

For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones



Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Summer 2013

Volume 7, Issue 2

Update From the Organizing Committee

What an interesting season 2013 has been! From the very late start with snow on the ground in some areas into May, everything was set back. It was cold and wet and it pretty much stayed that way well into May. Then June hit and with it the heat and humidity. In BJs garden, it went from nothing blooming at all at the end of May to almost peak SDB bloom in time for the show. The severe thunderstorms have continued and no one is safe; from Alberta to Manitoba, severe thunderstorms seem to be the new normal. Even BC has had its share of bad weather.

But despite the weather, the 2013 season was a good one although the 'normal' progression through the classes was mostly absent. SDBs were blooming with the IBs that were blooming with the MDBs. About the only ones that bloomed when they were supposed to were the TBs and even they were later than usual.

In this issue is a recap of all the activities we have been up to so far since the last newsletter including Chuck Chapman's visit (see page 2), our 6th annual show (see pages 5 to 8), the upcoming rhizome sale preview (see page 4), and rounding out with Region 21 and AIS news (see pages 9 to 11)

Hope you enjoy this issue. As always, you can contact any of us on the Organizing Committee at:

B. J. Jackson, jacksonb@mts.net
Deborah Petrie, petrie@mymts.net

Jennifer Bishop, Jennifer@dataways.com
Eleanor Hutchison, eleanore@mts.net

CWIS's First Ever Members Event

Sunday, April 21

(By: El Hutchison and B. J. Jackson)

Even though spring was so late this year, the anticipation of Chuck Chapman's pending arrival seemed to smooth that concern away.

The day finally arrived with crisp and fresh snow on the ground, but the roads were clear as we headed into Winnipeg to pick up Chuck for his long awaited visit. The flight arrived on time and we headed out for breakfast at good old Salisbury House.

Next stop, Ste Anne, Manitoba, where Hutch got Chuck's laptop hooked up to the internet. I had to chuckle at seeing Chuck's response on Facebook, with him sitting just a few feet away from me.



In the morning, we all headed back in to Winnipeg for an early morning judge training session on Spuria iris. We all enjoyed that, since many of us are now growing spuria successfully here on the prairies!

After a quick lunch and a break for chatting we looked outside and saw much to our displeasure, it was snowing again. Despite the snow there was a good turnout of members to hear Chuck's two presentations of the afternoon, Iris Through the Seasons and Breeding for Cold Climates. Both presentations were well received by those present and provided us with a lot of good and useful information to use in our own iris gardens. The pictures were a wonderful part of it as we got to see the results of his past as well as present hybridizing efforts and what he is looking forward to in the future.



The entire afternoon's presentations were videotaped by Jennifer Bishop. Her husband has promised to make several DVDs of the videotapes for the CWIS library so those not able to make it to the event can benefit from the information he shared.

The sun came out some time between the first and second presentation. At the end of the day there were a lot of very happy CWIS members and friends. Our thanks to Chuck for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come out and visit with us, provide the judges training and member presentations and for making us remember why we get so excited every spring and look forward to the future of his iris hybridizing.

The Organizing Committee is already doing the numbers to see when we will be able to again provide a similar event for our members. We look forward to your suggestions regarding who you might want to have visit us in the future. Don't hesitate to contact any of us with your suggestions.

**Congratulations
to the door prize winners
of the day:**

**Sandy Eggertson
Susan Leblanc
Jan Winnik**

Rhizome Sale 2013

What an exciting time! The rhizome sale is coming up in just about 10 days or so. Provided all goes well and the iris arrive on time, we are set to go live with the sale on Monday, July 29th, running through the week until Sunday, August 4th.

Mid-America Garden is set to send us some amazing varieties and Thomas tells me most will be 2012 or 2013 introductions! All will be from the median class. If you'd like to get a jump on getting familiar with what they have to offer this year, head on over to their website (<http://www.beardedirisflowers.com>) and browse away. Since we don't know 100% exactly what we will be getting for you, a quick look see could help you make your choices ahead of time. And time during the sale is important since orders are filled on a first come, first serve basis and all are in limited quantities. Here are a few that SHOULD/COULD/MIGHT be on the list:



SDB Blazing Gold (P. Black, 2013)



IB Code of Honour (T. Johnson, 2013)



SDB Gift of Gab (P. Black, 2013)

Prices will probably be a bit higher than what they normally are, but the costs will be kept down as much as possible to allow more of our members to grow these great new introductions from these cutting edge hybridizers. Thomas and Paul are known for their generosity and we are confident, there will be something for everyone.

