

Canadian Iris Society

cis newsletter

Summer 2017 Volume 61 Issue 3



Canadian Iris Society

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CIS Newsletter

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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 is available on the official CIS website: www.cdn-iris.ca. One-year membership is \$20, Three-year membership is \$50. (cheque or money orders accepted)



Send membership application or renewal to Canadian Iris Society/membership, 1960 Side Road 15, Tottenham, Ontario L0G1W0.

Cover Photo: "*Hearts Afire*" TB (Aitken 2017) A compact plant with incredibly bright flowers. Finding this plant in the seedling field sets the hearts afire!

President's Report

By Ed Jowett

This issue is a little late as I was in Alberta for most of August. I spent a portion of my time at my favorite sport “Rodeo”

but I also did a garden tour with the “Sangudo Hort Society”. This is well north west of Edmonton. We toured seven gardens which covered about three hundred kilometers. These gardens were quite different from how and what we grow in Ontario. They do not have a great deal of perennials but use a lot of hostas and shrubbery. The one garden in particular was what we would call a screen garden but was beautifully done in screenings, fountain, and shrubs. The lady at this residence was an artist and had several gardens all beautiful and in bloom with a lot of annuals. Another lady had her gardens on the side of a long sloping hill but had built small burms to deflect the water to her gardens and catch the excess for further waterings. It was a long day but well worth the trip! Northern Alberta is like us here in parts of Ontario suffering with too much rain while the southern part is suffering a drought.



Our sale was a success but some of the irises were not as big or well as we expected. For next year we are thinking of checking out our U.S. suppliers. This will give us some newer cultivars. My purchases from the last two years bloomed very well this year. I think there was only one that did not bloom out of seventy-five. I would have to check my records to be sure. Part of this maybe the fact the ladies are keeping the gardens almost weed free.

We were sorry we had to cancel our show as the result of the building at the “RBG” being closed in order to get ready for the Canada 150th event. This is the second year in a row we have had to cancel. With such a short season for iris bloom there are a lot of shows on the same day and it's getting hard to get judges as we don't seem to attract many younger people interested in gardens or getting involved. The small numbers can only be spread so far.

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

At our annual sale to the public we learned that the new gardens that were built at the RBG “Laking Gardens” four years ago are being replanted in order to relieve the crowding. We learned too late or we may have had a lot more for our sales. We are currently trying to get better communications with the botanical gardens both in Burlington Ontario and the George Pegg gardens in Alberta. We would like to know of any other provincial gardens that we could stay in contact with and promote our flower (Iris).

At our annual meeting (which will be held On Sunday October 15th at the RBG in Burlington) we will have John Moons giving a talk on variegated plants.

It will not be long before we will be thinking about getting our gardens ready for the winter; where did our short summer go? I hope everyone had a good growing season and a good summer. It seems each year the season gets shorter.

We have a notice in this issue of next year’s upcoming convention; and for those in Ontario the upcoming regional meeting in October.

You can check our website for coming events as it is being updated constantly.

If you have any idea of what you would like to see or the Society to do; don’t be afraid to speak up; just let any Director know, or send us a line either email or slow mail. (All addresses can be found on inside front cover.)



Ed Jowett

Notice

We had some rhizomes in our sales this year that was not our norm unfortunately.

Do not think this was “Trails End Iris Gardens. They didnot supply these. They volunteered their time and supplies to ship all irises for the interest of the CIS.

Editors Note: I apologize for the lateness of this bulletin, but was due to multiple family conditions

Musings From Manitoba

By: B. J. Jackson

(jacksonb@mts.net)

Summer is winding down. It is very hard to believe since it went by in the blink of the eye. Rebloom reports are already starting to trickle in and it is still just August. Those that have already started showing off include the following: Siberian Coronation Anthem, *I. halophila* (blue form), IBs I'll B Back and Many Maholos, MTB Pretty Pony, SDB Autumn Jester and MDB Forever Violet.

Seed pod collection is complete in my garden. What I anticipated to be too much of a good thing with MTB Bit O'Afton producing 7 pods was too much. A total of just 17 viable looking seeds were inside. Not a single one of my planned crosses resulted in a pod but the bees definitely made up for that. I am particularly looking forward to seeing what the 5 pods of *I. reginae* produce next year.

Last year's seedlings have been lined out in the nursery bed area of the gardens and the 2015 survivors may bloom next year. Ah yes, the gardener's mantra, next year!



Can-West Iris Society

In CWIS news, the 10th annual show was a rousing success. Moving the date up just one week accomplished what we set out for which was to increase the number of entries which had been lagging in the past two years. It worked. A total of 103 exhibits on the show tables included two artistic designs using the wonderful tall bearded iris Immortality.

The 101 stems were entered by 11 exhibitors and were spread out over all of the bearded classifications with the exception of the Miniature Dwarf Bearded class. The biggest section by far was the Miniature Tall Bearded section with 31. Of the total, 85 varieties were on display for all to view.

