

For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones



Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

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Update From the Organizing Committee

Given the long season experienced over much of the prairies, it was expected (read hoped) to have a banner year for rebloom but that really did not pan out. There were some, however, among them on the bearded side were SDBs Forever Blue, (1997), Blueberry Tart (2002) and Wizard of Hope (2001) and MDB Forever Violet (2002) from Chuck Chapman as well as TB Immortality (Zurbrigg, 1982). On the beardless side, rebloom on Siberians Cape Cod Boys (Schafer/Sacks, 2009), Somebody Loves Me (Hollingworth, 1998) and Judy, Judy, Judy (Hollingworth, 2010) were reported. Very interesting factoid, all the Siberian rebloom reports came from Saskatchewan. And one member, also from Saskatchewan, had a reblooming seedling out of TB Diamond Blush (Donald Spoon, 1997).

But all that has come to a screeching halt the last few weeks with the onslaught of real winter weather so what better time to have the distraction of the arrival of the newsletter. Inside is up to date information on the Region 21 hosted 2017 AIS Convention on page two. You will find some interesting Iris Encyclopedia information, an explanation of colour patterns in iris and a presentation announcement on page three. And last but not least is the highly anticipated members Top Performers of 2016 on pages four to eight.

If your membership expired in 2016, this will be your last newsletter. Unsure of your status? Just contact BJ for your information. And finally, an author is needed for the Spring newsletter's member profile. If you are interested in writing about your garden, please let us know.

And as the holiday fast approaches, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

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(Information compiled by BJ Jackson)

Welcome to “Rhythm of the Prairie” in Des Moines, Iowa, the American Iris Society’s National Convention. May 23-27, 2017.

The registration and hotel information is now available online. Just follow the link for new and updated information as it becomes available:

<https://ais2017.wordpress.com/2016/12/05/registration-and-schedule-pages/>

Also on this page is the tentative schedule. From the looks of it, the 2017 convention will be a day shorter than it has been in past years but will still be jam packed with beautiful gardens (six of them I'm told including two public gardens, one being the amazing Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens and four others). These garden tours will showcase over 2,000 guest iris.

There is lots to see and do including judge's training (great information even if you have no desire to judge), individual section programs (MIS, DIS, HIPS, etc.), garden tours, great food and much, much more.

Early bird registration is available to January 31st so don't procrastinate too long!

The Des Moines Marriott Hotel is the designated convention hotel and has provided the following information to get Convention Rates. If you need to contact them directly, the phone number is 515-245-5500.

Start date: 5/22/17 **End date:** 5/28/17 **Last day to book:** 5/2/17

- **Des Moines Marriott Downtown** for 135.00 USD per night
- Online booking at [Marriott Hotel AIS](#)

Did You Know...

- The Iris Encyclopedia contains 61,182 cultivars and 139,012 images???

- The Iris Encyclopedia's mission is to provide a comprehensive, illustrative information resource on Genus Iris, its species and cultivars???

- The Iris Encyclopedia is free to all who wish to use its resources???

Iris Colour Patterns Explained

(Graphic from the AIS Youth - Classroom Iris Project)

Ever wondered about colour descriptions used in descriptions by iris hybridizers? Below is a visual representation of some of the more common patterns they refer to:



- **SELF** - Standards (upper petals) and falls (lower petal) are the same color.
- **PLICATA** - Petals are rimmed, dotted or stitched in color.
- **BITONE** - Standards are a different shade of falls. Falls are usually darker.
- **BICOLOR** - Standards are a different color from the falls.
- **BLEND** - One color blended into one or more others.
- **AMOENA** - A bicolor with white standards.
- **VARIEGATA** - A bicolor with yellow standards.
- **NEGLECTA** - A blue or violet bitone.

Up-Coming Presentation

Looking for some iris therapy in January? BJ Jackson will be giving a presentation entitled "Medians: The Other Bearded Iris" at the 119th Manitoba Horticulture Society's annual meeting and convention being held at the Killarney United Church, 432 Williams Avenue in Killarney, Manitoba from January 26th to 28th. BJs presentation is slated for Friday, January 27th at 11 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact the MHA at m.h.a@shaw.ca for further information...

Top performers 2016

(Compiled by BJ Jackson)

The votes are in and once again, the top performer choices cover all sizes, classes and types of iris. Represented in this year's compilation are everything from the smallest of the bearded class to the exotic Species-X, Species, Siberians and everything in between.

Fifteen members participated this year. Their comments, when provided, are given and each is identified by their initials. Photos included in the photo pages are from the individual who submitted the variety unless otherwise indicated. Several participants indicated that 2016 was a very good year for iris, particularly the dwarf and median classes as well as the pseudatas and siberians.

