

# Canadian Iris Society

## cis newsletter

Winter 2015 Volume 59 Issue 1



# Canadian Iris Society

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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](http://www.cdn-iris.ca).

### CIS Officers:

President: **Ed Jowett** 905-936-9941 <[jowettfarm@copper.net](mailto:jowettfarm@copper.net)>

Membership: **Chris Hollinshead** 905-567-8545

3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 2K3

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**Cover Photo:** *Jazz Band* (Keppel '06)

Photo courtesy: Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

*Canadian Iris Society Newsletter*

# President's Report

By Ed Jowett

**A**s I sit here feeling this minus 31 degree weather I find it a little hard to think Spring. However I have started preparation of the purchase program for 2015. The irises will all be grown in Ontario zone 5b, so they should be hardy for almost every one. Full listing and pictures, etc., will be in our May issue. I am waiting for spring notification that they are available and in the quantities we require.

My Iris beds this year were very over crowded so I set out to fix them. I dug out all of them and planted the whole clump immediately in 14 inch pots. As the late summer and early fall rolled on and not having much ambition I puttered away at making a four (4) tier garden — the tier dividers helping to keep the irises from growing into one another. All the pots appear to have taken root well and hopefully, come spring, I can remove them. I filled the garden with new 4 mix soil and planted the pots for winter survival. Only one problem: I have 56 cultivars planted in the garden which I finished in mid-December; but I have 28 cultivars sitting in pots under my fir trees wintering. I am trying to reduce my garden space but this is a joke. What do I do with these 28?

I don't know how the plants or crops will do this winter as already we have had freezing and thawing with no snow cover. We had a 20 inch snowfall in one day and fully gone in 3 days; crazy weather!

Don McQueen has agreed to try something new in our spring issue. He is going to offer some Iris identification for your unknown irises. Of course there will be some rules. Cell phones do not take good pictures (colour seems to be off). If you change your mailing address or your email address please let us know; either our membership chair or myself. (See inside cover for contacts.)

We are pleased to announce a new member to the board, **Charlie Blakeman**. Welcome aboard Charlie!

I don't know why when some of us supposedly retire, we end up doing more than ever before. I am now making raised garden kits. **Chris Hollnshead** has taken up wine-making and is doing a fine job. I also took on program chair for our local Hort Society;



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

now this keeps me scrambling as to what subjects we have not already heard over the last few years. I have included here some pictures (no names) of some of our future offerings. See all our offerings and descriptions in our next issue.

It's a small world. Since becoming program chair in our local Hort Society, I had an interesting find.

A friend from a neighboring society said you should get this speaker they had. He was something to do with Dilly Dallying in the Dirt; I think his name was Ken Brown but not sure. I went on the computer and googled "Dilly Dallying in the Dirt". I got 15 pages and after searching through 5 I decided this could not be it; seemed more crime and sex content than anything. I added the name Ken Brown and tried again. I found the site almost immediately but it was just "Dallying in The Dirt" I went to the sight it linked me to. There were a great list of subjects; but the different pages open on the site made interesting reading — not all about gardening. To actually get in contact with Ken took some doing. For those of you who get this bulletin electronically try it, but if you want to go to the site directly go to [www.gardening-enjoyed.com](http://www.gardening-enjoyed.com). (But you will have missed the excitement.) I still did not put 2 and 2 together until Ken replied to my email that he recognized me from the Iris Society. If I had been thinking Irises I would have probably put it together, as Ken has purchased Irises from our program for several years. I seem to remember those who purchase when anyone mentions selling of Iris.



Spring is only a month away officially. Happy Gardening!

*Ed Jowett*

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# Musings From Manitoba



By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

**W**arning: weather rant follows. It isn't even February and already I am sick of winter and worried about many garden plants.

There just isn't much snow to be seen. In a 'normal' year we should have around 25 centimeters of snow on the ground. We don't come anywhere close. Environment Canada says 12 centimeters as of yesterday.

The snow in my gardens, however, is lucky to measure 10 centimeters and with the last two thaw events, it is probably less.

We have seen an unprecedented number of days at or above zero degrees so far this winter. Four in December and five in January and almost broke two historical records

for high temperatures. There were also a half dozen in the month with near zero temperatures. But then like a roller coaster it was back to extremely cold. The snow that did fall was mostly blown away. I have seedling beds right now that are without snow cover at all, just several inches of shredded leaves for insulation. They do say iris have to be tough so any seedling survivors will have that going for them. I can only hope that spring comes early and stays, there is no flooding and that iris bloom season will be glorious! That isn't too much to ask, is it?

