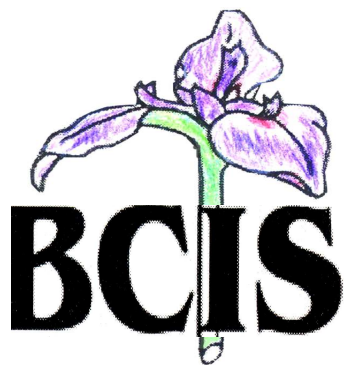
  
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# BC Iris Society Bulletin

Vol. 10, No. 1, Winter 2015

*'Iris, the flower for all seasons'*

*Content, Editing: Ted Baker  
Proofreading: John Prothero  
Editing, Production: Joyce Prothero*

## President's Message



NEIL GILBERT

*Ted Baker, BCIS President*

With January comes the time when we really start looking forward to spring and the next iris bloom season. It is also the time to look forward to seeing the new introductions being posted on the hybridizers' websites. Exciting!

The sites are usually updated in early March but vary somewhat. Keith Keppel is often first with his update showing up in early February. One site I particularly look forward to is Joe Pye Weeds Garden by Jan Sacks and Marty

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All photos in this issue are by Ted Baker  
(unless otherwise indicated)

Schafter. They list at least six new Siberians each season and new colours often highlight the collection. I usually purchase the entire collection and am never disappointed.

A date to remember is our Spring meeting which includes a wonderful and informative speaker. We will be gathering at the Ardmore Golf Course on March 14th starting at 9:30 AM. There will be a business meeting followed by a great catered lunch. Following lunch we will have a presentation on Median irises by Paul Black from Mid-America Garden in Salem, Oregon. I would call Paul the “King of the Median Irises.” For those wondering, Median irises include the shorter iris types including Border Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Miniature Tall Bearded and Standard Dwarf Bearded. Paul is probably the best known hybridizer of Median irises and has won three of the five medals in 2014 for the best iris in each category. I have grown a selection of these wonderful smaller irises for years and they are fabulous but not used nearly enough by the gardening public or by BCIS members. Over the years, hybridizers like Paul have brought out a stunning colour range, improved flower form and increased bud count for a longer bloom season. Paul would love to answer your Median questions.

If you have never been to an American Iris Society [AIS] National Convention, now is the time to do it! The Greater Portland Iris Society [GPIS] is hosting the event this year and they always do an excellent job. They start by having a huge number of Guest Irises, over 4,200, planted in six Host Gardens by people who really know what they are doing. There will probably be over 900 delegates from around the world, so imagine the information you can get from such a diverse group. And there is always good food, meeting new people, and lots of fun! This is a must if you are serious about irises.

You should also mark your calendar for another event, this time hosted by BCIS. And no, it is not another convention! It is the 2015 AIS Region 13 Fall



Irises developed by Paul Black (from top):  
DAZZLING (IB, 2008); STAR OF THE NIGHT (IB, 2009);  
PUDDY TAT (SDB, 2002); BLUEBEARD’S GHOST (SDB, 2006)

Meeting being held on the evening of October 2nd and Saturday October 3rd at the Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton in Surrey. Another boring meeting you say! I have to admit some of it may be boring but it is your region and you might give some important input. Also, there is always a diverse Silent Auction which includes some very good irises. These are usually newer cultivars that I know you would love to add to your collection. We also get excellent irises donated from some of the best hybridizers from the Region. We are trying to work out plans to make them available to us on the Canadian side of the border. A highlight of the meeting will be Saturday evening when Thomas Hobbs will be our guest speaker. Most members know about Thomas but if not he is known internationally as a most knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. He has also written books and has owned a florist shop and an outstanding plant nursery. For those registered for the meeting, we will also be visiting Thomas' new garden in Langley. I would like to thank Ann Booth, Louise Hart and Pam Erikson for organizing this meeting.

We will *not* be joining the Victoria Lily Society this year as a sponsor of the show and sale. However, I encourage everyone to enter their blooms in as many of the classes as you can. Again, this wonderful event is being held at the Salvation Army Citadel on June 26th

(set up and staging) and the 27th. We can all promote irises if we make the effort to enter our local flower shows.

Within this bulletin is a chart showing the vacancies which need filling during our meeting on March 14th. This is your opportunity to put forward your name and help shape the future of BCIS. It is important with any organization that the work load be shared and that a succession plan is in place. This will ensure that our society continues to serve new members and meet its other objectives.

Also, if you know someone who you think would work well in a specific position, please let one of the Nominating Committee know and we will contact the person. At the Spring Regional convention I met a person from New Zealand who is the Editor of the *Almanac of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris*, so distance for some of the positions is not an issue. Most of the work is now done via e-mail. There is enough overlap in the executive that any transition to a changing leadership should be easy. We have asked that we receive your suggestions by February 15th to give time for confirmations by our general meeting. Thank you for supporting BCIS.