This year's participants are:

Carol Bender	Valerie Denesiuk	Sandy Eggertson
Len Giesbrecht	El Hutchison	BJ Jackson
Andrea Karpinsky	Jodi Lockyear	Jacqueline McDonald
Deborah Petrie	Sandy Proulx	Sarah Schwass
Naomi Wiebe	Mary Veldman	Sandy Venton

Of the total submissions of 69, the creations of 44 hybridizers are represented with 65 varieties. Historics, those created prior to 1986, accounted for 22 of them. Leading the list of hybridizers is Paul Black with 7, Hiroshi Shimizu with 4, Keith Keppel, Barry Blyth and Thomas Johnson with 3 each, and Cleo Palmer, Chuck Chapman, Marky Smith and Donald Spoon with two each. The remaining hybridizers had one submission. By type, the list includes:

MDB - 2	SDB - 16	IB- 11
MTB - 4	BB - 1	TB - 23
AB - 1	SIB - 2	SPEC-X - 5
SPEC - 4		

MDB

- Alas (Thomas Johnson, R. 2014) - super fast increaser and great garden presence with wonderful colour (BJ)

- Mitternacht (Hertha van Nes, R. 1960) - first iris to bloom in 2016 on May 8th (EH)

SDB

- Ann Elizabeth (John D. Taylor, R. 1973) - Blooms early, lasts a long time. Hardy and abundant. (MV/CB)
- Blue Line (Bennett Jones, R. 1987) - Hey, its blue! (SV)
- Bluebeard's Ghost (Paul Black, R. 2006) (AK)
- Blueberry Tart (Chuck Chapman, R. 2002) (AK) (VD)
- Candy Apple (Melba Hamblen, R. 1972) (MV/CB)
- Cat's Eye (Paul Black, R. 2002). - such rich red colour and loads of blooms! (SS)
- Cimarron Rose (Hooker Nichols, R. 1988) (MV/CB)
- Forever Blue (Chuck Chapman, R. 1997) - great year for this Chapman iris. Great display in the Spring and rebloomed not once but twice. Who could ask for more. (LG)
- Marksman (Marky Smith, R. 1997) (SV) - Great colour!
- Oh Canada (Thomas Johnson, R. 2015) - Thomas Johnson sent me 3 beginners in 2015 and what a huge performance they put on this June 4 (SS)
- Open Your Eyes (Paul Black, R. 2010) - again because of the blue colour (I'm a sucker for blue) (SP)
- Over Easy (Carol Lankow, R. 1989) (MV/CB)
- Peach Bavarian (Anthony and Dorothy Willott, R. 1978) (MV/CB)
- Pink Twilight (O. David Niswonger, R. 1998) - because it increased amazingly (SP)
- Pusycat Pink (Paul Black, R. 2006) - Made a fabulous 3rd year clump (AK)

IB

- Berkeley Gold (Carl Salbach, 1942) (NW)
- Brighten Up (Ben Hager, R. 1989) (CB/MV) - hardy and very good increaser
- Code of Honor (Thomas Johnson, R. 2013) (JL) Huge increases and so fast I had to divide and share it this year.
- Interim (Orpha Salsman, R. 1961) (BJ) - clumps up really fast and a great increaser
- Mini Bighorn (Robert Annand, R. 1998) - rebloom was strong, very "strong" structure... huge wind storms out my way this summer! (SS)
- Snow Gnome (Ralph Stuart, R. 1971) - hardy and a great increaser (CB/MV)
- Oklahoma Bandit (Hooker Nichols, R. 1979) - very hardy and increaser well (MV/CB)
- Orca (Marky Smith, R. 2005) (BJ) - it has taken this one a bit of time but this year it exploded! Great big beautiful dark blue blooms!
- Snappie (Bee Warburton, R. 1975) (MV/CB) - another great, hardy one.
- Sea Patrol (Cleo Palmer, R. 1969) (CB/MV) - good increaser, tough and hardy.
- Western Sage (Cleo Palmer, R. 1992) - just a super combo of different shades of lilac pink or... I don't know .. just like it. (LG)

MTB

- Consummation (Walter Welch, R. 1977) (CB/MV)
- Little Bay Denoc (Frank A. Williams, R. 1978) - because of the beautiful blue colour (SP)
- Panda (Mary Louise Dunderman, R. 1975) (BJ)
- Joseph's Coat Katkamier (A. B. Katkamier [1930] by Eric Tankesley-Clarke, R. 1989) - first year blooming with sooo many stalks. Most unusual iris in my garden (SE)

