

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Autumn 2013 Volume 57 Issue 4



Canadian Iris Society

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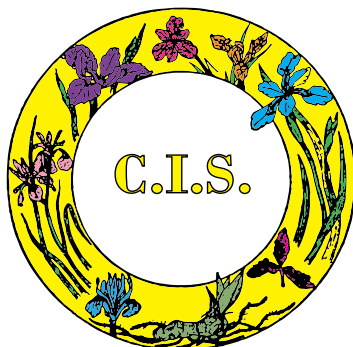
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Table of Contents

President's Report	2
Musings From Manitoba (B. J. Jackson)	5
Can West Iris Society	6
Autumn 2013 Garden Diggings (Chris Hollinshead)	7
Advice for Beginning Hybridizers (Clarence Mahan)	10
Eclipse Design Studio (ad)	13
Iris setosa (John Moons)	14
How to Divide and Care for Bearded Iris (Marie Iannotti)	16
Terra Greenhouses (ad)	18
The Iris Photography of Don McQueen	19
AIS Convention 2014	29
Iris Poem from an Old Catalogue	33
American Iris Society (ad)	34
Coming Events and Dates to Remember	35
Canadian Sources for Irises	36
Liaisons and Regions	37



President's Report

By Ed Jowett

As I write this message on this balmy wet day and having no email; it is hard to contemplate what to talk about. I am sure everyone has put their garden to bed for the winter. Having done this myself and sitting around thinking, it gave me the idea to talk about my first time of having four (4) cultivars rebloom this year. Not being any kind of expert but observing what took place and what I was told by reliable source I make the following comments.

The first being to know when your cultivars are expected to bloom the second or more times. I had the first rebloom August 25th with Chuck



Forever violet

Chapman's "*Forever Violet*". A real deep royal blue MDB. Then came "*Champagne Encore*" a white speckled IB on Sept 21. The amazing part about this one was it was a new cultivar purchased and planted July 28th of this year. These two (2) I would say are good rebloomers for my garden as there is usually no frost by this time.

The other two (2) I would say not recommended in this region, as in normal conditions we would have had good frost by this date. "*Autumn Tryst*"

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



Champaigne Encore

bloomed on Oct 15th —a white speckled TB, but it did last for a week. It seemed to withstand the cold though quite well. Then on Oct 25th “*Baby Blessed*” which I have had for a long time rebloomed for the first time. This is a nice lemon yellow SDB having many stocks and seemingly three (3) flowers per stock. It stayed blooming for about four (4) days until the snow came. These two I will not be surprised if they do not bloom each year, but I am hoping next year will be different because of

the number of rebloomers I purchased this year though the purchase program. ►



Autumn Tryst



Baby Blessed

We are looking at the moment to maybe this year having a mixed selection for our purchase program. For example some bearded Iris, some Spuria's and some beardless Iris.

Your thoughts or suggestions would be appreciated so let us know. Send an email or note to any of our Directors listed inside the front cover of this bulletin.

We did learn something from our disaster with the Siberians that we all purchased and lost. First thing, don't ship in the spring; and secondly, split well established plants for fall shipments.

We should have the list available for purchase in the next bulletin, if not then in May for sure.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". May you have good health and a prosperous year.

I would like to apologize for the lateness of this bulletin due to a computer crash.

Ed Jowett

Musings From Manitoba



By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

The leaves are falling, the temperatures are cooling, and a cold north wind is blowing. It is most definitely autumn in Southwestern Manitoba. As I write this the last week of October, the iris are all tucked snugly in their beds and some have experienced their first prairie snowfall. They are hunkering down for a winter which forecasters assure us will be more normal than last year but that still means there is a lot of snow and cold for them to deal with before Spring comes again.



The yo-yo weather of spring and early summer continued through to September. Deluge then dry, hot one day, cool the next. September saw no frosts! Not a single one. I can't remember the last time the first frost didn't happen until October. The first frost in



my new garden didn't occur until October 8th and the first killing frost, October 18th. I was fortunate to be able to get the gardens cut back and tidied up in relative comfort. Some years I find myself out finishing up in the snow with several layers of clothing on to try and keep warm. The mild September even allowed me to get some historic iris planted that didn't arrive until mid-September. They all settled in nicely and passed the 'tug test' in early October. That relieved me of having to dig, pot and bring them inside for the winter.

After two full growing seasons in the new garden, I am pleased to report that the tall bearded iris appear to like their new home. Several were moved over after the flooding of the main gardens in 2011 and have been growing well, showing good vigor and significant increases. They are growing so well that I moved several more over this past summer. With the exception of some trial seedlings and an historic, none have yet bloomed but I look forward to them blooming next year. What a change. In the main gardens the TBs have not performed well over the years.



