

For Iris Lovers in the Cold Zones



Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Summer, 2019

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Update From the Organizing Committee

Bloom season for the majority of CWIS members is over and done. With the exception of the last of the Siberians and the pseudata and Spuria, bloom season is just a memory. What's next in the iris garden? Why rebloom and pod collection of course. Last autumn's rebloom report was an eye opener. So many beautiful blooms to end the season. It was the most often remarked upon articles in recent years, so we are doing it again! If you have rebloom on any iris in your garden please send in the information to BJ Jackson who will compile and provide a report in the Autumn issue.

The biggest news since the show has been our effort to secure a new web hosting partner. Currently we are in the process of transferring the existing website to a new provider. We will all have to get used to a new domain name (who would have thought that this would be a major hurdle) and web address soon since the old hosting agreement expires soon. Further details will be communicated to members via email and the Facebook group as soon as we know what they are. We are hoping for a seamless transition but if any glitches occur (and there probably will be some no matter how smoothly the transition goes), please let us know as soon as possible.

In this issue you will find the 12th annual show report (pages 2 - 5) with photos contributed by Jennifer Bishop, Deborah Petrie, Sandy Proulx, BJ Jackson and El Hutchison. Following that is the information you've been waiting for, that being what you need to know for the annual summer sale (pages 6 - 8). Also included are the basic guidelines for the sale and some guidelines for member donations. Finally, a short piece on tips for after care in the iris garden rounds out the issue (page 8).

So sit back, relax with your favourite beverage and enjoy your summer newsletter. And thank you to all for making CWIS such a great place to be!

As always, if you have article ideas, questions or need to contact the Organizing Committee, just send us an email. We can be contacted at:

B. J. Jackson, jacksonb@mts.net

Jennifer Bishop, Jennifer@dataways.com

Deborah Petrie, martyaddict@gmail.com

Eleanor Hutchison, eleanore@mymts.net



Show Report 2019

(By BJ Jackson)

(Photos courtesy of Jennifer Bishop, Sandy Proulx, El Hutchison and BJ Jackson)

Another show is in the books. The 12th annual show held at Bourkevale Community Center went off without a hitch, well maybe a few, but they were all minor in nature and did not affect the tenor of the day.

In total, there were 58 stems entered by eight members and friends that encompassed all of the bearded classes and one species. In addition, member Diana Dhaliwal brought along for display the most amazing arrangement to support the cause and there were 17 stems not deemed worthy by the exhibitors for one reason or another were put on the display table. Lots of eye candy for visitors to enjoy!



As usual, the judges had a big job to do. As well as judging stems, this was the final show training for apprentice Sandy Proulx. And judges El Hutchison and BJ Jackson put her through the paces and even had her evaluate several entries in the seedling section. By show time next year, Sandy will be a fully qualified Garden and Exhibition judge with the American Iris Society. Congratulations on your accomplishment, Sandy. It was a lot of hard work!

As usual, the sale table had large selection of reasonably priced rhizomes from members' gardens available. This year it included a lot of siberians, a few pseudata and species-X donated to CWIS by last year's guest judges Sandy Ives and Maureen Mark. These were potted and sunk in the ground last fall and watched over by El Hutchison till show time. Thanks to Sandy and Maureen for the donation and to El for taking such good care of them. They certainly were popular. There weren't many leftovers.

Although the visitor numbers were down from past years, Mary Kurtz and Sandy Eggertson did an amazing job answering questions and moving those rhizomes out the door!

So, on to the show results. Here are the award winners although everyone who exhibited was a winner and we are very glad for all the support.

Section Awards

A - Miniature Dwarf Bearded - Maya Mint exhibited by Sandy Proulx

B - Standard Dwarf Bearded - Hoodlum exhibited by Len Giesbrecht

C - Intermediate Bearded - Cherie Amour exhibited by Sandy Eggertson

D - Miniature Tall Bearded - Baubles and Beads exhibited by El Hutchison

E - Border Bearded - Pass The Pepper exhibited by Deb Petrie

F - Tall Bearded - not awarded

G - Non-Bearded and Species - I. typofolia exhibited by David Hutchison

H - Collections - TB Caterina exhibited by Diana Dhaliwal

I (seedlings), J (historic) and K (unidentified) - not awarded

CWIS Awards

Best Canadian Hybridized Stem in Show (Chuck Chapman Iris) - SDB Crystal Carpet (exhibited by Sandy Proulx)

People's Choice Award (voted by the public visiting the show) - IB Star In The Night (exhibited by Diana Dhaliwal)