BB

- Flo (Donald Spoon, R. 2011) - triple rebloom in Sperling, MB (SS)

TB

- Before the Storm (Sterling Innerst, R. 1988) - beautiful showing of black blooms (SS)
- BJ's Black (thought to be Study in Black [(Gordon Plough, R. 1967)] but unconfirmed). What a striking pair it made with Berkeley Gold! (NW)
- Bride's Halo (Hubert C. Mohr, R. 1971) - love the colour! (SV)
- Brussels (Thomas Johnson, R. 2003) - because it won Best in Show for me (SP)
- Chief Waukesha (Arthur Blodgett, R. 1977) (MV/CB) The colour on is a stand out.
- Copatonic (Barry Blyth, R. 1994) - ok, you know why I like this one, right ??? (LG) (Ed: could it be because it is brown, Len???)
- Daughter of Stars (Donald Spoon, R. 2000) (CB/MV) . Daughter of stars is a beautiful blue. It must like where it is planted, as it continues to produce more every season.
- Debrenee (William Maryott, R. 1994) and
- Drama Queen (Keith Keppel, R. 2002) (MV/CB)
- Fiction (Bryce Williamson, R. 1978) (MV/CB) Fiction has been at the gardens for a very long time. It is very lovely, and is a hardy one.
- Frost and Flame (David Hall, R. 1956) - because it is the real thing and I'm totally in love with it! (SE)
- Happenstance (Keith Keppel, R. 2000) – Fantastic! (AK)
- Henna Stitches (James Gibson, R. 1960) - One of my all time favs.. reliable, great increaser.. and its brown. (LG)
- Immortality (Lloyd Zurbrigg, R. 1982) - rebloom in November. Doesn't look the greatest but who would out there on a cold rainy November day. (DP)
- Lingering Love (Duane Meek, R. 1986) - Flowered a long time (AK)
- Pirate Ahoy (Barry Blyth, R. 2005) (AK)

- Rosalie Figge (Jane McKnew, R. 1991) - bloomed in May and started blooming again in August and continued until I cut the last blooming stalk Oct 28 (AK)
- Royal Touch ([Schreiners](#), R. 1966) -) - an outstanding performer
- Slovak Prince (Anton Mego, R. 2002) (AK)
- Stop Flirting (Barry Blyth, R. 2002) - put on an impressive display with Debrenee! (AK)
- Teamwork (Keith Keppel, R. 2000) (SV) - great increaser!
- That`s All Folks (William Maryott by Joseph Ghio, R. 2004) - made a fabulous display along with Pirate Ahoy! (AK)
- Vision in Pink (Vernon Wood, R. 1986) - outstanding (NW)

AB

- Desert Snow (Paul Black, R. 2013) (BJ) - increasing very well over the past few years. Big beautiful white blooms with the bright blue aril spot this one has passed the test of cold climate iris growing!

SIB

- Aqua Whispers (Anna Mae Miller, R. 1987) - because it finally bloomed after 6 years (SP)
- Grandis (Berrtrand Farr, R. 1912) SIB - I struggled with this one for a time, finally found the right spot, nice big clump and its just so.. neat.. or tidy.. love it. (LG)

SP-X

- Duchess (Sibtosa) (Tomas Tamberg, R. 2002).- another species cross, I've had it a few years and this is its first time blooming. At least 8 stalks and it far outlasted the siberians (SE)
- Shirabyoshi (Pseudata) (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner, R. 2008) (SV) - multiplies quickly
- Takamagahara (Pseudata) (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner, R. 2010) (SV) - fast increaser
- Tsukiyono (Pseudata) (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner, R. 2005) (SV) - great multiplier
- Yukiyanagi (Pesudata) (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner, R. 2010) - 8 stems that bloomed for several weeks beginning on July 1st (EH)

SPEC

- I. pseudacorus Foxcroft Full Moon (Katharine Steele, R. 1997) - started blooming in mid June after not blooming for several years after being divided (EH)
- I. pseudacorus Sushi (Jill Copeland, R. 2013) - first year blooming it had 7 stalks and the blooms lasted forever, just a beauty, too (SE)

- *I. swerti(i)* (Collected 1612) - finally bloomed! I had planted them a couple years ago. I loved the way the standards fold over each other. (JMcD)
- *I. variegata* var. *reginea* (Considered to be a synonym for *I. reginae*) (Collected Macedonia, 1947) - I brought it home from the Royal Botanical Gardens plant sale in 2014. Love it's delicate exotic look! (JMcD)



*A collage of *I. variegata* var. *reginea* put together by Jacquie McDonald*

Please see photo pages in a separate PDF file for more photos of the 2016 Top Performers!