In Can-West Iris Society (CWIS) news, the annual summer sale was a resounding success. We sold out in just three days. No doubt it was due to the amazing plants from our supplier, Tom Johnson and Paul Black at Mid-America Gardens. Aside from one rhizome that inexplicably ended up in Calgary when it was destined for Winnipeg, the sale went smoothly. I'm still trying to figure out how that happened! And we reached a milestone in number of orders processed as well as number of members. A slow and steady increase, to be sure, but we must be doing something right.

As for rebloom this year, once again I had none. CWIS members in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, however, reported a few SDB varieties had rebloomed for them. Blueberry Tart (Chapman, 2002) rebloomed for Sandy Eggertson just north of Winnipeg in mid-August whereas El Hutchison's just south of Winnipeg waited until October 14. It also rebloomed for Kirsten Kronstedt around Qu'Appelle in Southern Saskatchewan. In addition, Wizard of Hope (Chapman, 2002) rebloomed twice for Sandy Eggertson, once on September 22nd and then again on October 4th. It was also the first rebloom ever for Deborah Petrie in Brandon. She reports a single stalk with three buds, the first opening September 14 and the last on October 1st. This was also the first year Kirsten Kronstedt has ever had rebloom and she added SDB What Again (Ensminger, 1990) and Forever Blue (Chapman, 1997) to her list. Any rebloom is a bonus for us but two first ever reblooms for two of our members was very nice to see. I just hope I experience it again some day. Sigh.....



CIS Membership

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 cdniris@gmail.com and we will be pleased to advise you.

Early renewals are always appreciated.

Autumn 2013 Garden Diggings

by Christopher Hollinshead

“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: cdniris@gmail.com. (Please note that this is a new email address as of 2013.)



The 2013 gardening season has come to a close everywhere across this country of Canada. Every season is a little different than the previous and each season brings new and interesting developments; either new acquisition plants for the garden, a rework of existing flower beds or the just the actual growing season itself (rainfall, sunshine and temperature) can affect the whole look of the garden. I hope that your season was as interesting as mine.



First let me relay to you the details of a failure and success. This is the tale of a little iris that has the AIS registered name of *Frosted Olives* (Jones 1977). It is an SDB that I have grown for a number of years, a hardy and resilient little iris. Late in 2012 when reorganizing a section of the garden I dug this plant as it needed to be divided and replanted badly. I do this on a regular basis to a number of irises each season as they grow better if you do this every couple of years. All the plants were reset into the garden to overwinter and were doing quite nicely the following spring of 2013. The iris season came and went and was thoroughly enjoyed. Then, again late in the summer 2013 I dug a different group of irises to do the same dig-divide-replant routine as in 2012. In my travels around the garden I found ►



Frosted Olives along with its garden marker, in a pot, no soil at all! The pot was sort of hidden under the edge of a euonymus bush and had been there all previous winter, spring and summer. Poor *Frosted Olives*! I examined the rhizomes carefully and amazingly it looked as though they were trying to grow... almost imperceptible growth but one or two millimeters of green visible. I was both sad and happy at the same time. Next was the thought that these little guys really deserved a chance to grow in the garden again, I carefully picked approximately ten of the very small shriveled rhizomes and potted them up, gave them a drink, full sun and waited and hoped. Around two weeks later the rhizomes definitely show signs of growth! Yes! Awesome little iris lives again. Over the next few weeks I kept a watchful eye on this iris on the back patio along with other new potted acquisitions. Eventually after approximately 6 weeks or so, *Frosted Olives* started to flourish with great growth of foliage (3 to 4 inches) and obviously some decent root growth where there was none at all a few weeks earlier. All this after almost a whole year out of the ground! Wow, some irises are super hardy!

Our CIS membership stretches from coast to coast across Canada and although we perhaps have never met and perhaps never will, we have a gardening connection and common interest of irises. Today the internet gives us excellent communication and helps bind us together whether in Canada or elsewhere in the world. The iris indeed is a world

plant. A meeting with a contact from Hong Kong and discussing a possible business venture in mainland China reminded me of that... not sure why as it is totally unrelated to horticulture. One of my garden iris originated from China and grow well here in Canada. Iris typhifolia was discovered in the early 1990s by **James Waddick** on a plant collecting expedition to China. (See the book *Iris of China*, published 1992 by James Waddick.) I was lucky enough to obtain a few seeds to that plant and it still grows in my garden today. It is similar in appearance to a siberian iris, growing in a clump but has characteristic very narrow and twisted foliage.

Many times irises are named after locations, one such is the tall bearded iris *Calgary* (named for our Canadian city of Calgary, Alberta). If you live out that way you should grow it or get it! Another iris I grow reminds me of my previous professional cycling background, the tall bearded iris *Tour de France* (Keppel 2004) is of course a very excellent yellow iris from noted hybridizer Keith Keppel. Yellow is color of the jersey that is worn by the leader/winner of the Tour de France bicycle race. *Tour de France* is a yellow amoena, a pale yellow infusion at the base of the white standards and the chrome yellow at the center of the golden falls. The wide ruffled petals have a velvety texture and *Tour de France* emits a slight sweet fragrance. AIS Awards list; HM 2006, AM 2008, Wister Medal 2011. Also in cycling, the winner of the world championship each year wears what is referred to as the rainbow jersey; the connection here is that the iris is sometimes (actually many times) referred to as the rainbow flower.