Once again, I look forward to visiting with many of you during the coming year. May you have a wonderful bloom season.

*Ted*



**'Do The Math'**  
Versicolor, [Jill Copeland 2008]

# Tom Santosham: A True Gentleman



Photo by Penny Santosham

It is with great sadness that I inform BCIS members about the death of Tom Santosham in a tragic accident on October 31. Tom was a founding member of BCIS and a good friend to those of us who knew him.

Tom was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend. Tom earned the respect of his peers and provided leadership and mentor-ship during his professional life in Vancouver and at the College of the Okanagan. Tom embraced rural life with Penny, his wife of 46 years at their retirement home on Farleigh Lake near Penticton. He was a devoted husband to Penny and a wonderful father to Peter (Kristi) and Ruth (Jamie). He delighted in his grandsons Quinn (10), Luke (8), Dylan (7) and Liam (4).

Tom's first love of irises were Historics. He developed a bed on a slope on the east of their home and collected as many older cultivars as he could find. They did very well and made a lovely garden, especially at peak bloom. He even showed some winners at local flower shows. Lately Tom was adding some newer introductions that appealed to him.

Tom was also an important contributor to BCIS, especially when members toured iris gardens in the Okanagan. Penny was the principal organizer and Tom was always willing and able to help. We will remember Tom with apron on as he barbecued for us at the final dinner of those wonderful tours. He was also on the job at the AIS 2011 National in Victoria. I will forever remember the wonderful talks we had and even the odd song we attempted to sing together!

Tom was a very spiritual man and an active member of St. Saviour's Anglican Church. The thoughts of all BCIS members are with Penny and family at this very difficult time.

Ted Baker, President, British Columbia Iris Society

## PLANT PORTRAIT: The Rare *Iris cycloglossa*

Ian E. Efford, Duncan, British Columbia

After ten years of raising iris species from seed in the severe climate of Ottawa, I moved back to the west coast to a cliff-side garden that was quite unsuitable for irises but very suitable for rhododendrons. Another ten years raising rhododendrons from cuttings and a change of gardens resulted in a garden containing about 200 irises and another 200 rhododendron. Unfortunately, the irises are almost all hybrids raised from the British Iris Society seed exchange and my real interest is the biology and ecology of wild plants.

I have just completed the construction of a rock garden and also decided to raise iris species again. In this light, I selected one species that I had failed to grow in the past but which is one of the rarest and most interesting of all irises. That is *Iris cycloglossa*. I soon discovered that previous sources of seed were no longer in business and most nurseries did not have this species (even those that had sold it in the past).

I have contacted one nursery in the United States that still sells the bulbs and one in the United Kingdom but the latter will not export to Canada. I also know of only one private grower in Canada and one in the U.K. It seems as if this lovely iris is slowly disappearing from the horticultural scene.

### The Species

*Iris cycloglossa* has been seen twice in the wild and from only one other location which is near Herat in western Afghanistan. It was collected once by P. Wendelbo in 1947 and all the horticultural stock is derived from that original collection. The disappearance of *I. cycloglossa* would be particularly

unfortunate because it is one of the rarest iris and of particular interest biologically and evolutionarily. The iris is in the sub-genus *Scorpiris* [usually referred to as *junos*], a group of bulbous irises that are found throughout the eastern Middle East region from North Africa to Pakistan. They are relatively rare in nature and normally live on semi-arid hillsides where the summers are very dry. Unlike the other *junos*, *I. cycloglossa* was discovered in rather damp soil, not in a rocky gravel habitat.

As well as being rare and from a rather different habitat from others in the group, it is also very distinctive in having large standards, unlike the reduced standards of species in the sub-genus such as *I. magnifica* and *bucharica* which are both fairly commonly found in rock gardens and alpine house collections. In fact, although classified by Brian Mathews as a *juno*, one has to ask if it is not an ancestral form with flowers that closely resemble other irises such as the Siberians.

### Where can it be seen?

About 15 years ago, I saw one large clump growing in Denver Botanic Garden and, as far as I can determine, it is still growing there. As I was to be in England for much of April, I decided to visit a couple of gardens where I knew it would exist. My first visit was to The Royal Horticultural Society garden at Wisley. The information officer gave me the exact locations in their magnificent rock garden. I searched the very large rock garden, the smaller new rockery and the alpine house to no avail. Finally, I waited until the gardeners from that section returned from lunch and visited



RHS Wisley: Large rock garden (left) and alpine house

them in the nursery area. They had to admit that the species had died out!