You might also wish to review the instructions from last year's sale available at:

<http://cwis.webplus.net/page11.html>

to familiarize yourself again with how it all works. There may be a few minor changes but it will basically remain the same.

So have a look see and start drooling!

CWIS 6th Annual Show

Another successful iris show is in the books. With 153 entries from 12 exhibitors, most from the SDB class, Sunday, June 9th, 2013 was a great day. My thanks once again to all who make it possible for us to do the annual show and, indeed, everything we do. We couldn't do it without you. Here are the results:

CWIS Section Certificates:

A - MDB - Flea Circus - Brenda Newton
B - SDB - Celebrate - BJ Jackson
C - IB - Blueberry Filly - El Hutchison
D to K - not awarded

See photos pages 7 & 8

CWIS Awards:

People's Choice Award (voted on by the public) - IB Dragonmaster - El Hutchison
Best Historic Iris in Show - not awarded

Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show (sponsored by Chuck Chapman)
- SDB Blueberry Tart - BJ Jackson

AIS Awards:

Silver Medal (most first place ribbons) - Brenda Newton
Bronze Medal (second most first place ribbons) - El Hutchison
Best Specimen in Show - IB Blueberry Filly - El Hutchison



*Two of
Sandy Eggertson's
Pseudata iris
blooming in July. At
left is Take No Sata
and at left, Kinshiko.
Photos by Sandy
Eggertson*



My First CWIS Iris Show - An Experiential Journey

By: Kirsten Kronstadt

I had the good fortune to attend my first iris show this year. Janet Rein and I made the journey to Manitoba from our respective homes in Regina and Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan to attend the 2013 CWIS Iris Show on June 9th. We traveled close to Brandon, where we were graciously hosted by Brenda Newton. Brenda toured us around her beautiful property, which is perched on the edge of the Assiniboine River Valley. She has several large plantings scattered around the property, all filled to brimming with a wonderful assortment of irises, daylilies, peonies, heuchera and other plants! Brenda had already been busy cutting her irises for the show that day, and the table in her dining room was full of little vases and irises of every colour! She showed us her technique for cutting and staging irises, including an ingenious use of rhubarb to stabilize the stems! Having been a clerk for judging previously, she was also able to explain some of the rules of displaying and judging at the show. We learned that the irises are judged by the standard for that particular cultivar. If there are more than one of a single cultivar entered, then each would be awarded a different level – 1st, 2nd and 3rd (or 4th, 5th and so on, depending how many there were). I was surprised to learn that something as minute as a spider web or bit of fluff could cause an otherwise “perfect” entry to be given 2nd place.

Brenda was kind enough to tour us around Brandon a bit, and take us to some of her favorite garden center haunts. I managed to keep my purchases "mostly" in check, but Janet showed much greater restraint than I did. We visited Lori, BJ and Deb, all of whom were gracious hostesses and gave us tours of their beautiful yards. It was so much fun wandering through their gardens and seeing what plants they had, and how they chose to display them. Truly the hospitality of gardeners is the warmest of all!

On Sunday morning, we rose bright and early and drove in to Winnipeg, all the while enveloped with the beautiful scent wafting off the irises. Janet monitored the flowers on our journey, and had to make several adjustments as flowers settled or wiggled out of their positions. Our cargo safe and sound, we arrived at the hall where the show was being held. As excited as I was about the show, this was also our first chance to finally meet many of the people that Janet and I have been corresponding with for on the CWIS forum!! We received a warm welcome from everyone, and I instantly felt at home among all the other crazed gardeners. As fun as it was to chat, soon it was down to the serious business of setting up the irises! As Janet and I lent a hand with setting up the hall, the entrants were busy staging and preening their irises. While the end goal is the same, it was really interesting to note that the style and techniques used by each entrant were as diverse as the people themselves! For example, while Brenda had shown us how she used rhubarb and favored standardized cut glass vases, El used multi-coloured wine bottles and pipe insulation to display her beauties!

Once the irises were all prepared and set out on the tables according to class, we had a little time to wander around and look at all the offerings before being ushered out for the judging to take place. During this hiatus, Sandy Eggerston drove Janet and me out for a tour of her property, Merlebleu, in St. Andrews along the scenic Red River. Sandy's property was beautifully laid out, and the topography really helped to accentuate her beautiful theme gardens. We had a lovely time looking at all of Sandy's plantings and the delightful pieces of architecture that dotted the yard. Sandy's partner Claude is quite the talented woodworker, and has built several stately obelisks and little benches, all painted wonderfully vibrant and whimsical colours! After a visit with Claude and the puppies on the deck, we returned to Winnipeg to find out the outcome of the judging! (See results on page 3). We also got to meet Tom Davies and his girls. Tom made the trip all the way out to Winnipeg from Alberta. Another face for another name!

