

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Summer 2014 Volume 58 Issue 3



Canadian Iris Society

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President	Ed Jowett , 1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0 ph: 905-936-9941 email: jowettfarm@copper.net	2014-2016
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Hon. Director	David Schmidt , 18 Fleming Ave., Dundas, ON L9H 5Z4
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Webmaster	Chris Hollinshead , 3070 Windwood Dr, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3 ph: 905 567-8545 e-mail: cdniris@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Ed Jowett , 1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2 Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0 ph: 905-936-9941 email: jowettfarm@copper.net
Newsletter Designer	Vaughn Dragland ph. 416-622-8789 email: vaughn@e-clipse.ca

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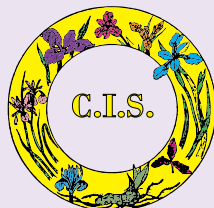
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Canadian Iris Society:

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>
Membership: **Chris Hollinshead** 905-567-8545
3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3
<cdniris@gmail.com>



Cover Photo: *Silver Edge*, 1974, McEwen

President's Report

By Ed Jowett

Over the last few months we have received requests to reprint a lot of our articles from other societies and organizations. It makes us proud to have such good writers. These people spend a great deal of time writing these articles. Many thanks to them. Our bulletin goes to the U.S. and the U.K and our website is having request from all around the world even from China.

With to day's technology it is surprising the folks I hear from and the response to a great magazine. If nothing else we are promoting our great flower the iris and our knowledge.

Our bearded iris sale went well but we have a few left over—a little more than past years. We still have some of our Siberians and Spurias left. This sale will end mid-September. In the last bulletin we showed the Siberian Silver Girl it should have read Silver Edge. Please check this correction. We apologize for this error.

I ordered some Siberians along with another Iris friend in order to split the shipping and phyto cost; not realizing they would be shipped in April. When they arrived I was surprised at the size (6 fans each) I planted them in pots and they have done quite well. One even flowered even though it was only 8 – 10 inches tall.

With the severe rain storm and tornado we had, the Iris and the peonies took an awful beating and were pounded to the ground. I did have a good bloom season though from May thru June 27. I don't know if my rebloomers will bloom or not. There are no signs of any showing yet. The bees were sure busy this year as I have about 35 seed pods on about a choice of 64 plants. I wish I had room to plant these and see what became of these.

As I write this article our Iris order is being shipped tomorrow and as soon as we receive them we will ship to you right away. They are due to arrive July 25 and we will package on the 26th and ship on Monday the 27th.

With this stormy weather I do not get much gardening done I end up working driving the bus.



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

When I planted my Iris bed it was just as I kept purchasing to add to the garden. Well this caused some of the dwarf and MDBs to be hidden, so I am planning to replant the whole garden in tears. I have a plan how to change it on paper now, based on size and colour. It is funny how I ended up with a large section of purple all together. As this garden is on a terrace slope it will be easy to tear. Each tear will be for the different sizes, with the little ones being on the highest tear, and so on.

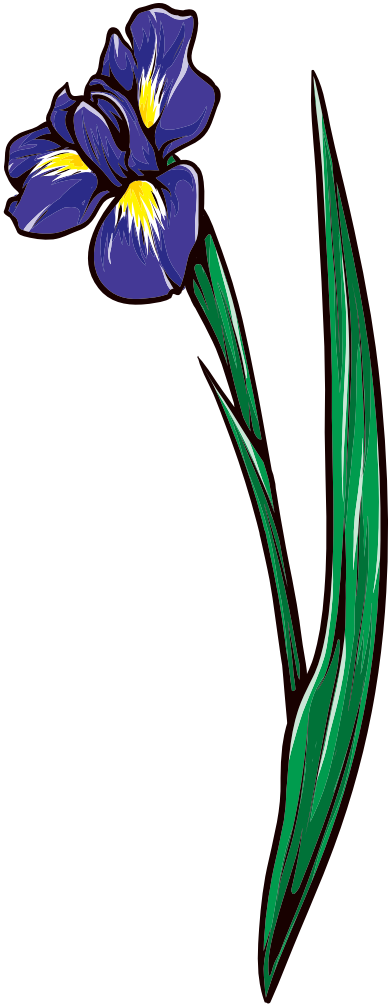
I was sorry to hear the Southern Iris Society had to cancel two shows for the lack of being able to get judges for their dates. With as many shows as there is in a short time span it is hard to get judges. You really need to plan these shows about March and get commitment then.