The winners of the day included:



2017 Best Intermediate Alliteration

Section Winners:

Section A: Miniature Dwarf Bearded - No entries

Section B: Standard Dwarf Bearded - Vavoom entered by Sandy Eggertson

Section C: Intermediate Bearded - Alliteration entered by Sandy Eggertson

Section D: Miniature Tall Bearded - Puppy Love entered by B. J. Jackson

Section E: Border Bearded - Not Awarded

Section F: Tall Bearded - Circle Step entered by Brenda Newton

Section G: Other Iris - I. typifolia entered by El Hutchison

Sections H (Collections) and Section I (Seedlings) - No entries

Section J (Historics) and Section K (Unidentified) - Not awarded



2017 BEST Species I typifolia



2017 Best TB BIS Circle Step



2017 silver medal

AIS Awards:

Best Specimen in Show - Brenda Newton for Circle Step TB

AIS Silver Medal and Certificate (most first place ribbons) - B. J. Jackson with 6

AIS Bronze Medal and Certificate (second most first place ribbons) - Sandy Eggertson with 5

CWIS Awards:

Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show - Eramosa Freckles entered by Sandy Eggertson

People's Choice - Rio Rojo entered by Brenda Newton

Best Historic Iris In Show - Not Awarded

We look forward to 2018 and our 11th annual show and CWIS's 15th anniversary year!

The CWIS summer rhizome sale was the biggest ever. We offered more than 80 varieties this year and fully one-half of them were donated by members. The sale committee processed, filled and shipped a record number of orders to members from BC to NL. And a big bonus, we had none left over to figure out what to do with. It was a great sale with great iris going to great people. Iris people really are the best and most generous.

So now as the summer wanes and autumn moves in we can start planning for the 2018 celebrations. More to come on that later. Enjoy the season cause we all know what comes next!



2017 summer olympics Irg



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Iris Seeds: A Step towards Addiction

By Ian E. Efford

In the spring, any visitor to our garden, whether a gardener or not, is taken to see the Carolina Silverbell tree [*Halesia carolina*]. This tree is nearly 3m tall and in spring is covered with hanging white bells. The reason I am so proud of this tree is that it was the only product from the 300 seeds I planted a few years ago.

It is exciting when difficult seeds germinate but very satisfying when they grow to adult trees and provide us with a spectacular show of flowers in spring. I do have another tree that was grown from seed which, eventually will be equally satisfying



Halesia carolina

to view. At the moment, however, it is about 2m tall and rather spindly. This is a specimen of the Chinese Golden Rain Tree [*Koelreuteria paniculata*] and it may not flower until I am too old to care but I enjoy watching it grow well despite the interest of the nighttime visits from white-tailed deer.

This illustrates two successful attempts to grow plants from seed.



There are also failures that contribute to my experience!

I mention these successes to illustrate the level of anticipation and excitement from growing plants from seed. I have been growing irises from seed for well over 30 years and almost all the irises in our garden have been grown from seed or given to me as gifts from other iris enthusiasts.

In this article, I will describe the practical aspects of iris cultivation and some of the pitfalls that might help the novice.

Sourcing the Seeds

Seed can be obtained from a wide range of sources.

1. You can take seed from your favorite iris in your or your friend's garden. If it has been bee pollinated, it will produce a range of plants that may differ considerably from the parent. If you really want to produce the same plant, then hand pollination is necessary but even then, not all of the plants will be the same as the parent but the exceptions will give you some exciting new hybrids. Most parents know that predicting the nature of their children is lost cause!

2. The second source of seed is one of the many seed exchanges run by iris societies around the world. These are inexpensive to members, usually about \$0.50/package and each package contains between 10 and a great many seeds. From one package, I have planted out two complete 2.5m. rows of seeds and almost all have germinated. If you contribute seed to these seed exchanges, you usually obtain additional seeds or a wider choice of seeds at the time of distribution.

Over the years, most of my seed has come from the British Iris Society seed exchange but there are many other groups such as the American Iris Society, S.I.G.N.A. [The Species Iris Society of North America], the Beardless Iris Society and other specialized groups. SIGNA specializes in species and it is a good source of plants if you wish to build up a collection of species as they are rarely available commercially. Other excellent sources are the Alpine Garden Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club. In the case of desert irises, groups like the Pacific Bulb Society is and excellent source.

One reason to obtain the seed from an iris society is that the identifications are more accurate. Seeds from other garden societies, such as N.A.R.G.S. [The North American Rock Garden Society], can sometimes be inaccurately identified.

3. Finally, there are all the commercial seed companies that sell packages of seed that, although about ten times more expensive than the seed exchanges, still give you some excellent seed and many plants that are well worth the cost compared to purchasing the plants themselves. For very rare seeds, there are seed collectors in east Europe and Asia that distribute their seeds through sellers in Eastern Europe or through North American companies that have personal connections to rare plants seed collectors. One such person is Kristal Walek of Gardens North [<http://gardensnorth.com/index.asp>]

Labelling

It might seem somewhat incongruous to talk about labelling before describing methods of germination but it is important to start the process on the right foot. It is advisable to label all the seeds planted, whether in the ground, in a container or in a pot. Not only that, if the seeds are planted individually in pots, each pot should be labelled separately. In the past, I would prepare a tray of 15 pots with only one label and then

keep the trays on wire shelves. That is until one or more rats managed to get into the greenhouse and carried out their Olympic trials on the shelves. The result was that the top shelf came off its hinges and fell on to the next shelf, etc. In the morning, I found a pile of pots, some with the plants still in place and some empty. The problem was then to sort out the unlabelled plants. It was not possible. A label in each pot would have identified the plants that remained in their pots.

