For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones

Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Summer, 2023

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Update From the Organizing Committee

What a year! Extreme heat, no rain or too much rain or hail, thrips infestations, then a significant and abrupt cool down, smoke from wild fires; it seems we have seen everything no matter where we live across this great country. And yes, the iris borer has once again been sighted and confirmed in Manitoba so be vigilant.

Now is the time to watch for rebloom happening in the iris garden. Should you have any, please let BJ Jackson know. This is valuable information for members and hybridizers to have. Reports have already started trickling in from a couple of locations so hopefully it will be a good rebloom year.

It was disappointing to have to cancel the iris show in June and we are very hopeful that all those who called or emailed their support after the cancellation notice went out will be there for us when we attempt it once again in 2024. We say it often but it really is true. We cannot do what we do without the support and assistance of our members and friends.

Congratulations are extended to BJ Jackson for receiving the Historic Iris Preservation Society's 2023 Distinguished Service Award. Read what they had to say about her on page 2. You will also find the results of the Facebook photo contest on page 3 and we congratulate them all as well. Good job! They will be notified by email of their success and their prizes as soon as possible.

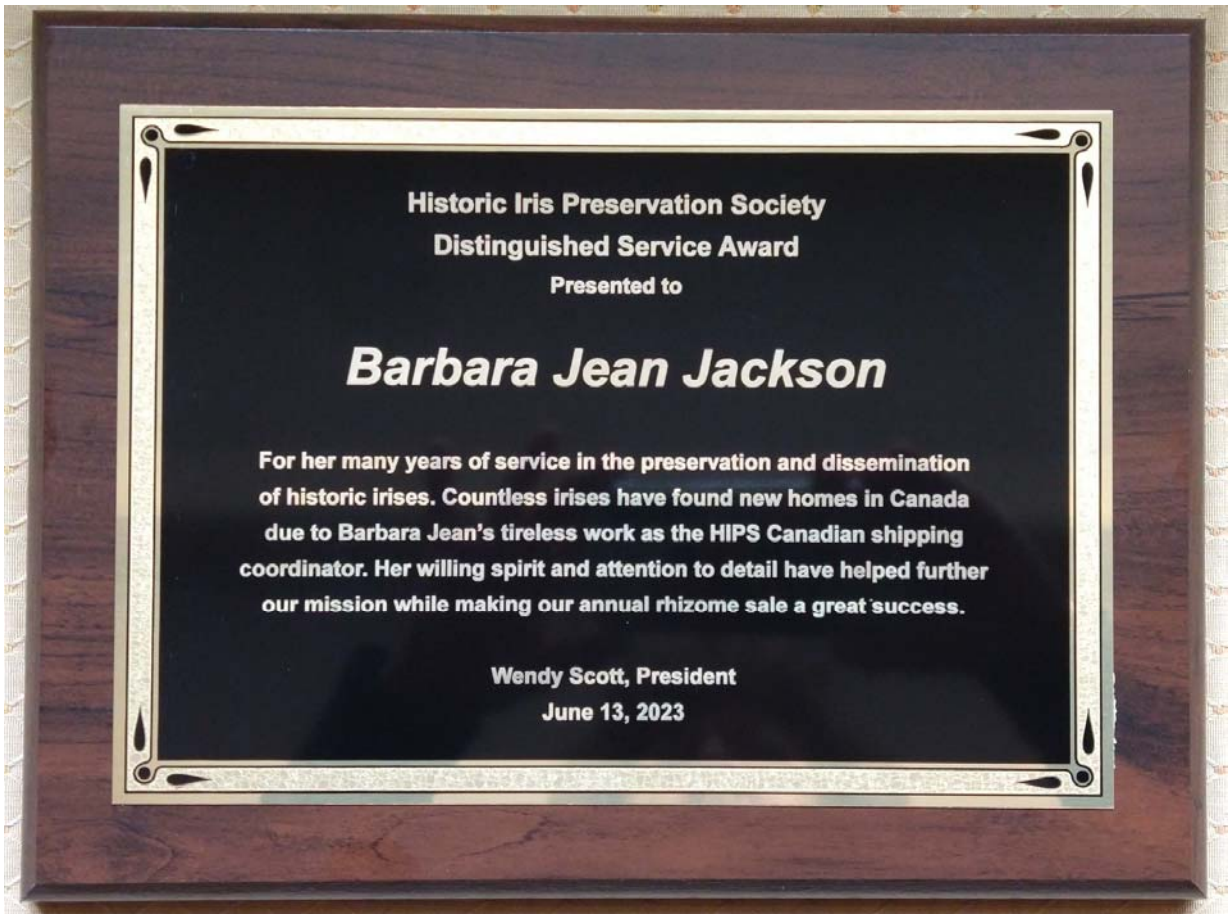
A little Did You Know appears on page 5 with some tips on cleaning up the iris after bloom, but that which you have been waiting for the most, the information you need for the upcoming rhizome sale scheduled to begin next week you can read all about it also starts on page 5. Please enjoy this issue and contact us directly if you wish. We are always glad to hear from you!

