	2012 Bloom	Average Bloom	Days Early	Latest Bloom
Florentina	1500	25	5-10	5-18	8	6-04
Flavecens	1813	27	5-13	5-27	14	6-14
Neglecta ?	1813	27	5-16	5-29	13	6-11
Mme Chereau	1840	21	5-18	5-29	11	6-13
Gracchus	1884	12	5-15	5-23	8	6-08
Loreley (BB)	1909	25	5-18	5-29	11	6-12
Empress of India ?	1921	27	5-27	6-06	11	6-20
Dauntless	1927	17	5-17	5-26	9	6-12
Don Juan ?	1928	22	5-27	6-07	12	6-17
Jean Cayeux	1931	27	5-21	6-01	11	6-17
Eleanor Roosevelt	1933	24	4-29	5-10	11	5-25
The Black Douglas	1934	19	5-18	5-28	10	6-13

Wabash	1936	27	5-21	5-27	6	6-11
Great Lakes	1938	10	5-20	6-01	12	6-11
Mulberry Rose	1941	25	5-18	6-01	14	6-13
Ola Kala	1942	27	5-22	5-27	5	6-14
City of Stratford	1946	25	5-26	6-05	11	6-20
Lady Albright	1949	26	5-23	6-02	11	6-16
Surrender	1951	24	5-19	5-27	8	6-12
Inca Chief	1952	27	5-18	5-29	11	6-12
Wabashine	1952	12	5-21	5-31	10	6-04
Blue Sapphire	1953	26	5-21	6-01	11	6-12
Whole Cloth	1956	27	5-21	5-30	9	6-14
Lula Marguerite	1959	22	5-21	6-01	11	6-14
One Desire	1960	23	5-18	5-31	13	6-12
Crinoline	1964	27	5-16	5-26	10	6-01
Stepping Out	1964	22	5-18	5-24	6	6-08
Fuji's Mantle	1966	26	5-25	6-07	13	6-17
Vitafire	1968	11	5-23	5-31	8	6-08
Loudoun Charmer	1972	22	5-19	5-30	11	6-14
Mary Francis	1973	21	5-21	6-01	11	6-12
Actress	1975	23	5-17	5-30	13	6-10
Tar Barrel	1976	21	5-08	5-15	7	6-05
Dresden Green	1977	20	5-22	6-03	12	6-05
Southland Grape	1977	21	5-18	5-30	12	6-13
Beverly Sills	1978	22	5-23	6-05	13	6-11
Burgundy Brown	1978	24	5-15	5-25	10	6-11
River Patrol	1978	23	5-20	5-27	7	6-09
Jesse's Song	1979	13	5-15	5-26	11	6-07

If you are a gardener, you might call yourself a "plant manager."

— www.gardenhumor.com

Lady Friend	1980	23	5-18	5-30	12	6-11
Immortality	1982	8	5-15	5-26	11	6-03
Saffron Flame	1984	16	5-20	6-27	7	6-09
Dusky Challenger	1986	20	5-26	6-05	10	6-08
Cinnamon Girl	1987	25	5-19	5-29	10	6-16
Gentle Dragon	1987	12	5-22	6-01	10	6-04
Kah-Nee-Ta	1989	13	5-24	6-02	9	6-11
Autumn Circus	1990	10	5-13	5-18	5	5-25
Stairway To Heaven	1992	14	5-23	6-02	10	6-01
Ancaster Blue Ruffle	1993	12	5-24	6-02	9	6-11
Starship Enterprise	1999	13	5-23	6-01	9	6-01
Daughter Of Stars	2000	8	5-16	5-27	11	5-29
Slovak Prince	2002	7	5-23	6-02	10	6-06

Again, it seems most TBs bloomed in 2012 at least 5 to 14 days ahead of most years, with most blossoming about 10 days ahead of the 'norm'. For the record, I had no new entries to make in the 'Latest Bloom' category.

In conclusion, I would suggest the past winter and spring had a significant impact on my iris patch. I wonder what surprises next year will have ... I can hardly wait!



Don McQueen is a life member of CIS. He is the man who sends out the "Iris Fix Daily" all bloom season long, keeps us updated on Canadian hybridizers & introductions, and writes articles for us like the one in this issue. Don is also a great train enthusiast.