Once again this year I ordered seed from the British Iris Society's seed exchange. They are currently soaking and after their three month cold treatment in my plant fridge, they will





be ready to be planted directly into the garden in late May or early June. With luck I may just see some seedlings bloom in two years but the majority will probably take three years. But it is still exciting to anticipate what they might look like. My own collected seed, all open pollinated since not a single planned cross took, will be coming out of the fridge next month and any that germinate will be potted and spend the rest of the winter under lights in the basement. More anticipation.

Looking forward, I am very much looking forward to visiting Portland, Oregon for the American Iris Society National in May. I haven't been to one since 2011 in Victoria BC and those judging credentials do have to be kept current, so this is a great way to do it. And since I am already there, I'm staying for the Society for Siberian Iris's event that immediately follows the National. I don't even have to change hotels. All that's left to do is book the flights.

So that's it for this time. All I can think to add is please everyone, think spring.



In Can-West Iris Society news, planning has begun for 2015. Our 8th annual show will be held on Sunday, June 14th at Bourkevale Community Centre in Winnipeg. This year we are considering a design section for the show schedule but this is still being worked out. One week prior to the show, a digging and dividing workshop at the Carberry Gardens about half an hour east of Brandon is planned to provide rhizomes for the show's sale table. CWIS has donated rhizomes left over from our annual members summer sale to the gardens in the past with the understanding that after digging, more rhizomes would be provided to replace them later in the summer. And since we are always looking for ways to interest more people to grow our favourite flower, we decided to make it an educational event for area gardeners. Final details are still being worked out but I am very much looking forward to it. That information will be put up on our website (<http://cwis.webplus.net>) when finalized.



## 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](mailto:cdniris@gmail.com) and we will be pleased to advise you.

Early renewals are always appreciated.

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# Southern Ontario Iris Society

(tentative show schedule)

**Sunday, June 7, 2015**

**1 p.m. through 3:30 p.m.**

**Location: Royal Botanical Gardens  
680 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON**

## Southern Ontario Iris Society

You are invited to join the Southern Ontario Iris Society (SOIS). New members are welcome. The Southern Ontario Iris Society (SOIS) is an affiliate of the Canadian iris Society and also the American Iris Society.

Join us at our next regular event, the annual iris rhizome sale on Sunday, August 9, 2015 at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON. Visitors (non-members) are very welcome at this sale/auction event. This is an opportunity to obtain some of the same beautiful iris on display here today for your own garden. We look forward to seeing you again. Event and membership details are available on the SOIS website: [www.cdn-iris.ca/sois](http://www.cdn-iris.ca/sois)

## Canadian Iris Society

You are invited to join the Canadian Iris Society (CIS). New members are welcome. Membership is open to all persons interested in irises regardless of skills or experience.

Official membership applications and other information will be available at the show or on the CIS website: [www.cdn-iris.ca](http://www.cdn-iris.ca)

## American Iris Society

You are invited to join the American Iris Society (AIS). New members are welcome. AIS Region 2 includes the province of Ontario.

Official membership applications and additional information will be available at the show or on the official AIS website: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)

## **CIS Awards**

### **F.A. Garrity Trophy**

- best iris stalk exhibited in the show

### **W.J. Moffat Trophy**

- best stalk of an unnamed tall bearded iris seedling.

### **Les Richardson Award**

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

### **O.A. Kummer Cup**

- best stalk of a named iris of Canadian origin.

### **Novice Cup**

- awarded to exhibitor winning most points in novice section

### **Junior Trophy**

- awarded to exhibitor winning most points in junior section.

## **AIS Awards**

### **AIS Silver Medal and certificate**

- Most red ribbons Division 1 Sections A-E

### **AIS Bronze Medal and certificate**

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

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

Red - First

Blue - Second

White - Third

Pink - Honorable Mention

### **Exhibition Certificates**

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

## **Show Committee**

Chair: Chris Hollinshead

e-mail: [chrisca@gmail.com](mailto:chrisca@gmail.com)

Co Chair: Ed Jowett

e-mail: [jowettfarm@copper.net](mailto:jowettfarm@copper.net)

## Show Rules

1. The judging standard will be that of the American Iris Society's Judge's Handbook and cannot be violated. The decision of the judges shall be final.

2. Exhibition privileges are open to all, including judges.

3. All horticultural exhibits must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.

4. All entries MUST be staged between 8am and 11am to allow judging to conclude by 1pm. Late entries will be accepted for display purposes only.

