For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones

Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

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Update From the Organizing Committee

CWIS remains in operational hiatus as we approach the end of 2020. As we indicated in spring, during this time of uncertainty, no one will be dropped from the membership list. We are all hoping for a return to a semblance of normalcy next year, but only time will tell. Here's hoping that we can get to a place where we can again meet in person, visit gardening friends and get that personal contact we all crave sooner rather than later.

There is not much going on in the iris world right at the moment. That said, however, this newsletter provides a way to connect with the membership, and so in this issue we have gathered together a few things not only to distract from the outside world, but also to keep members informed.

Included in this issue is the very scarce rebloom report that starts on page 2, some news on page 4 and to finish off, a retrospective of past Best In Show winners starts on page 5. So enjoy the read and have a safe and happy Christmas. Here's to saying a hearty goodbye to 2020!

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TB Christmas Present (Ghio, 2006)
How nice would it be to find this one under the Christmas tree?

CWIS 2020 Rebloom Report

(Compiled by BJ Jackson)

Rebloom was few and far between across the membership this year. There were 5 SDBs reported as well as 1 IB, 1 MTB and 3 TBs from 4 members. They are:

SDB Autumn Jester (D. Reble, SK)
SDB Forever Blue (S. Durand, AB/S. Rowe AB/M. Unruh BC/D. Reble, SK)




SDB Forever Royal (D. Reble, SK)




SDB What Again (M. Unruh, BC)
SDB Wizard of Hope (S. Durand, AB)




IB Fast Forward (M. Unruh, BC)
MTB Maui Mango (M. Unruh, BC)




TB Again And Again/Champagne Elegance/TB Immortality (M. Unruh, BC)





(Ed: See page 7 for a Post Script to this report!)

Did You Know....

- The American Iris Society (AIS) has made their 2020 webinars available for all to view on YouTube? They are not all there yet, but there are several for members to view over the winter. Check out their channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh6jHgw5FlFqwHwAuahh0Wg

- The AIS National Convention for 2021 in Las Cruces New Mexico has been postponed a year due to the pandemic? Everyone has their fingers crossed for 2022!

Sandy Ives, In Remembrance…



We are saddened to report that Sandy Ives of Ottawa, Ontario passed away October 13th in Ottawa. Members might remember that Sandy and his wife Maureen visited us in 2008 for our very first show, and again in 2018 for our tenth anniversary show.

Sandy was a mentor, a friend, and a particularly gifted iris judge. His unusual laugh, his wonderful stories, and the knowledge and experiences he shared will be remembered.

He was very supportive and helpful getting CWIS officially off the ground, helping to get our judges properly certified, and he served for many years in the Canadian Iris Society as Judges Training Chair. In addition, he and Maureen provided iris on several occasions for our sale table and summer sale. He will be missed!

To view his obituary, here is the link:

https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/raymond-ives-1080513159

Best In Show Winners - A Retrospective

(Compiled by B. J. Jackson)

A bit of a walk down memory lane. I thought it might be a good distraction and I thought it might be fun to see what past BIS winners look like in the garden. The photos are mostly from the AIS Iris Encyclopedia, past member submissions and my computer stash. Enjoy! They include 1 SDB, 3 MTB, 3 IB and 4 TB. 11 iris over 12 shows.

2008 - IB Star Woman (Marky Smith, 1997)
2009 - SDB Wish Upon a Star (Black, 2006)




2010 - TB Humoresque (Keith Keppel, 1961)



2011/2012 - MTB Ace (Lynda Miller, 1999)



2013 - IB Blueberry Filly (Brad Kasperek, 1998)
2014 - TB Eagles Flight (Schreiner, 1985)




2015 - MTB Little Bay Denoc (Frank A. Williams, 1978)



2016 - TB Brussels (Thomas Johnson, 2003)
2017 - TB Circle Step (Duane Meek, 1977)




2018 - MTB Merit (Kenneth Fisher, 1996)
2019 - IB Cherie Amour (Earl Roberts, 1972)




Rebloom Post Script…

Although this one didn't quite make it to opening its rebloom stalks, I thought it should be included. Donna Reble's IB Many Mahalos gave it the good college try! It was covered two nights then got a bit of frost so Donna cut it and brought it inside where it did bloom for her.



From our CWIS house to yours, a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful 2021.
Fingers, toes and all appendages are crossed!