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.

CIS Officers:

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

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North American Irises Part II

By John Moons

In part 1 we could read that all the North American Irises belong to the subgenus *Limniris*. Two sections in subgenus *Limniris* contain all the North American Irises, *Limniris* and *Lophiris*. These two sections are further divided into a number of series. In part 1 I wrote about the *Californicae* Series. These are called the Pacific Coast Irises. They all grow on soils that are very well drained, quite often on slopes.

In part 2 we will read about the *Hexagona Series*. The plants in this group do not mind growing near water. The name *Hexagona* is given because the seedpods which are often big and heavy, have six ribs. These Irises are called Louisiana Irises, because the species are found in swampy areas of the Southern U.S.A.

The *Hexagona Series* consists of five species:

- *Iris brevicaulis*,
- *I. fulva*,
- *I. giganticaerulea*,
- *I. hexagona*, and
- *I. nelsonii*.

In the wild it is not always easy to sort out the different species. All 5 species can cross with each other and many natural hybrids have developed. **Percy Viosca** of New Orleans showed in the 1930's that all natural hybrids have parents and grandparents that belong to the 5 species. When reading about Irises you will find that the Louisiana Irises do not have a lot of history. The *Iris hexagona* was first described in 1788, but the *Iris giganticaerulea* was described in 1929 and the *Iris nelsonii* in 1966. **John Small** studied the Louisianas extensively and helped to make them popular. Because all the species interbreed, there is a wide range of colours and shapes. Only the bearded Irises have a wider range of colours. Louisianas always need a good supply of water. In their natural habitats you will find them even growing in water, but the swamps there are dry in



"Addisonia colored illustrations and popular descriptions of plants "
New York 1918 -1960



the winter when the plants are dormant. In Western Europe the plants will rot if they are planted in places where the roots are standing in water in the winter. The plants like an acidic soil that is very fertile. The plants grow very fast, so getting enough food is essential.

Louisianas grow in warmer climates than we have in Canada, but with a thick layer of snow or a thick layer of mulch they can survive even zone 4. The cultivars bred from *Iris hexagona* are less winter hardy. The shorter types of plants seem to survive the winters better.

The best time to divide and transplant is right after flowering or in early fall. Make sure that the plants are well established before the winter.

It is not always easy to recognize a Louisiana Iris. The stalks are branched. The form can vary widely and some flowers look like Siberian Irises. Often the standards and falls overlap each other. The Louisianas offer more and better red colours than other Irises. The Louisianas can have a very wide range of colours. It can be white, yellow, golden, blue, purple, tan, red and everything in between. There are also bicolours and tricolours.

The flowers can be from 8 to 18 cm across and they will bloom between 2 and 4 days. Modern Louisianas will have a terminal spike plus 3 branches and each will have several flowers. They bloom in mid spring.

Louisiana species ***Iris brevicaulis*** has blue flowers. The colour is usually paler than the *I. hexagona*. The flower has an open form. The stalks are 25 – 35 cm high. The flowers never appear above the foliage. The stalk zigzags at the nodes.

Iris fulva grows in height from 45 – 80 cm. The flower stems are almost straight. The falls and standards are drooping. The colours of the flowers can be red, copper colour, orange-red and sometimes chrome-yellow. This is an easy plant to grow.

Iris giganticaerulea has tall stalks that can grow to 165 cm high. The slender flowers are carried high above the foliage. This plant likes a very rich soil and grows well in flooded conditions. The colours of the flowers are blue, lavender to white.

Iris hexagona comes from the southeastern part of the U.S.A. close to the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico. It likes warm summers and mild winters. The flowers are blue and sometimes close to lavender. There is a narrow yellow signal on the falls. The standards are slim and upright. The branching stalks can vary in height from 30 – 90 cm. The foliage is yellow-green and swordlike.

Iris nelsonii is found only in a small area near Abbeville in Louisiana. The flower looks a lot like the flowers of *Iris fulva*. Flower colours are red to terracotta. The *nelsonii* is important, because breeders used it to introduce the colour red into their breeding programs. The stalks can reach a height of 110 cm and are often branched. The flowers have long reflexed falls and standards.