In the case of small closed containers, I label the container and the lid. Unfortunately, when these containers are stacked outside, water sometimes accumulates on the top and the labels wash off or the label fades.

If the seeds are planted in rows in the garden, label both ends of the row. It is amazing how many animals can take out and move the labels. Deer hooves dig them up, birds pull them out and throw them over their shoulders and dogs can decide to roll in a bed or have a wrestling match there. Squirrels are also guilty of digging in order to hide nuts.

These comments are based on my own failure to think ahead. One final problem is caused by seeds germinating over more than one year. Leave the bed and labels in place for another year after the seedlings have been transplanted. In some rows, germination in the second year will result in additional irises. Even this advice is suspect! In one case, I

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gathered a seed pod and sprinkled the seeds in a row. I then labelled it. After two years, I gave up as no plants appeared and I removed the labels. The next year a row of “onion” sprouts appeared but I would not have planted any vegetable in that area of the garden. The next year, larger “onions” appeared, again the identification was a mystery. Finally, this year a row of Dutch irises appeared and flowered. The Dutch irises in our garden are all dark blue so I was particularly pleased when the plants in this “mystery” row were not only dark blue but also there were some white and some pale blue. It was worth waiting for but it would have been better if I had left the labels in place!

Finally, I will mention a nightmare that I have. All the seedling beds are well labelled but what if....? I visited a rhododendron grower with a large, very well-labelled collection of species rhododendrons. He told me that they had a family gathering and the grandchildren were playing in the woodland garden. Eventually, they all returned to the house and with great excitement said that they had been playing a game to see how many labels they could collect. Dumped on the table was a large pile of labels. As the property had a cliff at one edge, I am surprised that he did not jump!

Methods of Planting

There are four different ways that one can plant iris seeds although one is rather specialized and would not be used by most iris enthusiasts.

1. Planting in the Garden

The basic approach is to plant the seeds in rows in the garden. This means preparing an area and using a long rod to place a straight groove about 1cm deep. The seed is then placed along the groove and gently covered with the soil that has formed along the edge of the groove. I then use a rake on end to tamp the soil down along the row. Label each end before actually distributing the seed as it is easy to lose track of the end of the row when the seeds have been covered! Keep watered and wait 10-12 weeks. As the seed from seed exchanges is usually distributed in early spring, the small plants will appear and grow to substantial plants during the summer when they can be spaced out in rows before the winter. This method is very easy.

I saw a variation on this method when I visited a Japanese iris hybridizer in Maryland. He took the seed pod from a cross and sprinkled the seeds on a prepared one metre square plot before covering them with a shallow layer of soil. Each seed pod was given a different, labelled, square metre. The seeds were left to germinate, grow and flower in that square metre before the best ones were removed for further hybridization.

2. Using 375ml Deli Container

For some years, I used this method almost exclusively as it used very little space and did not take up any garden until the seedlings were at least a couple of inches tall. These deli containers can be obtained at very little cost in 100 container rolls with lids from restaurant supply houses. I fill each container 2/3rds full of soil containing a high level of sand or chick grit. The seeds are stirred into the soil and then I add one third of a cup of



Japanese iris seedling germinated in containers and subsequently planted out in pots.

water. Any more water makes the soil waterlogged. The lid keeps the soil moist for many weeks. A great advantage of growing irises from seed compared to other plants is that they do not suffer from damp off which would kill most other seedlings in such a closed moist environment.

As mentioned above, the lid and the container are labelled and the containers stacked five deep outdoors in a shaded area.

When planting, the number of seeds in the container is written on the label and when a seedling is removed that number is changed. Over time, most of the seeds in the containers germinate and, unless one does this, one cannot remember if more are to come. There is no point storing containers where all the seeds have germinated.

The seeds germinate over a period of time and as each one grows to the two-leaf stage, it is carefully remove and planted in a 3 inch pot and the lid returned. It takes only a moment to see if there are germinated seeds by looking through the side of the pots in a stack. If condensation obscures the view, tap on the top pot and the sides become clear.

It is important to check these pots each week and transplant seedlings that are at the two-leaf stage – that is about two inches tall. There are two reasons for this. The first is that they have a tap root that wishes to go straight down and the pot depth will not allow this. The second is that some irises, particularly desert irises, have evolved to germinate and grow very quickly when they are watered. They can easily damage themselves because they grow and curl over in the container. I lost quite a few *I. cycloglossa* seedlings because I did not appreciate how quickly this happens.

