

CWIS 2nd Annual Show Report - 2009

(By B. J. Jackson)

Saturday, June 13th 2009 will go down in CWIS history as the day our members and friends celebrated the world of iris by entering 167 stems for exhibition and judging at the 2nd annual show held in Winnipeg at the Bourkevale Community Centre. And what a job it was for the two visiting judges from Aurora ON, Terry Laurin and Kate Brewitt as well as our own El Hutchison, along with student judges B. J. Jackson and E. Czarnecki. Of the total stems, there were 135 different cultivars entered by 11 exhibitors and they covered all classes of bearded iris. There was also a single Siberian, a single Species and a single Species-X exhibited.

It was quickly apparent that we were going to have more stems than containers in which to put them. We literally went through everything that could hold a stem in the entire building including the stem holders on loan from the Manitoba Regional Lily Society, all the vases we could find in the kitchen and even those brought in by members 'just in case'. We were totally out of containers. But we made do and it was a wonderful day!

We learned a lot of things from the first show last year including the importance of having a Court of Honour for winners. Deborah Petrie did an excellent job along with her helpers in putting it together.

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- AIS Best in Show – SDB *Wish Upon a Star* (Black, 2006) – exhibited by El Hutchison/CWIS Section Certificate Bearded Iris
- Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show (sponsored by On Russell Gardens) – SDB *Ruby Eruption* (Chapman, 1997)
- AIS Silver Medal (horticultural sweepstakes) – El Hutchison
- AIS Bronze Medal (horticultural sweepstakes) – Brenda Newton
- CWIS People's Choice Award (voted by the public attending the show) – IB *Double Your Fun* (Aitken, 2000) – exhibited by B. J. Jackson

In summary, the second annual show was a huge success and that success is directly attributable to the volunteers who did what was needed and got the job done. My thanks to Gerry and Wilma Maurice, Naomi Wiebe, Sandy Eggertson, Deborah Petrie, Brenda Newton, El and David Hutchison, Len and Rita Giesbrecht, Jennifer Bishop, Ed Czarnecki, Valerie Dnesiuk, Irene Hyland and, of course, Terry Laurin and Kate Brewitt.