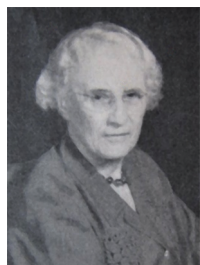


A Tip of the Hat to Early Canadian Iris Breeders

By Don McQueen

Each year iris enthusiasts wait anxiously for the new iris catalogues to see the new offerings for the season. We all feel a debt of gratitude to iris hybridizers like the **Keppels**, the **Chapmans**, the **Blythes**, the **Schreiners**, the **McMurtries**, the **Blacks** and all the others for the creations they bring to us. In way of paying homage to the dedication of the hybridizers I'd like you to consider the following people.

Two early Canadian ornamental plant breeders, both from the British Isles, have long ago earned my respect. **Isabella Preston** (1881 – 1965) because she was a world renowned hybridizer of ornamental plants, and because I once met her by chance when she was in her eighties. And **Frank Skinner** (1882 – 1967) because he spent a lifetime introducing and hybridizing ornamental plants that would survive the severe weather conditions of the Canadian prairies. Both Preston and more particularly Skinner, like most iris breeders, developed their talents by self-education, and both worked at a time when there was a great interest in developing new horticultural plants.



Isabella Preston immigrated to Canada from England in 1912 at the age of 31, having graduated in 1906 from Swanley Horticultural College in England. She enrolled at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, in 1913 but gave up her studies to work in applied horticulture under **Dr. Crow**, head of the Department of Horticulture. There she, as she said, “read all the books in the library on horticulture and plant breeding.” By 1916 she had become the first female professional plant breeder in Canada, first coming to public attention when she produced the outstanding *George Creelman* lily.

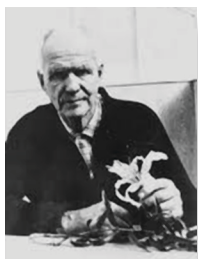
In 1920 Miss Preston joined the Central Experimental farm in Ottawa, where she continued her lily breeding, but expanded her field to include other perennials (including iris) and shrubs. She retired in 1946 and spent her final years in Georgetown, Ontario. To the new person on the job fall the duties that the more senior staff prefers not to do. This was the case for me when early in the 1960's the Georgetown Horticultural Society requested a guided evening tour of the OAC campus. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Miss Preston was among the group and made a point of showing off our excellent plantings of Preston Lilacs. They are showy and very hardy and extend the lilac flowering season by two weeks. By good luck they were in full bloom at the time of the visit. I recall Miss Preston as a quiet but friendly lady and at the time not well enough to walk the entire tour.

It is of course her breeding of Siberian irises that is of interest to iris growers and ►

hybridizers. Thanks to the dedicated work of **Don McQueen** and **Chuck Chapman** we now have a listing of Canadian irises bred since 1896. From this list we find that Isabella Preston released two TBs and seventeen Siberians. Most were released about 1930, but some came as late as 1938. Some of her Siberians are still available today, i.e., Chuck Chapman offers *Abitibi*, *Gatineau*, and *Skeena*. The AIS Region 6 reports that a Historic Siberian Iris Display Garden was created in recent years in Mora, MN by the local garden club. In the garden are 48 Siberian irises of which 5 are those of Isabella Preston: *Abitibi*, *Gatineau*, *Nipigon*, *Rideau*, and *Skeena*.

In her 1929 Ottawa Central Experimental Farm bulletin "*Herbaceous Perennials for Canadian Gardens*" Miss Preston wrote, in regard to designing an iris garden, "It is well to remember that dark coloured varieties will not show up well against a dark background" and "yellow is needed if a gay effect is desired," and "light lavenders and blues will give distance," and "those with delicate markings of colour combinations should be placed where they can be seen easily." She also noted that "there are so many new iris introductions each year – that any list is soon out of date." In a 1938 revision of the bulletin some of the Siberian varieties she suggested for planting are varieties that we still recognize today, such as *Great Lakes* (bred by **Cousins**, another Canadian breeder), *The Red Douglas*, *Wabash*, *Caesar*, and *Caesar's Brother* (both by **Morgan** of Montreal), *Gatineau* (Preston) and *Rimouski* (Preston).

