Canadian Iris Society cis newsletter

Winter 2016 Volume 60 Issue 1



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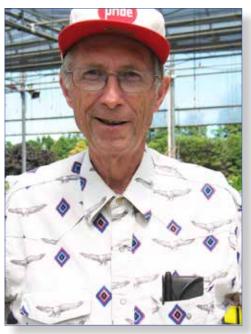
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Cover Photo: *'Gypsy Lord'* (Keith Keppel, registered 2005, introduced 2006). TB, height 40" (102 cm), mid to late season bloom. Standards blue white; style arms blue white, lavender tip; falls blue violet marbled wash and wire rim on paler blue, white center and hafts veined violet; beards paprika. 'Last Laugh' X 95-52C: ('Braggadocio' x 'Romantic Evening'). Keppel 2006. AIS Awards: HM-Honorable Mention 2008; Franklin Cook Cup 2008; AM-Award of Merit 2010; Wister Medal 2012; Dykes Medal 2015. (photo Rick Tasco, Superstition Iris Garden)

President's Report

By Ed Jowett

s I ponder what to write about I cannot think of much. I don't know if it's the crazy weather we have had this winter that I have no enthusiasm for spring or not. As I write this the temperature is not too bad but some days with it in the deep minuses and the next in low pluses. Just don't think much of anything. Give me a good old fashioned winter with lots of snow and steady temperatures. Today we have about 1/2 inch of frozen crusted snow and lots of ice on walked-on or driven pathways. Ice pellets, snow and freezing rain all in the same day, just crazy and when you are out there driving for a living not very pleasant.



Don McQueen has given us an update on our Canadian hybridizers in this issue but will return to his Iris identification in the next issue.

We are having a few AIS happenings this year close to home for Ontario. As for CIS we will continue with our purchase program this year. I have included a listing in this issue but the full catalogue with pricing will be in the next issue. We have to wait for confirmation as this crazy weather could change things (since last fall) before we finalize the listing. These are all Ontario grown plants so they should be hardy for our Canadian climate

I wonder if any of our members are interested in "Reticulata's" since they are now available in Canada and in fairly large quantities. Maybe we could setup a purchase program. Feedback is the only way we know. I sometimes wonder how many people really read this bulletin or if is just another sit on the shelf piece of paper or computer store-all. I have a couple I know read it cover to cover because they find my typos etc. And I appreciate them for this. Maybe I should get them as proof readers.

I have tried to contact the British Iris Society but have not been able to get a reply so I don't know if they are like a lot of organizations loosing bodies and so fall out of sight.

They had a couple of good articles in their year book I wanted to republish but will not without their permission.

If anyone has any ideas for our bulletin or articles they would like to pass on or see please let me know.

I am pleased to see some of SOIS members have volunteered already to help the GNYIR with their fall conference. Step up people – volunteer and lets show the region a real good conference they will remember.

I mentioned in the last bulletin about putting some slide presentations together, well I have 2: one on the story of iris could be used for promotion or just a meeting topic; the other nothing to do with Iris specifically "Raised Garden Beds". If any one has any interest let me know. According to the definition I found for a raised garden I bet many of you have raised garden beds and don't realize it.

A raised garden bed is any garden made on top of the native soil and can be made up of native soil or other mixture(s). That means native soil is not disturbed but just place soils on top. Not what I really look for in a raised bed; but why do I want the raised bed.

I see where New York State has banned the Yellow Flag (iris pseudacorus) calling it an invasive species. This is what happens when we start to neglect and let nature take over.

Iris Buy Trade or Sell

Variety	Type	Year Intro	STW	Contact	Photo
Blackberry Jubilee	SIB	1997	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Crème Caramel	SIB	2003	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Harmony Hill	SIB	2004	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Just Cruising	SIB	2001	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Roaring Jelly	SIB	1992	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Υ
Ruffled Romp	SIB	2007	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Salamander Crossing	SIB	1999	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Sapphire Royale	SIB	1999	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Summer Revels	SIB	1999	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Three Hand Star	SIB	2001	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Υ
Tree of Songs	SIB	2006	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y
Uncorked	SIB	2002	S/T	jowettfarm@copper.nt	Y

Ed Jowett



Musings From Manitoba

By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

t's winter and its Manitoba. And what a strange one it has been. With above normal temperatures throughout autumn there was concern that there might not be snow for Christmas

On December 9th it was over 11 degrees in Brandon and absolutely no snow on the ground. One week later we received our first significant snow fall so those worries were put to rest and about 3 inches blanketed the gardens of SW MB. That

same event dropped a full 18 inches on the eastern part of the province.

A week or so later we received another 3 inches and again the east got more than a foot of snow. Small, minor snowfalls added maybe two more inches in January so that the statistics showed snow on the ground of just under 8 inches. Then came the last week of January with record setting warm temperatures yet again. Temperatures of 3, 5, and 4 degrees above zero were recorded as well as a few days of at or just under zero with the result that as of January 31st, many iris tips (primarily on the SDBs and MDBs) had started to show above the remaining snow.