Best Historic in Show - Not awarded

AIS Awards

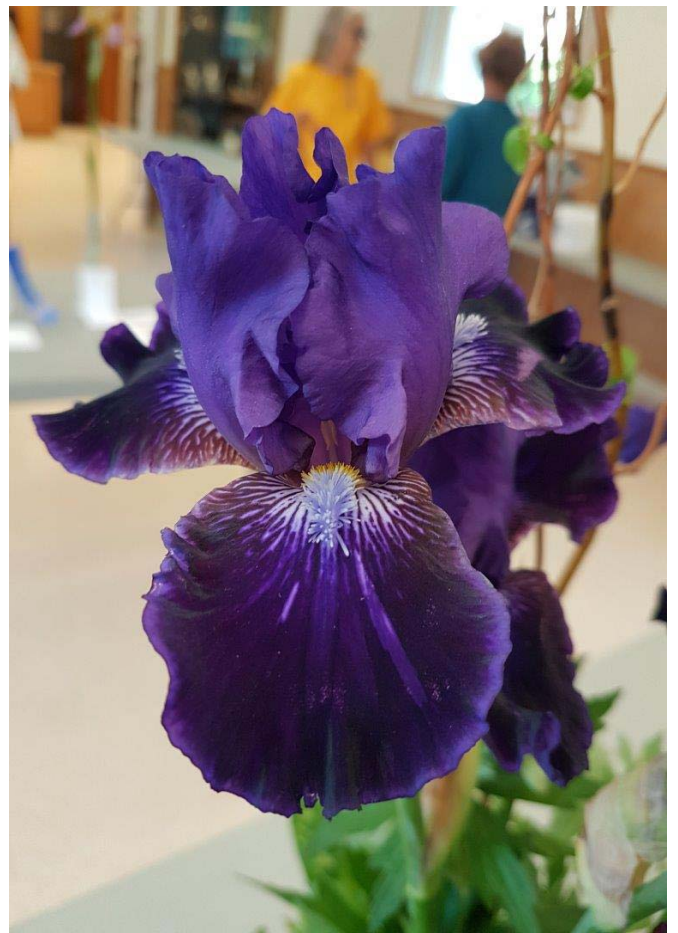
Silver Medal and Certificate (most first place ribbons) - Sandy Proulx

Bronze Medal and Certificate (second most first place ribbons) - Len Giesbrecht

Best Specimen in Show - IB Cherie Amour exhibited by Sandy Eggertson

Congratulations to all award winners. You certainly earned them. And thank you once again to all exhibitors, volunteers, visitors and friends for making this show the success it was. We rely on our members and friends for their support and each year they continue to dazzle us with their enthusiasm. Thanks also to Jennifer Bishop for putting on a great lunch and Deb Petrie for keeping me as organized as is possible. Here's to 2020 and the 13th annual show but for CWIS, it will be lucky 13!

Thank You!!!



***Top left: IB Cherie Amour, Best In Show, Section award.
Top right: IB Star In The Night, People's Choice award
Bottom left: BB Pass The Pepper, Section award
Bottom right: Exhibition tables***

More Show Photos!



*Top: Sandy Proulx and Sandy Eggertson receive their awards from BJ Jackson
Middle: Shoppers and volunteers at the sale table
Bottom: Len Giesbrecht and Diana Dhaliwal receive their awards from BJ Jackson*

Mostly Medians

The 2019 Summer Rhizome Sale

The highlight of the year and the most anticipated event is on the horizon and moving closer every day.

The annual rhizome sale has been set to start Monday, July 29th at 7 pm on the dot, subject of course to arrival of the iris on time. Any changes will be communicated to your email inbox and the group Facebook page if necessary. The sale will run to Friday, August 2nd or until the iris are sold out whichever comes first.

In conversations with Thomas Johnson of Mid-America Gardens over the last few weeks, he indicated that he was going to be more than generous with his selections for us. It has been several years since Mid-America was our supplier so there will be some amazing newer introductions from Thomas, Paul Black and any other hybridizer they introduce for mostly from the median classes and perhaps a few surprises, too.

The Basics

Below are the key elements to a successful and smooth running sale. The detailed guidelines will have more information but if you adhere to the following, you can't go wrong! Please review the detailed document when it arrives at sale time on the off chance that something has changed.

1. **REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE:** Paid membership in CWIS is required. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact BJ Jackson at jacksonb@mts.net.
2. **SALE PERIOD:** The sale will run from Monday, July 29th to Friday, August 2nd or until sell out whichever comes first. Members will be advised of any changes as they occur.
3. **ORDERS:** Create a new e-mail with your order to B. J. Jackson at jacksonb@mts.net with "2019 Rhizome Sale Order" in the subject line. **With your order, please include:**

- iris selection and price
- shipping method (Canada Post, Winnipeg delivery)
- full address and postal code
- method of payment
- membership status

*****Orders not in the format above will not be processed until corrected. *****

Changes and additions to the original order are allowed but participants are urged not to inundate the committee volunteers with excessive emails. Keep it down to one or two emails please.