Miss Preston was honoured by many horticultural organizations, two being the **Massachusetts Horticultural Society** and the **Canadian Iris Society**, both making her an honorary life member.



Frank Skinner (1882-1967) immigrated to Canada from Scotland with his parents in 1900 at the age of 13. The family operated a mixed farm in Dropmore, Manitoba, 250 miles northwest of Winnipeg. He had gained an interest in horticulture as a boy in Scotland, but had little chance to exploit that interest until a severe farm injury left him incapacitated. To regain his health he spent a winter in Victoria and read whatever he could find about areas of the world that had severe winters like his Manitoba home, and the plants that grew there. By 1911 he was introducing hardy plants to his farm, and by 1916 was hybridizing plants, getting seriously into plant breeding by 1918. To financially support his work in 1925 he began his **Hardy Plants Nursery**, which later became **Skinner's Nursery**. He was consumed by his goal of providing hardy plants to survive the severe conditions of the Canadian prairies. He did this by introducing plants from other parts of the world having similar climates, also by crossing these introduced plants, and also crossing them with Native American plants. While doing this he consulted and exchanged plants with the world's top botanists, horticulturists and plant breeders of the day, becoming friends with many of them.

He traveled extensively in North America collecting native and introduced plants. He visited the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England,



and the University Botanic Garden in Uppsala, Sweden and other plant institutions. He committed to a trip to Russia in 1935 but unfortunately it was depression time and government funding fell through. Through his nursery he introduced poplars, elms, ornamental and fruit trees, lilacs, lilies, perennials, the Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle (probably best known of his hybrids today), and even a few irises.

Skinner offered three of his iris hybrids at his nursery over the years. It is doubtful if any still exist, and none apparently were registered. They were, in 1927 *I. hybrida*, from *I. setosa* x *I. siberica*, in 1954 **Mount Robson** (white) from a Manchurian form of *I. ensata* crossed with a variety of the Japanese iris, and in 1956, **Smokey** (blue, July flowering) from the same cross. Toward the end of his career and looking into the future, he suggested future iris breeding possibilities to provide hardy iris for the prairies. He felt that crosses of *I. aurea* (which as near as I can make out is now *I. crocea*), *I. ensata*, *I. spuria* and American species *I. setosa* and *I. versicolor* should bring a wide range of colours to the late summer iris gardens of the Canadian prairies...

Skinner, sometimes called the Luther Burbank of Canada, became known and respected internationally. Amazingly, his work was financed entirely by the proceeds of his own labour. He commented in his later years that financially he was better off in 1918 than at the present time, but that his work had given him a great deal of satisfaction in other ways. Over the years he received many honours for his accomplishments, one being the Member of the British Empire (M.B.E.) in 1943. He did not marry until age 65 but raised a family of five children. The Skinner Nursery was still active in 2001 and their catalogue was then on the internet, but appears to have closed shortly thereafter. It was operated by Mr. Skinner's son **Hugh Skinner** and his wife. He still lives on the property and is working to convert the nursery into an arboretum. The Frank Skinner Arboretum is dedicated to preserving Dr. Skinner's legacy and contains collections of many of his introductions. The Old Dyke Walk is a moist area where there is a collection of introduced Siberian irises. Should you be in Manitoba this summer, a side trip to the Frank Skinner Arboretum Trail, near the town of Roblin, could be well worth your while.



Another Canadian Iris Hybridizer...

Compiled by Don McQueen

Caetstax (C. Berkley, Wellington, BC, Canada, not registered or introduced)
CEASAR X pink tenex

This cross was made prior to 1933 and was reported by **F. Cleveland Morgan** as "A blue-purple Siberica type; foliage not stiff but curled at the tips. Moist open position. Hardy. Fair. Bloomed June 15th, 1935. Looks like a small and rather insignificant Siberian."