And a seedling bed by the house was completely snow free! That is definitely not normal weather here. Today it is snowing lightly and hopefully it will last as we head into the shortest month of the year that feels the longest.

And that's it for this time where once again the weather is the primary topic of conversation next to the economy

Think spring everyone. It is going to be a heck of a roller coaster ride!



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In CWIS news, the down turn in the Canadian economy has had repercussions on our 2016 plans. We had hoped to bring in a guest judge from the U.S. for our 9th annual show which is scheduled for Sunday, June 12th in Winnipeg, but with the dollar at its current level, we could not justify the extra costs. A friend in the banking community has commented that it is going to get worse before it gets better, so we will wait to do that another year.

The issue of providing judges training for areas where it is not currently easily accessible is being looked at and Region 21 (of which we are part) is investigating possible distance education opportunities. But we can't wait since two of our three judges require the continuing education sessions now so we are going to be doing several sessions prior to the advent of spring while we await the arrival of materials from the AIS Judges Training Committee chairperson that will allow us to do an additional five sessions. We also have our first new candidate for judgeship in our short history who has just signed on and she will begin her training as we refresh ours. I don't know if this is an issue in other regions but it really has been a trial for us.

Another initiative we are looking at for 2016 is the possibility of reaching out to our members in the other provinces. About 30 per cent of our membership reside outside Manitoba so we are looking at ways we can do something for them. Lots of different ideas are being floated around amongst members and the CWIS executive. It is an expensive proposition so we shall see what comes of it.

Southern Ontario Iris Society

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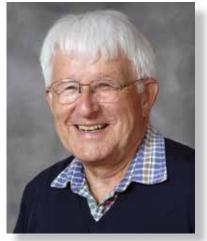


Canadian Iris Hybridizers Update

Compiled by Don McQueen
2014 CANADIAN REGISTRATIONS

uring 2014 nine new Canadian Iris were registered with the American Iris Society, all by Chuck Chapman. Six of these new iris were Standard Dwarf Bearded, two were Tall Bearded, and one Intermediate Bearded. All were introduced by Chapman Iris, Guelph.

ROSEMARY BROWN,(MTB) registered by Chuck Chapman in 2012, was introduced in 2014 by Chapman Iris, Guelph.



CHAPMAN, CHUCK GUELPH, ON 2014: 9 BURN NOTICE (SDB) COLD FRONT (TB) ERAMOSA OJ (SDB) ERAMOSA PEACH SORBET (TB) ERAMOSA STONE WASHED (IB) IN THE ZONE (SDB) MAGNETO (SDB) SULU-ST (SDB)

Descriptions are from the AIS Registrations and Introductions in 2014); all photos by Chuck Chapman.

1. *BURN NOTICE* (Chuck Chapman, R.2014). Sdlg. 07-107-1. SDB, 13" (33 cm), E-M. S. very heavy toffee-brown plicata markings on yellow ground; style arms light tan-brown; F. Heavy toffee-brown plicata stitching on intense yellow ground; beards orange; slight floral fragrance.

Didgeridoo X 01-B26-1; (96-111-1: (Tweety Bird x El Torito sib) x unknown).

Chapman Iris 2014.

2. *ERAMOSA PEACH SORBET* (Chuck Chapman, R.2014). Sdlg. 03-521-1. TB, 37" (94 cm), E-M-L. S. white, pink blush in centre; style arms light peach; F. peach-orange, white lines radiating from beards, narrow white rim; beards coral; slight floral fragrance.

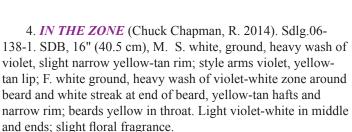
Frontier Lady X 92-L-4, unknown. Chapman Iris 2014.



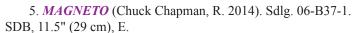


3. *ERAMOSA STONE WASHED* (Chuck Chapman, R.2014). Sdlg. 06-064-1. IB, 22" (56 cm), E-M-L S. heavy wash of lavender-blue on white ground; style arms lavender-blue; F. same as standards; beards lavender-blue, lightly tipped bronze; slight sweet fragrance.

Summoned Spirit X Double Dribble. Chapman Iris 2014.



Invisible X Summoned Spirit. Chapman Iris 2014.



S. solid neon red-violet on white ground; style arms violetred; F. Red-violet on white ground, violet lines around white area at beard brown hafts, yellow rim; beard hairs based lightblue violet, tips bronze.

Paradigm Shift X unknown. Chapman Iris 2014.

6. *SULU-ST* (Chuck Chapman, R. 2014). Sdlg. 07-411+1. SDB, 12" (30.5 cm), E-M.

S. Near solid bright yellow with a green tint on white ground, green veining heavier at midrib; style arms yellow; F. white ground, dotted and splashed bright yellow tinted green, darker at hafts, white speckles extending from beard; beard hairs based white, tips yellow; slight sweet fragrance.

Parentage unknown.