My travels also took me to the oldest botanic garden in England at Oxford University. Dotted around the rock garden were various junos that had just finished flowering but no *I. cycloglossa*.

At the end of the trip, I went to The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which also had a beautiful rock garden (below left). I initially asked a gardener about the species but she said that she was a woodland gardener and did not know anything about rock garden plants. As I walked into the rock garden itself the first label I read was *I. cycloglossa* (below right).

It was an absolutely magnificent

clump over a metre wide. Just above it was another equally large clump and, after talking to the gardener responsible, another small clump just around the corner. The patch was smaller because it was in the shade and the plant prefers full sun.

Unfortunately, despite the hot weather during the last days of April, the plants were covered in buds but not one flower was open! I spoke to the gardener for a long time and then decided to see the rest of the rock garden and visit the alpine house.

As I entered the alpine house, the first thing I saw was a pot of the species in full bloom. I had achieved my objective!



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: Rock garden (left) and Iris cycloglossa.



All that remains is for The Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island to find a source of bulbs or seed and establish a viable colony of this very interesting iris on Vancouver Island just in case the wild population becomes extinct.



The Davies Alpine House at Kew Botanic Gardens: the interior of the alpine house, and (below) *Iris cycloglossa* in bloom.

Since returning from my trip to England last April, one of the gardeners to whom I spoke (June Strandberg) sent me a photo of the “shady” clump of *Iris cycloglossa* taken twenty days after my visit to the Kew Botanic Garden.



Photo by June Strandberg

All photography in this article (excepting above photo by June Strandberg) is by the author Ian E. Efford.

For several other notes on *Iris cycloglossa* which might have interest to BCIS members, see the next page.

## An addendum concerning *Iris cycloglossa*

Since my article on *Iris cycloglossa* was published in *Crevice*, I have been lucky enough to receive four bulbs of this rare species and, with luck, these will allow the eventual establishment of one or two collections on Vancouver Island. As far as I know, these are the only plants in Canada at the moment since the plants have died in the other two locations where this species was in cultivation. In one case the loss was because it was too wet and in the other because it was too cold.

I also was sent a very interesting reference which relates to my question on the closest relatives of *I. cycloglossa*. In the article, I mentioned that this species looks more like other irises and less like a juno and, for this reason, might be better classified elsewhere. In fact, I am wrong. A detailed genetic and morphological analysis of the junos has been

published by eight authors [see reference below] which shows that the species is a juno although in a somewhat isolated group. Its closest relative is the small, recently discovered, blue *I. stocksii*. This too was found in a remote area of Afghanistan and in very low numbers. The only other close relative of these two species is *I. aitchisonii*. This much taller species is fairly well known in cultivation and is the most easterly known juno. It is found in Afghanistan and Pakistan and comes in two colour forms, yellow and violet, as well as bicoloured. Only the yellow one is in cultivation.

I would like to thank Peter Taggart for his help on this matter. *Ian E. Efford*

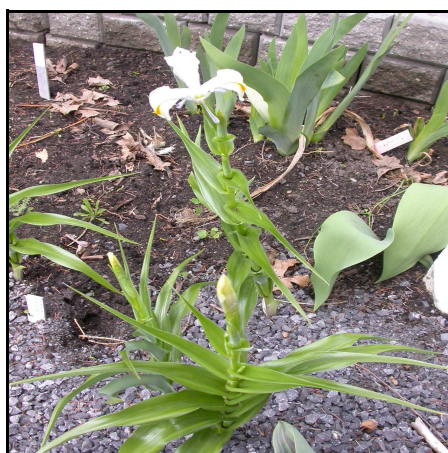
Nursel, I. Et al. Molecular phylogenetics of the juno irises, *Iris* subgenus *Scorpiris* (Iridaceae), based on six pastid markers. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 2011, 167, 281-300.

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## Juno Irises: Growing Them in the Southern Okanagan

The natural habitat of juno irises is the semi-desert conditions found in the Middle East from the Mediterranean through to Pakistan. This area has climatic conditions very similar to the southern Okanagan, especially the desert around Osoyoos. Anyone interested in growing this group of irises should consider starting with

some of the easier ones to grow, such as *I. bucharica* and *magnifica*. It is important to remember that these plants require deep pots containing very well-drained soil and dry conditions throughout the summer. Remember not to damage the large finger-like roots when handling the bulbs. In the southern Okanagan, they will do well outdoors throughout the year.



*Iris bucharica* (left) and *I. magnifica* are among the easier irises to grow in the south Okanagan.

Photos: Ian E. Efford

This article was reprinted from the *Bulletin* of the Vancouver Island Rock Alpine Garden Society. It should be of particular interest to our members in the Okanagan.