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From The Historic Iris Preservation Society Newsletter

HIPS Distinguished Service Award

We're delighted to honor longtime HIPS member Barbara Jean Jackson (BJ) with the 2023 HIPS Distinguished Award. For well over a decade, BJ has worked behind the scenes of our annual Iris Sale as the Canadian shipping coordinator. Irises are sent directly to her and she then repackages them and sends them on to our Canadian members. She's a true rock star when dealing with Customs and the mysteries of Canada Post and thanks to her efforts, hundreds of irises have made their way to new homes in Canada. BJ, we are grateful for all you do. Congratulations and many thanks!



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CWIS Photo Contest Results

(Compiled by BJ Jackson)

Another successful photo contest was just completed on the CWIS Facebook page. The number of entries was 264 and more than 200 votes were cast over the various categories. Thank you to all who participated!

PC1 MDB - Flirty Eyes, S. Proulx
PC2 SDB - Dark Mistress, J. Price
PC3 MTB - Moose Tracks, J. Yatsko
PC4 IB - Aquarian, BJ Jackson
PC5 BB - Chickasaw Sue, J. Yatsko
PC6 TB - Absolute Treasure, J. Fiola Lawson
PC7 Siberian - Black Joker, J. Fiola Lawson
PC8 Species - versicolor BJ Jackson
PC9 Multiple Blooms - TB Claire de Lune, J. Yatsko
PC10 Clump - TB School Boy Heart, J. Fiola Lawson
PC11 Arilbred - no entries
PC12 Spuria - I. Ochreleuca, M. Kusler



PC1 MDB Flirty Eyes
PC2 SDB Dark Mistress
PC3 MTB Moose Tracks
PC4 IB Aquarian









PC5 BB Chickasaw Sue
PC6 TB Absolute Treasure
PC7 Sib Black Joker
PC8 Species versicolor







PC9 Claire de Lune
PC10 TB School Boy Heart
PC12 Spuria Ochreleuca

Did You Know…

…Irises Require Some After Bloom Care???

Here's some things one can do after bloom season is done:
- Remove old bloomstalks. Most of the time, they snap off easily at the base If they don't snap off easily, don't yank. Try a bend and twist and if that doesn't work, cut off close to the rhizome.
- After removing spent bloomstalks, remove dead and dying outside leaves from around where the stalk used to be.
- If you see leafspot, cut off the diseased parts of the leaves in the garbage, not the compost.
- Use your nose! Take a whiff and if you smell anything off putting check for rot particularly if it has been a wet season.
- Tidy up weeds, leaves and tree seeds from in and around the clumps to promote air circulation.
- If you normally cut back the fans for winter, do NOT do it now. The plant needs its leaves for photosynthisis. Wait until the fall to do it particularly on the smaller classes.
- If you fertilize, now is the time to do it for the final time of the year.

2023 CWIS Rhizome Sale

We have stayed in country for the commercial supplier given the highest US exchange rate we have seen in many years. This way we are able to provide members with the best bang for their buck and the most value for their money spent. Chuck Chapman is our commercial supplier this year. He always provides us with a great list and has promised some brand new introductions that will knock your socks off! And because of the way we do what we do, we are able to offer them at extremely reduced prices to the membership. Rounding out the list are donations from CWIS members. We are truly grateful for this and thank donors for their continuing support.

Please read through the instructions for participating and send BJ any questions you may have prior to the sale going live. You might also wish to visit Chapman Iris's website to familiarize yourself with what he has so decisions can be made fast and orders submitted in the required format to avoid delays. Once the sale starts, timely answers to questions cannot be guaranteed.

(continued…)

Rhizome Sale Instructions

The 2023 summer sale will be live from Wednesday, July 26th at 7 pm to Sunday, July 30th or until sold out. This is, of course, subject to the arrival of the iris. Should they not appear in time, members will be notified via email and a new date selected and publicized. It has only happened once before in almost 20 years, but it has to be said. We will not sell irises we do not have. Period.