7. *ERAMOSA OJ* (Chuck Chapman, R. 2014) Sdlg. 06-264-B1. SDB, 11.5" (29 cm), Midseason bloom. Peach-orange self; beards solid coral-red; slight sweet fragrance. 03-014-1: ('Tingle' x 'Coral Carpet') X 'Peach Cooler'. Gardenimport 2013.











8. *FOREVER ROYAL* (Chuck Chapman, R. 2014) Sdlg. 07-158-2. SDB, 16" (41 cm), Early bloom and rebloom. Standards royal purple; style arms lavender-purple, purple stigmatic crest; Falls royal purple; beards purple-blue. 'Autumn Jester' X 'Forever Blue'.



9. *COLD FRONT* (Chuck Chapman, R. 2014) Sdlg. 03-580. TB, 34" (86 cm), Midseason bloom. Standards light lilacviolet darker towards midrib and base; style arms mid blueviolet; Falls light blue-violet; beards coral-red in throat and middle, blue-violet ends; slight sweet fragrance. 'Fogbound' X 'Silk Romance'. TBIS 2013.

Chapman Iris 2014.





Send us your articles

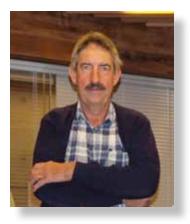
The editor would appreciate contributions to the newsletter from the general membership. If you have news of an Iris event; or looking for a particular variety or type of Iris; growing or cultivation advice, let us know. If you have plants to sell or anything you would like to share, please do so. Send 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.)



Iris missouriensis

By John Moons

he Iris missouriensis is native to western North America. In the genus Iris you will find it in the subgenus Limniris section Limniris. This section has 16 series and one of them is Longipetalae. This series has just 2 species, Iris longipetala and Iris missouriensis. The missouriensis is also called Rocky Mountain Iris, western blue flag and Missouri flag.



This Iris was first described and named by **Thomas Nuttall** (1786-1859) in the *Journal of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences* in 1834. The specimens were collected by **Nathaniel Wyeth** who was a traveler and trader. He found them on his first continental journey in 1832-1833 close to the sources of the Missouri River. **William Herbert** offered a few other names in 1839 but they are now all synonyms. Some synonyms are: iris arizonica Dykes, Iris longipetala var. Montana Baker, Iris montana Nutt. Ex Dykes, Iris pariensis S.L. Welsh, Iris pelogonus Goodd, Iris tolmieana Herb. and Limniris missouriensis (Nutt) Rodion.

This Iris has caused a lot of confusion. The species is quite variable. Some people have tried to consider some of the plants separate species but officially the literature considers this plant to be a single species with a diverse morphology.

It has been found in a big geographical area. To the north it is found in Alberta and British Columbia. From Washington, Oregon and California in the west, you can find it in the Dakota's, Colorado, New Mexico, even into Mexico. It is not found in the state of Missouri

It can be found in big colonies. In Arizona a patch of missouriensis has been found that is 40 m. across which seems to be one plant. This plant is more robust than others in the neighbourhood. All of the seeds of this plant seem to be sterile so the plant is able to put all of its energy into vegetative growth.

The plants grow from low elevations up to 3,000 m. high. The missouriensis needs a good amount of moisture during the flowering season but it has to be followed by hot dry weather so that it gets a required time of rest. It will grow along creeks and in wet spots or meadows as long as these places dry up in the summer. In the summer, the area where it grows may look like a piece of the desert, but in the spring it will be full of Irises. The missouriensis loses its leaves in the summer. Ranchers don't like these plants. Animals don't eat them but will eat the grass around the Irises so that when the Iris seed is ripe there is not a lot of competition from the grass. Thus the Iris spreads easily.

The missouriensis has a rhizome that is 20-30 mm thick. The leaf colour is greygreen. The flower stems stand straight up, 25-60 cm tall, hairless, and are sometimes branched. The floral stems may have one or two leaves on them. There are 1-4 flowers facing upwards on each flower stem. The flower colour is pale blue to deep blue but the colours can be mauve or white. Even yellow flowers have been reported but they are rare. The lighter colours might have veining in the falls. The albas have a golden throat but little veining. The flowers are 6-7 cm. across. The falls are spread out horizontally with the ends bent down a bit. The falls are 25 mm. wide. The standards stand in a 60 degree angle and have a darker colour than the falls. The standards are about 12 mm. wide.

The fruit is a capsule with 6 chambers and 3-5 cm. long with a diameter of 12-20 mm. Each capsule has from 20 to 80 seeds. The seeds germinate easily. According to Norman Deno, the seeds need light to germinate so do not plant the seeds too deep.

Divisions can be made in the fall after the rains have started or in the spring after the danger of frost has passed. Sometimes it is a good idea to make divisions both in the fall and in the spring. The plants will grow in a sandy to loamy soil. The pH should be 6-7. The plants do best in full sun. The plants need plenty of water until flowering time and after that dry conditions. If the summers are too wet and cool, the plant will flower poorly. It will grow in USDA Zones 5-8. The plants are said to be short lived so it is best to divide every few years. When I looked for places where I can buy the missouriensis I found that only seeds are offered. It is very hard to find places that sell cultivars

A few names of cultivars are:

Bluebird, Camas Blue, Claude Bar, Miss Peacock, Miss Pink Dove, Snow Bird.