I have raised seeds using this method with the pots kept outside in temperatures as low as -30C.

3. Planting in Plant Pots

Just planting the seeds in normal garden pots works well but, unlike planting in containers, it is necessary to keep the pots moist and not allow them to dry out. This can be achieved by covering them with a plastic film, watering from underneath and keeping them in the shade. This method requires more space but the pots can be kept outside in a shady area in the garden.

4. Long Toms

The vast area that is bordered by the Mediterranean in the west and Pakistan in the east and extending from the sea to the south up to southern Russia is almost entirely dry, rocky semi-desert. The irises that grow here are very interesting and beautiful but much more difficult to grow in a temperate climate. They require a dry dormant period during most of the summer and a substrate that is very well drained and calcareous. These irises are the Junos [Scorpiris] and the Oncocyclus irises. Because of the nature of their habitat, the roots tend to be long as they are seeking the cool, moist conditions that are found well below the surface.



Juno irises in Long Toms during the summer dormant period.

In order to grow these irises from seed there are a couple of things one must do. The soil must be well-drained and, once the seedling leaves have died down at the end of spring, the plants must be covered with a glass plate to keep out the rain or the pots put under the house eaves until the late September. In order to provide depth for the roots, “long tom” pots should be used. These are clay pots which are about twice as tall as normal. These pots are particularly important for Juno irises which develop large thick roots each year which extend well down into the soil. When transplanting these bulbs, it is very important to do it carefully so that the roots are not broken off. A few of these irises can be planted successfully in a rock garden and others are best grown in the pots. The Okanagan Valley of British Columbia is an ideal climate in which to grow these irises outdoors.

These four methods of planting iris seeds have advantages and disadvantages and choosing which to use will depend on the individual gardener, the numbers of seed to be grown and the local conditions. I have used all four methods successfully although some years nothing will germinate at all from a particular package of seeds. When this happens, I throw the labels away and get on with life as I have other seedlings germinating to keep me occupied!

One or Two Results

There are a couple of excellent reasons for growing irises from seed. Firstly, it is very inexpensive. For \$10, depending on the seed exchange one uses, one might get 10-20 packages of seed which contain a minimum of 10 seeds/ package but sometimes closer to 50. With good management, that can give you close to 1,000 plants. Purchasing that many plants would cost close to \$10,000! More importantly, many of the plants one wishes to add to the garden are simply not available from local nurseries. I know that most iris lovers are enamoured by the tall, blousy bearded irises [which can be grown from seed], but I prefer the smaller delicate species such as *I. forrestii*, *wilsoni*, *clarkei*, etc. or even the wild form of *I. ensata*, the Japanese iris. That is where the seed exchanges come up trumps.

Even if one is growing hybrids, there are literally hundreds of crosses made by enthusiasts around the world that can be found on the seed exchange lists. Each package produces an amazing range of colours and, after selecting the one or two that you wish to keep, you can delight your gardening friends by giving the rest away.

Every year interesting plants arise. They are sometimes very colourful new hybrids from bee pollinated plants and sometimes have some other features of interest. This year, I have had two of particular interest.

I received a package of seeds from BIS [162] which had been submitted by Helmut von-Kotzebue in Germany. This package contained hand-pollinated self of the Siberian “Reddy or Not”. I planted them in early 2016 and almost exactly one year later, one of the plant had grown twice the height of its siblings in the row and soon after that it



BIS 162, Flowering 15 months after seed planted. “Reddy or Not” selfed by Helmut von-Kotzebue.

flowered! Normally, one might expect a few to flower in the second year and the rest in the third year and it is quite a surprise to have flowers at the end of one year. It appears that one of the genetic combinations has resulted in quite an increase in hybrid vigour. There is a seed pod on this plant but it is too early to say whether the seeds are viable.

Another plant that I found particularly interesting was not in one of my seedbeds but in a neighbouring bed. I have no idea what it is. It is very short and has a beautiful blue colour with white markings on the standards. I have never grown this iris before and have no idea the parentage of the seed. Irises growers find seedlings around the garden which sometimes have flower colours which are quite different from the parent plant. I find this is particularly true for hybrid spurians. At the moment I have found six spurians with new flower colours in the garden which I have never seen before. Pacific Coast irises produce a great range of different colours, often unlike the parent. In this particular plant, in the case mentioned above I cannot relate it to any other iris in the garden or in the seedbed. Over time, I may be able to narrow the identification down.



Rather attractive, very short Siberian seedling whose parents are unknown.

Conclusions

I strongly recommend that iris lovers plant seeds. The source does not really matter. It can be from a pod in your own or a friend's garden, from seeds obtained from a seed exchange, or from another source. Within two or three years, you will be addicted and the withdrawal symptoms will be so severe that you will grow more and more seeds until you reach an age when you give up gardening. To illustrate my point, here is a photograph of part of the garden of Currier McEwen, one of our leading Siberian and Japanese iris hybridizers when he was in his late 90s.



I wish all gardeners similar success!