I hope everyone enjoyed their gardens this year and that all the rain did not cause you harm with rot or disease, and the severe winter did not kill a lot of plants.

These days over 20 degrees Celsius kill me; I enjoyed the winter and never once complained about the cold or snow. I enjoyed it and was out every day.

Until next time happy gardening and relax and enjoy.

Ed Jowett



Southern Ontario Iris Society

Join the society that specializes in one of the flowers you love

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Join both societies (CIS & SOIS) and save

1 year	\$25.00
3 Years	\$60.00



Musings From Manitoba



By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

The iris season is winding down quickly in Southwestern Manitoba. Just three TBs in bloom today and two Siberians are finishing up and iris season is done. And it has certainly been a good year for bloom although once again all classes seemed to bloom at the same time. First bloom honours went to the species pumilla Suslik (John Burton II, 1995) and last blooming honours to TB Visiting Royalty (Joseph Ghio by William Maryott, 2000). The Tall Beardededs appear to like it better at the new garden and I was very impressed by the performance of three that had never bloomed before. Rio Rojo (Schreiner, 2009), Sweet Musette (Schreiner, 1986) and Exclusivity (Sterling Innerst, 1999) all outdid themselves through a late, wet and cold spring and still bloomed profusely despite receiving over 9 inches of rain in just a two week period at the end of June. Some of the foliage doesn't look particularly great but overall I was pleased. Unfortunately they take up so much room in a small garden so my focus will remain on the smaller classes, MTBs in particular.



I was very pleased, too, to see the first blooms of several seedlings in June, one just in time for our CWIS show. From open pollinated 2012 seed from MTB Bold Imp, it received a first place ribbon in the seedling section. Because we will never get the five judges required at a show to fill out a ballot it won't ever go anywhere, but it was nice to see that the judges judged it worthy of a first place ribbon. All of the other seedlings looked much like Bold Imp (Kenneth Fisher, 1993) and have been discarded. Several seedlings from MTB Razzleberry Dressing bloomed, as well, and I have kept three of the seven for further evaluation. One has very excellent and purple based foliage that extends quite far up the fan, farther than I have seen in a modern variety so that one has been marked as special to watch, too.

And speaking of the CWIS show, it was a great day despite torrential rains. Winnipeg received more than 70 millimeters of rain on the show weekend but still the visitors came out and surprised us. Please see the show results and some photos elsewhere in this newsletter. There was a steady stream of people coming in the doors

all afternoon to see the exhibits and business was brisk at the sale table as new treasures were discovered. What is different about the show sale is that all of the rhizomes are donated by CWIS members. Support has been phenomenal for the show sale and this year there were no less than 30 varieties offered.

Flooding has once again been an issue for many in Manitoba and Saskatchewan this summer as many rivers leading into the Assiniboine have been swollen by the heavy June rains. Once more my nursery beds and other areas were under water for weeks. Most of the iris have been moved out but a few still remain and several actually bloomed in standing water that couldn't drain away because of the high water table. Most notably were SDB Arvo (Keith Keppel, 2005) and TB Blue Shimmer (Jacob Sass, 1941). Hopefully I will be able to get in there and dig these two out before they succumb to rot. Last time I tried to get in there I sank up to my ankles in the mud and almost lost one rubber boot to the effects of suction trying to extricate myself. The upside of the whole thing is that the lessons learned from the spring flood of 2011 were well learned by the City and the dike improvements have alleviated a lot of the worry of those affected last time. So far there have been no evacuations from the first crest of the river. The second crest is approaching as I write this and is expected to be at the same level. All appendages are appropriately crossed that it will pass without any further drama.