Tollong is a cross of the missouriensis with Iris longipetala and has been around for 100 years.

A few other facts about the missouriensis:

In north-western California the natives used the single silky fiber taken from each margin of the leaf to make a very light and strong rope. This Iris is said to have a number of medicinal uses. Some are questionable because the plant is quite poisonous.

Books used for this article:

- The Iris Book by Molly Price, Van Nostrand 1966
- Rare Wild Flowers of North America by Leonard Wiley, Published by author, Portland Oregon 1969
- Irises by Pamela McGregor and Allison Nicoll, Firefly 2001
- Several issues of *SIGNA*, a publication of the Species Iris Study Group of the American Iris Society
- Seed Germination; Theory and Practice, Second Edition by Norman C.Deno, Published by author 1993



Southern Ontario Iris Society

Presents:

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 14, 2016 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

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

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

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

Co Chair: Ed Jowett

e-mail: 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!

Going East in 2016

The American Iris Society Convention Registration Form





Going East in 2016

The American Iris Society Convention Registration May 23-28, 2016

Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel
Newark Liberty International Airport
1 Hotel Road, Newark, NJ, 07114

Contact the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel

Phone: 973-623-0006

1-800-MARRIOTT (1.800.627.7468) and ask for the "American Iris Society event" rate of \$114. Reservations must be made by Monday, May 2, 2016. Hotel room reservations are separate from Convention Registrations!

Please complete and mail this form so that it arrives no later than May 15, 2016. Registrations will be acknowledged by e-mail. You will receive a packet with additional information, name tags, and event tickets at check-in

PLEASE PRINT – Fill out one form per person attending. Name to appear on name badge:	person attending.		
Address:			
City:	State:	_ Zip:	
hone: E-mail:		AIS F	AIS Region

IF POSTMARKED	BEFORE	Feb 1-Apr 30,	AFTER	TOTAL
	Feb 1, 2016	2016	Apr 30, 2016	
Full Adult Registration	\$299	\$310	\$325	
Includes Welcome Reception, Awards Banquet, Garden Tours, Judges Training and Convention Book	nquet, Garden Tour	s, Judges Training a	nd Convention Book	

Visit the AIS Convention website for more information: www.ais2016convention.com.

GEEK DINNER: Registration for the Geek Dinner should be made to Joanne Prass-Jones, 35572 Linda Drive,

Fremont, CA 94536 joanne@usjoneses.com.

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



www.terragreenhouses.com

Spuria Irises and their Hollywood Hybridizer

Complied by Ann Granatier

he Eric Nies Medal is the highest American Iris Society award given strictly to a spuria Iris. The Eric Nies Medal is actually a plaque. This medal is restricted to spuria (SPU) irises. It is named in honor of Eric Nies (1884-1952).

Eric Nies was born in Saugatuck, Michigan, the son of Dutch immigrants and was one of thirteen children. He graduated with a BS degree from Michigan State College, where he was a star pitcher on the baseball team. In 1913, he and his wife Grace moved to Los Angeles, California, where he taught high school botany and agriculture for many years. He was a man who was praised for his beautiful singing voice, his wit and his charm. As a supervisor of an elementary school's agricultural center in Los Angeles, he became interested in irises of all types. He obtained his first spuria irises from Jennett Dean, who operated one of the first iris specialist nurseries in the U.S. Spurias were his special interest. His first cross was with I. orientalis with 'Monspur'. He interbred seedlings from this cross, and in the second generation there was a virtual explosion of color: blue, lavender, brown, bronze and



Eric Nies

cream. Some of these early cultivars, the forerunners of great advances in spuria irises, are 'Bronzspur', 'Saugatuck', and 'Azure Dawn'.

He "received numerous awards and honors for his iris, on both the local and national levels. These included eleven Honorable Mentions and four Awards of Merit from the American Iris Society. One of the latter, presented to "*Bronzspur*," had the distinction of being the first AIS Award of Merit ever given to a Spuria; another, awarded to "*Orchid Sprite*," was the first AIS Award of Merit ever won by a Pacific Coast native iris."

Eric Nies goal was to develop, "a well-formed, reasonably tall blue Spuria," that he could use as a landscape architect, but that didn't deter him from producing and introducing was seems to be the first brown Spuria, '*Bronzspur*'.'

In 1933 Eric Nies joined the AIS, helping to establish the Southern California Iris Society (still functioning today), and the Annual Hollywood Iris Show. Imagine that, an iris show around the glamour and seduction of those Hollywood days. Because he lived in the heart of Hollywood, entertainment stars were part of his irisfan base and more so, after he named at least one of his bearded irises after one of them. The Hollywood Citizen News for April 21, 1944 reads, "Iris Named For Actress"



Eric Nies Medal

Marion Walker, who took over some of Eric Nies' work after his passing, said in the 1952 Bulletin, "His interest in botany led to his becoming an outstanding landscape architect. He had an exceptional love of beautiful flowers and plants, especially the delicately textured ones such as the bearded iris."

