

For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones



Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Summer, 2015

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Update From the Organizing Committee

It's the middle of July and full summer is upon us. There are no iris blooming in the gardens but there are pods to be watched as they mature and rebloom to watch for out there. If you experience rebloom, please let us hear from you with the name of the variety and a photo if you can get one. Our members are always interested in these uncommon occurrences out here on the prairies.

For those who like to plan in advance, please mark your calendars for next year's show. Bourkevale Community Centre has been booked for Sunday, June 12th for the 9th annual event. Planning has already begun and we need to hear from you about a few things.

1. First, do you think CWIS should host another workshop/presentation/judges training event in 2016? If your answer to this question is yes, what type of event would you like to see and who would you have brought in if finances weren't a problem? If you think we should consider this, should it be held in conjunction with the show or at another time of the year? If you think another time of the year would work better, when would you suggest, earlier or later?

2. If you attended the CWIS show in June, was there anything you particularly liked or disliked about it? Would you change or add anything to the day?

We need to know what you want CWIS to be for you regardless of where you live. You can write any of the Organizing Committee members at the email addresses given below. Please let us hear from you on these and anything else you would like us to think about and/or do for members. That is why we are here after all!

To cap off yet another successful year for CWIS, the final event of win 2015 season will be held in just a short time from now. Check out the details of this year's rhizome sale on page 3 and note the slight change in dates. Apparently members of the rhizome sale committee can't be in two places at once so the dates had to be tweaked a little. Reports and some photos of the Carberry event as well as the 8th annual show are on pages 4 and 5. This is followed by the AIS National and Siberian conventions in Portland's award winners on page 8.

And don't forget to start your list of top 5 performers for 2015. We need to know what grows best for members for the Autumn newsletter. And pictures, we will need pictures to accompany your selections if you have them. A reminder to submit them will be sent out in September or October.

So enjoy this issue and enjoy the rest of the summer. We all know what comes next!

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Did You Know...

Each year the accredited judges of the American Iris Society, by Official Ballot, cast their votes for the garden awards of the Society and from this ballot, the Society's official garden awards are decided?

The emphasis is repeatedly placed on the word GARDEN because this system of awards is based entirely on the performance of the iris in the garden; all evaluations must be made of irises seen growing and in bloom in a garden over a period of time, in different locations and under varying climatic conditions. The value of any iris variety as a cut flower, it's merit as an exhibited specimen or as pleasingly photographed, is disregarded when considering an iris variety for an official garden award.

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Affiliation with the AIS allows CWIS to conduct our shows without fear of liability? This saves us up to \$500 a year on insurance depending on how many public events are held. Just another reason affiliation is important...

Rhizome Sale Update

The summer rhizome sale is just a few short weeks away! Please note that the dates have changed slightly from the initial information members received via email. The sale will start Monday, July 27th and run through till Saturday, August 1st or until sold out. Our supplier this year is Ted Baker of BC and those familiar with his offerings are aware that he provides quality iris. Because of our group purchasing plan, we are able to provide members with a great selection of rhizomes at prices below retail due to the fact that we do not know until the last minute what we will be getting. We set the parameters and it is the suppliers choice what is sent and in what numbers although we ask for not less than three of any variety. Limited numbers mean they sell out quickly!

This year our concentration is on the lesser known bearded classes, namely Intermediate, Border and Miniature Tall. As well, it is looking like there will be a good selection of member donations, too. If you are unfamiliar with the process, visit the CWIS website and review last year's sale guidelines so you are ready and don't miss out! Go to <http://cwis.webplus.net> and click on 'Go there' under Rhizome Sale to view them. The sale guidelines do not change much from one year to the next. Orders are filled on a first come basis so familiarity with the process will help things go more smoothly both for you and for the Rhizome Sale Committee.

The list of guidelines for this year and the sale listing will arrive in your mailbox around 7 pm Monday, July 27th so stay tuned!



*Confirmed summer sale
member donation MTB
Merit.
Photo courtesy El Hutchison*

Iris Workshop at the Carberry Gardens

The Carberry Horticulture Society and Can-West Iris Society teamed up on Saturday, June 6th to host an iris digging and dividing workshop. Despite warnings of inclement weather there was a good turnout to dig iris for the sale table at the show. In deference to the muddy conditions, however, BJ Jackson, who conducted the workshop was the only one to get dirty! After the work was done, we were treated to some good conversation and to lemonade and cookies courtesy of CWIS member and Carberry Horticulture Society co-facilitator, Penny Shaw. It was a wonderful afternoon.



2015 CWIS 8th Annual Show Report

(By: BJ Jackson)

We couldn't have asked for a better day for a flower show! The weather was perfect on the day but preceded by a spectacular thunderstorm the day before. Those that had cut stems early didn't have to worry about damage, just whether or not they would open in time. Several people had damage from the storms and as a consequence, the exhibition tables were rather sparse. But with a lot of creative staging, 11 exhibitors rounded up 43 stems and 7 designs to grace the show tables. And we saw a lot more Siberians this year including two collections. Like a well oiled machine the show committee and volunteers had everything set up and ready to go in record time. The judges completed their task on time and the doors opened to the public early. No mean feat that! And the people came. They came and there was a lot of iris talk. We saw old friends and made new ones. New members were welcomed and the day flew by.