The weather has somewhat altered my garden activities in the main garden. As the iris started blooming, I identified, dug and labelled each, then potted them. I made it through about half the MDB and SDBs before the rains came. These will now get planted in a friend's field till next year when I can continue the process. There is just too much else to do in the flood affected areas. All the plants need to be dug out and new homes found for them. Then the area will be dried out (Mother Nature willing) and the entire area put back to grass. Cutting back seems to be the prudent way to go given the water and deer problems that area has experienced since 2011.

Here's hoping for a more 'normal' type of the remainder of summer and a frost free September. We certainly will need it to dry out for winter so there is no repeat performance next spring!

Happy gardening!



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.



CWIS Show Results

June 15, 2014
Bourkevale Community Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba

CWIS Section certificates:

A MDB - Brenda Newton for Brown Imp
B SDB - Brenda Newton for Irish Harp
C IB - Brenda Newton for Cat in the Hat
D MTB - Brenda Newton for In My Veins
E BB - not awarded
F TB - David Hutchison for Eagles Flight
G Other - Brenda Newton for I. lactea
H Collections - not awarded
I Seedlings - BJ Jackson for MTB Bold Imp OP seedling
J Historic - not awarded
K Unidentified - not awarded

- Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show
 - Brenda Newton for SDB Spirit Guide
- Best Historic Iris in Show - not awarded
- People's Choice Award (voted by visitors to the show)
 - BJ Jackson for MTB Tic Tac Toe
- Best in Show - David Hutchison for TB Eagles Flight

AIS Sweepstakes

- Bronze Medal and certificate - El Hutchison
- Silver medal and certificate - Brenda Newton

There were a total of 92 stems shown from 11 exhibitors in the following classes: MDB, SDB, IB, MTB, BB, TB, Siberian and Species





Eleanor and David
Hutchison



Barb Jackson presenting Silver Certificate to
Brenda Newton



Show clerks at work



CWIS Iris Show 2014



People's Choice Award - TIC TAC Toe by Barb (BJ) Jackson

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Beardless Iris Share Purchase 2014 - Photos

Siberian



Here Be Dragons -
28" Unusual yellow bitone with overlaid blue tone \$6.50



Miss Apple -
30" several shades of red with hints of violet \$12.50

Beardless Iris Share Purchase 2014 - Photos
Siberian



Over the River -
30" Mid - blue with white signals \$6.00



Painted Woman -
27" falls red over yellow, pearl standards \$13.00

Beardless Iris Share Purchase 2014 - Photos Siberian



River Dance-
45" Stunning blue with sparkling white on falls \$6.00



Silver Edge -
28" Ruffled flowers are lavender-blue with periwinkle veining \$8.50

Beardless Iris Share Purchase 2014 - Photos
Spuria



Burnished Brass -
40" Glowing brass brown with yellow-orange signal \$6.50



Cinnamon Stick -
40" Maroon brown' streaked gold; outstanding \$6.50

Beardless Iris Share Purchase 2014 - Photos

Spuria



Destination -
40" Bright deep Golden Orange self \$6.50



Gentry -
48" Lavender with light blue signal \$6.50

Beardless Iris Share Purchase 2014 - Photos
Spuria



Ruffled Canary -
36" Small white with vivid yellow blaze \$8.00



Russian Blue -
48" Species bred sky blue \$8.25

Beardless Iris Share Purchase 2014

Order Form | Shipment in Late September

Siberians	Year	Price ea	Quantity	Total
Here Be Dragons	2003	6.50		
Miss Apple	2009	12.50		
Over The River	2001	6.00		
Painted Woman	2007	13.00		
River Dance	1997	6.00		
Silver Edge	1974	8.50		
Spurias				
Burnished Brass	1972	6.50		
Cinnamon Stick	1983	6.50		
Destination	1984	6.50		
Gentry	1975	6.50		
Ruffled Canary	1970	8.00		
Russian Blue	1994	8.25		
Sub Total				
Special Packaging				\$4.00
Shipping				
Grand Total				