Seed Exchanges:

<https://www.britishirissociety.org.uk/>

<http://www.irises.org/>

<http://www.beardlessiris.org/>

<http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Intro>

<http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/>

In addition, iris seed is also available from the various rock garden and alpine societies.



2018 Your Invitation to Attend the AIS/SLI Conventions in New Orleans.

The American Iris Society, The Greater New Orleans Iris Society, and The Society For Louisiana Irises are glad to be the hosts for the 2018 AIS/SLI Conventions in New Orleans, LA. New Orleans “The Big Easy” is the largest city in Louisiana. It was established by French colonists and strongly influenced by their European culture.



Attendees will have the opportunity to tour 6 beautiful gardens for three days. Wednesday we will tour Longue View House & Gardens and NOMA

Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden. Thursday travel to and Tour “A Louisiana Pond” in Madisonville and Hammond Research Station of the LSU AgCenter. Friday travel to Baton Rouge to Tour Burden Museum & Gardens and The Baton Rouge Botanic Gardens.

The Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel located in Kenner, LA with free shuttle service to and from the airport. Also, the hotel is offering our attendees ‘Complimentary’ Free Parking as well as ‘Complimentary’ WIFI in the guest rooms and meeting rooms.

Watch for more information on the AIS web site as well as in upcoming issues of “IRISES” and “News and Notes” and “CIS Bulletin”.

You are invited to Come to New Orleans and enjoy two wonderful conventions and see the city of New Orleans.

We're happy to announce that the 2018 Convention Committee has set up a website for the 2018 AIS/SLI New Orleans Conventions: www.2018irisconvention.org.

The website contains complete information on the Convention hotel, the registration form, the menus for the scheduled hotel dinners, detailed information on the fantastic Southern Louisiana gardens that are part of the Convention tours (with pictures to inspire you), and much, much more. We will soon be adding information about the Convention Boutique, and the meeting schedule.

Please visit the website to register, and also to share its content with family and friends. We really appreciate it.

Thank you,

Paul W. Gossett, 2018 Convention Co-Chair

Joe Musacchia, 2018 Convention Co-Chair



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.)



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Iris gormanii

By John Moons

This is an Iris name that you will find in some older books. These days it is considered to be a form of *Iris tenax*. The books do not tell me what year it was actually discovered. It was discovered by **Martin Gorman** and his friend, **Earl Marshall**. Mr. Gorman was born in Ontario near Eganville in 1853 and died in 1926. He was a botanist and was very knowledgeable about the wild flowers on the west coast. He went as far as the Yukon to look for plants. He gave his name to species of different genera and the Genus *Gormania* which belongs in the *Sedum* family. The name *Iris gormanii* was first published in 1924, by **Charles Piper**, an American botanist and agriculturalist. The Iris became quite popular in Britain. Because the name *gormanii* was not published until 1924, you will not find it in any books by **William Dykes** who died in 1925.



The *Iris gormanii* is only found in Oregon west of Portland. The valley of the Scoggins Creek is the only place where it has been found. It is believed that there are not a lot of *gormanii*s left in the wild. Already 60 years ago it was hard to find the plants. They were collected indiscriminately and the land was being cleared for growing grain and forage.

This Iris has a lot of things in common with *Iris tenax* and is considered a form of *tenax*. The rhizomes are very slender and the roots are thin. The leaves are very narrow and not more than 5 mm wide. When it is not blooming it is very hard to find. There is a forage grass that has leaves that resemble the leaves of the Iris. Under good conditions it might grow to 40 cm, but if the conditions are less than ideal it might reach only 20 cm. The leaves are very tough and you cannot just break them off. The colours of the flowers are one of the few things that set the *gormanii* apart from the *Iris tenax*. A lot of the flowers are light lavender and there are also cream, yellows and bronzes. In the wild the white ones are rare and the yellow colours extremely rare. *Iris tenax* has no golden yellow colours and lemon yellow *tenax* flowers are very rare.

All the different forms of the *gormanii* have rich golden throats. The lavenders have prominent purple veining that radiates from the yellow throat. The white and yellow flowers have very faint yellow veins. The lavender, cream and white flowers hold their colours, but the yellows fade to cream colours. The flowers are very open. In daylily terms you would call them spiders. The falls are nearly horizontal. The standards are one third to half the length of the falls and stand up straight or bend outwards at no more than 45 degrees. The flowers are not always very uniform. This can be in the shape and size of the flowers but also in the colours. A fully mature plant can have 50 to 100 flowers

open at the same time with lots more to come. There are mostly 2 flowers on one flower stem.

It is very difficult to predict when in the spring this Iris will bloom. It will bloom from two to five weeks later than the Iris tenax, but from year to year the blooming time can be very variable. In one garden not all of the plants will bloom at the same time either. If you have different plants you should be able to enjoy the flowers for about two months. In Portland, Oregon, the average blooming time is from late April to late June.



Iris tenax var. *gormanii*

Iris gormanii crosses happily with other Irises. In the wild you will see hybrids if there are other Irises nearby.