By far the busiest area was that of the rhizome sale table. Both Kirsten Kronstedt and Sandy Eggertson had things well under control though I'm sure they wondered why they had agreed to take charge of it this year! The display design section added this year was a hit with the public and we were lucky enough to have some well known local flower arrangers visit during the afternoon to talk to the designers and offer up some tips and tricks. The Show Committee hopes to keep this feature of the show alive in the future. Thanks to Jennifer Bishop for taking the reins for the display design section.

And a big thanks, too, to all the volunteers who took the time to help out! Everyone just stepped up and got the job done. The show would not run as smoothly as it does without you all. You know who you are!

So on to the results and some photos...

Total number of entries: 50 (43 stems and 7 designs)

Total number of exhibitors: 11

CWIS Section awards:

(Any sections not indicated were not awarded)

Section D (Miniature Tall Bearded) - Little Bay Denoc - BJ Jackson

Section E (Border Bearded) - Sprint - Sandy Proulx

Section G (Species, Species-X, Siberian) - I. pseudacorous Bastardii - Sandy Eggertson

Section H (Collections) - Pennywhistle - David Hutchison



Section Winners MTB Little Bay Denoc (BJ Jackson above left) and BB Sprint (Sandy Proulx) above right



Section Winners Species I. pseudacorus bastardii (Sandy Eggertson above left) and Siberian Pennywhistle (David Hutchison above right)

Best Canadian Stem in Show - not awarded
Best Historic Stem in Show - not Awarded

AIS Sweepstakes

Silver Certificate (most first place ribbons) - BJ Jackson

Bronze Certificate (second most first place ribbons) - Eleanor Hutchison

- There was a 5 way tie for the Bronze and the winner was determined by counting both first and second place ribbons.

AIS Best in Show - Little Bay Denoc - BJ Jackson

People's Choice Award (Horticulture) - Dirigo Black Velvet - Sandy Eggertson

People's Choice Award (Design) - Breezy - Deborah Petrie



Top left Design Section People's Choice Award winner 'Breezy' by Deborah Petrie; at right, Sandy Proulx receives the Border Bearded Section award for Sprint. Middle left, a design by Jennifer Bishop; at right a design by Debbie Innes. Bottom left El Hutchison presents BJ Jackson with the Best in Show certificate; at right MTB Dividing Line in a design by Diana Dhaliwal

2015 AIS National Convention

(by Kate Brewitt)

Editor's Note: The following report originally appeared in the summer newsletter of the Ontario Iris Society (ONIS). Used with permission and thanks. All photos courtesy of Kate Brewitt.

Cup Winners

We couldn't have asked for better weather at this year's convention. Temperatures were perfect for spending the day in the garden. As always, it was great fun. Here are this year's winners for the Convention cups.

President's Cup
(Best iris from a Region hybridizer)



'Football Hero' TB (Lynda Miller, 2015)

Franklin Cook Cup
(Best iris from a hybridizer NOT in Region)



'Swans In Flight' SIB (Hollingworth, 2006)

Ben Hager Cup
(Best Median Iris)



'Moose Tracks' MTB (Lynda Miller, 2015)

Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup
(Best iris seedling at the convention.)



‘Royston Rubies’ (Adam Cordes, TB)

This is Adam’s very first registered iris seedling. Pretty good start if you ask me!

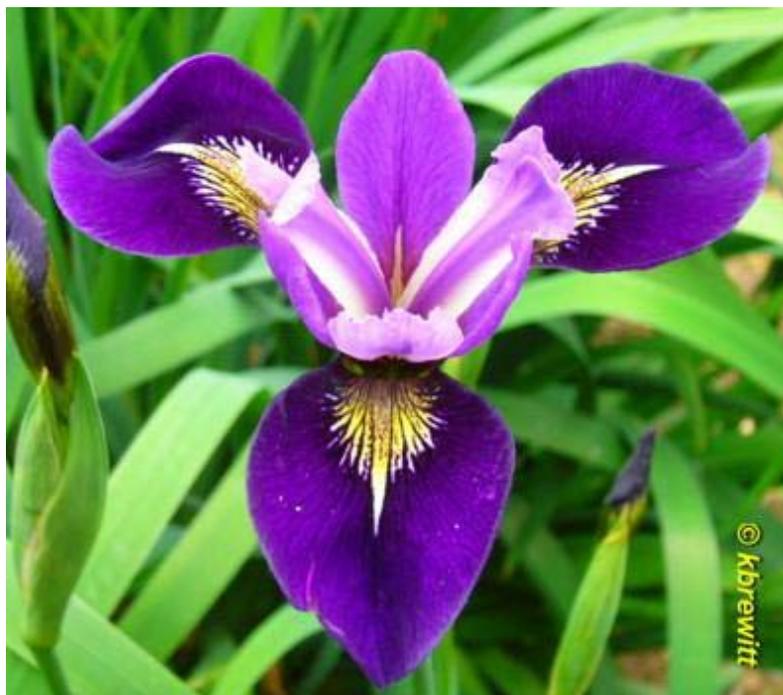
2015 Siberian Convention Winners

Following the National convention was the Siberian/Species Convention. This two day convention is a great way to see newly introduced beardless irises. Awards were given as follows.

Best Siberian
'Swans In Flight' SIB (Hollingworth, 2006)



Best Species/Species-Cross
'Do The Math' SPX (Copeland, 2008)



Best Seedling

This year's winner, 'Rubicon' (C. Lankow) is a Cal-Sib. Cal-Sib irises are the result of a cross between two iris species, a Pacific Coast (PCI) and a Sino-Siberian.



Happy Summer To All!