5. All entries must be entered under name and in class number specified in the show schedule.

- Containers are furnished by the Society.
- The number of entries by an exhibitor is not restricted, but they may enter only one specimen of each cultivar per division.
- The placement committee will aid the exhibitors correctly identify the appropriate section.
- Cultivars are to be arranged alphabetically in each class to facilitate staging and judging.

6. The show area is open to the public only upon completion of the judging ( approx. 1pm). No one is allowed in the exhibit area excepting the judges, the clerks and the show chairman.

\* Special arrangements can be made for photographers before the show is open to the public, please contact the show chairman.

7. Exhibitors may not remove entries prior to 3:30 pm. Unclaimed entries will be disposed of.

8. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.



The major awards are perpetual and remain the property of the Canadian Iris Society (CIS).

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

## **Classification**

### **Division One: Iris Species**

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

Class 1 Tall Bearded

Class 2 Other Bearded iris

Class 3 Other Iris

Section B: Historic Iris (introduced 30+ years ago)

Class 4 Tall Bearded

Class 5 other bearded Iris

Class 6 other Iris

Section C: Bearded Iris

Class 7 Tall Bearded

Class 8 MDB Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Class 9 SDB Standard Dwarf Bearded

Class 10 IB Intermediate Bearded

Class 11 BB Border Bearded

Class 12 MTB Miniature Tall Bearded

Class 13 other Bearded Iris

Section D: Beardless Iris

Class 14 Siberian iris

Class 15 Japanese iris

Class 16 other beardless iris

Section E: Seedlings

Class 17 Tall Bearded

Class 18 Other Bearded

Class 19 Other Iris

Section F: Novice

Class 20 Tall Bearded

Class 21 Other Bearded

Class 22 Other Iris

Section G: Junior

Class 23 Tall Bearded

Class 24 Other Bearded

Class 25 Other Iris

## **Division Two: Exhibitions**

### **Section H: Collections**

Class 26 Collection of three named Tall Bearded cultivars

Class 27 Collection of three named Siberian cultivars

Class 28 Three blooms or stalks as appropriate, all same species or cultivar.

Not covered in classes 26/27

### **Section I:**

Class 29 Herbaceous perennials and biennials as companions for iris.

Notes: Bulbous irises entered in Class 16 and Class 29 are eligible to receive award ribbons and special section awards. Award ribbons are included in the tally for Silver and Bronze Medal/Certificates, but these entries are not eligible for the “Best Specimen of Show” award.

To determine the Novice Cup and the Junior Trophy, decided by total points, points are awarded as follows:

- **Major Trophy Awards** 10 points
- **Court of Honour** 10 points
- **1st prize (red ribbon)** 5 points
- **2nd prize (blue ribbon)** 3 points
- **3rd prize (white ribbon)** 2 points

\*points are not allocated for any other purpose.

## **JOIN IN THE FUN**

**Bring along your best flower stems**

**The Southern Ontario Iris Society**

**...welcomes you to the 2015 iris show.**

**Enjoy the irises!**



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# 2013 Canadian Hybridizers Update

Compiled by Don McQueen



During 2013, thirty new Canadian Iris were registered with the American Iris Society, all by John McMillen. Three of these new iris were Border Bearded, and the remainder Tall Bearded. All were all introduced by Ann and Bob Granatier's Trails End Iris Gardens, Brantford.



***RUTH'S CHOICE***, registered by Chuck Chapman in 2012, was introduced in 2014 by Chapman Iris, Guelph.

## JOHN McMILLEN - 2013 THIRTY CANADIAN REGISTRATIONS

**John McMillen** of Ingersoll, Ontario, a former owner of McMillen's Iris Gardens in Norwich, began making his crosses in 2006. His 2013 registrants were introduced by Trail's End Iris Garden, Brantford.

### Boarder Bearded

ANGEL DI

FRAGILE DESIGN

SHOUT TO THE WORLD

GLOBE OF LIGHT

HOLD AND BEHOLD

HOPE FOR PEACE

IN PRAYER

### Tall Bearded

AWESOME DAWSON

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

BRIGHT GLOW

BUTTER BOWL

CHAZ'S CHOICE

DANDY DAN

DANGEROUS DI

DEAREST DI

DRAGON'S NEST

ETERNAL BLESSINGS

FIERY CREATOR

JENNA'S JOY

LAVENDER TWIST

LEFT OVER

MARE'S TAILS

MELONAIDE

NORTHERN SUNSHINE

PRIDE OF THE NORTH

RIVERS OF GOLD

SO WHAT

SUNSET IN OXFORD

TWILIGHT IN OXFORD

WHIPPED BUTTER



**ANGEL DI** (John McMillen, R. 2013). Sdlg. 0711. BB, 25-26" (63-66 cm), ML. S. white, very slight blue cast; style arms very light blue; F. white, some green veining; beards white. Clearwater River X Fogbound. Trails End Iris Garden 2013



**SHOUT TO THE WORLD** (John McMillen, R. 2013). Sdlg. 077209. BB, 27" (68 cm), E-M. S. medium grape—purple; style arms purple; F. deep purple, medium grape-purple edge, white haft markings, ruffled; beards bright orange. Deep Dark Secret X Fogbound. Trails End Iris Garden 2013.