## Wishful Thinking

Keith Keppel, Salem, Oregon <plicataman@earthlink.net>

Although wishful thinking can be a most pleasant pastime, reality must always be acknowledged. Growing up, I often heard the saying, “If wishes were horses, then beggars could ride.” (We’d all be equestrians!) But if wishes are fulfilled, work and wisdom most likely are the cause.

Work and wisdom: the two important ingredients in any successful hybridizing program! The work of harvesting the pods, then planting the seed and tending the seed bed or pots. (Making the cross doesn’t count; that part is fun!) Preparing soil for the garden beds and lining out baby seedlings. Watering, weeding, watching, and waiting. And, if you are truly serious about the entire process, the work of recording crosses, observing results closely, and making extensive records so you can remember – and learn from – the failures as well as the successes.

Wisdom comes in finding the correct genetic combinations – picking the right parents. You never truly know exactly what you will get until you’ve got it, for much is still “luck,” but you can stack the deck in your favour. Any knowledge of the basic rules as to which patterns and colors are dominant and when are recessive helps, as does knowing how the two differing types of pigments impact each other when they occur in the same flower.

Our modern hybrids are so complex (often twenty-five or more generations from the original wild plants) that just about anything can happen, but it’s beneficial to have even a rudimentary road map when starting your journey of exploration!

Basically, like begets like. This applies not only to the flower, but also to the plant: stem and branching, bud count, foliage, disease resistance, ease of



Keith Keppel hybridizing irises

growth. Quality does not suddenly appear from nowhere; it must have a sound basic foundation.

One of the best and most productive crosses I’ve made during sixty years of hybridizing is cross 06-77: *Silk Road X Roaring Twenties*. Let’s examine its foundation by looking at its grandparents, where we find . . .

**SEA POWER**, with its heavily ruffled form, from a cross of *Yaquina Blue*

and *Jazz Me Blue*, two of the best from Schreiner's incomparable blue line, notable for form, stalks and hardiness.

**LYDIA SAFAN-SWIASTYN**, Mitch Jameson's excellent sharp yellow and blue purple bicolor, which in turn includes genes from bicolored Dykes Medal winner *Edith Wolford*, the Plough orange line, and Hamblen and Blyth bicolors.

**DECADENCE**, Barry Blyth's fabulous apricot and burgundy bicolor derived from his own line and, through *Louisa's Song*, Joe Ghio's *Bubble Up*, which adds his bubble-ruffled pink line to the mix.

**POEM OF ECSTASY**, Ben Hager's beautiful pink and lavender, genetically an amalgam of the Hamblen bicolor lines plus a touch of remontancy through *Mother Earth*.

Substantial building blocks indeed! Incidentally, one reason we include parentages in our catalogue is to give you an idea of each variety's genetic background. If you are familiar with the forebears, you can better guess how it may grow . . . and what it may pass on



'Arividerci' Keppel, 2014

to its descendants.

No cross is a "bad' cross" if there is a reason for it – even if the reason is simply to see what will result, if you use that result as a learning tool. But if you want to produce a quality product, study the potential parents, then consider the parents of the parents-to-be. Be aware of any faults carried in the line; the sins of the father **and** mother may be visited upon their children. If of necessity a fault must be included from one side of the cross, be certain it is not also added on the other side.

Another saying is that behind every successful man there is a woman. Even more likely is that behind every successful iris hybridizer is a big compost pile.

Whatever you do, be selective!

# ***AIS Spring Convention, Region 13, May 2014***

Four BCIS members (Ted Baker, Pat Spiers, Malcolm You-Ho, and Joyce Prothero) attended the Region 13 Spring meeting hosted by the Greater Portland Iris Society in late May 2014.

We took the Coho ferry from Victoria to Port Angeles, and on the way down through Washington State stopped at Whitney Gardens and Nursery on the Olympic Peninsula. As their website says, “Come see our majestic seven-acre gardens at the foot of the Olympic Mountains. Among rare trees and ponds, you will see the most beautiful array of rhododendron hybrids and species in the Northwest. You will also see an abundance of azaleas, magnolias, maples, conifers, kalmias, camellias, perennials, trees, shrubs and ground cover.” We were not disappointed.

The following are reports on the other gardens we visited: Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden and Mt Pleasant Iris Gardens were part of the convention program, and the others we visited on our own time.

## **Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, Vancouver, Washington**

**Owners: Terry and Barbara Aitkens**

Write-up by Pat Spiers, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

The garden comes as a surprise when, travelling through a built-up suburban neighbourhood, one suddenly arrives at five acres of gently rolling land, covered in rows and rows of irises, most of them in full bloom. The Aitkens were there first, having started their garden in 1977, and the suburb grew up around them.

