For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones

Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Autumn, 2023 **Volume 17, Issue 3**

Update From the Organizing Committee

After a beautiful autumn with little snow and well above average temperatures for an extended period, it appears that winter may be realizing it is past time to exert seasonal dominance. Here's hoping for some good snow cover soon!

First a 'mea culpa' from the editor. One of the winners from the summer photo contest was reported incorrectly in the summer newsletter. In fact, the winner of the MDB class was Katie Deneiko for her Flirty Eyes entry. Once again, apologies to all for the error.

This issue includes an article on the newest iris reported pest (page 2) followed by the annual rebloom report. (page 3). A lot of newer members find this list a good starting point if interested in the possibility of rebloom in their iris patch. If interested, previous reports can be accessed through the newsletter archive on the website http://www.can-westis.com/page9.html . The intermittent 'Did You Know' feature is next on page 5 and finally, a summary of selected major AIS 2023 awards. (page 6)

The Organizing Committee is now looking to 2024. We look forward to hosting an iris show again given the disappointment of 2023. Details will be worked on over the winter and we are hopeful of increased volunteer support. Stay tuned for developments!

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 of your choice and enjoy the newsletter. If you need to contact us, we are just an email away. You can reach us at:

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Another Iris Pest

(By BJ Jackson)

Once again this year, there is a new to iris pest found in Manitoba. Although they have been around in gardens and farm crops for a very long time, this is the first instance noted in an iris that we have had reported.

Near the end of August, CWIS member Jacquie Lawson discovered a rhizome in her garden that had suffered significant damage. And. she was able to capture photos of the offending creature. (See photos below) The photos were posted to the CWIS Facebook page where a lively discussion was held on whether it was iris borer (also recently new to Manitoba) damage or something else. Luckily Chuck Chapman stepped up to clear things up.

According to Chuck, the time of year was wrong for it to be borer damage. Also, borers enter the fan from the top in spring and work their way down. They do not start eating in the rhizome proper. In late August and September in our area, (approximation since they are so new we don't have the data) they have pupated and begun to emerge as moths that fly around (mostly at night) looking for a spot to lay eggs.

So what was it that Jacquie found? Chuck says it is most likely a root maggot. These beasties feed on decaying organic material and the rhizome probably had sustained some type of mechanical injury that attracted it. When asked what species it might be his advice was not to try to identify the species without an entomologist since there are hundreds of different types out there. A brief Google search turned up 642 species in 39 genera.

As for how to deal with them, common non-chemical treatments include good garden hygiene in addition to diatomaceous earth spread around the plants, floating row covers, and/or using natural predators of root maggots such as Heterorhabditidae or Steinernematidae beneficial nematodes. Coincidently, these are the nematodes also recommended for borer control.





CWIS Rebloom Report

(Compiled by BJ Jackson)

Always a joy to report, 2023 has been a banner year for many members and friends with lots of rebloom reported from Ontario to British Columbia. Along with some old friends, there are some new ones. There are a total of 17 different varieties reported including 1 MDB, 7 SDB, 4 IB, 5 TB and 1 SIB. Once again, the top hybridizer is Chuck Chapman with 6 varieties and 6 of the varieties are considered historic as they were registered more than 30 years ago. I hope I didn't miss any! Unless otherwise indicated, selected photos on page 4 are from the Iris Encyclopedia (Wiki) or BJ Jackson's garden.

MDB
-Forever Violet (Chuck Chapman, R. 2002) E. Hutchison MB/K. Deneiko SK

SDB
-Autumn Jester (Chuck Chapman, R.1996) D. Reble SK/K. Deneiko SK /L. Giesbrecht MB
-Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, R. 2002). K. Deneiko SK/C. Pop AB /D. Skimming AB
-Forever Blue (Chuck Chapman, R. 1996) J. Price SK/C. Pop AB
-Forever Royal (Chuck Chapman, R. 2014) D. Reble SK
-Jewel Baby (Earl Hall, R. 1984) K. Leibzeit MB
-Jillaroo (Allan Ensminger, R.1983) E. Hutchison MB
-Over Easy (Carol Lankow, R.1989) F. Priest BC

IB
-Fast Forward (J. Terry Aitken, R. 2002) C. Pop AB
-Many Maholos (J. Terry Aitken, R. 2003) F. Priest BC/E. Hutchison MB /A. Darcy AB
-Returning Fancy(Chuck Chapman, introduced 2020 but not yet registered) A. Darcy AB/L. Andreason AB

TB
-Again and Again (Sterling Innerst, R. 1999) K. Wood BC
-Breakers (Schreiner, R. 1986) A. LeFebre BC
-English Cottage (Lloyd Zurbrigg, R. 1976) F. Priest BC/T. Weng ON
-I'm Back (Thomas Johnson, R. 2006) C. Pop AB
-Immortality (Lloyd Zurbrigg, R. 1982) F. Priest BC/E. Hutchison MB/D.Yergens SK/K. Leibzeit MB/T. Weng ON/D. Innes MB

SIB
-Encore Performance (Robert Hollingworth, R. 2010) B. Sparrow MB



TB I'm Back



IB Fast Forward



SDB Jillaroo



↑↑↑ SDB Jewel Baby
↓↓↓ SIB Encore Performance





Did You Know…

… that BJ Jackson has received word that her status as an American Iris Society judge has changed???



Chair of the Region 21 Judges Training committee, Wayne Messer, advises that following 15 years of service as a Garden/Exhibition judge, BJ has moved up to Master Judge status for 2024. Congratulations BJ!!!

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FROM OUR CWIS HOUSE TO YOURS, A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLLIDAY SEASON AND A WONDERFUL 2024.

2023 Awards

The 2023 AIS awards have been released.

Editor's Note: Interesting factoid; several winning varieties have the word 'black' in their name.

Below are a selection of major award winners. For the complete list visit:

https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoAwards2023

All photos courtesy of the Iris Encyclopedia (Wiki).

THE DYKES MEDAL - All irises
'Don't Doubt Dalton' - TB iris - (Tom Burseen, R. 2014)



THE JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL - Tall Bearded irises
'Black Lipstick' - (Keith Keppel, R. 2015)



THE KNOWLTON MEDAL - Border Bearded irises
'What's New Pussycat' - (Paul Black, R. 2011)



THE HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL - Intermediate Bearded irises
'Black Comedy' - (Paul Black, R. 2017)



THE WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL - Miniature Tall Bearded irises
'Black Cherry Sorbet' - (Chad Harris, R. 2015)



THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL - Standard Dwarf Bearded irises
'Oh Canada' - (Thomas Johnson, R. 2015)



THE CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL - Miniature Dwarf Bearded irises
'Black Olive' - (Paul Black, R. 2013)



THE MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL - Siberian irises
'Black Joker' - (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks, R. 2013)

