

For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones



Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Autumn, 2014

Volume 8, Issue 3

Update From the Organizing Committee

The iris gardens are all tucked in and the 2014 growing season is long over. Rebloom reports were few and far between which was not unexpected with just a few reports of Forever Blue (Chapman, 1997) reblooming in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Many are calling it the summer that tried but never really was.

The rhizome sale (our 10th annual) was well supported and for the second year in a row, we processed a record number of orders. The postal system's parcel service outdid themselves with many boxes of iris arriving in Saskatchewan and Alberta within a few days. Thanks once again to all members for your support.

As the Organizing Committee plans for 2015, one item has been already booked. Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 14th for the eighth annual CWIS flower show. And this just in, CWIS is now on Facebook! Another way for members and friends to stay in contact with one another. If you have a Facebook account, just do a search for us and join in the conversation. Yahoo Groups which hosts the email Open Forum group for CWIS has been causing some of our members grief recently so we decided to give you another option to stay informed.

Inside this edition you will find the AIS Awards with a non-TB winning the Dykes Medal for just the fourth time in history (page 2). It is also the first time an MTB has won. The other non-TB Dykes Medal winners were AB Elmohr in 1945, BB Brown Lasso in 1981 and IB Star Woman in 2008! Also included are details on the AIS and Siberian Society's conventions being held in Portland Oregon, May 18-23 and 24-25 (pages 3-4). Normally this would go into the winter newsletter but at the rate it is going, they will be full up by then so if you are thinking about attending, please act quickly! Finally, the piece I look forward to the most in each Autumn newsletter, the members Top Performers of 2014 (pages 5-10). As I compiled the list again this year, I was struck by just how different the list looks from just a few years ago as members change and tastes evolve. My thanks to Deborah Petrie for her help in organizing the material for me. As a bonus, because there were so many amazing photos submitted with the choices, there is a separate file you will find in your mailbox for your viewing pleasure. And a teaser for the Winter edition due out in March 2015, a little bird tells me we will get to read all about the gardens of Winnipeg member Len Giesbrecht. I finally wore him down!

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we wish you a healthy and happy holiday season and a Merry Christmas to you and yours.

All members are encouraged to contact us with ideas and suggestions on what they see as the future of CWIS. This group belongs to the members but we need to know what you want it to be. We are, after all, not psychic!

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AIS Awards 2014



**Dykes
Medal**

Miniature Tall Bearded iris Dividing Line (Charles Bunnell and introduced by Miller's Manor). Introduced 2005. Registered 2004. Previous AIS Awards: Honorable Mention 2007; Ben Hager Cup 2007; Award of Merit 2009; Ben Hager Cup 2009; Williamson-White Medal 2011. (photo by Anita Moran)

A full list of awards and photos of the winners is available at:

<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoAwards2014>



IRIS IN WONDERLAND 2015

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION
PORTLAND, OREGON, MAY 18-23, 2015**

AND

ANOTHER DAY IN THE GARDEN

**SIBERIAN/SPECIES CONVENTION 2015
PORTLAND, OREGON, MAY 24/25, 2015**

The Greater Portland Iris Society, host for the 2015 American Iris Society National Convention, invites all iris friends to Portland, Oregon for

"Iris In Wonderland 2015".

Five of the six host gardens on the three day tour are well known commercial gardens. Immediately following the national convention is the Siberian/Species 2015 convention. Besides the over 4200 bearded and beardless official guest irises, visitors will find the local hybridizers efforts of the past and new and exciting things of the future.