Source: Siberian Iris Check List for 1976. Information supplied by Chuck Chapman, from a report reprinted in SIGNA pg. 101, 1969



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The Canadian Iris Society

Annual Iris Show

(Sunday, June 3rd, 2012)

Results

Class	Place	Cultivar	Exhibitor
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Section A. Canadian introduction by Canadian Hybridizer

Tall Bearded	2	Buckskin Babe	Nancy Kennedy
	1	Canadian Streaker	Chuck Chapman
	1	Eramosa Blushing Bride	Chuck Chapman
Other Iris	2	Caesar's Brother	Chuck Chapman

Section B. Historic Iris

Tall Bearded	2	Laced Cotton	Nancy Kennedy
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Section C. Bearded Iris

Tall Bearded	2	Alaskan Seas	Nancy Kennedy
	3	Artic Age	Marion Potter
		Bold Hour	Pat Loy
		Bove the Clouds	Pat Loy
	2	Breakers	Marion Potter
	2	Coastal Mist	Chuck Chapman
	2	Dance the Night Away	Bob Granatier
	1	English Charm	Nancy Kennedy
		Eramosa Ridge	Bob Granatier
	3	Good Night Moon	Marion Potter
		Imperative	Pat Loy
	1	Ink Patterns	Bob Granatier
	3	Island Parl	Bob Granatier
	2	Money In Your Pocket	Ann Granatier
	2	Stairway to Heaven	Ann Granatier
	2	Sultry Mood	Bob Granatier
	2	Thunder Quay	Chuck Chapman
	2	Twilight Cloud	Bob Granatier
	1	Uncle Charlie	Chuck Chapman
	1	Yaquina Blue	Chuck Chapman

Class	Place	Cultivar	Exhibitor
Medians	1	Bumble Bee Deelite	Nancy Kennedy
	2	Dividing One	Nancy Kennedy
		Personna	Bob Granatier
	2	Redrock Princess	Bob Granatier
	3	Zula	Nancy Kennedy

Section D. Siberians

Siberians		Banish Misfortune	Chuck Chapman
	3	Blue Penant	Chuck Chapman
		Caesar's Brother	Pat Loy
	2	Chilled Wine	Chuck Chapman
		Dance Ballerina Dance	Nancy Kennedy
	3	Dirogo Black Velvet	Chuck Chapman
	2	Echo The Wind	Chuck Chapman
	3	Emperor	Chuck Chapman
	3	Floating Island	Chuck Chapman
	3	Helicopter	Chuck Chapman
	2	Here Be Dragons	Chuck Chapman
	2	High Standards	Chuck Chapman
	2	Salamander Crossing	
	1	Sara Tifany	Chuck Chapman
	2	Seneca Glacier Flow	Chuck Chapman
	2	Ships Are Sailing	Chuck Chapman
	2	Sprinkles	Chuck Chapman
	2	Tycoon	Chuck Chapman
	2	White Magnificence	

Section E. Other Iris

Named Species	2	Ailey Oops	Chuck Chapman
Other Classes	1	Dutch Bulb Lion King	Marion Potter
		Eye of the Tiger	Nancy Kennedy
	2	Iris Versicolor	Chuck Chapman

Class	Place	Cultivar	Exhibitor
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Section F. Seedlings

Tall Bearded	#12 Seedling	Nancy Kennedy
	#13 Seedling	Nancy Kennedy
	06-1128-1	Chuck Chapman
	007-2009	Bob Granatier
	008-2009	Bob Granatier
	011-2009	Bob Granatier
Other Beardless	03 B108-1	Chuck Chapman
	03 B108-3	Chuck Chapman
	05 B78-3	Chuck Chapman

Section J. Herbaceous perennials/ biennials

Perennials	1	Allium Mply	Marion Potter
	2	Campanula	Nancy Kennedy
	2	Cornflower	Marion Potter
	2	Paeonia Itoh Kopper Kettle	Marion Potter
	2	Peony Garzella	Marion Potter
	2	Pink Dianthus	Marion Potter
	1	Sambucus Black Lace	Nancy Kennedy
	1	White Valerian	Marion Potter

Overall Results

Queen of Show	
Uncle Charlie	Chuck Chapman
Best Seedling	
06-1128-1	Chuck Chapman
AIS Silver Medal	
Most First Place Ribbons	Chuck Chapman
AIS Bronze Medal	
Most Second Place Ribbons	Chuck Chapman

AIS Regional News

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: www.irises.org.

Gardening Rules: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant. — www.gardenhumor.com

Iris Transplanting Tips

Taken from BC Iris Spring issue by Ted Baker

While many irises can be lifted and transplanted at any time of year and survive, there are definitely preferred times for moving your irises.