One last thing, I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of a good friend and great irisarian this past September. **Clarence Mahan** was a past President of the American iris Society and wrote many articles and books regarding his passion of irises. A number of these articles have appeared here in the Canadian Iris Society newsletter over the years. The noted reblooming tall bearded iris *Clarence* (introduced by Lloyd Zurbrigg 1991) is named for him. Clarence had a deep appreciation for history and tradition and was a wonderful forward thinking guy who loved to pass along his knowledge. I think the best thing that I could do to remember and honor him would be to pass along to you another article from Clarence that provides sage advice, promotes irises and points to the future. I think he would be pleased with that.

Iris friends, I wish you happy holidays, a Merry Christmas and a great 2014 New Year.

Stay warm over the winter and get set for next gardening season!

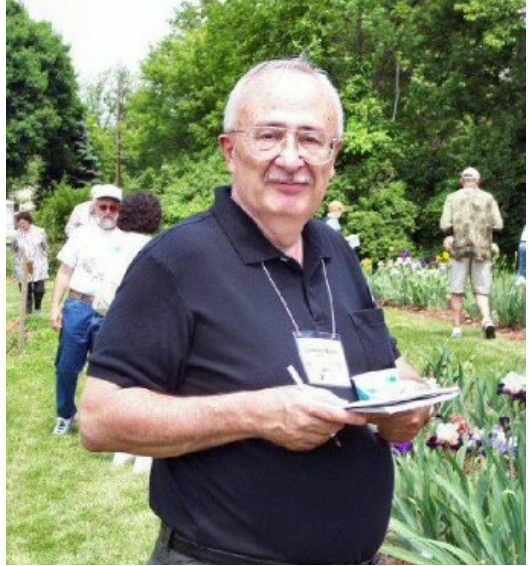
...and as always, happy garden digging. C.H November 2013



Advice for Beginning Hybridizers

by Clarence Mahan

*(article submitted by
Chris Hollinshead)*



The most difficult problem facing an iris hybridizer who is not an established name in the field of iris breeding is not one of obtaining a seedling worthy of introduction. Getting an excellent seedling is, believe it or not, the easy part of an iris breeder's task. Dr. D.C. Nearpass told me many years ago that if I wanted to get some outstanding seedlings I had two ways to go about it. First, I could choose only outstanding irises as parents and then raise thousands of seedlings. Cross two outstanding pink irises and grow several thousand seedlings from that cross. The odds favor getting at least one distinctive seedling that has many good attributes. Second, I could study iris genetics and pedigrees and make planned crosses toward specific goals. One benefit of the second option is that one does not have to raise so many seedlings.

There are other decisions a beginning hybridizer can make to increase the odds of getting seedlings worthy of registering and introducing. These decisions involve the types of irises one chooses to breed. If one is going to work in the field of once-blooming tall bearded irises, the competition is going to be keen. There are many people breeding once-blooming tall bearded irises and the established "names" are many. So to increase the odds of getting worthy seedlings that will be competitive; you might want to work with types of irises that not many people are breeding. Work with rebloomers, space-age irises, spuria iris species that do not go dormant in the summer, setosas, interspecies crosses, regeliabreds, miniature tall bearded irises or some other "target of opportunity" where few or no other iris breeders are working.

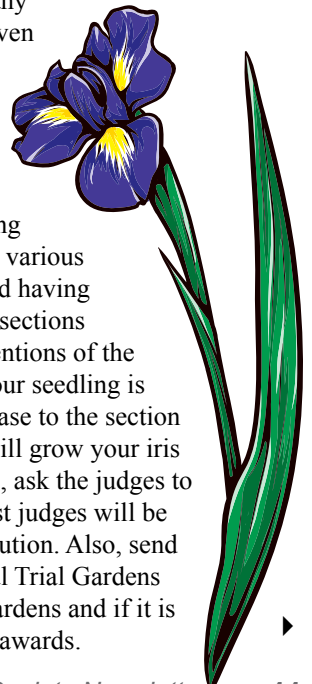
Resisting the temptation to register and introduce a seedling that is not truly worthy is perhaps a little more difficult than obtaining an outstanding seedling. Do not rely on your own judgment in deciding whether to register an iris. Recruit some experienced judges to give you advice on this, and listen to them. If the experts tell you to use the seedling for future breeding but do not introduce it, do what they say. If they tell you to compost the seedling, you can keep it but do not register it. This takes will power, but it is not the most difficult problem that a beginning iris breeder has to confront.