From the Bulletin of the American Iris Society #141 (April 1656) 36-39: "Although the catalogues of one of the pioneer commercial growers in Southern California, Mrs. Jennett Dean of the Moneta Gardens, offered Spuria hybrids for use in perennial borders, it was not until a chance break caught the attention of Eric Nies in the late 1930s and started him on a serious breeding program, that interest in this member of the iris family was revived. The species ochroleuca had been planted generously in home gardens and estates for its foliage accent and wealth of bloom in season, but the use of the newer hybrids has been a slow but steady climb into popularity. At present time Spurias are being used in planted coves along the freeways leading to the heart of Los Angeles, and in greater number in the parks and in private gardens. Interest in them has spurred the members of the Southern California Iris Society to grow all the available species in that section... The standard of perfection as set by Eric Nies for himself and now followed by others has improved the offerings.

Even during his lifetime, Nies was recognized as the foremost breeder of spuria irises in the world. Ironically, the American Iris Society awarded the Hybridizer's Medal to Eric Nies in 1952. He never knew he had received it though, since he died in January of the same year.

Marion Walker wrote as part of a published obituary, "He was looking forward to 1956, when the AIS [National Convention] is scheduled for Los Angeles, with the keenest anticipation, and had been exhorting the local growers to place more emphasis in their plantings on the native varieties for that event."

Marion Walker took over his seedlings and breeding lines after he died in 1952. One of the Nies cultivars introduced by Walker is '*Driftwood*', which is chocolate-brown with a gold flush. It won the Nies Award in 1959.

In 2002 the Nies/Walker Spuria cultivar, '*Driftwood*' received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.



Nies/Walker Spuria cultivar, 'Driftwood'

List of Eric Nies Award winners - Spuria (SPU) Irises:

In 1993 the first Eric Nies Medal was awarded, Previously the Eric Nies Award was equivalent to an Award of Merit. Note that most classifications within the AIS Awards System began with Award of Merit (AM) equivalent Awards, later elevated to Medal status. At this transition, previous Award winners from a specified period of time recompeted for the higher Medal honors. Thus there are some duplicate entries (*).

References:-

- http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoMedalEricNies
- American Iris Society :-History By Clarence Mahan
- A Hollywood Hybridizer By Andi Rivarola with excerpts from The Eric Nies Chronicle

Eric Nies Award of Merit (AM) equivalent Awards (Prior to 1993):

1992 - 'Dress Circle' - B. Hager

1991 - 'Highline Coral' - E. McCown

1990 - 'Cinnamon Stick' (*) - D.

Niswonger

1989 - 'Destination' - B. Hager

1988 - 'Janice Chesnik' - E. McCown

1987 - 'Son Of Sun' (*) - F.

Wickenkamp

1986 - 'Betty Cooper' (*) - E. McCown

1985 - 'Imperial Gold' - E. McCown

1984 - 'Adobe Sunset' - E. McCown

1983 - 'Highline Honey' - E. McCown

1982 - 'Fergy's Poetry' - W. Ferguson

1981 - 'Imperial Ruby' - E. McCown 1980 - 'Buttered Chocolate' - D.

Niswonger

1979 - 'Ila Crawford' - B. Hager

1978 - 'Clarke Cosgrove' - B. Hager

1977 - 'Proverb' - W. Ferguson

1976 - 'Forty Carats' - W. Ferguson

1975 - 'Imperial Bronze' - E. McCown

1974 - 'Marilyn Holloway' - B. Hager

1973 - 'Archie Owen' - B. Hager

1972 - 'Port Of Call' - B. Hager

1971 - 'Highline Lavender' - E.

McCown

1970 - 'Baritone' - W. Ferguson

1969 - 'Connoisseur' - B. Hager

1968 - 'Dawn Candle' - W. Ferguson

1967 - 'Elixir' - B. Hager

1966 - 'Wakerobin' - W. Ferguson

1965 - 'Morningtide' - Walker

1964 - 'Thrush Song' - W. Ferguson

1963 - 'Golden Lady' - R. Combs

1962 - 'Cherokee Chief' - E. Nies

1961 - 'Dutch Defiance' - E. Nies

1960 - 'Lark Song' - E. Nies

1959 - 'Driftwood' - Walker

1958 - 'White Heron' - Milliken

1957 - 'Sunny Day' - H. Sass

1956 - 'Wadi Zem-Zem' - Milliken

Eric Nies Award Winners (Since 1993)

