

For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones



Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Summer, 2016

Volume 10, Issue 2

Update From the Organizing Committee

Except for a few late stalks on some Siberians and the Pseudatas, bloom season is pretty much over for most of us in CWIS land for 2016. And now we wait with anticipation for rebloom, if one is lucky enough to experience it, the ripening of pods from the season's crosses or in planning for next year. And to aid in that iris planning is the summer rhizome sale which is fast approaching. Please check out page 5 for details. It is going to be great but I hope the iris last a bit longer than the three days before selling out as they have in the past couple of years.

Also included in this newsletter is a review of the award winners from the 2016 AIS New Jersey convention. Thanks to Kate Brewitt for her great photos! As well, a beginning look forward to the next convention in Des Moines, Iowa in 2017 is provided. This is our home region (21) so start planning now on coming along. The pennies are already being saved on this end and it would be great to have you along with us. See pages 2 to 4 for details.

And we can't forget our 9th annual show report on pages 6 - 9. As was the case last year, it was a small show and the Organizing Committee has decided to move the date up a week and see what happens. As BJ Jackson remarked during the awards ceremony at the show, one year is an anomaly, two years in a row is a trend. So mark your calendar now for Sunday, June 4th same time, same place.

The low dollar and demands of our prospective experts and judges, we were unable to schedule a member event or bring in guest judges for the show this year. We tried but it just didn't work out. We are, however, working on next year already and it WILL happen in 2017, which just happens to be the 10th annual show. More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

So here it is. If you'd like to contact us, we are just an email away!

B. J. Jackson, jacksonb@mts.net
Deborah Petrie, petrie@mymts.net

Jennifer Bishop, Jennifer@dataways.com
Eleanor Hutchison, eleanore@mymts.net

AIS Convention Awards...

Did you know that the American Iris Society votes several awards at the annual convention? In 2016 the convention was in New Jersey where the following iris received these convention awards:

PRESIDENT'S CUP - introduced irises originated within the host region. Irises must have been seen growing and in bloom in the convention's official tour gardens, but need not be official guest irises.

TB Put Another Nickel In TB (Howard Bushnell)



FRANKLIN COOK CUP - introduced irises seen growing and in bloom in the official tour gardens of the convention except irises originated within the host region. They need not be official convention guest irises.

TB Three Part Harmony (Paul Black) (tie)



TB Honky Tonk Rumble (Hooker Nichols (tie))



HAGER CUP - introduced median irises (SDB, IB, MTB and BB) seen growing and in bloom in the official tour gardens of the convention. They need not be official convention guest irises.

MTB Moose Tracks (Lynda Miller)

Also won this award in 2015 in Portland Oregon. First time that has happened.



LLOYD ZURBRIGG-CLARENCE MAHAN CUP - for the best iris seedling viewed at the annual AIS Convention.

Seedling 2013-1 TB (Bonnie Nicholls)



And speaking of conventions....

Region 21 (our home region) is hosting the 2017 AIS Convention in Des Moines, Iowa May 23-27, 2017. That's about all the information we have at the moment but further updates will be in the Autumn newsletter. I'm told by Convention co-chair Kelly Norris that Des Moines Botanical Gardens as well as several major gardens in the area will be on the tour. No word has been received as yet about the convention hotel or program. Stay tuned...



Rhizome Sale 2016

It is hard to believe that it is getting close to summer sale time! It's already the middle of July. This year's sale dates will be Friday, July 30th to Thursday, August 5th or until sell out which is what has occurred over the past few years. An additional challenge this year is the Canada Post uncertainty but contingency plans are being put in place just in case the postal disruption is a long one. If you think you might be placing an order, particularly for those members outside of Manitoba, please consider having your order shipped to one central location with other members in your area so we can streamline the process and keep the costs down as much as possible. All this, of course, is contingent upon what happens with Canada Post. Any changes will be communicated through email so please watch your e-mailbox, the CWIS Facebook page or the CWIS Open Forum discussion group for information.

This year's supplier for the very first time in our albeit short history is Trails End Iris out of Ontario. Bob and Ann Granatier are busy putting together a great list of irises from the bearded classes for us and because of our group purchasing plan, they assure us that there will be a great selection. From the classic to the newer ones, there will be something you absolutely, positively have to have to add to your garden. Donations are also coming in from members and friends for which we are very thankful. But there is always room for more so if you are dividing, please keep us in mind. Contact BJ Jackson if you have some to donate to the sale.

If you are unfamiliar with the sale process, please visit the CWIS website and review the most recent sale guidelines. 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. Please remember that quantities are limited (usually 5 or 7 of each variety) so if you snooze, you lose!

The list of guidelines for this year and the sale listing will arrive in your inbox around 7 pm on the 30th so stay tuned!

9th Annual CWIS Show Report 2016

(By: BJ Jackson, Show Chair)

What a day! Show day arrived with a torrential downpour in Winnipeg once again but that didn't deter the exhibitors, volunteers and designers from descending upon Bourkevale Community Centre on Sunday, June 12th in full force. Because of the early year, the stem count was down from what we consider normal but almost the same as last year. The designers, however, stepped up big time with double the number of designs featuring irises as last year. Some of them were amazing. (see show photos pages 7 and 8) All photos courtesy of Brenda Newton.

The rhizome sale table was a hub of activity. Indeed there were people waiting in line at opening time and there were still people wanting to purchase just one more rhizome right up to the last minute. We had the most donations ever thanks to all our members and friends who took the time to dig, divide and donate to the sale table. There was an amazing array of everything you could possibly want in any size, shape or colour. And the public came out in droves in the afternoon. I don't think I saw one visitor leaving without a little bag of goodies on their arm and a smile on their face. Many new friends were made and some old friends were missed, friendships were renewed and new members signed up. Overall a great iris day!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who took the time out of their day 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 and we know who you are and the Show Committee does appreciate all the assistance provided by our members and friends!

Total number of entries: 57 (44 stems and 13 designs)

Total number of exhibitors: 10

CWIS Section awards:

(Any sections not indicated were not awarded)

Section D (Miniature Tall Bearded) - Striped Pants - El Hutchison

Section F (Tall Bearded) - Brussels - Sandy Proulx

Section G (Species, Species-X, Siberian) - Pennywhistle - Sandy Eggertson

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

AIS Sweepstakes

Silver Medal & Certificate (most first place ribbons) - Sandy Proulx

Bronze Medal & Certificate (second most first place ribbons) - El Hutchison



Section Winners above L to R - F TB Brussels/D MTB Striped Pants/G SIB Pennywhistle



Best in Show - TB Brussels - Sandy Proulx



Bronze Medal and Certificate - El Hutchison

AIS Best in Show - TB Brussels - Sandy Proulx

People's Choice Award (Horticulture) - (3 way tie) - Sandy Proulx - TB
Brussels/El Hutchison - TB Vita Fire/Brenda Newton - SIB Handsome Harry



People's Choice Award (Design) - Jennifer Bishop - The Glider



Some other designs that caught my fancy from L to R - Fantasy by Deborah Petrie, Reflection by David Hutchison and Study in Purple by Dianna Dhaliwal



Enjoy The Summer!