The most difficult problem a new iris hybridizer has is how to get his or her outstanding new iris distributed, recognized and into the running for awards. This is a subject about which I think I have learned a thing or two, and will presume to offer some advice. The first piece of advice is this: Forget about making money on your iris. If you are not an established name in the field or do not have a large iris nursery and a catalogue with color pictures, you are not going to make much money on your seedling. Even if you are lucky and do make a few dollars, it is probably going to be at the expense of getting wide distribution and recognition of the iris.

Do not introduce your iris until you have sufficient stock. I have made the mistake of introducing an iris too soon, and then did not have enough stock to get it distributed properly. I learned the hard way. If the iris is a once-blooming tall bearded iris or a standard dwarf bearded iris, you should have a couple hundred rhizomes. If the iris is some other class, perhaps a hundred rhizomes will suffice.

Get the seedling distributed before it is introduced. If the iris is a tall bearded, border bearded, miniature tall bearded or some other type that is likely to be blooming at the time of national conventions or regional spring meetings, send it as a guest to these affairs two or three years in advance. There is always a call for guest seedlings for future conventions in the AIS Bulletin. Many regions have spring garden tours and put out calls in their newsletters for guest irises. They usually invite well-known hybridizers to send guest irises by sending them letters. As a beginner you will not be getting such a letter. So write to the various RVPs and ask them to be put on the list to get these invitations. The RVPs will gladly give your letter to whoever's handling their guest irises for future regional meetings, and you will get a request to send your seedlings or newly introduced irises as guests. There will be a limit as to how many rhizomes of each iris. Send the maximum number allowed. Even after your seedling is registered and introduced, keep sending it as a guest to national conventions and regional spring meetings.

If your seedling is a type of iris that is not likely to be blooming at the time national conventions or regional spring meetings are held, send it to the mini-conventions held by the various AIS sections. Ever since the Society for Japanese Irises started having its own conventions back in the early 1980's, more and more sections are having these events. Calls for guest irises for future conventions of the various sections are announced in them publications. Once your seedling is introduced, do not ask for the increase back. Donate the increase to the section for its auction. Ask many judges in different regions if they will grow your iris and evaluate it for you. Assuming the evaluations are positive, ask the judges to donate increases to local and regional sales and auctions. Most judges will be happy to do this. In this manner your iris will get wide distribution. Also, send your new iris to test gardens such as the Dr. Loomis Memorial Trial Gardens in Colorado. Your iris will be seen by many judges at these gardens and if it is good, it will stand a good chance of picking up votes for AIS awards.



The most important thing you can do to get recognition for your wonderful new iris is to get some really great slides made. If you are not a competent photographer, enlist the service of someone who is to take these pictures. Do not be satisfied with pictures that are mediocre—have slides that show the iris at its best. As soon as your Iris is introduced send these great slides to both the AIS Slides Chairman and the person who handles slides for the appropriate AIS section. If your region has a Slides Chairman, send a slide to this person as well.

Finally the single most important thing you can take to gain recognition for your iris is to take out a color ad in the AIS Bulletin - This is not cheap, but it is cheap for the benefits to be gained.

When I was introducing irises for myself and for others through The Iris Pond I never took out a color picture ad that did not pay for itself. I cannot guarantee you that you will have the same result, but I did not care whether it did or did not pay for itself and I suggest you should not care either. By far the most important reason for taking out a color ad by a hybridizer who is starting out is to get people to see a beautiful picture of your iris.

I will be the first to admit that I sometimes took out a color ad when I did not have a great picture. So I used what I had. Do better planning than I did—get that good picture in advance.

On one occasion I had a great picture of a new introduction that I used in the Bulletin but it was the wrong picture. When The Iris Pond introduced the Siberian iris SHAKER'S PRAYER for Carol Warner, the picture I used was of a single stalk of the iris. SHAKER'S PRAYER has relatively small species-like flowers, and my friends who are "into Siberians" let me know rather quickly that they were not impressed with the iris pictured in the Bulletin. I should, of course, have had a picture of a clump of SHAKER'S PRAYER showing off its magnificent landscape value. Fortunately, soon after the ad appeared many people saw SHAKER'S PRAYER in the tour gardens at the 1991 convention. The rest of this story is now in the realm of the legends of irisdom. And as I previously wrote, even though the picture I used was not the best choice, I sold enough SHAKER'S PRAYER the first year to pay for the ad. Advertising pays.

Those who think that the great era of iris breeding is in the past are wrong. The opportunities for advances and improvements in all types of irises have just begun. Breeding irises is a fun hobby; Most people who hybridize irises for a few years get some interesting and meritorious results. Unfortunately, a majority of these good results probably do not get much recognition. What a shame. It need not be so.