Bearded Irises go dormant during the summer months a few weeks after flowering and it is during this time that lifting and dividing causes them the least amount of stress. I have found however, that if I am not moving the cultivar to a new location, then thinning the clumps by removing old, spent rhizomes is often most satisfactory. This leaves the remaining rhizomes undisturbed in the ground and more likely to bloom next season. About a month after bloom is the ideal time to move your bearded Irises and the longer into fall you delay doing it means the probability of bloom the next year is reduced accordingly. Also, when planting your newly lifted or purchased cultivars, remember to plant them in soil enriched with compost below the surface and to plant them at the right depth. Plant the rhizomes just at the soil surface, not sitting above like a duck sitting in water or like a fish below the surface but like a whale which has just come up for air.



I have learned that Siberians and most other beardless irises, excluding Pacific Coast Natives, do best when moved sometime during the month following the appearance of new growth in the early spring and again immediately after they have finished blooming. They can also be moved later in the summer and in the fall but do not establish as quickly.

And for those fortunate enough to grow Pacific Coast Irises:

Pacific Coast Irises (PCI) do not like to be moved but it can be done successfully. As an added insult, when importing PCIs the soil needs to be washed off the roots which they do not like. The best time to buy and transplant is in late September until about October 20th when the new white roots have started to grow. The roots will be thick and brittle so be very careful not to break them off as they will not continue to grow. If you are moving plants in your own garden or potting them up take as much soil with the plant as possible and it will do fine. After the greatest of care you may be successful, but again you may not be. Some cultivars seem to move better than others. However, the beauty of PCIs makes the whole exercise well worth the risk. **Ray and Pat Spiers, Diane Whitehead, Joyce Prothero** and I (Ted Baker) have gotten some very nice PCIs from seed. I would encourage anyone who likes to grow them to purchase seed from SIGNA or a private hybridizer like **Joe Ghio**. Ted bought seed from Joe in 2007 and has a very nice collection of new and interesting seedlings. This is definitely the easiest and least expensive way to increase your collection.



CIS Membership Message

Not sure of your Canadian Iris Society (CIS) membership term? Check your mailing label of the CIS newsletter for your current CIS membership term dates. If you receive the electronic version of the CIS Newsletter and you wish to know this information please e-mail the CIS membership chairman at cdn-iris@rogers.com and we will be pleased to advise you.

Early renewals are always appreciated.

Walker Ross Award:

This is an annual award given for performing outstanding effort for the promotion of the gene iris or the Canadian Iris Society. If you know of any member/group deserving of this award; give a written account of their doings and send or give to any of our directors for consideration.

Mother Nature strikes again!

NEW IRIS PEST

By Ann Granatier, Trails End Iris

This spring Mother Nature needed to prove that she was still in charge. After surviving bouts of Japanese Beetle, Gypsy Moth, Iris borer, extreme weather; both killing frosts and now drought, she decided to give us another trial. This time in the form of a small larvae which attacks the flowers and buds of our beloved irises. Not only does this larvae spoil the flowers but also potential crosses made in the hopes of introducing a fabulous new variety.

Fortunately at our annual Iris show, guests from the AIS Region 2, included **Carolyn Schaffner** and **Joanne Bassett**. They took on the challenge and found the following info:

(We have included some pictures for clarification.)



Prevention: We did not use a systemic control for borers this year.

No doubt “Merit” would have helped control this pest. Natural controls include removing all flowers and buds and either burning them or putting them in the garbage. Although we have always been meticulous about cleaning the beds before winter, we neglected to pay attention to Siberians. We have always allowed them to over-winter with their attractive seed heads and therein lay the over-wintering eggs.



Iris Bud Fly: The larva of *Neorthochaeta dissimilis*, or the iris bud fly, is a hybridizer’s nightmare; it is a small white maggot that bores into the side of an iris bud to eat the pollen inside. The standards and style arms of the iris blossom are usually destroyed in the process. When the blossom opens, it is disfigured. They seem to prefer Siberian irises, but will attack other irises.

When you see a small hole in the side of a bud or a disfigured blossom, remove it and check the stem. If there is no sign of passage, then you have it. Carefully break the bud or blossom apart, look for the maggot and destroy it. You can also put them into a zip lock bag for destruction. If the stem shows sign of passage, then the maggot has gone down the stem to change into the fly.