• Full registration includes:

- Bus transportation to 6 gardens.**
- Over 4200 official guest irises.**
- Lunch on garden tours.**
- Dinner - Welcome Banquet and Awards Banquet.**
- Convention bag and book.**
- Register by March 21, 2015, for discounted full registration rate of \$269.00 for Adults and \$140.00 for Youth**
- From March 21, 2015, through April 18, 2015, full registration rate is \$319.00 for Adults and \$190.00 for Youth**
- After April 18, 2015, full registration is \$369.00 for Adults and \$240.00 for Youth.**

(See next page for the Siberian Convention details and links for information and to register)

**"Another Day in the Garden"
Siberian/Species Convention 2015**

- **Dates: May 24/25, 2015**
- **Location: Portland, Oregon.**
- **Full Registration Includes:**
 - **Bus transportation to 5 gardens**
 - **Lunch on garden tours**
 - **Banquet dinner**
 - **Register by March 21, 2015, for discounted full registration rate of \$135.00 for Adults and Youth**
 - **From March 21, 2015, through April 18, 2015, full registration rate is \$180.00 for Adults and Youth**
 - **After April 18, 2015, full registration is \$230.00 for Adults and Youth.**

Registration form for the Siberian Convention is available at:

<http://ais2015portlandconvention.com/SiberianRegistrationForm2015.pdf>

Information and registration information for the full AIS convention is available at:

http://www.irises.org/Member_Services/2015_Convention.html



Top Performers of 2014

(Compiled by BJ Jackson)

Once again, my favourite part of the Autumn newsletter, the top performers for the year. And once again the response has been great with 15 members submitting their choices. I wish I had room for all the pictures sent in, too! There are a few below but more to see in the photo pages that have been sent in a separate file. All photos used were taken by the person who submitted the variety unless otherwise indicated. All comments used were edited for length since I needed to make room for more. The person who submitted a comment is indicated by their initials following.

The list contains 48 varieties from all the bearded classes (even an aril!) and an astonishing number from the beardless classes and even a species. Compared to the first lists just 5 years ago, this year's list looks much different. The Siberian, Spuria and Species X classes have increased in popularity and the list reflects that evolution in our members' tastes. The choices reflect 34 hybridizers and just 2 were chosen by more than one person. Paul Black had six top picks, Shimuzu and Aitken three each and Chuck Chapman, Marky Smith, Brad Kasperek and Alta Brown two each.

Thanks to: Janet Rein (JR), Kirsten Kronstedt (KK), Sandy Eggertson (SE), El Hutchison (EH), Deborah Petrie (DP), Tracy Rosendale (TR), Diana Dhaliwal (DD), Sylvia Grantham (SG), Shauna Willoughby (SW), Sandy Venton (SV), Len Giesbrecht (LG), BJ Jackson (BJ), Jacqueline McDonald (JM), Sandy Proulx (SP) and Mary Veldman (MV).

ArilMed

Desert Snow (Paul Black, 2013) (BJ)

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

Be Little (J. Terry Aitken, 2001) (JR)

Standard Dwarf Bearded

Chubby Cheeks (Paul Black, R. 1984) (TR)

Eramosa Oompa Loompa (Chuck Chapman, 2012) (KK)

Extraterrestrial (Marky Smith, 2006) (BJ)

Forever Blue (Chuck Chapman, R. 1996) (KK/SV)

Frisk Me (Timothy Blyth, R. 2001) (TR)

Grapesicle (R. Sobek, 1981) (DD)

Look Inside (Paul Black, 2011) (SP)

My Cher (Paul Black, 2011) (LG)

Peach Bavarian (A. & D. Willott, 1978) (MV)

Red Heart (Alta Brown, 1966) (DP)

What Again (Allan Ensminger, 1990) (JMc)



**SDB
Frisk
Me**



SDB Extraterrestrial



BB Cranapple ↑↑

Intermediate Bearded

Apache Warrior (Alta Brown, 1971) (DD)
 Dog and Pony Show (Paul Black, 2012) (TR)
 Honey Glazed (O. David Niswonger, 1982) (JM/SW)
 Orca (Marky Smith, 2005) (BJ)

Border Bearded

Cranapple (J. Terry Aitken, 1995) (BJ)
 Eramosa Miss (Chuck Chapman, 1998) (MV)

Miniature Tall Bearded

Dividing Line (Charles Bunnell, 2004) (BJ)