This Iris does not like to have its feet (or roots) wet, but it grows in a wide range of soils. It seems to like humid conditions and it does well on the West Coast and in Britain and New Zealand.

Propagation is by seed or division. Because it crosses so happily with other Irises and because it blooms so long, you cannot always be sure that the seedlings are the same as the mother plants. You can divide the plants in the Fall or in the Spring, but this is a plant that does not like to be transplanted too much. They do best in the full sun or light shade.

There are three things that set the *gormanii* apart from the *tenax*. They are: the location where it grows in the wild, the colours of the flowers and the fact that it blooms from two to five weeks later than the *Iris tenax*.

Book used for this article:

Rare wild flowers of North America by **Leonard Wiley**. Published by the author in 1969 in Portland, Or



Save
the Dates

AIS Region 2 Annual Fall Meeting OCTOBER 20 and 21, 2017

Hosted by Greater Rochester Iris Society

GRIS is proud to announce our special guest Chad Harris, of Mount Pleasant Iris Farm, in Washougal, WA.

Chad is one of the nation's best known hybridizers of Japanese iris and pseudata iris among other varieties.

His talk, "Water Lovers of Asia" looks at iris *ensata*, iris *laevigata*, and the new species-X, "pseudata." He will also offer judges training for iris *ensata* (Japanese), to which all attendees are invited.

Learn more about Chad and Mount Pleasant Farm at <http://mtpleasantiris.com>



Photo from Mount Pleasant website



All events take place at the

Hampton Inn and Suites Rochester Victor
7637 Pittsford-Victor Road, Victor NY 14564
(Thruway Exit 45, Rochester)

Phone: 585-924-4400.

Room rates: \$119 the night of the 20th, with reservations due by September 20, 2017.

Be sure to mention "Region 2 of the American Iris Society for this rate!"

Only minutes from the Eastview Mall and the Erie Canal, the hotel offers free hot breakfast, free high-speed internet, free coffee and tea in the lobby, and local shuttle.

Come early to Rochester and stay longer!

by Cara Hutchings, GRIS President

While you are visiting the Rochester region for this year's Region 2 meeting, here are a few things to do if you want to spend some extra time in our area:

Being the home of Kodak, we have a gem in George Eastman's home and garden, 900 East Ave. There is an ever-changing photo exhibit in the gallery, and the house itself is a beautiful example of late 19th-early 20th century architecture.

<https://www.eastman.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/georgeeastmanmuseum>

There is also the Strong National Museum of Play, 1 Manhattan Square Dr. If you think play is kid's stuff, think again! There is something for everyone, lots to see and do, and my favorite is seeing all the dolls, furniture and other items Margaret Woodbury Strong collected during her travels all over the world!

<http://www.museumofplay.org>

If shopping is your thing, the hotel where the meeting is taking place is minutes from Eastview Mall, an upscale shopping mecca with unique stores and restaurants.



You are not far from the Finger Lakes in Rochester, with great wineries, antique shops and restaurants to be found around every one of the lakes. If you go to [fingerlakes.org](http://www.fingerlakes.org), there are plenty of sites and maps to be found!

<http://www.fingerlakes.org>

And one of the crowning jewels of Rochester is Highland Park, located in the heart of the city. An Olmstead-designer park, it is home to the spring Lilac Festival. While we won't be there in the spring, there is a beautiful Louisiana Iris garden located just down a path from the Lamberton Conservatory.

<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/highlandpark/>



*If these don't pique your interest,
just let us native Rochesterians know.
We have lots more to recommend!*



CANADIAN IRIS HYBRIDIZERS Update

2016 CANADIAN REGISTRATIONS Compiled by Don McQueen

During 2016 11 new Canadian Iris were registered with the American Iris Society. These iris were registered by Bob Granatier and John McMillen. They included nine Tall Bearded and two Border Bearded.



Descriptions are from the AIS Registrations and Introductions in 2016)

Bob Granatier

BELIEVE IN TOMORROW (R. Granatier, R. 2016). Sdlg. 1'ITBO01.TB, 40"
(102 cm), M-L.

S. greyed pale yellow-gold, darker at edge, greyed mauve midrib, darker inside; style arms lemon yellow, deep mauve rib, old gold crest, white stigmatic lip; F. mid plum softening to %"terra cotta edge, thin light gold rim, light violet wash over centre, soft yellow hafts, heavy terra cotta veining; beards white in throat, orange in middle, mauve at end; pronounced grape fragrance. High Chaparral X Class Clown.



BUTTER ALMOND

CRUNCH (R. Granatier, R. 2016). Sdlg. 1OTBOO5.TB, 36" (91 cm), E—M.

S. light lemon yellow, light salmon wash up midrib; style arms same, large feathered crest; F. amber, maroon-purple haze extends almost to edge, terra cotta hafts with mid-salmon veins; beards vermillion in throat, orange in middle, amber end; slight sweet fragrance. Good Vibrations X Secret Sen/ice.



LOVERS HOLIDAY (R.

Granatier, R. 2016). Sdlg. 1OTBOO1.TB, 32" (81cm), E-M-L.