Shipping Cost		
Including	HST 13%	GST 5%
# Rhizomes	ONT	Other
1 - 10	12.45	18.00
11 - 20+	19.20	24.25
21 - 30	26.00	30.50

Ship to	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	
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Dependable Dwarfs

Part 2

by Don McQueen

Part 2 continues a series of illustrations highlighting MDB or SDBs which have become my favourites because they are just as described - dependable.



BUTTERSCOTCH CARPET (SDB C.Chapman, Guelph 1994)

Indeed it is one impressive carpet of bright colour when it blooms during the first two weeks of May. I have grown Chuck's introduction since 1994 and it has failed to bloom only twice, only because of being moved the previous season - to give it more space!.

[Don's digital May 6, 2010]



BLUE DENIM (SDB Bee Warburton, Massachusetts 1958)

Gotta love those streaks in the jeans, and a hue of blue from it's Canadian GREAT LAKES (Cousins, London 1938) ancestry. It's been flowering regularly since I acquired the variety in 1996. Bloom occurs either during the last week of April or first week of May.

[Don's digital May 18, 2011]



PELE

(SDB J.T.Aitken, Washington 1993)

If you are addicted to volcanic oranges and ruby reds, then this variety is a must. It's always in profusion during early to mid May, and has yet to miss a bloom season since I added it to the garden in 2000. *[Don's digital May 12, 2010]*



RED PIXIE

(MDB A.Brown, Virginia 1967)

If you define 'red' as a rose-red self with a dark ruby red thumbprint, then this is an 'oldie-and-goldie' to treasure. It's been growing for me since 1991 and has missed blooming in late April only twice - not because of its dependability, but because of moves. 'Pixie' is more a propos as Muscari are often taller than the Dwarf. *[Don's digital May 8, 2007]*



TWINKLE TOES

SDB B. Blyth, Australia 1973)

'White' is really white and 'pansy' is pansy for this dwarf, which although has been moved around several times, has failed to bloom only thrice during the quarter century its been growing for me. The show usually begins in early May and like many other Dwarfs, seem to like the warmth of rockery. *[Don's digital May 11, 2007]*



GEAUGA LAKE
(SDB A.& D. Willott, Ohio 1984)

Although the hues are described as 'light violet blue' with olive overtones, the shades often defy description as they continuously shift with the intensity of light. Added to this bonus is the Lake's dependability, which has been blooming early to mid May every year since my acquisition in 1994.
[Don's digital May 9, 2012]



CANADIAN IRIS SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Sunday, April 13, 2014
1:30 p.m. at Royal Botanical Gardens

Members in attendance: - Ed Jowett, Ann Granatier, Bob Granatier, John Moons, Pat Loy, Gloria McMillen, Harold Crawford

Regrets: - Nancy Kennedy, Chris. Hollinshead, Alan McMurtrie,

1. President's Welcome.....Ed Jowett

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

2. Adoption of Agenda:-

MOTION: To adopt the Agenda.....Pat Loy/ Bob Granatier CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes from Jan. 2013

**MOTION: To adopt the Agenda.....Pat Loy/ John Moons
CARRIED**

4. Business arising from the minutes.

- a) SOIS—Flyer:- Everyone approved the flyer but were concerned about the printing costs of colour. It was felt that colour and professionalism were important and at \$675.00, it was worth the expense. Minor changes to the layout are required. Ed will finalize. The flyer is to be circulated at the RBG, with grower's orders, and at shows (OHA). All agreed that this should be a CIS flyer rather than an SOIS project since the SOIS has no funds and is not active. The RBG needs to be contacted to ask for permission to allow distribution of this flyer at the Laking gardens and in the RBG centre