TB Double Agent ↓↓↓

Tall Bearded

Bewilderbeast (Brad Kasperek, 1994) (LG)
 Carnival in Rio (Paul Black, 1984) (LG)
 Copatonic (Barry Blyth, 1994) (LG)
 Dauntless (Connell, 1929) (JR)
 Debbie Rairdon (Kuntz, 1964) (TR)
 Double Agent (Maryott's Gardens, 1986) (JM)
 Gay Paree (Plough, 1954) (SE)
 Henna Stitches (Gibson, 1960) (DP)
 Loop The Loop (Schreiner, 1973) (SG)
 Prairie Sunset (Hans Peter Sass, 1936) (SP)
 Ring Around Rosie (Richard Ernst, 2000) (SP)
 Toucan Tango (Brad Kasperek, 1999) (KK)
 Toile de Jouy (Richard Cayeux, 2004) (LG)



← *An overview of one of Diana Dhaliwal's iris gardens*

SPX

Versata Enfant Prodige (Tony Huber, 1993) (SE)
Pseudata Kurokawa Noh (Shimizu, 2011) (SV)
Pseudata Pixie Won (Copeland, 1997) (SV)
Pseudata Shiryukyo (Shimizu, 2008) (EH)
Pseudata Take No Sato (Shimizu, 2008) (SV)

Siberian

Berlin Purple Wine (Tomas Tamberg, 1993) (SE)
Blackberry Jubilee (Schafer/Sacks, 1997) (DP)
Caesar's Brother (Morgan, 1932) (DP)
Calvin Helsley (Barbara Nicodemus, 2006) (SV)
Fairy Dawn (Scheffy, 1953) (KK)
White Triangles (B. Warburton, R. 1986) (SP)

Spuria

Barbara's Kiss (Eleanor McCown, 1981) (EH)
Franqkins (Peter DeSantis, 1995) (SE)
Social Circle (G. Corlew, 1978) (EH)

Species

I. clarkei (1892) (LG)



Sib Blackberry Jubilee ↑↑↑↑
Sib Calvin Helsley ↓↓↓↓



IB Honey Glazed
→→→



Varietal Comments

Aril

Desert Snow (P. Black, 2014) - This new variety grew and bloomed well. It is the first Aril-Med I have ever had success with and I was quite pleased that it not only survived but bloomed! It showed great vigor and I was pleased to see new increases coming on as autumn approached. (BJ)

MDB

Be Little - great this year... a nice clump that was noticed by anyone visiting. (JR)

SDB

Chubby Cheeks - so far it has only had one stalk but so cute. (TR)

Extraterrestrial - This little one has shown significant increase this year, almost doubling in size in just three years. The blooms seemed to go on forever. (BJ)

Forever Blue

- this little guy wins a spot on the list because he's not only hardy, but he's vigorous, and reblooms!!! First bloom was May 31, 2014, and then returned for an encore on September 25th. (KK)

- actually did rebloom for me this fall! (SV)

Frisk Me - the name always makes me giggle ... this one is gorgeous with detail, mixed with the colors it just makes it a keeper. (TR)

Grapesicle - One of the best performers of 2014. (DD)

Look Inside - from the 2013 CWIS sale (SP)

My Cher - Just such a beautiful Iris... nuff said. (LG)

Eramosa Oompa Loompa (Chapman, 2012) - LOOK AT THE COLOURS ON THIS THING!

As far as I'm concerned, Chuck really outdid himself with this sexy little number. (KK)

Peach Bavarian - Another that impresses me every June. (MV)

Red Heart - I have divided this repeatedly and it still performs wonderfully every year. This year it again survived being flooded and underwater for over two weeks with no rot at all. Beautiful and tough. (DP)

Ruby Contrast - Prolific and very hardy. (MV)

What Again - I just planted this little beauty in August and on October 23rd it bloomed. It's gorgeous and what a welcome surprise! I can't imagine not having it in the garden. (JM)

IB

Apache Warrior - One of the best performers of 2014. (DD)

Dog and Pony Show - from the CWIS sale not too long ago and this is the first bloom. The color and details were amazing. (TR)