Orders are processed as received (by date stamp of your email). To make things go smoothly, your order needs to be submitted in the proper format and you will need to follow the exact processes. See below for specific instructions and requirements. **This year we are exclusively using Canada Post's flat rate shipping boxes** unless otherwise warranted (ie. very small or very large orders).

We thank you for your support in the past and look forward to introducing you to newer varieties as well as old favourites for your gardens.

The rules and guidelines haven't changed a lot, but there have been a few changes so please read everything through carefully before you start shopping. If you don't understand something or something is not clear to you, please ask.

In most cases, the rhizomes have been in transit for many days and will not look freshly dug when you receive them. All they will require is a good soak (just enough to cover the roots) for an hour or two to rehydrate before planting.

Instructions

1. **REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE**: Paid membership in CWIS is required. The membership fee remains at $5.00 per year. The membership fee is to be included with your order. The exception is those who joined up between August of last year and July of this year or those who have paid for multiple years. We know who you are. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please ask.

2. **SALE PERIOD**: The sale will run from Wednesday, July 26th to Sunday, July 30th or until the iris are sold out, whichever comes first. Orders are filled on a first come basis as determined by the date stamp on your emailed order.

3. **ORDERS**: **DO NOT HIT REPLY AND SEND THE ENTIRE LISTING BACK TO ME!** You will need to create a new e-mail with your order to B. J. Jackson at plantaddict487@icloud.com. Pleae use "**2023 Rhizome Sale Order**" in the subject line.

*****Only orders sent to the iCloud address will be accepted. Those not in the proper format will not be processed*****

With your order, please include:

- iris selection and price (only 1 rhizome per person allowed)
- shipping method (Canada Post, Winnipeg delivery)
- full name, address and postal code
- method of payment (mandatory or order will not be processed)
- membership status (if unsure, ask)

To avoid the mass confusion that is the first few days of the sale for our volunteers, just one e-mail order per day per person will be accepted. Include everything you 'must have' in your first email to avoid disappointment. Subsequent additions to orders in the next days are subject to availability.

4. **ACCEPTED PAYMENT METHODS**: Electronic bank payments are preferred; however, if you wish to pay by cheque or other method, indicate this on your order and **wait** for your confirmation before sending. **Do not send money before you receive your confirmation.** NSF cheques will be charged a service fee at current bank rates plus $5. Electronic bank transfers are to be sent to **jacksonb@mts.net** not the iCloud address. Check your online banking site for information and instructions on how to use it. Depending on your bank and your account type, there may be a charge to you for using it.

5. **RHIZOME AVAILABILITY**: Some of the varieties are in very limited numbers. Only one (1) rhizome per variety per order unless advised otherwise. Confirmations will be sent once your order has been received **in the proper format** and processed. Please remember the Rhizome Sale Committee members volunteer their time and labour to us and do have lives outside of iris. If you don't receive an acknowledgement of your initial order within 24 hours, please write again to confirm your order has been received. Your patience is appreciated. We hate it when orders go astray and are not filled so please check. It doesn't happen often but when it does it is disappointing for both the member and the committee.

6. **PRICING**: Prices are shown either beside the classification or beside the individual variety. Please check both before asking.

7. **PHOTOS**: A link to the American Iris Society's Iris Encyclopedia is provided where possible. In the case of those not yet on the iris encyclopedia, a link will be provided to the grower's webpage. Just click on the link and you will go to the particular variety. If clicking on the link doesn't work, just copy and paste the link into your browser.

8. **SHIPPING CHARGES:** Postage charges are **not** included. The small flat rate box is $23 and will be added to all orders to be shipped via Canada Post. Large orders may require additional shipping costs.

Combined order shipping is encouraged for out-of-province orders. If you are in close proximity to another member who also places an order, your orders may

be sent in one box to one address for the single shipping charge. BJ Jackson cannot facilitate contacts between members. You need to do that yourselves.

Local Winnipeg pick up is available for $5. Please indicate this in your order email. Those who elect this option will be given specific instructions as to how to make arrangements to pick up their orders in the city when they have arrived there.
In return for following these guidelines you will acquire some healthy and strong iris rhizomes at a very reasonable cost. We cannot guarantee replacement should you happen to get a misnamed iris. Both we, the suppliers and our members and friends who donate rhizomes have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure this doesn't happen, but we are not infallable and sometimes mistakes are made.
Have fun and enjoy the process.

We have tried to make it as simple as possible but if there are any problems, please do not hesitate to contact the sale chair directly at plantaddict487@iCloud.com

Be quick but have fun!
BJ Jackson
(on behalf of the)
CWIS Rhizome Sale Committee