For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones

Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Autumn, 2022 **Volume 16, Issue 3**

Update From the Organizing Committee

We are well and truly into the cold and snow in Manitoba and reports from other members indicate similar conditions across the prairies. And even though we know it will get colder, we also know that in a few short months it will be spring. That means it is time to start planning for 2023. Over the winter months, the Organizing Committee will be continuing our work looking forward to the new year and hopefully a more normal one as we move into the post COVID world and 'living with the virus'.

Our summer rhizome sale was once again a success thanks to member support even as there were a few glitches along the way. Never again will we start the sale without all the rhizomes in hand to avoid this year's shortages. There is always a glitch or two but this year there were too many. The Rhizome Sale Committee thanks all who ordered for their patience as we worked out the problems.

In this autumn issue you will find the rebloom report on page 2, a piece on borer control on page 4 followed by the 2022 AIS awards on page 5. And finally, a couple items that might be of interest on page 7.

And as always at this time of year, the best wishes of the Organizing Committee for a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Enjoy the season!

So sit back, relax with a hot beverage and enjoy the newsletter. *I*f you need to contact us, we are just an email away. You can reach us at:

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Rebloom Report 2022

(Compiled by BJ Jackson)

The usual suspects are back again in this year's rebloom reports received from CWIS members and friends. However, we also have reports of a few not seen previously since we started recording them. Once again **Chuck Chapman** and his creations top the list for 2022 with three SDBs, one MTB and one IB. **Terry Aitken** is next with three IBs. So here are this year's reblooming iris from these lucky folks starting in the west and moving eastward. Once again I have rebloom envy!

<u>British Columbia</u>
Anne Ritcey,
- TB Immortality (Lloyd Zurbrigg, 1982)
- IB Fast Forward (J. Terry Aitken, 2002)

Marianne Unruh,
- SDB Forever Blue (Chuck Chapman, 1996)
- TB Champagne Elegance (O. David Niswonger, 1986)
- IB Cinnamon Flash (J. Terry Aitken, 1999)
- TB Again and Again (Sterling Innerst, 1999)
- TB Augustine (Oscar Schick, 2004)

SDB Autumn Jester →→→



<u>Alberta</u>
Marilyn Kusler,
- SDB Forever Blue (Chuck Chapman, 1996)

Dianne Skimming,
- SDB Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, 2002)

Vi Snaith (Sandy Proulx's sister),
- SDB Jillaroo (Allan Ensminger, 1983)

SDB Blueberry Tart →→→



<u>Saskatchewan</u>
Marija Bacon,
- TB Champagne Elegance (O. David Niswonger, 1986)

Katie Deneiko,
- SDB Autumn Jester (Chuck Chapman, 2000)
- SDB Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, 2002)

Donna Reble, SK,
- IB Returning Fancy (Chuck Chapman, 2020)
- IB Many Mahalos (J. Terry Aitken, 2003)
- MDB Forever Violet (Chuck Chapman, 2002)

SDB Forever Blue →→→



<u>Manitoba</u>
Nadeen Pickard,
- SDB Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, 2002)

Julie Yatsko,
- SDB Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, 2002),
- MDB Forever Violet (Chuck Chapman, 2002)

MDB Forever Violet →→→















From top left:
TB Augustine, IB Cinnamon Flash
IB Fast Forward, IB Returning Fancy
SDB Jillaroo, TB Immortality

Iris Borer Control

(By BJ Jackson)

Earlier this summer it was confirmed through the University of Manitoba that the iris borer (Macronoctua onusta) had arrived in Manitoba. Inevitable, but still a shock and dismay to everyone. CWIS urges its members and friends across the province to be vigilant.

So, to provide information on control, Chuck Chapman's on his website at http://www.chapmaniris.com/id38.htm, I also spoke to a couple iris friends about their experiences over the years and what has worked best for them. Here are their thoughts and recommendations.

From Kate Brewitt and Terry Lauren in Southern Ontario,
"We can't say enough good things about the DynaTrap. Nematodes require work and precise timing while manually picking/squishing is labour intensive. With the DynaTrap we just plug it in, sit back and enjoy our irises. It's also good at catching mosquitoes and lawn moths."

From Cathy Eggerer and Nancy McDonald in Michigan USA,
"We have had great results with nematodes. We treat the iris fields in the early summer and that pretty much takes care of them. Last year we found no borers at all; this year we found maybe five or six, and that's in a field with 1200+ iris clumps…" Cathy provided further information indicating that the nematode in the Scan Mask she uses is steinernema feltiae and the one in their EcoMask product is steinernema carpocapsae. Both attack iris borers. She also indicated that from her research, she had identified a company that sells both of them in Canada and provided a link to their products:

https://retail.koppert.ca/products/entonem-am?variant=42796406735083

She writes: "Basically, you mix the nematode powder with water and spray it at the base of the irises when the fans are 6 inches or so tall, but before they bloom. When the borer travels down the fan into the soil on the way to the rhizome, the nematodes invade their bodies and basically dissolve them from the inside out, while reproducing inside the larva. It sounds horribly gruesome and very satisfying to an iris gardener!"

So, don't despair, even though the pest is here, there are options available to us!



American Iris Association (AIS) 2022 Awards

Below is a selected list of 2022 award winners. For a full list including runners up, please follow the link below: (may have to cut and paste into your browser)

https://www.irises.org/about-ais/awards-symposiums/#aisawards



THE DYKES MEDAL
All iris classes, originated in US or Canada
FOOTBALL HERO - TB iris - (Lynda Miller, 2014)



THE HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL Intermediate Bearded irises
APPLE CRISP (Paul Black, 2014)



THE WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL Miniature Tall Bearded irises
BREAKFAST IN BED (Charles Bunnell, 2013)



THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL Standard Dwarf Bearded irises
COCONINO (Marky Smith, 2009)



THE CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL Miniature Dwarf Bearded irises
RIVULET (Keith Keppel, 2011)



THE ERIC NIES MEDAL Spuria irises
ODE TO A TOAD (Brad Kasperek, 2012)



THE RANDOLPH PERRY MEDAL Inter-species hybrid (SPEC-X) irises KUROKAWA-NOH (J. T. Aitken)

Did You Know…

… The use of iris as a garden plant dates back to 1469 B.C. and King Thutmose III of Egypt. Apparently, the king was an avid gardener and coveted plants the way many at the time coveted gold. When Egypt conquered Syria, the king found irises growing in abundance and introduced them to his gardens. Although no source gave an idea of which type of irises they might be, a few scattered sources indicate that it was probably a bearded species. Apparently they appear on reliefs in Egypt at the site of his original gardens to this day.

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… The British Iris Society (BIS) celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022? And this year at the Chelsea Flower Show in London, the group was awarded a gold medal for their display!