'Missouri Morning' 2015 - David Miswonger

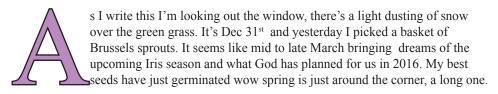




'Solar Fusion' 'Speeding Star' 'Missouri Dreamland' 'Missouri Autumn' 2012 - Lee Walker 2011 - Anna & David Cadd 2010 - David Niswonger 2009 - David Niswonger 'Elfin Sunshine' 'Missouri Orange' 'Missouri Iron Ore' 'Adriatic Blue' 2008 - Charles Jenkins 2005 - David Niswonger 2007 - David Niswonger 2006 - David Niswonger 'Missouri Rainbows' 'Missouri Sunset' 'Sunnise In Missouri' 'Missouri Springs' 2004 - David Niswonger 2003 - David Niswonger 2002 - David Niswonger 2001 - David Niswonger 'lla Remembered' 'Sultan's Sash' 'Missouri Rivers' 'Countess Zeppelin' 2000 - Ben Hager 1999 - David Niswonger 1998 - David Niswonger 1997 - Ben Hager 'Chocolate Fudge' 'Cinnamon Stick' 'Son Of Sun' 'Betty Cooper' 1996 - David Niswonger 1995 - David Niswonger 1994 - Floyd Wickenkamp 1993 - Eleanor McCown

ACHIEVING A GOAL

by John McMillen



Do hybridizers set goals or do we just dab pollen and hope for the best. As goals go we're likely all searching for something specific, that in our mind will make an improvement in our favourite flower a great flower; a sturdy well branched stalk or an amazing new colour or colour combination.

It's 2016 ten years since I made my first cross. Did I know what I was doing? Did I have any goals?

The answer is no I was only hoping for a good plant. I did however after reading an article on "Fog Bound" in the AIS bulletin about what "Fog Bound" had to offer. I decided to use it very heavy in the first few years. It proved to be a very good parent but I still had no goals other than a good flower and a good stalk. As time went on I started to use some of my own plants with Fog Bound parentage as parent plants. Fog Bound was a very hardy and did well on the farm in the open field. Because of this I realized I now had a goal, cold climate hardiness for our Canadian climate.

For a Canadian hybridizer my plants should be tough and able to withstand our climate. I've culled out some very lovely plants simply because they were not as tough as I thought they should be. I did however continue to give them winter protection. A couple of years ago I decided to quit covering them for the winter with the exception of my seedlings and the newly planted. If they cannot handle the winter on their own they are eliminated regardless of how great the flower. Who wants an iris that you have to baby in order for it to survive?

I do however realize that climate conditions change throughout the country and from year to year and that not every garden is the same depending on location, and we know that weather extremes can wipe out almost any garden.

I hope I can achieve this goal and create iris that can withstand our climate better than many of the American plants.

If anyone wants to see my iris there is a collection at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, ON in the Laking Gardens or check out Trails End Gardens website or visit their garden in June. My garden is also open but it's best to call ahead as I still work, however if you are in the area and want to take your chances stop in.

I'm not actively promoting a business at my house because of the high speed traffic on highway 19 and the location of my driveway. If you wish to contact me, my phone number is 519-425-0596. My email is mcmillen@xplornet.ca.



Fogbound

Eyeing Up New Iris

By Phil Clayton, Assistant Editor, The Garden

n 20 years of regular visits to RHS London Shows, I have enjoyed many displays of new and exciting plants. But few have been more impressive than the early-flowering bulbous Iris shown in February 2015 by Middlesex bulb grower **Jacques Amand** International, with selections from Canadian breeder **Alan McMurtrie**. In 2014 Alan whetted the appetite with a pan of beautiful Iris '*Eye Catcher*' (see News, April 2014, p17), but that was but a precursor to the display of many superb new cultivars, some with dramatic colours and patterns not seen in these bulbs before.

Early Iris compete with Galanthus and Crocus for the honour of producing the year's earliest displays in our gardens. For sheer showiness, Iris are clear winners. Most are hybrids of species such as Iris reticulata, I. histrioides and I. danfordiae, native to Turkey, the Caucasus mountains and parts of the Middle East. Selections such as purple I. 'George', blue and yellow I. 'Cantab' and blue and white I. histrioides: 'Lady Beatrix Stanley' have long been popular but, lovely as they are, the colour range is, in truth, relatively limited. A more serious drawback is that many kinds have a reputation for being short lived, although in well-drained soil some will slowly build up into clumps. Among the trickiest to keep is lemon-yellow I. danfordiae which, while easy to flower in its first year, seldom repeats the ravishing display again.

Breeding new iris

A trained electrical engineer, **Alan McMurtrie** became fascinated by Iris on a trip to Switzerland in 1979, after seeing displays of bearded iris. He joined various iris societies, which opened his eyes to the diversity within Iris and introduced him to early-flowering kinds. Growing and breeding soon became a hobby, which has developed into a full-time occupation since he retired in 2008.



Among the loveliest and earliest of garden flowers, bulbous Iris are undergoing something of a

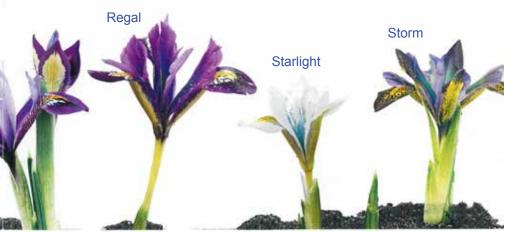


Alan McMurtrie at the RHS London Plant and Potato Fair in February 2015 with his iris "Sunshine"

Splendid iris "Eye Catcher" is one of the first of Alan's introductions

Alan particularly admired Iris '*Katharine Hodgkin*', with its bewitching flowers of grey-blue and yellow. It was bred in 1955 by **EB Anderson** (1885-1971; a founder member of the RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee) from blue I. histrioides and pale yellow I. winogradowii. Sadly it is sterile and of no use in breeding, but it got him wondering about possibilities of using yellow I. danfordiae to create new selections. Annoyingly the clone in commerce is triploid (having three sets of chromosomes). This characteristic manifests itself in plants having large showy flowers, but these flowers do not set viable seed.