(Note from Chris Hollinshead: This article was written a number of years ago so some items may be slightly dated in their references but the majority of the content and advice is still very relevant and useful to the aspiring iris hybridizer)

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Iris setosa

By John Moons

- Arctic Blue Flag Iris
- Beachhead Iris
- Wild Flag Iris



Two sections in the *Iris* subgenus *Limniris* represent all of the North American Irises: Sections *Limniris* and *Lophiris*. These sections are further divided into a number of series. *Iris setosa* is found in the series *Tripetalae*. *Iris setosa* looks a lot like a dwarf *Iris Sibirica*. The main difference is that the standards are very small. It looks like the flowers have only 3 petals, hence the name *Tripetalae*. The word *setosa* comes from the Latin word *seta* which means bristle. The standards are reduced to bristles. The usual colour is blue purple, but there are pink forms and everything in between. There is a rare white flower. The height can vary from 15 cm to 90 cm. They can have 6 or more flowers on branched stems. *Iris setosa* flowers in June. Important for cultivation is that the plants are short-lived, but grow easily from seeds. Quite often they self-sow. Pollination is by insects. They are self-fertile. The foliage is stained red at the base. The rhizomes are fleshy. They are often covered with fibers from what is left over from dead leaves.

Iris setosa likes a soil that is acidic. It does not like lime. The soil can be sandy or loamy and it will grow in soils that are saline. It does well in moist soils, but normal garden soils will do. It will grow in the sun or light shade. *Iris setosa* is said to be an easy iris to grow.

Iris setosa is the iris that has the widest natural distribution of all irises. It grows in East and North-East Siberia, Japan and North America, in Alaska and the Yukon. It does not grow in the central part of the continent, but it appears again in Eastern Canada and grows as far south as Maine. It is the only native *Iris* in Alaska. It is very cold tolerant, growing on permafrost soils above the arctic circle.

Because of its wide distribution the *setosa* is very variable. The *setosas* in Alaska are less than 30 cm high, but the plants in Eastern Canada can be over 60 cm high. You will find the plants in wet meadows, peat bogs, light woods and along shorelines.

Also because of its wide distribution there are quite a few subspecies. *Iris setosa* ssp *Canadensis* comes from the east coast of Canada. Some people consider this to be a separate species: *Iris hookeri*. Other subspecies are *setosa*, *hondoensis* and *interior*. The *Iris setosa setosa* has a few varieties, *setosa* and *arctica*. The *hondoensis* comes from Japan. Varieties are *hondoensis* and *naseunsis*. *Kirigamine* has violet-coloured flowers. The plant is very vigorous. The flowers are sterile, because the plant is a triploid. ($2n=54$). Normal chromosome numbers are $2n=34$, 36 or 38. ▶

A few setosa cultivars are *Arctic Lavender*, *Iktomi*, *Park Farm* hybrid, and *Taplow Violet*.

The Iris setosa can be crossed with quite a few other Irises. A few crosses are:

Iris setosa x Iris laevigata *Berlin Sevigata*, *Hondoensis*

Iris sanguinea x Iris setosa *Orientosa*

Iris sibirica x Iris setosa *Butterfly Fountain*, *Starting Sibtosia*, *Vidtinky Nochi*

Iris tenax x Iris setosa *Tenosa*

Seeds of the Iris setosa have a distinct raised sharp edge down the length of the seed.

Iris setosa always grew far to the north, but when the northern parts of the continent covered with ice, the setosas were forced south. Down south it grew in Iris virginica territory and crossed with it. The result was the Iris versicolor.

Books used for this article:

The Gardener's Iris Book by William Shear, The Taunton Press 1998

The Gardener's Guide to Growing Irises by Geoff Stebbings, Timber Press 2001

Irises by Pamela McGregor and Alison Nicoll, Firefly 2001

Several issues of *SIGNA*; 4 The Species Iris Study Group of the American Iris Society.



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.

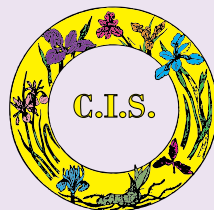
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How to Divide and Care for Bearded Iris

By Marie Iannotti

Bearded Iris are tall, elegant additions to the flower border, but they are also relatively high maintenance. You can help cut down on the incidence of soft rot and borer damage through regular division of the iris rhizomes, every 2-3 years. This will also keep bearded iris performing and blooming at its best. If left undivided, the flowering will decrease and the rhizome will be subject to more pests and damage.

1. You can divide bearded iris anytime after flowering and through the month of August. Using a pitch fork, carefully dig around the bearded iris plant, starting about a foot away from the outer most edge. Try not to pierce the rhizome with the fork. Work the fork around the bearded iris plant and gently lift the rhizomes out of the soil. Since bearded iris are grown at soil level, this is one of the easiest plants to lift.

Once you have the bearded iris rhizomes lifted, shake off any loose soil. Rinse off any remaining soil with a garden hose. If you don't have space to do this in the garden, it is sometimes easier and neater to do it on a tarp. Rinsing off the soil will allow you to better see the rhizomes and roots, to inspect for damage.