Another way to control an outbreak of the bud fly is to spray with a systemic insecticide when the buds have formed; this can be done when spraying for iris borers, but be careful not to spray something that will harm beneficial insects when they come to the flowers.

From 'The Siberian Iris':

(Iris Society of Massachusetts <http://massirises.org/pages/ismirises.html>)



"The larva of *Orthochaeta dissimilis* is a white maggot approximately 0.10 inch (3 millimeters) long, cone-shaped, smooth and white, with a small black dot at the pointed end and the larger end rather flat.



Presence of the iris bud fly is first evident when an apparently normal bud opens to reveal ragged, chewed standards and styles. A careful search conducted just after the flower opens may turn up the larva, hidden under the damaged styles. Only a few hours later the larva will be gone, having crawled or dropped into the spathes. Rarely it may invade the ovary before settling in the spathes, where it pupates and remains over winter; the adult fly emerges the next spring. Dimethoate is effective applied at the same rate as for borer control, except that plants should be sprayed just as the earliest Siberian irises form buds. If infected flowers are found, cut off the stalks bearing affected flowers well below the spathes and burn them."



p. 64, McEwen:

McEwen says that the iris bud fly was first reported by Sarah Tiffney (1978) in Massachusetts and seems to be increasing in Maine and in other parts of New England *and* Hoebeke puts it in Western New York in 1994. Hoebeke holds that the O.d. occurs only in North America and suspects that a related fly species (*Acklandea servadeii*) damages irises in Europe where it is known as the iris flower bud fly.



Notice to All Members

(Ontario Specifically)

We are being invaded with another unwanted pest:
the “Brown Marmorated Stink Bug”.



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

What is it?

An invasive pest, migrating north from the US. Additional photos and details are available at [OMAFRA](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/bmstinkbug.htm) :
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/bmstinkbug.htm

Why is it a problem?

It has the potential to destroy many commercial food crops in addition to a large variety of ornamentals. It may become a significant indoor pest as temperatures cool in autumn. It is resistant to many chemical insecticides.

Where is it?

It is currently found in 26 states. The first suspected sighting in Ontario occurred recently in the Hamilton area. Home gardeners generally see new pests before they become apparent to commercial growers. This is why reporting is so important.

What to do?

If possible, trap a specimen and take a close-up photo. Note the date, which plant(s) it was on, and any plant damage. In the garden, hand-pick and drown in soapy water. The BMSB closely resembles several other common pests. Master Gardeners can assist with initial identification.

Who to contact?

Trap a specimen and take a close-up digital photo if possible. Write down the details listed in **What to do?** above. Then contact the OMAFRA Contact Centre at 877-424-1300, or email ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.
2012

Information supplied by: **Lynne Marie Sullivan**
Master Gardeners Ontario Inc.
MGOI Zone 6 Director Sharon, ON

Join the American Iris Society

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Tom Gormley—AIS Membership Secretary
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Email: aismemsec@irises.org

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 nsveal@aol.com

30 Franklin Park East, Rockville, CT 06066

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

Donna Lowry donnadonlowry@aol.com

9660 Ridge Road, Brockport, NY 14420

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

Alan Brooks ebb1012@aol.com

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

Ron Cosner keighley15@msn.com

328 Central Ave SE, Lemars, IA 51031

AIS newly updated web site: www.irises.org

Coming Events and Dates to Remember

2013 Meeting Dates

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

2012 Event Dates

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)

2012/13 Publication Dates

August 2012

Vol 56 No 3 Summer Issue

November 2012

Vol 56 No 4 Fall Issue

February 2013

Vol 57 No 1 Winter Issue

May 2013

Vol 57 No 2 Spring Issue

August 2013

Vol 57 No 3 Summer Issue

November 2013

Vol 57 No 4 Fall Issue

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

I always thought a yard was three feet, until I started mowing the lawn.

— www.gardenhumor.com

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: 519-856-0956
Email: chuck@chapmaniris.com
Website: www.chapmaniris.com
On-line 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
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

Southern Ontario Iris Society (SOIS)

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: 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

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

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