MOTION:-To approve the printing 1500 new membership flyers at a cost of up to \$750.00. Gloria McMillen/John Moons.....CARRIED

- i) There has been no SOIS activity. There is a concern that at an AIS meeting, the SOIS was nominated as responsible for the upcoming AIS convention in 2015 or 2018. It is hoped that the new flyer will draw new members and therefore individuals prepared to help with this project. (Ann sent e-mail to AIS president for details)

- b) CIS Share program: - Ed arranged a bearded Iris order with Tom Johnson of Mid-America.

MOTION:- Bob to send a cheque to cover the costs \$1552.50 John Moons/ Ann Granatier.....CARRIED.

- c) SOIS summer show and picnic. Ed will contact the RBG to cancel the June 8th event. Chuck Chapman has agreed to hold a median show and picnic on June 1st. However, there is a shortage of judges and Chuck would like mileage expenses for US judges to attend.

MOTION:-to pay \$100.00 US funds to cover the transportation costs of judges.

Pat Loy/ John Moons.....PASSED

d) The CIS AGM date and location to be determined.

5. Treasurer's Report: The Mar.31st. 2014 closing balance was \$4,760.54 (see written report for details).

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's report.....Bob Granatier/Pat Loy.....CARRIED

6. New Business

NIL

6. Reports of the standing committees

a) Membership Fees were increased

MOTION: to increase membership dues to \$20.00 per year and \$50.00 for 3 years. This rate will include a FREE introductory year of membership to SOIS. To take effective immediately for new members and at renewal for current members..

Bob Granatier/ John Moons.....CARRIED

b) Web-site— Nil report

c) Newsletter; - It is hoped to have the newsletter printed by May 1st. John Moons to forward his article ASAP. The cost of printing is increasing. Members are encouraged to accept e-mail versions. Dues were increased to meet this expense.

d London region: - Nil report.

7. Correspondence: - NIL

9. Adjournment

Iris Laevigata

By John Moons

The genus *Iris* is divided into six subgenera and one of these is the subgenus *Limniris*. In this subgenus are two sections: the *Lophiris* and the *Limniris*. The section *Limniris* has 16 series and one of these is the *Laevigatae*.

The plants from this group come from Asia, Europe and North America. They have in common that they like moisture and need a rich soil. In this group we find *I. ensata*, *I. pseudocorus*, *I. versicolor*, *I. virginica* and the *Iris laevigata*.



Laevigata comes from Latin and means “smooth”.

Alternative names for *Iris laevigata* are *I. albavariegata* and *I. phragmitetorum*. Common names for the *Iris laevigata* are rabbit-ear Iris, smooth Iris, Japanese Iris and Japanese water iris. In Japanese it is called *Kakitsubata*. Confusing is that both *Iris ensata* and *Iris laevigata* are called Japanese Iris or Japanese Water Iris.

The *Iris laevigata* is different from the other Japanese Iris, the *I. ensata*, because the *laevigata* needs more water and it does not have the strong raised midrib of the foliage (smooth Iris).

The *Iris laevigata* originates in Eastern Asia. It is widespread in Japan, Korea, Siberia and Northern China from Lake Baikal and the Altai eastwards. It grows in swamps and at the edge of water. The plant is very happy to be standing in a few centimeters of water all year round. Like the *I. pseudocorus*, the *laevigata* will do well growing in water. It can be grown on dry land, but the roots do not like to dry out. The roots should be always in soil that is at least damp. They like heavier soils. The *laevigata* grows from rhizomes and under ideal circumstances it should be dug up and divided every 3-4 years. It likes a slightly acidic soil and the pH of 5.5 to 6.5 is ideal. It likes full sun, but will tolerate part shade.