**FIERY CREATOR** (John McMillen, R. 2013). Sdlg. 085110. TB, 37" (94 Cm), ML. S. pink, slight peach overlay; style arms peach—pink; F. near—white centers, peach rim; beards red. Savannah Sunset X Fogbound. Trails End Iris Garden 2013.



**GLOBE OF LIGHT** (John McMillen, R. 2013). Sdlg. 086110. TB, 33" (84 cm), ML. S. medium bright lemon-yellow; style arms deeper bright yellow; F. white, medium golden-yellow hafts narrowing to medium yellow edge; beards orange; ruffled. Savannah Sunset X Alpenview. Trails End Iris Garden 2013.



# Book Review: THE IRIS FAMILY, Natural History and Classification

By John Moons



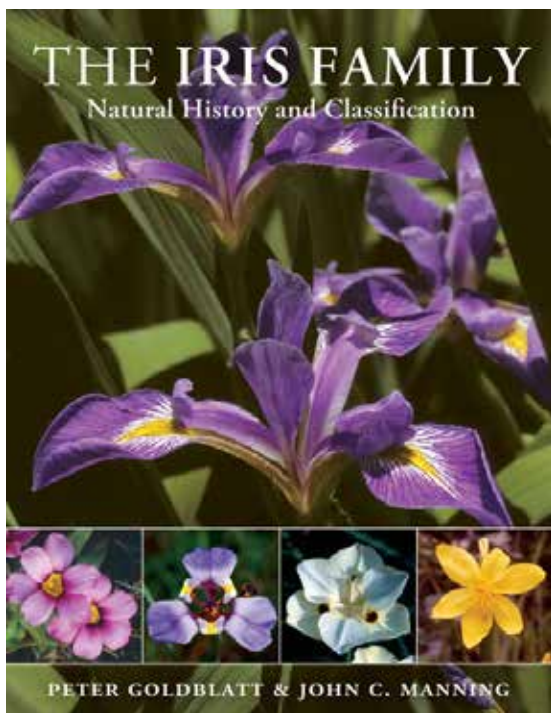
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<b>Authors:</b>	Peter Goldblatt John C. Manning
<b>Publisher:</b>	Timber Press - Portland, London
<b>Year of publishing:</b>	2008
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Size:</b>	Hard cover 28.5 x 22.5 cm 338 pages
<b>Illustrations:</b>	233 colour pictures, 60 pages with black and white drawings
<b>ISBN-13:</b>	978-0-88192-897-6

I still like to go through books to find information when I am preparing to write about a particular topic. So I am always on the lookout for more books. I was happy to receive *The Iris Family* written by Peter Goldblatt and John C. Manning for my birthday this year. It is an interesting book with an incredible amount of information. However, if you are looking for information on Irises as in the genus *Iris* with all of its species, you will be disappointed. There are 168 pages with descriptions of 66 genera and the genus *Iris* gets 4 pages. The book mentions that there are around 280 species of the *Iris*. The book is very scientific. You will find a lot of information on how and why certain plants belong to a specific tribe or genus. A tribe in this context comes after a family and a subfamily, but before a genus. Several genera can belong to one tribe. Several tribes belong to one subfamily.







You can read how difficult it can be to bring order in this big plant family. Flower shape, colour and dimensions are the easiest ways to tell the plants apart but in many cases you need to go to DNA testing and testing for different chemicals that are present in certain plants and not in others, in order to decide what plant belongs to what genus. In this book you will read that the Iridaceae family includes a number of other genera like *Crocospia*, *Crocus*, *Freesia*, *Gladiolus* and *Tigridia*. What I miss in this book is a drawing of the family tree and the place that each subfamily, tribe and genus has in the bigger picture.

The book describes 66 different genera of plants and I recognize only a relatively small number of them. You have to credit the authors with finding the information about all of those plants. If you do not know all the plants mentioned, there are 233 colour pictures of the different plants and flowers described. And a lot of them I would love to have in our garden. Do not feel bad if you do not have those plants. A lot of them belong in Southern Africa and are not hardy in Canada.