We were warmly received by Terry and Barbara at their charming house, surrounded



‘Neptune’s Gold’ Siberian [Hollingworth 2014] and (below) ‘Chocolate Fountain’ [Fisher, 2015] were magnificent.



Spectacular Hollingworth seedling



by pine trees and flower beds with rhododendrons, peonies and hostas - as well as irises. There was also a greenhouse full of orchids ("To give Terry something to do in the winter," Barbara explained) where delicious refreshments were set out.

The Guest Irises were looking very strong and healthy with a high percentage of bloom and almost no gaps where a plant had died. The PCIs in particular seemed to be doing much better than in other gardens. By



Much admired was this MTB seedling by Miller with its intriguing colour and pattern.

convention time in 2015, they should be magnificent.

I was particularly attracted to a Tall Bearded seedling, R09-09 by Ernst, with mahogany-brown standards and rainbow falls; also an Aitken Siberian 'Burgundy Fireworks' – magenta with a showy blue-and-white signal. But there were so many beauties it was hard to choose. (I don't envy the judges next year!)

It is always a pleasure to visit Terry and Barbara and their Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden.

## Mt Pleasant Iris Gardens, Washougal, Washington

Owners: Chad Harris and Dale Grams

Write-up by Ted Baker, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

It is always a real pleasure to visit Mt Pleasant Iris Farm, home of Chad Harris and Dale Grams. Chad is the iris man and his first love is Japanese Irises. He always grows a large field of them but they were, of course, not in bloom when we visited.

However, he does grow a range of bearded types and hybridizes some very nice Miniature Tall Bearded irises. Also, as a Host Garden for the 2015 National, there were so many things to see. Joyce, Pat and I had sent a selection of Pacific Coast plants as Guests for the convention so we were particularly interested to see how they had done. They had been planted at Aitken's, Schreiner's, and at Mt Pleasant. True to their reputation, our Pacific Coast iris had not survived that well, but as well as most.

The farm is located east of Portland on the north side of the Columbia Gorge. The gardens are on a long slope below the house. The guest irises for the convention were in long rows up and down the slope. They will be impressive at convention time.



'All Stripes' *Iris setosa* [Schafer/Sacks 2014]

## Schreiner's Iris Gardens Salem, Oregon

Write-up by Ted Baker

After visiting Schreiner's many times it still continues to be amazing, and I enjoy it so much. The ten acres of display gardens are always a highlight with peonies, lupines, Oriental poppies and other perennials combined with the sweeps of irises resulting in scenes that gardeners who love irises dream about.

They have one long bed of their own introductions, among them many Dykes Medal winners. I had a chance to talk with Steve Schreiner and he confirmed that the company continues to sell about \$800,000.00 through their retail business and from one to eight million rhizomes wholesale. Definitely the largest iris operation in North America, if not the world.



Display gardens (top, and below) and cut irises for sale – Schreiner's has everything.



## Mid-America Garden, Brooks, Oregon

Owners: Paul Black, Thomas Johnson

Write-up by Ted Baker

Paul Black and Thomas Johnson continue to develop Mid-America Gardens into much more than just an iris garden, They have extended their show gardens to the north and east of the property so that it would take a good half-day to cover everything.

Unfortunately we did not have enough time to see it all, but we did spend about two hours going up and down the rows of recently introduced Tall Bearded cultivars. This is always a time to marvel with new colours and patterns showing up everywhere.



Pat Spiers, checking out the iris fields at Mid-America Garden.



'Don't Stop Believing' [Thomas Johnson, 2013] — a lovely Tall Bearded with excellent form.



'Beauty Within' [Ghio 2012] seen at Mid-America Garden.

## Keith Keppel Iris Gardens, Salem, Oregon

Write-up by Ted Baker

When we arrived at Keith Keppel's farm, Keith was in his field evaluating his seedlings. He said he had to keep better notes as he just about missed a good iris the year before. And it was a beauty. He had saved one plant and I was particularly impressed with the leaves and stocks, and its excellent growth habit and no sign of disease.



Exceptional seedling by Keith Keppel

If you know Keith, you know he is a stickler for keeping good notes. Keith always tells me he is cutting back on the amount of planted area. What a surprise to see that his iris patch is now about one-fifth of what it has been! He recently told me he will have even less area in production in 2015.



Photo by Malcolm Ho-You

Keith Keppel (right) explains an iris point to Pat, Joyce and Ted



Another wonderful Keppel seedling.

But the incredible seedlings were still to be seen in abundance. He does not keep any of his own introductions past the time they are useful for hybridizing. And, in addition to his own plants, he sells only Barry Blyth introductions .