For some reason in Japan the *laevigatas* have never been as popular as the *ensatas*. The result is that the flowers of the cultivars still look a lot like the flowers of the species. The flower stems are 30 – 70 cm high and have usually 3 flowers. The flowers are up to 10 cm across. In detail: the perianth is up to 2 cm long. The falls are obovate and up to 6 cm long. The ends of the falls are bent down a bit. Each fall has a narrow white flash at the base. The standards are erect and oblanceolate and up to 6 cm long. The seed capsules have a rounded form. The leaves are 40 – 70 cm high and up to 4 cm wide. The leaves are smooth, erect and sword like.

The main flower colours are shades of blue, purple and violet. There are also white forms. ▶



Photo courtesy: Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

I. laevigata **Variegata**



I. laevigata **Royal Cartwheel**

The *laevigata* blooms later in the Iris season after the tall bearded irises are finished. The *laevigata* is a good rebloomer, especially in milder climates. The plant can be propagated by seeds, or by dividing in late summer or early fall. The seed germination can be very erratic, even under ideal circumstances.

Iris borers do like *laevigatas*.

The *laevigatas* are hardy to –20 degrees C.

Some of the cultivars are:

- *I. laevigata* **Variegata**. The leaves have white stripes that stay white all summer. The flowers are blue purple.
- *I. laevigata* **Royal Cartwheel** (Reid 1981). Blue flowers
- *I. laevigata* **Alba**. The white falls are speckled pale blue. It is single, with short standards.
- *I. laevigata* **Atropurpurea**. The single flowers are wine purple with a white signal.

- *I. laevigata* **Colchesterensis**. This is a really strange looking flower. It is double and the margin on the falls is white with blue spots on it. The rest of the falls is purple blue.
- *I. laevigata* **Flore-pleno**. Mid-blue double.
- *I. laevigata* **Rowden Full Moon**. Single large broad rounded falls, and pale blue standards. Lemon yellow signal.
- *I. laevigata* **Snowdrift**. Double white falls and styles with a lilac tint.
- *I. laevigata* **Shirasagi**. A cultivar from Japan. Some people claim it is the same as Snowdrift.
- *I. laevigata* **Weymouth Midnight**. Double. Deep royal blue with clear white signal. The ends of the falls hang down.
- Books used for this article:
- The Gardener's Iris Book by William Shear – Taunton Press
- The Gardener's Guide to Growing Irises by Geoff Stebbings – Timber Press
- Perennials Volume 1 by Roger Phillips & Martyn Rix – Random House
- Hortus Third by the staff of L. H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University - MacMillan



Photo courtesy: Vaughn & Cornelia Dragland

Examples of *I. pseudocorus* and *I. versicolor* in water

Caparne-Welch Medal for miniature dwarf Irises



Who was William John Caparne?

By Ann Granatier

I*vorine* is a creamy white iris with a bright orange beard. **William John Caparne**, who bred it, considered it his finest intermediate bearded iris. *Ivorine* is one of the two-hundred new irises Caparne bred and introduced.

The life and work of Caparne were remarkably successful despite the fact that his mature years were a constant struggle with poverty and approaching blindness. His life was devoted to drawing and painting thousands of elegant pictures of flowers and landscapes and to growing and hybridizing irises.

Although Caparne hybridized many types of irises, his major contributions were to create many new dwarf cultivars and to hybridize a type of garden iris that blooms after dwarfs and before tall bearded irises, now called intermediate bearded irises.

Caparne was born in Newark on Trent on November 8, 1855. A love of plants was instilled in William John Caparne from an early age. His father was an enthusiastic gardener. His grandfather was a market gardener and nurseryman operating a nursery and seed business. Even as a small child 'Willie's' favourite flowers were irises. He enjoyed working in the garden and drawing irises with crayons and pastels. When he was not yet six years old his Uncle Thomas gave him a small plot of land to grow his own garden, it was in this small garden that Caparne first planted irises. His love of irises remained with him all his life. He would continue drawing and painting irises until he lost his eyesight in 1936.