In 1985 Alan went to Turkey to (legally) collect Iris reticulata and widen the genetic range of plants in cultivation. He successfully met his trip's primary objective by finding diploid Iris danfordiae (where cells contain two complete sets of chromosomes) which could potentially be used to breed new cultivars. This was part of a major breakthrough a couple of years later, when he crossed this diploid I. danfordiae with seldom-grown I. histrioides var. sophenensis eventually to create white flowered hybrids with blue markings.



transformation, thanks to the efforts of Canadian breeder Alan McMurtrie

These Iris take five years from seed to flower – white and blue selections needing at least two generations to develop – so it would be at least 10 years before he saw the first of these new flowers, which was '*Starlight*', with dainty white blooms warmed by soft blue and primrose-yellow. Flowering, however, is just the start. Thereafter follow the lengthy processes of refinement and bulking up stocks. Breeding these iris is a lifelong preoccupation. It has taken Alan 30 years to get to where he is now; and his first selections are just becoming available. Producing good 'whites' turned out to be fairly easy. He now has many different seedlings with blue accents and some others with green. Along with Iris '*Eye Catcher*', among the first of these pale selections named and made available is gorgeous '*White Caucasus*' with alabaster white flowers and falls (lower petals) marked with yellow. Alan encouragingly describes it as a 'good doer'.

Rainbow of colours

Even in more predictable hues, Alan has made huge strides. One of the most dramatic at the London Show was a gorgeous selection with shimmering two-tone flowers of turquoise and jade-green, the falls enlivened with yellow. He has aptly named it Iris 'Sea Green' and hopes it will soon be available commercially. Another held me spellbound: sultry; almost sinister I. 'Storm', its flowers of inky purple, shot with jade-



green and marked with yellow and brown; almost like something from a dark fairy tale. It is being bulked up for sale soon.

There are other beauties, too: lovely Iris 'Spot On' with standards of violet and dark purple-tipped falls heavily spotted and striped; 'Scent Sational' with sweetly perfumed purple blooms. Both are available now. Beautiful 'Velvet Smile' is superb as its flowers open with a vivid cream flash to the purple petal undersides, and 'Regal' in rich purple with contrasting yellow markings.

Early on, Alan became interested in developing hybrids with yellow flowers (rather than the lemon-yellow of Iris danfordiae) which he succeeded in doing. One of the best of these is I. 'Sunshine', its flowers clear yellow; touched with green on opening, with light spotting on the falls. Alan is now striving for orange selections. Among his best so far is startling I. 'Orange Glow' with bright yolky-orange falls marked with dark brown. Another un-named seedling, which first bloomed in 2015, is a stronger orange. And so he continues; brown flowers, red flowers with yellow marks, yellow flowers with purple marks – possibilities seem endless. Alan has yet to put his efforts towards elusive pink flowers, but he is building stocks of a pale mauve and is keen to develop a 'white with





cherry accents', which is 'just a matter of finding the right genetic switches', he tells me. Critics (especially Dutch growers) complain that some of Alan's flowers are too small; largely due to using diploid I. I. danfordiae with its small flowers. 'A really special selection can be made tetraploid through laboratory techniques (which should give it larger, sturdier flowers) but takes yet more time,' he says. Another alleged shortcoming is that the flowers of some selections created with L danfordiae do not have proper standards (upper petals) - a characteristic I hardly noticed, so dazzling are their colours and patterns.

The challenges of introducing commercially successful iris have proved many and varied, from issues around Plant Breeders Rights to convincing commercial growers to choose to grow his new selections over tried-and-tested cultivars. As Alan says, 'it's a matter of luck, understanding science, a bit of intuition, plus lots of patience'. Visit Alan McMurtrie's website: www.reticulatas.com

Canadian Iris Society Newsletter

Southern Ontario Iris Society News, Views and Coming Events

or those who are not A.I.S. members and live in Ontario you are in A.I.S. region 2 and as SOIS is an affiliate we are bring you news of what is coming and happening in Region 2. There is a new RVP for this region for which we have included her greetings. There are a couple of things happening this year close to home for Ontarians, the annual A.I.S. convention in Newark New Jersey in May, with registrations completed by May 1st/2016 (see elsewhere in bulletin). Region2 annual meeting in October with registrations completed by late September.

HELLO.... Greetings from your new RVP! Welcome, new members! Continuing members, thank you for remaining with us. It is my fervent hope that the next 3 years will be ones of growth for our Region, and most importantly, rewarding for all of us. I ask your help in achieving these goals. Please contact me by e-mail, telephone, or snail mail if you have any concerns or ideas to help us along the way.

