



Aurora

Newsletter of the Can-West Iris Society

Autumn, 2021

Volume 15, Issue 3

Update From the Organizing Committee

Cold temperatures have finally arrived along with a bit of snow. Hopefully it will last this time and not disappear as it has a few times already this season.

CWIS is still going strong, albeit with no public gatherings scheduled at this time. We were able to have our summer sale back in 2021 after its suspension in 2020, and anticipate another will be held in 2022. Our Facebook group remains active, the newsletter is still published, our website is visited often and life goes on. However, that being said, even with public health orders loosening a wee bit, the pandemic is still around and now with another variant circulating, who knows what will happen. As soon as we are confident it is safe for our members and friends to gather together again, you will be the first to know. Till then, stay tuned.

In 2020 and 2021, no members were dropped from the membership list owing to the pandemic. But if your membership lapsed during that period, it is now time to renew. If you are unsure of your status, please contact us and we will fix you up.

In this issue we have the Rebloom Report on page 2 and a memorial tribute for long time member and friend Audrey Peniuk who sadly passed away late in the summer on pages 3 and 4. This is followed by two 'Did You Know' items on page 5, and to finish up, a selection from the 2021 American Iris Society's awards list on pages 6 and 7.

This holiday season we wish you health and happiness and a safe new year. We can only hope that 2022 will bring us closer to normalcy once again.

As always, please be in touch with article ideas or what else you might want to read about. We will do our best to give you a great reading experience and iris education. You can reach out to any OC member at:

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Rebloom Report 2021 Season

(Compiled by BJ Jackson)

It truly was a rare occurrence across the country this year as reported by CWIS members and friends. Too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry; few irises got a chance to show off after their initial bloom. That makes those that did extra special!

The number one rebloomer was reported by Sandy Proulx (and dare I say an overachiever?) is SDB Forever Blue (Chapman, 1997) in her daughter's garden. It rebloomed not once, not twice, but a total of five times during the late summer and autumn (August 23, July 24, September 4, September 15, October 1). Over the years, it is by far the most reported rebloomer across the prairies.



It wasn't the only one of Chapman's introductions that bloomed more than once either. There were a few others including SDB Royal Overtime (2000) grown by Jodi Lockyer in Alberta and Donna Reble in Saskatchewan. Donna also had SDB Forever Royal (2015) and IB Returning Fancy (2020). Chuck Chapman certainly seems to have cornered the market on cold hardy rebloomers!



And lastly, although we are not 100% sure of the identification, Kelly Leibzeit reported rebloom on what we think is IB Star In The Night (Black, 2009). The ID will be hopefully be confirmed when it blooms again.

In Memorium - Audrey Peniuk

(By BJ Jackson)



We were saddened late in the summer to receive word that long time CWIS member and friend Audrey Peniuk had passed away. A staunch and loyal supporter of the show, one could find her, and in later years her daughter Maureen, perusing the exhibits and chatting with people, always with a big smile on her face and an infectious twinkle in her eye. Even with getting around with a walker, she wouldn't have missed being there. She also supported both the sale table at the show and the summer rhizome sale by donating many varieties back to us over the years. Audrey loved to chat about her gardens and we exchanged many emails and phone calls just talking about them.

One of the tips she shared with me was that she learned to keep the newly purchased rhizomes indoors over the first winter as her losses were fewer that way. After that, any of mine that were questionable in late autumn were dug and potted and grown inside over the winter. Our last chat was this past spring when she wrote about the cancellation of the show for the second year in a row. We will definitely miss her happy and smiling face when next we are able to hold it.



A poster Maureen created for her mom's front door

Her daughter Maureen writes: “After she ran out of room in her existing gardens, she had to dig new gardens to make room for her expanding iris collection.

This past summer, as my mom's health weakened she was not able to get to her gardens on her own, so she put all of her efforts and energy into her front planter area, which she could still access on her own. We temporarily put her more recent irises there for the summer. After she passed, I transplanted them to a new iris garden in my yard as I would like to carry on a portion of her iris collection.

My mom was a multiple cancer survivor and after successful treatment of ovarian cancer she decided that she earned the right to buy any plants she wanted! It is a great lesson for us all. Thankfully she was able to enjoy many years of acquiring new plants and expanding her gardens."



A plexiglass iris piece Audrey created.

CWIS extends our sincere condolences to Maureen and all of Audrey's family.

Rest in peace Audrey, you will be missed.

To read the full obituary, visit the website:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/winnipeg-mb/audrey-peniuk-10335566>

Did You Know???

- SDB Chubby Cheeks (Paul Black, 1984) has been awarded the AIS Board of Director's Award???

This award is made to an iris cultivar which did not win the Dykes Medal but which has, through the quality of their descendants, shown themselves to be markedly exceptional parents - true landmarks in breeding.

On hearing about the award Paul Black wrote in a social media post: "It puts Chubby Cheeks in some pretty select company. There have only been three other irises to receive this award; Snow Flurry (Slabach 1939), Tobacco Road (Kleinsorge 1941) and White Swirl (Cassebeer 1957), and now Chubby Cheeks."



Did You Know???

- Our own BJ Jackson took home first place in two classes in the British Iris Society's 2021 Virtual Iris Show?

Her entry of MTB Scrambled won Class 1 Bearded Except Tall Bearded and Class 6 Species or Iridaceae with *I. variegata* var. *reginae*.

Chris Towers, Judges Coordinator of the show wrote: "I am pleased to say we had a high number of entries, about 30 in each of the six classes. Several of the judges said that they found the task of choosing difficult and that there were many good entries. One of the advantages of the on-line format is that we have had entries from overseas members."

To see all classes and entries, please visit:

<https://www.britishirissociety.org.uk/2021-virtual-summer-show/>

American Iris Society Awards 2021

*Editor's note: Below are a selection of the irises that received awards this year.
Due to the pandemic and the inability of judges to cast their ballots in 2020,
two awards were given in each category.*

All photos are from the iris Wiki.

To see the full list and runners up, check out the following link:

<https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoAwards2021>

Caparne-Welch Medal (MDB)



Elf Esteem (Paul Black, 2015)



Fairy Firefly (Terry Aitken, 2016)

Cook Douglas Medal (SDB)



Stop and Stare (Thomas Johnson, 2014)



Portland Pink (Paul Black, 2015)

Williamson-White Medal (MTB)



***Moose Tracks
(Lynda Miller, 2014)***



***Hoosier Belle
(Charles Bunnell, 2011)***

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal (IB)



Code of Honor
(Thomas Johnson, 2013)



Backlit Beauty
(Richard Tasco, 2010)

Morgan Wood Medal (Siberian)



Cape Cod Boys ***(Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks, 2009)***

William Mohr Medal (AB)



Heart Of Hearts ***(Paul Black, 2015)***