## Adelman Peony Gardens, Salem, Oregon

Write-up by Malcolm Ho-You, Ladysmith, British Columbia

My first visit to the Adelman Peony Gardens was a delightful experience. As we pull up to 5690 Brooklake Road NE, Salem, all I could see was a field of peonies growing like a field of wheat on the Prairies.



Adelman's peonies are enjoyed by Malcolm Ho-You.

On entering the retail shop at Adelman's I was greeted by 50 varieties peony bouquets all neatly labelled in their vases. I was thrilled to see all the freshly cut peonies and many rare varieties in full bloom. They range from pure white to pink and dark maroon. The most outstanding peony that caught my eye was 'Pastelegance,' a creamy pastel pink, double midseason peony – truly a

magnificent peony.

The field walk through the acres of peonies was an experience for any peony fancier, seeing many varieties and smelling the fragrance given off by the flowers. Many photographs were taken as a record of many varieties of peonies, for future purchase.

Ted and I bought many of the varieties we liked from Adelman Peony Gardens, and they have been planted in our gardens. Next summer we will see the results of our choices in the peonies' bloom.



'Pastelegance'



## BOOK REVIEW: A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts. By Kelly D. Norris. Timber Press, Portland. \$39.95 US

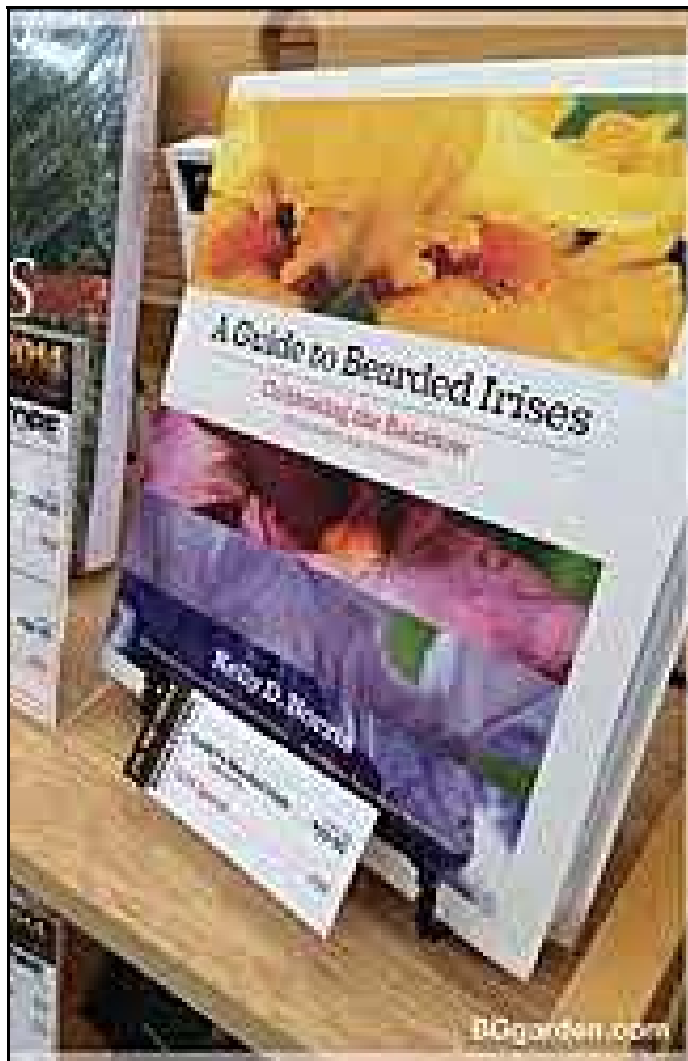
Reviewer: Richard Hebda, City of Victoria, British Columbia

Iris books do not come along often and I think I have most of them. So the arrival of a new book, especially devoted to bearded irises, is an exceptional event. When I saw this one in the *Royal Horticultural Society* magazine *The Garden*, I ordered it right away. Then, of course, I saw it at Russell Books in Victoria for less than I paid for it!

This is a colourful book covering the basics of growing bearded irises of all sorts from Dwarfs to Tall Bearded with additional chapters covering each of the major categories. Norris is a youngster (in his 20's), who at the age of 15 convinced his parents to buy the stock of a Texas irisarian, move it to Iowa and start Rainbow Iris Farm. He is precocious with a capital "P" and apparently confident with a capital "C." He knows his irises, knows their history and seems to know and respect many of the luminary growers.

The first chapter addresses Iris Myths such as "irises attract grass" and pretty much dispenses with them all. A good chapter on iris colours and how to use irises in the garden follows. There is a solid chapter on growing irises, then followed by one on hybridization. A brief review of the history of irises, mainly iris breeding, sets the stage for the six chapters that follow, each devoted to a major group.