He studied art at the Slade School and National Gallery in London. He went to France in 1875, where he attended the Ecole de Beaux Arts and the Academie Julian in Paris. Returning to England he was appointed assistant drawing master at Oundle School in Northamptonshire for the next 18 years.

Soon after Caparne took up his teaching duties, he made a garden at his home. He planted various types of flowering plants, especially irises, irises and more irises. He later wrote that his goal was to grow and paint every iris in existence.

Caparne began hybridizing irises soon after he planted his garden raising hundreds of seedlings every year. He was especially fond of dwarf irises, both bulbous and

rhizomatous, because they were the first irises to bloom in the early spring. However, he was unhappy because there was an interval of several weeks after dwarf bearded irises bloomed and before tall bearded irises flowered. Caparne wanted spring to be one continuous riot of iris bloom. He had an idea about how he might attain this goal. He thought that if he could put pollen from the later blooming tall bearded irises on early blooming dwarf bearded irises he might get dwarf seedlings that bloomed later in the season. But there was a problem: How could he get viable tall bearded iris pollen when the dwarf bearded were in bloom?

The solution was highly innovative at the time. By growing tall bearded in greenhouses he forced them to bloom early. He began doing this in 1880 and his idea worked. Caparne began putting tall bearded iris pollen on dwarf iris flowers. It was frustrating work, however, because most of the attempted crosses did not take. But some of the seeds did germinate and when the seedlings bloomed Caparne was delighted.

The seedlings from these crosses bloomed in the interval between the dwarf and the tall bearded irises, just as Caparne thought. What Caparne had not counted on was the physical characteristics of the seedlings. These hybrids, which were for all practical purposes sterile, were neither dwarf nor tall bearded irises. They were larger than dwarfs and in all respects smaller than tall bearded irises. Caparne called these irises “intermediates”.

At the same time Caparne was breeding intermediates, he was also hybridizing dwarf and tall bearded irises. He began supplementing his teaching income by selling plants and seeds from his garden. He advertised his plants in local papers in 1885 as “W. Caparne, Bulb and Seedsman.”

Caparne also collected books and other literature on irises. He went to Great Shelford and met **Sir Michael Foster**. It is not surprising that these two men who shared a passion for irises became lifelong friends. Caparne’s first garden landscapes are rendering of Sir Michael’s garden painted in 1882. Foster asked him to draw various iris species for his book *Bulbous Irises*.

Caparne wrote an article about his intermediate irises for the British Iris Society in 1926. Reminiscing about Sir Michael Foster he wrote:



Photo credit: American Iris Society



He was interested in my pictures..gave me plants..and sent me flowers of the rarer and difficult ones, corrected names ...and suggested that I should show two flowers of each kind, one having the "fall" facing you and the other the "standard", each to exact size of life. In his letter to me ...he said "In hybridizing, be bold."

Caparne formed a friendship with **Reverend Henry Ewbank** who was at the time the foremost authority in *Oncocyclus* irises. Some of the watercolours that he painted in Ewbank's garden are now owned by the British Iris Society. They are extraordinary in their subtlety of colour and botanical accuracy.

In 1894 his wife died and he left Oundle school and eventually moved to the island of Guernsey and brought many of his Irises with him. Caparne's income came from selling plants, giving art lessons and commissions from wealthy Englishmen to paint their villas and homes on the French and Italian Riviéras. He started a plant nursery in 1898 and issued a catalogue as W. J. Caparne, Bulb and Seedman, Rohais, Guernsey." Caparne was elected a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1899 and from that time the abbreviation F.R.H.S. appeared after his name.

He changed his nursery's name in 1901 to the Iris Plant and Bulb Company. He provided records to the American Iris Society listing new introductions for 1901 and 1902: 64 tall bearded, 38 intermediate, and 131 dwarf bearded irises.