Honey Glazed

- amazing both in substance and the sheer beauty and quantity of blooms. (JM)

- I remember it going on and on, looking good and increasing, too. (SW)

Orca - I was very pleased with the performance of this beauty. It bloomed well and adverse growing conditions did not affect it. (BJ)

BB

Cranapple - Blooms consistently well every year. It also has the highest bud count, regularly having 7 blooms on a stalk. Rich, dark red, the colour is not muddy. (BJ)

Eramosa Miss - never fails to deliver every year. (MV)

MTB

Dividing Line - Great performer in the garden with multiple show quality stalks. Increased well and a magnet for garden visitors. It was voted number 1 by all those who visited. (BJ)

TB

Bewildderbeast. - Picked this up at a local garden centre, it was mislabeled but this is nicer than the other one.. always liked the broken color ones. (LG)

Carnival in Rio - Just such a nice blend of colors, real nice ruffles. First time bloom for me. (LG)

Copatonic - An old favorite... and its brown, right ???? (LG)

Dauntless - beautiful and very fragrant ...had the whole front yard smelling very pretty. (JR)

Debby Rairdon - My favorite feature in iris, the hint of color around the end of the petals but even without that, every time I went back to look at the flower it was more beautiful and eye catching. (TR)

Double Agent - Amazing both in substance and the sheer beauty and quantity of blooms.

Scented, too! (JM)

Gay Paree - The best in the historic bed this year (SE)

Henna Stitches – This iris has been moved around so many time it is a wonder it survives but it does and shows off remarkably when blooming. Another that has never had rot. (DP)

Prairie Sunset - Purchased in 2010, FINALLY got it to flower this year. It has some nice increases, too, so next year should be even better. (SP)

Ring Around Rosie - from Trail's End in 2012, one of the few TB purchases that didn't bloom right away... It waited an extra year. And it was worth the wait! (SP)

Toile de Jouy - Bought it in BC on the Convention trip knowing it might not make it but.... first bloom this year but well worth it. (LG)

Toucan Tango - this one has done AMAZING every year since I planted it in 2011. Sure the stalks lean a bit under the weight of all those massive flowers when they get rained on, but hey.... when you're holding up that much funky striped excitement, really, who can blame them? (KK)

Siberian

Berlin Purple Wine - It really stood out, both in terms of clump size and "wow" color. (SE)

Blackberry Jubilee – While this one has taken a few years to settle in, it has finally taken off. I love the subtle shading of colours when the sun hits it just right. (DP)

Caesar's Brother – Tall, tough and a quick increaser. This oldie is one of my all time favourites. The colour is stunning from across the yard. (DP)

Calvin Helsley - First and always first on my list! (SV)

Fairy Dawn - not only does it have a quiet elegance to it, but it is VIGOROUS! It has tripled in size the past season and the bloom stalks were just exploding this year! (KK)

White Triangles - from the 2012 CWIS sale, planted it next to the downspout on the garage, and it loves all that water. I love that beautiful pure white. (SP)

Species

I clarkei - Not an overwhelming flower but... I picked this up at that Salt Spring tour we did at the Iris convention in Victoria. I was warned it might not make it here but...Taa Daa!!! (LG)

Spuria

Barbara's Kiss - blooming on July 14, such a subtle beauty. (EH)

Franaqkins - this was its first year to bloom, with 5 bloom stalks, spectacular color and height as well. (SE)

Social Circle - blooming on July 14, so bright on a cloudy day. (EH)

SP-X

Pseudatas

Kurokawa Noh - always tops the list. (SV)

Shiryukyo, - July 16, the first pseudata to bloom in my garden! I was so excited to finally see it I would just stand and stare at it! (EH)

Take No Sato was the size of pseudacorus Bastardii, - these things were HUGE and bloomed well into late July. (SE) (SV)

Versata

Enfant Prodiges - Another one that was absolutely spectacular, long lasting, and blooms beyond what I would have expected. (SE)



←←←*IB Orca*

TB Toule de Jouy →→→



SDB Grapesicle clump