One important opportunity is approaching in 2016. I am speaking of the AIS National Convention, which will be held in Newark, N.J., and feature the famous Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. This is the closest the convention has been to us in years. No need to hassle with airports and all the joys therein! Our region should certainly support a convention "in our own backyard." It will be an enjoyable, rewarding experience!

Everyone should have received their Fall 2015 Irises by now; you will find a brief article about Presby on p. 51. The convention registration form is on the back of that page, also in this bulletin, and you will find more information at: www. ais2016convention.com. Dedicated AIS members are planning this convention as you read this. Please spread the word, and register early...save on the fee.

Our Region will once again be contributing a "Region Basket" for the silent auction. Now is the time to think about what you can contribute to it. Items should be useful, not terribly large or heavy due to transportation issues, have an iris/garden theme, or be a product of our state/province. Think creatively!

Sincere thanks to our able editor, Betty Schnellinger, for the extra effort and time required to put together this special bulletin. Last but not least, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season!

Looking forward to seeing you all at Convention,

Dorothy Stiefel

AIS Region2 Conference

Hosted by WNYIS and friends

2 Days Friday & Saturday Oct 14&15/2016

Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites, Buffalo Airport, 4271 Genesee St, Buffalo, N.Y.

Tentative program

Friday

Registration 5-6 PM

Reception with light refreshments 6 - 7 PM

2016 AIS Convention slides with discussions 7 – 7.45 PM

Audit committee meeting following

Saturday

Directors meeting 8 to 10 AM

Speaker (Carol Warner) presentation 10 – 10.45 AM

General membership meeting 11 – 12.30 PM

Lunch 12.30 – 1.30 PM (live auction of beardless iris (pseudata) during desert benefit WNYIS)

break and tally 1.30 - 2 PM

Judges Training 2 – 4 PM

Goodbyes Auction pick up and pay 4 - 4.20 PM

Come and meet previous and new friends. (For those who are members after 2003 these are the friends who helped us to host the 2003 Siberian Convention in Burlington at the RBG.) We all have the same interest at heart.

Will I see you there?

If you have any questions about this conference contact Carolyn Schaffner at drsnooks@twc.com

June 5th /16 we will be hosting our annual Show and picnic,

SOIS Show @ RBG

600 Plains rd West (the pit), Burlington, On

9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. staging, 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. judging

1.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. open to public viewing

Sunday Aug 14/16 SOIS rhizomes sale

Royal Botanical Gardens

600 Plains Road west, Burlington, On

(Ground floor next to restaurant)

setup 10.00 A.M. – 1.00 P.M.

open for sale 1.00 A.M. -?

Picnic RBG tentatively but Trails End Iris Gardens if RBG not available. More details later. Remember this should be prime time blooming period so come out and see the beauty and enjoy the fellowship.

Join the American Iris Society

\$30.00 one year, \$70 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: <u>aismemsec@irises.org</u>

or visit: www.irises.org for more details



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

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

Linda Corapi <u>lindacorapi@gmail.com</u>
12 Hillside Rd #206, Stoneham, MA 02180

Region 2 New York, Ontario and Quebec
Dorothy Stiefel irisacher@aol.com 607-589-7465

260 Michigan Hollow, Spencer, NY 14883

Region 13 Washington, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia and Yukon Bob Seaman kcisbob@leonineiris.com 7051 S 126th St, Seattle, WA 98178

Region 21 Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba
Linda Wilkie lrwilkie@gmail.com
15115 Grand Circle, Omaha, NE 68116

AIS newly updated web site: www.irises.org

Coming Dates to Remember

2016 Board Meeting Dates

Sunday April 17, 2016 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Sunday July 17, 2016 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Sunday October 16, 2016 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Sunday January 15, 2017 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

2016 CIS Annual Show

Sunday June 5, 2016 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

 Set up
 9:30 am - 11:00 am

 Judging
 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

 Open to the Public
 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Royal Botanical Gardens

2016 CIS Annual Picnic

Sunday June 5, 2016

Details TBA

2016 SOIS Annual Sale

Sunday August 14, 2016 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Royal Botanical Gardens

2016 CIS Annual Meeting

TBA (Sunday October , 2016) 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Royal Botanical Gardens

Plains Road West, Burlington

2016 Publication Dates

May 2016 Vol 60 No 2 Spring Issue
August 2016 Vol 60 No 3 Summer Issue
November 2016 Vol 60 No 4 Autumn Issue

Coming Events

West Australian Iris Society
Iris Convention October 2017

Perth Australia (Details to be fully confirmed later)
Registrations and Welcoming dinner Monday Oct 16th

Farewell Dinner on Thursday October 19th

Bus tours being discussed at the moment for Saturday, and also a free day to see many of Perth's attractions

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

Erin Mills Iris Garden/ Chris Hollinshead

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

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

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



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 vou.

Early renewals are always appreciated.

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, PO Box 385, Otterville, ON N0J 1R0 ph: 519 532-2364 email: gmcmillen@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

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

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