The black and white line drawings are very good, but I find the way the text at the bottom refers to the different drawings a bit poor. The text refers to upper left or bottom right but I think it would be easier if they had used letters or numbers. You do get a good sense of dimensions because every picture has the scale mentioned.

At the back of the book there is an extensive index. A long list of literature has been cited. The authors have written a lot about the topic. Peter Goldblatt has 3 pages of books, studies and articles that have been published. There is also a glossary. This is helpful to get a better understanding of the terminology used in the detailed descriptions of plants and flowers found in the body of the book.

Conclusion: If you are growing just a few Irises and you want to find out how to grow them, then this is not your book. If you are interested in finding out how a great number of different plants are related then this book will be useful to you. It is quite scientific but I find it easy to read. Just keep in mind that the book is about the Iris family, not just the genus *Iris* as in your garden *Iris*.





# John C. Wister Medal for Tall Bearded Iris

By Ann Granatier



All the other iris categories award only one medal for each year. The exception is this category, the very popular Tall Bearded (TB) iris. There are now three Wister medals awarded each year beginning in 1998 when the number was increased. Only AIS judges may vote.

**John Caspar Wister**, 1887-1982, was one of America's most highly honoured horticulturists and the namesake of the Wister Medals presented by the American Iris Society to the top 3 tall bearded irises annually.

## Early life

A member of Philadelphia's prominent Wister family, John was the youngest of five children born in 1887 to William Rotch Wister and Mary Rebecca Eustis in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. As a small boy, John followed his family's gardener around their Belfield and Wister Estates, trying to learn anything and everything he could about plants.

Wister was a Landscape Architect. After graduating in 1909 from Harvard University, he continued his studies at Harvard's School of Landscape Architecture, supplemented with courses at the New Jersey Agricultural College. He worked in landscape architecture offices in New York and Philadelphia until he enlisted on July 10, 1917, as a private in the Army.



**John Caspar Wister**



## World War I

Wister was sent to France during World War I. According to letters he wrote to his family during the war, Wister served most of his time in various ordnance departments, being promoted to Sergeant of Ordnance in November 1917. Wister never strayed far from plants and flowers, using his leave time to visit the gardens of Europe and many of the leading horticulturists. He would often send plants back to his friends, the Arthur Hoyt Scotts, noted garden enthusiasts whom he met in 1915. He was honorably discharged on May 10, 1919.

## Horticultural work

Wister led the organizing meetings which culminated in the creation of the American Iris Society in 1920. He served as its first president for 14 years. He was widely recognized as a man of rare management skill, leadership ability and the highest ethical standards. R.S. Sturveyant wrote of him; “probably few members realize that the AIS started through the efforts and initiative of one man, John C. Wister...”

The American Iris Society awarded John Wister the GOLD Medal in 1930 in recognition of his leadership.

During a visit to England in 1922, Wister encouraged many English Friends to establish the British Iris Society. His contribution to the founding of British Iris Society was formally recognized by his election as an honorary member and the award of the Foster Memorial Plaque.

An energetic and self-effacing man, Wister was keenly interested in irises, lilacs, tree peonies, rhododendrons and daffodils as well as many species that are hard to grow or unusual. John Caspar Wister's research in cross-breeding produced hundreds of new hybrid species of common plants and flowers. In addition to the scientific research he performed on plants, he devoted a great deal of his time to sharing his knowledge of plants and the beauty he found in them with those around him. One of his many contributions to local Philadelphia horticulture was the campus of Swarthmore College, where he worked for more than 50 years. In order to recognize the work of Wister's good friends, the Arthur Hoyt Scotts, Swarthmore established the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation and named Wister the foundation's first director in 1930. The Foundation's 240-acre (0.97 km<sup>2</sup>) public garden, with its 5,000 species of trees and shrubs adorns the Swarthmore campus, 40 acres (160,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of which were designed and landscaped by Wister himself. He grouped plant families together within the garden to establish a more practical plan. Swarthmore College awarded Wister an honorary doctor of science degree in 1942 for his work with the college. Wister also operated a landscape architecture business out of the now-demolished Wister Mansion just off of La Salle University's campus in Philadelphia.

In 1946, Wister became the first director of the 600-acre (2.4 km<sup>2</sup>) John J. Tyler Arboretum in Lima, PA, serving as president of both the arboretum and bird sanctuary until 1968. In addition to this organization, he was active in most major scientific and conservation groups and was a member of about 50 horticultural societies and 30

scientific organizations. He served as secretary of the American Rose Society, president and founder of the American Iris Society, and secretary for 24 years of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. He was also intimately connected with the John Bartram Association in Philadelphia.