2. Once the rhizomes are cleaned, you can separate the individual rhizomes from one another. Don't break them apart, just loosen the already separate sections.

3. Once the rhizomes are clean, cut the foliage to about 6 inches. Cutting the fan of leaves connected to a lifted iris rhizome makes the plant easier to work with when dividing and replanting and helps prevent water loss while the plant is becoming re-established. The fan does not need to be cut symmetrically. Some leaves may be damaged and will need to be cut shorter than 6 inches. The leaves will start to grow back, with the middle leaf growing tallest.

4. Once the bearded iris rhizomes are clean, look for small to medium holes, like the one on the left rhizome shown on photo #4 (next page). These are telltale signs of borer damage. If your bearded iris leaves have dark streaks in them, you probably have iris borers, so look closely.



1. Carefully Dig and Lift the Bearded Iris Rhizomes



2. Clean off All Soil Clinging to the Bearded Iris Rhizomes



3. Cut the Bearded Iris leaves to about 6 inches

Also look for soft spots like the front section of the right rhizome in the same photo (#4). This is another common iris problem called soft rot.

Using a sharp knife or pruners, remove any traces of either iris borer damage or soft rot and dispose of these segments of rhizome. Soft rot spreads easily, so disinfect your cutting tool with denatured alcohol between cuts, to prevent further contamination.

5. Now you are ready to divide the rhizomes. You will see natural places to make a split, such as where the rhizome has forked. Study the rhizome and make sure each section you have chosen will wind up being at least 3 inches long and will have healthy roots growing from it. Then go ahead and make a clean cut through the rhizome, using the same sharp, disinfected knife or pruner.

6. The final step is re-planting your bearded iris. Choose a full sun location and start by digging a shallow hole that will be wide enough to spread out the rhizome's roots. Make the hole about 2-3 inches deep, then create a mound in the center of the hole to just about soil level, as shown above.

7. Soak the soil in the planting hole. Then take a rhizome division and place it in the center of the mound. Spread the roots around and down the mound. Cover the division with soil, being careful not to bury the rhizome with more than an inch or 2 of soil. Remember, it will probably settle a bit lower and bearded iris will rot and certainly won't bloom, if buried too deeply.

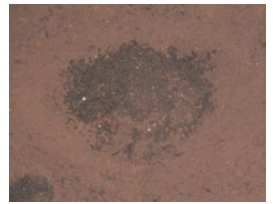
Water well and do so weekly until you start to notice new growth. Then enjoy for another couple of years.



4. Inspect the Bearded Iris Rhizomes for Borer Damage and Soft Rot



5. Dividing Your Bearded Iris



6. Getting the Garden Ready to Re-plant Bearded Iris Divisions



7. Re-planting Bearded Iris Divisions

Editor's Note: Can you pick out (from the article above) what most of us probably don't do?

See answer on page 35.

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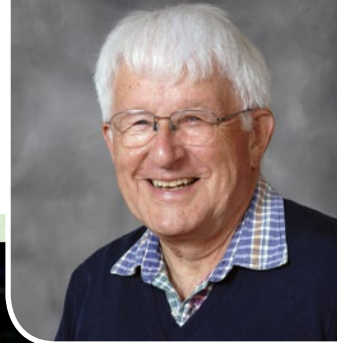
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You too, could have your ad on this page.

The Iris Photography of

Don McQueen



Bamboo Caper

Denney, 1980



Extravaganza

Douglas, 1943

Cambodia

Babson, 1966





Extravaganza

Douglas, 1943



Bayberry Candle

C. DeForest, 1966

Desert Echo

Meek, 1980





Cuban Carnival
Sass Bros., 1948

Sweet Caress

Shoop, 1976



Jungle Shadows

Sass-Graham, 1960





Bold Hour

Schreiner, 1975



Spreckles

Schreiner, 1972



Loreley

Goos & Koenemann, 1909

Welcome to the AIS 2014 Convention: Dallas, Texas April 5-10 2014

From Chris Hollinshead

Everyone is now looking forward to the next AIS Convention which returns to Dallas, Texas in 2014. The annual iris convention will take place April 5-10, 2014 with visits to official iris tour gardens in the surrounding Dallas area.



Some of the details are conveniently provided here and also there is more detail found on the AIS website to help you to organize your attendance and travel plans well ahead of time: www.irises.org

For your convenience and easy reference, some important planning and reference information on the AIS 2014 Convention is organized and provided below:

The Iris Society of Dallas welcomes you to attend the 2014 AIS Convention: Convention dates are from April 5-10, 2014. This is the first time in AIS Convention history that two conventions are being held in back-to-back years in the same place with the same gardens. This will be a unique opportunity to view and evaluate three year old iris clumps - more like the way that they will perform in your garden at home. Additionally please note that the convention will run from Saturday, April 5 to Thursday, April 10, these are different days of the week than the normal of previous AIS conventions. The convention will be featuring guest irises at ten fabulous official convention gardens located in the greater Dallas and northern Texas area.