I learned lots in the first five chapters, but I found the last six the most interesting. Why? Because the non-tall bearded varieties get lots of attention. You see, in the Plains States



WEBSITE: AS Logos

there are big winds, and big winds are not kind to TBs, so all the other groups are especially valuable. Some of my irises may get knocked down but mostly they hold up pretty well. The smaller ones stand up much better and are often much more floriferous than the TBs.

Taking the Intermediate Bearded irises (IBs) as an example; Norris begins with some very high praise rooted in his admittedly short experience. He calls this group the "irises of

the future” in part because they fit the smaller-sized lots that people now have. He extols the contributions of the Sass brothers as he explores the roots of this group. Then he leads us to the current trends and potential. As he does for each group, he describes the value and cultivation of the IBs in the garden.

Much of each of these chapters is devoted to describing *Cultivars You Should Grow*. The choice of cultivars is pretty idiosyncratic but includes old standards and brand new introductions (2012). I am glad to see I have some of his choices in my garden and that they have strong constitutions, vital to survive the Iowa climate. Each chapter concludes with a gallery of several beauties.

I like the coverage, I like the information and I like most of the excellent photographs. I do not like his writing style however and his somewhat over-personalized tone. His lang-

uage is colourful and enthusiasm boundless, sometimes though the language verges on slang. For example, on page 91 he begins Chapter 4 with “I was always that curious kiddo.” On page 303 he starts the description of TB “Attrazione Fatale” with ‘I’m absolutely nuts over this flower,’ Perhaps its my age, or perhaps it’s the way young folks talk; there seems to be just a bit too much of this literary informality in the book.

One thing, for sure, this book has encouraged me to investigate and invest in classes other than Tall Bearded. Furthermore it points me to some solid choices.

Should you read this book? Yes. Is it worth buying the book? Probably! Especially if you can get a discount.

Kelly Norris may be young but it seems he has some experience and is capable of passing it on.

## AIS 2015 Convention: Portland, Oregon



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

The 2015 AIS Convention will take place from May 18 to May 23, 2015. Five of the six host gardens on the three-day tour are well-known commercial gardens. Besides over 4,200 bearded and beardless official guest irises, visitors will find the local hybridizers efforts of the past and new and exciting things of the future.

Immediately following the national convention is the **Siberian/Species 2015 convention, Another Day in the Garden**. This takes place May 24-25, 2015 in Portland at the Red Lion Hotel.

Convention Registration/Forms: Contact Conventions Registrar:

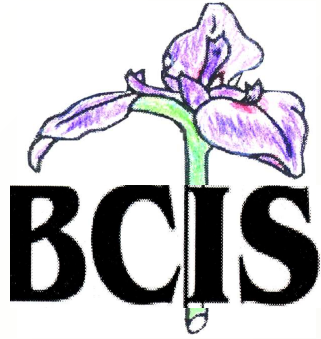
Judi Nunn, 4728 Jade St NE, Salem OR, 97305-3138

Phone/fax 503-390-3816; nunnjk@gmail.com (\$269 rate until March 21)

Hotel Reservations at Red Lion Hotel on the River: mention “Greater Portland Iris Society”

Toll free: 1-800-733-5466; on-line: Red Lion Hotel on the River on-line Registration

Special rates til April 27 from \$97-\$107 single/double: rates good 3 days +/- convention



## BCIS Spring Meeting

DATE: Saturday, March 14, 2015

WHERE: Ardmore Golf Course  
930 Ardmore Drive, Sidney, BC

9:30 - 11:30 am Annual General Meeting

11:30 - 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 - 2:00 pm Program: Median Irises;

Speaker: Paul Black, Mid-America Garden, Brooks, OR

**PROGRAM:** Paul Black from Mid-America Garden grows the entire range of “Median Irises” which includes Border Bearded, Intermediate Bearded, Miniature Tall Bearded and Standard Dwarf Bearded. He is well-known as a hybridizer of Median irises and has won multiple medals for the best iris in each category. Paul’s hybridizing has brought out a stunning colour range, improved flower form and increased bud count. He welcomes your Median questions during his presentation.

**LUNCH MENU:** Buffet Style, \$20.

**REGISTRATION:** If you plan to attend the luncheon, please contact Jan Hemming by March 1st by emailing to <nitinat@shaw.ca>, phoning 250- 655-1063, or posting to 11283 Nitinat Road, North Saanich, BC V8L 5R8. The venue holds up to 40 people, so register early. A cheque for lunch, payable to BCIS, may be mailed to Jan in advance or paid as cash or cheque on the day of the program.



**‘Steely Don’**

Spuria, [Aitken 2012]

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## BCIS Nominating Committee: Report

We are pleased to advise that the next AGM for the BCIS will be March 14, 2015 from 9:30-11:30am at the Ardmore Golf Course, North Saanich.