John Wister was the author of four books: *The Iris*, *Lilac Culture*, *Bulbs for American Gardens* and *Four Seasons in your Garden*.

## Recognition

Wister was the first recipient of four major horticulture awards: the Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal, the Scott Garden and Horticultural Award, the A.P. Saunders Memorial Award from the American Peony Society, and the Honor and Achievement Award from the International Lilac Society. He was honoured for his outstanding work with flowers at the centennial celebration of the founding of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden awarded Wister its Garden Medal for outstanding service in 1966, and in that same year, the Royal Horticultural Society dedicated its Daffodil and Tulip Yearbook to him, making Wister the first American gardener to receive this honor.

The Wister Medal of the American Iris Society, their highest award for a tall-bearded iris, was named in his honour.

## Marriage

Absorbed in flowers and plants, Wister did not marry until the age of 73, when he took as his wife Gertrude Smith, a noted horticulturist. Wister referred to marriage as "the fatal plunge" in one of his wartime letters.

## Death

Wister, considered America's "Dean of Horticulturists", died on December 27, 1982, at his home in Swarthmore. He was 95 years old. At the time of his death, Wister was director emeritus of both the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation and The John J. Tyler Arboretum

One of John C. Wister's endearing qualities was his modesty. He always denied that he was the founder of the American Iris Society, saying that it was the work of many people. Of himself, he said, "but I know I'm just an ordinary fellow who happened to come along at the right time." "An ordinary fellow he was not. We all owe him a great deal of gratitude. John C. Wister, to a remarkable degree, created the American Iris Society's traditions." Clarence C. Mahan

## References

1. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Caspar\\_Wister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Caspar_Wister)
2. [wiki.irises.org](https://www.irises.org/MainWeb/AdmAll/IrisInfo) › Main Web › AdmAll › IrisInfo
3. [www.irises.org/pdf/TB-WisterMedal.pdf](https://www.irises.org/pdf/TB-WisterMedal.pdf)

PHOTO source: [wiki.irises.org](https://www.irises.org/MainWeb/AdmAll/IrisInfo) › Main Web › AdmAll › IrisInfo

List of Wister Medal winners - Tall Bearded (TB) Irises:



'Absolute Treasure'  
2013 - Richard Tasco



'Elizabethan Age'  
2013 - Lowell Baumunk



'Ink Patterns'  
2013 - Thomas Johnson



'Gypsy Lord'  
2012 - Keith Keppel



'Kathy Chilton'  
2012 - Frederick Kerr



'Chief John Jolly'  
2012 - Tom Parkhill



'Florentine Silk'  
2011 - Keith Keppel



'That's All Folks'  
2011 - W. Maryott By J. Ghio



'Tour De France'  
2011 - Keith Keppel

2010 - 'Crackling Caldera' - T. Aitken ; 'Decadence' - B. Blyth ; 'Wintry Sky' - K. Keppel.

2009 - 'Drama Queen' - K. Keppel ; 'Italian Ice' - A. & D. Cadd ; 'Paul Black' - T. Johnson ; 'Slovak Prince' - A. Mego.

2008 - 'Heartstring Strummer' - B. Jones ; 'Hollywood Nights' - R. Duncan ; 'Millennium Falcon' - B. Kasperek.

2007 - 'Daughter Of Stars' - D. Spoon ; 'Ring Around Rosie' - R. Ernst ; 'Starring' - J. Ghio.

2006 - 'Golden Panther' - R. Tasco ; 'Happenstance' - K. Keppel ; 'Queen's Circle' - F. Kerr.

2005 - 'Fogbound' - K. Keppel ; 'Sea Power' - K. Keppel ; 'Uncle Charlie' - D. Spoon.

2004 - 'Poem Of Ecstasy' - B. Hager ; 'Splashacata' - R. Tasco ; 'World Premier' - Schreiner.

2003 - 'Crowned Heads' - K. Keppel ; 'Diabolique' - Schreiner ; 'Tom Johnson' - P. Black.

2002 - 'Gypsy Romance' - Schreiner ; 'Jurassic Park' - L. Lauer ; 'Local Color' - K. Keppel.

2001 - 'Fancy Woman' - K. Keppel ; 'Pond Lily' - E. Jones ; 'Spirit World' - K. Keppel.