...and a few details on the 2014 Convention Gardens:

All the tour gardens have 2014 guest irises. In addition, the Addison, Brown, Burseen, Carver, Clark and Thompson gardens will have the 2013 guest plants.

Addison Garden. Located just north and west (and within a 3-minute walking distance) of the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort, this park features three new separate iris gardens (1,100 sq. ft.) containing some 540 of the newest Tall Bearded irises.

Brown Garden. Located at Lake Texoma, Annette Brown has over 500 bearded, spuria, and Louisiana iris in the convention beds. In her personal garden, she has over 600 bearded, spuria, and Louisiana irises.



Burseen Garden. Located in Grand Prairie, Texas, Tom Burseen grows more than 350 Tall Bearded irises and features many of his own registered Tall Bearded Irises.

Carver Garden. Iris Hill is a three-acre rocky hill in Weatherford, Texas. They have approximately 600 of their own iris and about 400 convention irises. Their tall bearded, median, and dwarf iris are planted independently, in alphabetical order.

Clark Garden. Located west of Fort Worth, this Botanical Park showcases the grandeur of nature - Texas style. The 35-acre facility is home to 50 different gardens, including more than 1,000 Tall Bearded irises.

MacGregor Garden. Located in Cleburne, just southwest of Dallas, this planting was done by and is under the care of the members of the Johnson County Iris and Daylily Society.

McDowell Garden. This beautiful rustic rural garden is located in Anna, just north of McKinney. From the iris beds you can often see cows peacefully grazing in the adjacent pastures. They also have an extensive private collection of irises for your enjoyment.

Nichols Garden. Nestled in southeast Dallas County in Mesquite, this is the commercial part of the gardens owned by Hooker and Bonnie J. Nichols. Attendees will see some 400 guest irises, first-year and re-selected seedlings and 100s of the newest irises in full bloom.

Perry Garden. Located on a corner lot in Plano, this is the home of Seandel Iris Gardens, named after Dell and her son Seann. She has private beds with over 1100 varieties of Tall and Median Bearded iris, Spuria, Aril and Arilbred, and Louisiana irises and much garden art for you to enjoy. Her garden is also an ARIL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL display garden.

Thompson Garden. Located northeast of Dallas near Sherman/Dennison, Texas, Don and Janice Thompson have 12 acres, half of which is untouched and wooded. The garden features Historic irises from the late 1800's to 1980's, a pond and about one acre of irises.

2014 Convention Chairperson:

Bonnie Nichols, 3365 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75229
phone: (214) 352-2191 | e-mail: bjnhtn@aol.com

2014 Convention Hotel Information: The Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort-North Dallas-Addison will be the 2014 AIS National Convention Headquarters.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort-North Dallas-Addison,
14315 Midway Road, Addison, Texas 75001 USA
Tel. 972-980-8877; Fax 972-788-2758
Hotel website: Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort website
Reservations: 1-800-377-9778

Room Rate: \$99.00 plus taxes (1-4 people/room)
Reservations by March 15, 2014 for this special room rate. Request the group rate for the American Iris Society Annual Convention or use the Group Code IR4 to receive the special room rate when booking online through the hotel website.

Convention Registration

2014 Convention Registrar: Dell Perry
800 Purcell Dr. Plano, TX 75025
phone: 972-816-3418 | e-mail: seandelirises@yahoo.com

Full Registration Fee Includes:

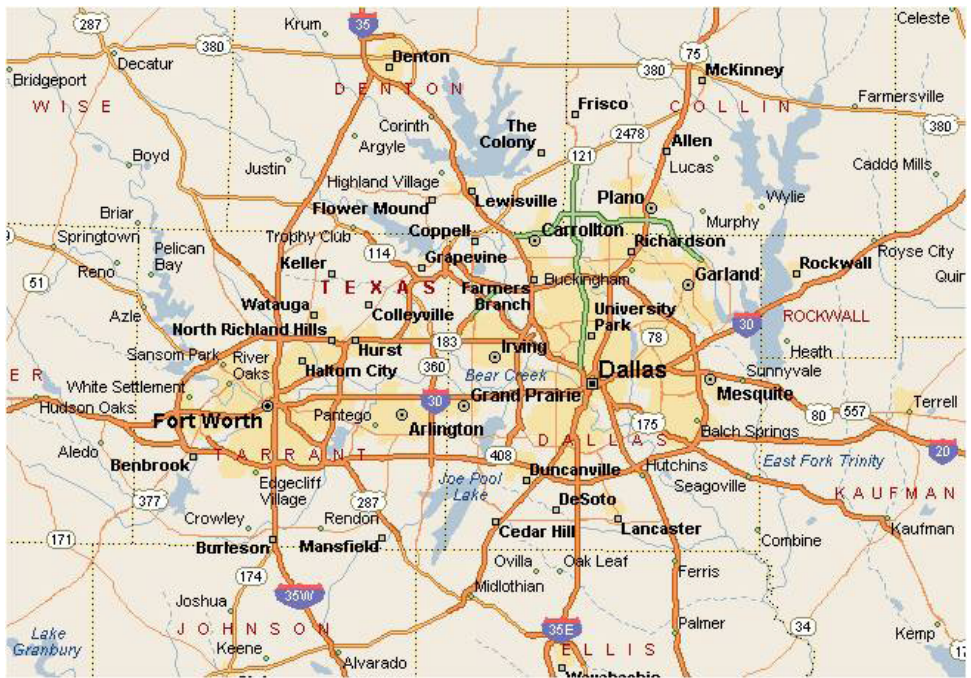
Bus transportation to ten gardens, AIS flower show, viewing of over 4,000 guest irises, Judges training and lunch at the gardens, Dinner banquet and Awards banquet, Convention bag and book.