S. soft blush-pink, mauve midrib, green veining; style arms same, deeper coral rib; F. mid pink, washed smoky-mauve with slight silver overlay, silver-white line from beards down centre, dark mauve markings at hafts; beards coral, hairs tipped white at end, bushy; ruffled; slightly sweet fragrance. For Lovers Only X Brazilian Holiday.



John McMillen

BRIGHT AWAKENING

(John McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 1211215.TB, 45” (114 cm), M.

S. bright medium yellow; style arms yellow; F. bright red-maroon, some lighter streaking, ‘A “ golden tan edge; beards golden yellow; slight fragrance. Darcy’s ChoiceX 074210: (Gnus Flash x Fogbound).



GLORIOUS CONCEPT

(John McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 098114.TB, 32” (81 Cm), ML.

(No photo available)

S. light tan-yellow with slight green hint; style arms yellow; F. green-yellow, pink blend on shoulders; beards mustard-yellow. Golden Panther X Crowned Heads.

NORTHERN FROST (John

McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 097412. TB, 32” (81 cm), M.

S. light to medium blue; style arms blue; F. very light blue edging on white ground, light green veins; beards yellow in throat and middle, ends white. 078109: (Olympiad x Fogbound) X O7111 (Clearwater River x Fogbound).



0 MY LOVE (John McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 121616. TB, 37" (94 cm), M.

S. light bright tan-yellow; style arms bright yellow, purple lip; F. medium plum-red, light tan narrow edge; beards orange. Darcy's Choice X 074210: (Gnus Flash x Fogbound).



PICK ME (John McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 113116.TB, 32" (81 cm), M.

S. medium golden tan, wide purple centre vein; style arms gold, red-purple centre streak; F. deep velvety red-purple, narrow tan edge; beards medium orange. 074109: (Gnus Flash x Fogbound) X Elainealope.



TRUSTY BLUE (John McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 091212. BB, 20" (51 cm), M.

Medium blue self; beards yellow in throat and middle, ends white; slight fragrance. 078109: (Olympiad x Fogbound) X 0711109: (Clearwater River x Fogbound).



WATCH ME SHINE (John McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 101412. BB, 21" (53 cm), M.

S. gilded yellow, slight orange hint; style arms golden yellow; F. gilded yellow, white patch below beard; beards deep orange. 061110: (Edith Wolford x unknown) X Vibrant.



YOU COME LATE (John McMillen, R. 2016). Sdlg. 122216. TB, 30" (76 cm), VL.

(no photo available)

S. soft medium yellow; style arms yellow; F. rose, yellow veining, yellow streak below beard; beards orange; laced; ruffled. Darcy's Choice X Frimousse.



Bringing home the “bacon”

or What we do for love of Irises...

By Ann Granatier



First and foremost, the ARGUMENT. This stage traditionally starts in March. A trip to the mail box brings catalogues from the Americans, too many catalogues. All beautifully photo shopped with enhanced and vibrant hues. Mouth-watering.

Bob is left-handed, so seating must be very specific. He has to sit on my left or I will get elbowed every time the pages are turned. (He also uses this excuse at a restaurant, needing the inside left hand side of a booth, something to do with being the farthest away from the credit card machine). So now we seat ourselves side by side on the long side of the table with our coffees. Pad and pencils at the ready.

Bob likes weird colours, I like pretty and thus the fight begins. The list grows....we need more paper.

After returning from Staples, it is time to whittle down the list. Back to the table. Left vs right. Of course I am in the right. Did I say ‘in’? I meant ‘on’.

We have selected more varieties than we currently grow. We would need to rent a U-Haul truck to get them across the border.

Bob places the ORDER.

SOLD OUT..... This would be a good name for a new introduction. Back to the table, positions re-established. COMPROMISES need to be made..... IMPOSSIBLE..... more good names.. I won’t mention the other names that came from that table.

And now we wait

Months till they arrive. The garden blooms with such beauty and irises that look exactly like the ones we ordered.

Did you forget we already had a pink and burgundy broken colour plicata with a bright yellow space age beards, 4 foot tall, re-bloomer? How much did you say it cost?

The TRIP,

Finally, the day has arrived. With passports, licenses, our firstborn and much trepidation we are off to the States and the border guards.

We arrive at the border, 15km is the speed limit, slowing dragging out the inevitable. We head for the bridge over the river, might as well be the RIVER KWAI. We take the lane for the little guys. The big wheelers are looming over us. Slowly we climb the ramp hundreds of feet over the river. Suddenly, everything stops and we are forced to wait in the middle of the bridge over the river hundreds of feet below, with millions of tons of truck traffic surrounding us. Did you know the bridge shakes? .not as much as us.. but it vibrates with every move of those big haulers. I knew we should have stuck to growing annuals.