2000 - 'Celebration Song' - Schreiner's ; 'Clarence' - L. Zurbrigg ; 'Mesmerizer' - M. Byers.

1999 - 'Boogie Woogie' - H. Nichols ; 'Rhonda Fleming' - R. Mullin ; 'Stairway To Heaven' - L. Lauer.

1998 - 'Conjuration' - M. Byers ; 'Hello Darkness' - Schreiners ; 'Yaquina Blue' ; Schreiners.

1997 - 'Acoma' - T. Magee

1996 - 'Thornbird' - M. Byers

1995 - 'Before The Storm' - S. Innerst

1994 - 'Honky Tonk Blues' - Schreiners

1993 - 'Silverado' - Schreiners



# Winter 2015 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](mailto:cdniris@gmail.com).*

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**H**appy New Year wishes to all of our gardening friends. Are you ready to go ahead and launch into another gardening/iris season? I have no doubt of the answer. At this time of the year "cabin fever" is the order of the day for many people. This I feel is a rather a good thing, as the deprivation renews our enthusiasm for all things gardening big time.

I will soon be starting my annual compilation of all the new iris catalogues for 2015 to see what new irises are available for this year. There is always something special to keep your eye on and potentially add to the garden. You are probably thinking along the same lines. My advice is to keep it reasonably under control; there are a lot of irises out there. If you go slower on the acquisitions you will learn to appreciate what you have, and take some time to learn to grow good healthy plants. Properly grown these irises will perform for you and put on a great show no matter whether they are the latest 2014-2015 iris introductions or a classic iris from 30 years ago. Some of them are still quite excellent.

One of these older classic irises is *Mary Frances*. This is a variety of Tall Bearded iris that was introduced in 1973 by noted hybridizer **Larry Gaulter**. I have had this variety for many years and this light purple beauty still graces our garden every year. We love it and look forward to seeing it each year.

The written description of this iris: *Mary Frances* was hybridized by Larry Gaulter and introduced in 1973. color style: self, height: 38 inches, color: lavender-orchid, bloom season: mid-season, fragrant: Yes, rebloom trait: No AIS Awards: HM 1974, AM 1976, Dykes Medal 1979.

Hybridizer Larry Gaulter endorsed this lovely light blue-orchid self as his finest seedling. We would agree with that assessment. So would some others as this tall bearded





iris took the highest iris award of the AIS in 1979, the prestigious Dykes Medal. This iris has an overall color of light lavender, white beards, lightly touched with yellow sit atop the wide and nicely flaring white-centered falls. The standards close gently into a round wavy top. *Mary Frances* provides a long season of bloom on nicely branched stems.

So taking some of my own advice in regards to the growing and plantings, I am planning to renovate and enlarge a couple of my dedicated iris gardens this year; it will very likely be a season long project. My goal is that I want to grow irises with extra space around them. The reason for this is that if they are not so crowded the plants will be generally more robust and healthy, thus showing better when in bloom. The extra space allows for better sun exposure and air movement. Especially when we have extended humid or rainy spells, this equates to less disease such as leaf spot or potential rhizome rot. When my project is complete, the target is to perhaps end up with the same total number of irises spread over more area. A limited number of special new additions will also have their place. How could I not have any additions?

Additionally, I am particularly looking forward to this gardening season as we have removed a large tree from the garden that cast a lot of shade. The tree was severely damaged in the terrible ice storm we had in our area in December 2013. Almost every large branch was broken but still remained hanging attached to the tree so that it looked somewhat like a gigantic broken umbrella! Looking at the positive side of this situation the extra hours of direct sunlight to the irises will be very beneficial. So this works in perfectly with my goal for this year, growing strong healthy plants. The beautiful flowers will naturally follow in bloom season.

Now I have remarked upon and shown you “something old”, *Mary Frances*. Now it’s time for “something new”, so here is a description and a photo of a brand new 2015 iris introduction from hybridizer Paul Black in Oregon.



*Mary Frances*



### ***Affair to Remember***

***Affair to Remember*** (Paul Black 2015) TB Early-Late 37" (94cm) The picture doesn't do it justice. The form is tighter and fuller than the picture indicates. ***Affair to Remember*** is a redder version of its parent, ***Montmartre***, and has sparkling, bright yellow laced edges. Show stalks have 4 well-spaced branches and 9-10 buds. Growth is strong, vigorous and hardy. An abundance of stalks insure a memorable performance in your garden. ***Love and Devotion*** X ***Montmartre***. ***Affair to Remember*** is already a favorite within the hybridizers garden having been observed for a number of years prior to its introduction in 2015. A very nice, super strong grower with big showy flowers on excellent stems.