Sir Michael Foster visited Guernsey in 1902 and considered the new intermediate bearded irises to have genuine merit as garden plants and encouraged the artist/iris breeder to continue producing them. Caparne's exhibition entry at the RHS show in 1902 was awarded the Bronze Flora Medal.

In 1913 he purchased 1½ acres of land and built a small house where he again moved all his plants.

The British Iris Society designated William John Caparne an Honorary Member in 1925. The American Iris Society awarded him an Honorary Membership in 1927. His iris paintings won the Silver Gilt Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1928 and 1930.

He wrote several articles for the Iris Society Bulletin and year book. The British Iris Society awarded him the Foster Memorial Plaque for a lifetime of devotion to the genus iris in 1936. Caparne painted and drew almost every day until he went totally blind in 1936.

William John Caparne died on January 31, 1940. His daughter Winifred was forced to vacate the house when the Germans occupied the island. Many of his paintings were eventually sold to an antique dealer and sold at public auctions. The Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery has an excellent collection.

The American Iris Society designated in 1950 its highest honor for miniature dwarf iris to the Caparne Award. It replaced this award with the Caparne –Welch Medal in 1984. This medal is given each year to a recently introduced miniature dwarf bearded iris determined to be the most excellent by the judges of the society.

The Guernsey Group of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) has a project to locate and preserve Caparne's Iris introductions. There is a master planting of Caparne's cultivars on the grounds of the White House Hotel.

Guernsey issued a series of commemorative stamps with reproductions of Caparne's paintings in 2005. *Ivorine* was the most popular of all the Caparne irises in the early decades of the 20th century.

There is still hope that *Ivorine* will be rediscovered. Even if we do not find it, however, the legacy of the man who loved and painted irises enriches our world.



Edited and abridged by Ann Granatier from the Classic Irises and the men and women who created them written by Clarence E. Mahan

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



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30 Franklin Park East, Rockville, CT 06066

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

Judy Tucholski-Zon irisjudy@aol.com

138 Cresthaven Dr, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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

2014/15 Board Meeting Dates

Sunday July 19, 2014	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday October 19, 2014	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday January 18, 2015	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday April 19, 2015	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday July 19, 2015	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday October 18, 2015	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

2014/15 Publication Dates

August 2014	Vol 58 No 3 Summer Issue
November 2014	Vol 58 No 4 Fall Issue
February 2015	Vol 59 No 1 Winter Issue
May 2015	Vol 59 No 2 Spring Issue
August 2015	Vol 59 No 3 Summer Issue
November 2015	Vol 59 No 4 Fall Issue

Coming Events

Sunday August 17, 2014	S.O.I.S. Iris Sale, RBG Burlington
Sunday October 19, 2014	AGM at RBG, 1:30 pm
Sunday August 9, 2015	S.O.I.S. Iris Sale, RBG Burlington

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.)



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

Tara Perennial Farm

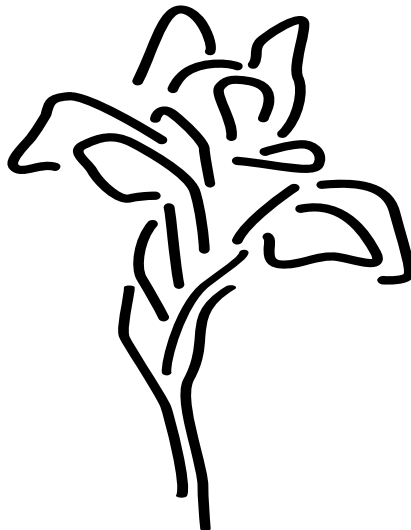
123 Concession # 6, RR2
Tara, ON N0H 2N0
Call for availability/price list
Marion Kuhl 519-934-3447
Website: www.taraperennialfarm.com

Erin Mills Iris Garden/ Chris Hollinshead

3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga,
Ontario L5N 2K3 Canada
Email: erinmillsiris@gmail.com
Website: www.cdn-iris.ca/erinmills

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, 285116 Pleasant Valley Rd. 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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