All in all, we had a wonderful time and learned a lot from everyone involved in the show. I can't thank everyone enough for their kindness and hospitality for two Saskatchewan girls on their first official iris outing! On our drive home, we were already planning to return for the 2014 show, and hopefully the timing will be right that we, too, can bring some flowers to enter!

Show Photos (more on next page)

(All photos courtesy Brenda Newton)



El Hutchison is presented with the Best in Show award for IB Blueberry Filly by B. J. Jackson.



Sandy Proulx and Tom Davies!



Brenda Newton is presented with the AIS Silver Medal



Sandy Eggertson, Kirsten Kronstedt and Janet Rein enjoying the show!



*Above: Brenda Newton's prize winning stems and ribbons.
Below: Show visitors and volunteers viewing the exhibits and talking iris.*



NEWS From Region 21

Region 21 Fall Meeting - An Invitation to CWIS Members

Members of the Greater Omaha Iris Society invite you to a fun-filled, informative fall conference. Mark your calendars for the weekend of August 9-August 10. All of the scheduled events are within walking distance of the conference hotel in the newly revitalized Ak-Sar-Ben Village area. Conference sessions will take place in Mammel Hall on the Technology Campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, directly across the street from the hotel.

Two educational sessions will be offered Saturday morning (each session is eligible for 2 hours of judges training credit). The first will cover awards and balloting. Our guest speaker, Robert Hollingworth, will give the second session on judging Siberian iris. Mr. Hollingworth, renowned hybridizer of such beauties as “Coronation Anthem” and “Over in Gloryland” is also the current President of the AIS Foundation. A luncheon for conference participants will follow the educational sessions. The regional auction of newly released cultivars will be held immediately following the luncheon. The general business meeting will precede our evening banquet and a presentation on Siberian Iris by Mr. Hollingworth.

A welcome get together is planned at the hotel Friday evening. For those of you staying Saturday night, there is a concert in the park that evening and a Farmers Market within walking distance on Sunday morning. Take some fresh produce back home with you!

The conference hotel is the Courtyard by the Marriott located in the Ak-Sar-Ben village (address is 1625 S 67th Street) near 72nd and Center. A block of rooms has been set aside for us at the rate of \$95 a night; the rooms will be released on **July 26th** so you need to get those reservations in quickly. Rooms may be reserved on-line or by calling 402-951-4300.

Book King bed with sofa sleeper at Courtyard Omaha Aksarben Village for \$95 per night:

http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/omawt-courtyard-omaha-aksarben-village/?toDate=8/11/13&groupCode=riscisa&stop_mobi=yes&fromDate=8/9/13&app=resvlink

Book Two Queen beds at Courtyard Omaha Aksarben Village for \$95 per night:

http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/omawt-courtyard-omaha-aksarben-village/?toDate=8/11/13&groupCode=riscisb&stop_mobi=yes&fromDate=8/9/13&app=resvlink

The entire conference including educational sessions, luncheon and banquet is \$45.

Banquet only is \$30.00

Youth members (under 18) is \$35.00

Please return your registration to Rebecca Kadel, 4527 Frederick St, Omaha, NE 68106 (Registration form on last page of this newsletter)

Questions may be directed to Rebecca at (402) 556-2025 or rebecca.kadel@cox.net

Registration form

Entire convention @ \$45.00

Number attending _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Name _____

Do you wish to receive credit for judge's training (circle one) Yes / No

Banquet only @ \$30.00

Number attending _____

Name _____

Name _____

Youth members @ \$35.00

Number attending _____

Name _____

Name _____

Total enclosed _____

Return this form with your payment to:
Rebecca Kadel
4527 Frederick Street
Omaha, NE 68106

AIS & REGION 21

From the RVP Ron Cosner

This years iris top 100 symposium is open for us to select your or your members top 25 favorites. Anyone who cares to participate if they would send me their selection(which you can view the choices and print out a ballot on line) I would be happy to record it so that it counts. They can either email it or send it snail mail to me and I will take care of it. The voting can only be registered through the RVP. Also for anyone who might be interested Presby Memorial Garden has a web site on which they will now offer for sell some of their historic irises from their collection. It is <http://www.etsy.com/people/presbyiris>. Any questions please contact me

Thank you and happy gardening.

More Summer Pictures from Members



Clump shot of siberian Salem Witch from Jodi Horne.



Clump shot of Sandy Eggertson's spuria Cinnabar Red.

**Now is the time to start putting together your top 5 performers for the 2013 season.
Let us all know what worked best this year! Knowledge is power!!!**