Slowly we approach customs. Which lane did we chose? The WRONG one. My fault. I went right, should have gone left. (something about being fixated on RIGHT). We end up in the centre lane, sitting not patiently, watching the cars in the other lanes speed by. The Border guard asks questions; where are we going? why do we have friends in the USA? Shaking our heads at the gruelling interrogation, we finally pull away. It seems like the next day when we finally enter the USA heading for our rendezvous with our friend "The Contact".

"The Contact" is waiting behind a pillar, seated on a bench, supposedly reading, trying to look innocent. A furtive look and a wink assures us, the stash is in the trunk. A quick glance over our shoulders and we somewhat reassure ourselves that we have not been followed. Stealthily, we move to the car, discreetly position our trunk as close to the Contact's trunk as possible and do the quick-switch. Another quick look over our shoulder and we are off.... Just haven't decided which way to go home.. I guess we will cross that bridge when we come to it.

We turn left and then turn left again; should have turned right, I knew it. The highway lays before us. Do we go back the way we came and face the same border guard... he probably works the 24hr shift or do we take our chances at a different crossing with someone who won't recognize us?

We choose the new guy. We arrive at the gates, the phyto-sanitary by our side. Nothing but BIG trucks with BIG experienced drivers looming over us. They look down at us... why are you here?.. we feel very small.

We move ahead, wait our turn at the gate, knowing that cameras are lurking everywhere. The truck in front moves ahead, the gate rises, we creep forward and Stop. Bob rolls down the window anticipating the interrogation, we are looking at a blank wall. A voice from above says.."I am up here". Leaning out the car window, Bob looks up and spots the officer at a window about 8 ft up, truck height. We are in the truck lane.

We should have turned LEFT.



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 your bulletin by postal mail. Your mailing label has the date on top; If your membership has expired or is about to expire before the next mailing your label will be coloured not plain.

CIS JULY 2016 - JULY 2017
JOHN DOE
ANY ADDRESS
PROVINCE, POSTAL CODE

If you receive your bulletin by electronic mail you will be sent an electronic notice.

Canadian Iris Society

1960 Side Rd 15

Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

Dear xxxxxx

Your membership is about to expire in (month yr). We have appreciated your support in the past and hope you will continue.. Your payment can be made by cheque or money order. Payable to the Canadian Iris Society.

Membership rates are	1 year	\$20.00
	3 years	\$50.00

Mail payment to:

Canadian Iris Society/ Membership

1960 Side Road 15

Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0

Again thank you for your support

Ed Jowett
President CIS

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: aismemsec@irises.org

or visit: www.irises.org for more details



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

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

Linda Corapi lindacorapi@gmail.com

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

2017 Board Meeting Dates

Sunday October 15, 2017	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday January 21, 2018	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday April 15, 2018	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday July 15, 2018	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

2017 CIS Annual Meeting

Sunday October 15, 2017	2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Royal Botanical Gardens Plains Road West, Burlington	

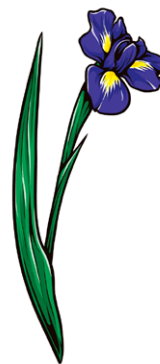
2017 Publication Dates

November 2017	Vol 61 No 4 Autumn Issue
February 2018	Vol 62 No 1 Winter Issue
May 2018	Vol 62 No 2 Spring Issue
August 2018	Vol 62 No 3 Summer Issue
November 2018	Vol 62 No 4 Autumn Issue

Coming Events

CIS Annual Meeting
RBG

Sunday October 15, 2017
2:30 pm



Canadian Sources for Irises

We provide this listing as a resource for our members and readers. This listing does not necessarily imply endorsement of the businesses by Canadian Iris Society (CIS). The sources listed have paid donations/contributions to help support the society. If you know of someone who should be added to the list please send the information to the editor. The listings in BOLD are members of the CIS

Chapman Iris

RR #1 8790 Wellington Road 124,
Guelph, ON N1H 6H7
Phone: 519-856-0956
Email: chuck@chapmaniris.com
Website: www.chapmaniris.com
On-line catalogue: \$3.00

Tara Perennial Farm

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

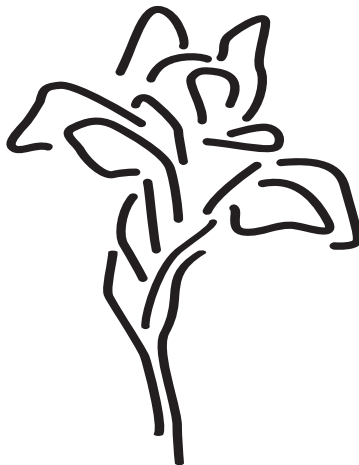
Erin Mills Iris Garden/ Chris Hollinshead

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

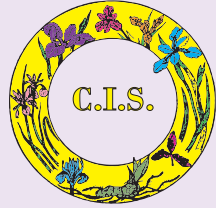
Trails End Iris Gardens

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

Check with the above sources to see if bloom season tours and times are available.



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: gmcmlen@execulink.com
Please inquire for membership and group activities.

cis website
www.cdn-iris.ca

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

**Canadian Iris Society
1960 Sideroad 15, RR#2
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Walker Ross

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