...and one more new one for you. See how hard it is to stop!

This next one is a Standard Dwarf Bearded iris (SDB), one of my favorite types of irises. These short little plants always put on an awesome bloom show and clump up very nicely in a year or two. This new 2015 introduction is again from Mid-America Gardens, this time from **Thomas Johnson** and is called ***Valedictorian***.

**Valedictorian** (Thomas Johnson 2015) SDB. Another iris hybridizer recently said to me that they would like SDB's more if the colors weren't so dull. He must not have seen some of the more modern cultivars because they are anything but dull. This one here is truly the closest color to neon that I have seen in an iris. Extremely bright.

Well I will sign off now, the time remaining to spring will go by quickly and the spring bulbs will be popping up before you know it! This past autumn I have put in a number of new crocus, tulips and daffodils to launch the season earlier and give us some good color leading into the iris bloom season.

Iris friends, stay warm over the remaining winter and get set for next gardening season!

...and as always, happy garden digging. C.H January-February 2015

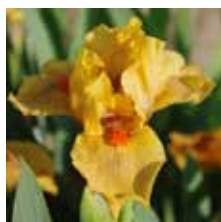


**Valedictorian**



# COMING SOON . . .





# Join the American Iris Society

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

Send payment to:

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

Phone and Fax: 386-277-2057

Email: [aismemsec@irises.org](mailto:aismemsec@irises.org)

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



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

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

Norine Veal [nsveal@aol.com](mailto:nsveal@aol.com)

30 Franklin Park East, Rockville, CT 06066

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

Judy Tucholski-Zon [irisjudy@aol.com](mailto:irisjudy@aol.com)

138 Cresthaven Dr, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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

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

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

Ron Cosner [keighley15@msn.com](mailto:keighley15@msn.com)

328 Central Ave SE, Lemars, IA 51031

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



# Coming Dates to Remember

## 2015 Board Meeting Dates

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

## 2015 Publication Dates

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 June 7, 2015                      S.O.I.S Show & Picnic
- Show at the Royal Botanical Gardens  
Setup 9.00 – 10.55  
Judging 11.00 – 1.00  
Open to Public 1.00 – 3.30
  - Picnic and BBQ at Trails End Gardens  
Bring your pot luck and join us 4.00 -  
Burgers and Dogs supplied

- 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](mailto:chuck@chapmaniris.com)  
Website: [www.chapmaniris.com](http://www.chapmaniris.com)  
On-line catalogue: \$3.00

## **Tara Perennial Farm**

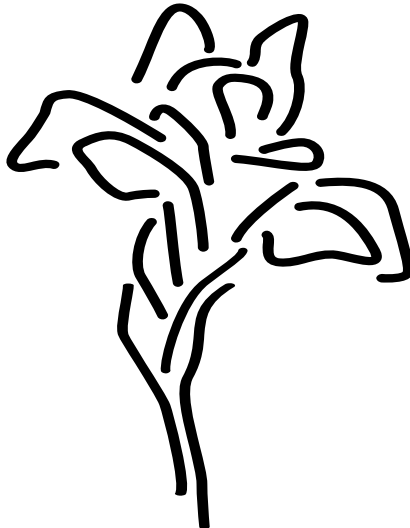
123 Concession # 6, RR2  
Tara, ON N0H 2N0  
Call for availability/price list  
Marion Kuhl 519-934-3447  
Website: [www.taraperennialfarm.com](http://www.taraperennialfarm.com)

## **Erin Mills Iris Garden/ Chris Hollinshead**

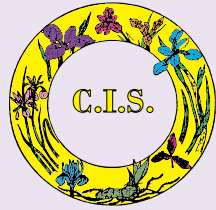
3070 Windwood Drive, Mississauga,  
Ontario L5N 2K3 Canada  
Email: [erinmillsiris@gmail.com](mailto:erinmillsiris@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.cdn-iris.ca/erinmills](http://www.cdn-iris.ca/erinmills)

## **Trails End Iris Gardens**

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



## Liaisons and Regions



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

Ted Baker, 185 Furness Rd.,  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7  
ph: 250-653-4430 [www.bc-iris.org](http://www.bc-iris.org)

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

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

### **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](mailto:cdniris@gmail.com)

### **London Region Iris Society**

Gloria McMillen, PO Box 385, Otterville, ON N0J 1R0  
ph: 519 532-2364 email: [gmcmlen@execulink.com](mailto:gmcmlen@execulink.com)  
Please inquire for membership and group activities.

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

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

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



Walker Ross

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