Register before February 1, 2014 for discounted full registration rate of \$299 for adults and \$200 for youth.

From February 1, 2014 through March 15, 2014 full registration is \$349 for adults and \$250 for youth.

AFTER March 15, 2014 through the convention, full registration is \$399 for adults and \$300 for youth.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY! Please note that Registration Fee does NOT include hotel accommodations. ▶



Requests for refunds on or after March 20, 2014 will be at the discretion of the Convention Committee. NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 1, 2014.
Download the REGISTRATION FORM from the AIS website: AIS 2014 Convention Registration Form

All the details/info appears on the form; registration cost/banquet food selection etc..

For more information you may contact:

Bonnie Nichols, Convention Chair at e-mail: bjnhtn@aol.com
Dell Perry, Convention Registrar at e-mail: seandelirises@yahoo.com



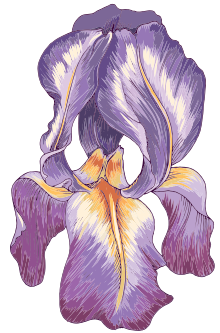
Send us your articles: The editor would appreciate contributions to the newsletter from the general membership. If you have news of an Iris event; or looking for a particular variety or type of Iris; growing or cultivation advice. If you have plants to sell or anything you would like to share. Send them 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.)

Editors Note: One of our American friends asked permission to print this poem after reading it on our Web Site So I thought it would be appropriate to print for our members since we have not published it in 15 years.

An Iris Poem

The following iris poem is from an old catalog of "Green Gate Gardens 1931" which used to be in Bennettsville, South Carolina. The owner's name was Gabrielle Drake McColl. The poem is as follows:

(Untitled)



The garden with its little gate of green,
Invites you to enter, and view mysteries unseen,
Its vine laden bowers and overhanging trees,
The air filled with sweetness, the hum of the bees,
The flagged walks with Iris galore,
Of most beautiful coloring, unknown before,
Pink, white, purple, yellow, azure blue,
Mixed and mingled of every hue,
You come away wondering, can more beauty be seen
Than in the garden with its little gate of green.

Join the American Iris Society

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

Send payment to:

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

Phone and Fax: 386-277-2057

Email: aismemsec@irises.org

or visit: www.irises.org for more details



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

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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 Dates to Remember

2014 Board Meeting Dates

Sunday Jan 19, 2014 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Sunday Apr 13, 2014 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

(Due to the RBG having a show on April 27th and Easter being April 20th, the meeting has been set for April 13th.)

Sunday Jul 20, 2014 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

2014 Publication Dates

February 2014

Vol 58 No 1 Winter Issue

May 2014

Vol 58 No 2 Spring Issue

August 2014

Vol 58 No 3 Summer Issue

November 2014

Vol 58 No 4 Fall Issue

Answer to question on page 17: “Disinfect your cutting tool with denatured alcohol between cuts, to prevent further contamination.”

Two friars are having trouble paying off the belfry, so they open a florist shop. Everyone wants to buy flowers from the men of God so business is quickly booming. The florist across town sees a huge drop in sales and asks the two friars to close their shop, but they refuse.

A month later the florist begs the friars to close because he's having trouble feeding his family. Again, they refuse, so the florist hires Hugh McTaggart. Hugh is the roughest, toughest thug in town and is hired to “persuade” the friars to close. Hugh asks the friars to close their florist shop. When they refuse, he threatens to beat the crap out of them and wreck their shop every day they remain open, so they close.

This proves once again that:
‘Hugh and only Hugh can prevent florist friars.’ ~ Paul

— 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)

CIS - AIS Affiliate

Chris Hollinshead, 3070 Windwood Drive,
Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3
ph: 905-567-8545 e-mail: cdniris@gmail.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.

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

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