4. **ACCEPTED PAYMENT METHODS:** Etransfers are preferred, however, if you wish to pay by cheque or another method, please indicate this on your initial order and **wait for your confirmation** before sending any money to avoid confusion.

5. **RHIZOME AVAILABILITY:** Some of the varieties will be in very limited numbers. **Only 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.

6. **PRICING:** Prices are shown either beside the classification or beside the individual variety.

7. **PHOTOS:** A link to the American Iris Society's Iris Encyclopedia will be provided. Just click on the link and you will go to the particular variety.

8. **SHIPPING CHARGES:** Postage charges are **not** included. Postal fee (to be determined) will be applied to all orders shipped by Canada Post. Local Winnipeg pick up is available for a small charge. Details will be provided if you elect this option.

The anticipation is building! Check out the website to see what Thomas has to choose from for us. You will not be disappointed. (<http://www.beardedirisflowers.com>)

Call For Member Donations

In addition to the commercial supplier, to augment the sale offering, we also accept donations of named varieties of all bearded classes. If you are digging some in the next few weeks and have extra, CWIS would be pleased to take them off your hands. Deadline for receipt of donated iris is Friday, July 26th. It would be greatly appreciated if you could let BJ Jackson know what you have as soon as possible to jacksonb@mts.net so a list can be started for putting together photos and descriptions. Just the name is all that's needed at this point. Members in Winnipeg can drop their donations off with Jennifer Bishop (Jennifer@dataways.com). Please contact her directly for location and availability to drop off. Those not in Brandon or Winnipeg who would like to donate, please contact BJ Jackson to work out the logistics.

Most long time members and donators are aware of the procedures involved but newer members may not have this information. If you want to donate but are not sure what they should look like when received, please review the following guidelines adapted from the Historic Iris Preservation Society.

General Guidelines For Donated Rhizomes

WASHING

- **Wash the rhizomes** with water and let them dry thoroughly..
- **Don't bleach!** Bleach is very harsh and hard on the rhizomes. Let the ultimate recipient bleach, if desired, right before planting or potting.
- **Make sure rhizomes and fans are completely dry before packing** or they will mold or rot even in just a few days.

TRIMMING

- **Cut fans down to about 4 inches depending on the class and the size of the rhizome.** Shorter makes it difficult to re-label if required. Longer makes them unwieldy to handle.
- **Remove old bloom stalks**
- **If you have leaf spot starting,** cut off the diseased parts of the leaves.
- **Roots - to trim or not to trim:** Some donors prefer to trim the roots but some leave them long. Your choice. Trimmed roots do, however, make packing easier.

LABELING

- **Use a BLACK Sharpie.** Ballpoint pen does NOT work. Colors other than black are often absorbed by the leaf.
 - **Spread the leaves of the fan. Write on ONE inner leaf, first wiping off the powdery "bloom" so the ink adheres better. Start at the base and write toward the top of the fan.**
- PRINT.**

- **Scribblers please note:** We have to relabel every iris if you write illegibly or across multiple leaves.
- **Abbreviations:** We don't expect you to write long names on every fan. Abbreviate if you need to, but make sure we know what you write on each fan.

- **DO NOT WRAP THE RHIZOMES.** Air flow is key to keeping the iris as fresh as possible so loose in an appropriately sized box or paper shopping bag works best. Plastic bags are acceptable for transport to the drop off location.

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact BJ at jacksonb@mts.net.



After Bloom Iris Care Tips

(Editor's Note: There was a lively discussion on the group's Facebook page about what to do with the irises after they have finished blooming so I took the opportunity to compile the ideas put forward there and add a few of my own. If you have any tips not included here, please send them to me for future use.)

So here we go!

- Remove old bloom stalks. 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 as close as you can get to the top of the rhizome.
- After removing spent bloom stalks, remove dead and dying outside leaves from around where the stalk used to be.
- If you see leaf spot on the fan, cut off the diseased parts of the leaves and dispose of it in the garbage, not the compost. The fungus that causes the disease can be spread through the compost so it is better to put it directly in the garbage.
- Use your nose! Take a whiff and if you smell anything off putting check for rot particularly if it has been a wet or humid season.
- Tidy up weeds, leaves and tree seeds from in and around the clumps to promote air circulation.
- Do **NOT** cut back the fans. The plant needs its leaves for photosynthesis. If you want to cut them back for winter, 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. An organic type is alfalfa pellets mixed into the compost or a commercial preparation of 10-20-20.

Happy Summer!!!