This AGM is an important one for the BCIS as it is the annual election of officers. The slate as of now, appears below.

We have enclosed the vacancy notice of those officers whose term has either ended or who have decided to pursue other interests.

The term of office is three years, as noted on the slate.

If you or someone you know would like to have their name stand for election, we would be pleased to accept their nomination. Please contact one of the Nomination Committee members for further information if required.

We would like to have all names of nominees submitted to the **Nomination Chair by February 15, 2015.**

Nomination Committee: Ted Baker, Chair: tedebaker41@gmail.com  
Bryce Fradley, Member, brycefradley@hotmail.com  
Jan Hemming, Member, nitinat@shaw.ca

### BCIS 2015 NOMINATION SLATE

(Tentative to 31 December 2014)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Term</u>
President	<b>Vacant</b>	First year of First Term
Past President	Ted Baker	
First Vice President	Malcolm Ho-You	
Second Vice President	Brenda Burch	
Treasurer	<b>Vacant</b>	First year of First Term
Membership	<b>Vacant</b>	First year of First Term
Secretary	Ted Baker	First year of First Term
Directors	1. Pat Page 2. Joyce Prothero 3. Penny Santosham 4. Stuartt Scholefield	
Historian	Howard Smith	
Bulletin Editor	<b>Vacant</b>	
Website Manager	<b>Vacant</b>	

PLEASE NOTE: Terms are three-year appointments

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## BCIS Executive Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 11, 2014, 10:00 AM to NOON Salt Spring Island

**Present:** Ted Baker, President; Joyce Prothero; Betty Wilkinson; Pat Spiers; Pat Page; Jan Hemming; Malcolm Ho-You; Brenda Dumont; Arlene Ommundsen. **Regrets:** Stuart Scholefield; Diane Whitehead; Penny Santosham.

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Welcome via Ted.

**2. Adoption Minutes of last Meeting October 2013:** Adopted as circulated.

**3. Business arising from Minutes:**

Website update: we continue to have issues with the development of the new BCIS website and reluctance on the part of the website designer/contractor to communicate progress. What and where is our domain? What development has been done based on payments to date etc. **ACTION:** a suggestion was made that Ted as President send a letter to the contractor outlining our concerns. Draft letter to be prepared.

**4. Committee Reports:**

- **Treasurer:** Betty Wilkinson tabled her report. It is now reported as an Income Statement for the period: January 1 to September 30, 2014. It was recommended that all BCIS financials now be combined with conference financials including the US account. Gina has been contacted to have the books she maintained transferred to Betty. Awaiting a response. Financials on this statement reported at approx. \$25K. This statement does not include the latest accounting from the JI mini sales in September/October. **ACTION:** Motion to approve the reports as tabled. Betty. Seconded: Jan. All in favour.
- **Membership:** Arlene reported latest paid membership at 105 members. Outstanding not paid are 43 members 2013 and 8 members 2012 and in addition there are 4 complimentary. Dues are payable annually and if not by April then the member is removed from the list. Arlene made a recommendation that there should only be one control point for the membership tracking. A policy recommendation was made that if a member joins between July and December 31 that will qualify as part of their **first year** of membership. It will result in 18 month recognition. Thereafter, the first year of eligibility, dues are payable January 1 of each subsequent year and run from January to December. **ACTION:** Accepted as proposed. Brenda offered to look at the membership list and do an audit to make sure it was accurate. Some cross reference would be done with the Treasurer's records. An email prepared by Arlene Ommundsen and sent by Pat Page to those members in arrears asking if they still want to remain a member or not. Outstanding dues will be collected?

**5. New Business:**

- By all accounts the JI convention we hosted in July was a huge success. Lots of good feedback. Ted's iris display in the Hotel Lobby attracted lots of great comments.
- **JI SALES:** most recent small mini-sales with the Lily Society generated some small influx of cash for the society. Lots of work for very little reward. All JI leftovers have been planted by Jacquie and Sandy for possible future sales.

- Membership fees cutoff date. See discussion under Membership and action Membership fees cutoff date. See discussion under Membership and action proposed.
- Mailing Costs: BCIS bulletin. Because of increased Postage and Handling, consider a 'user fee' cost for members who still want to receive the bulletin my mail? **ACTION:** to be looked at by next Executive as part of budget discussions.
- 2015 Joint Iris purchases: Ted has been the key contact for Iris purchases. .
- New Executive: Ted, Jan and Bryce will look at process for presentation of slate for nominations and filling of known vacancies. At the AGM, new officers will be installed. We will canvas the membership for nominations and filling of known vacancies. AGM nominations due by February 15, 2015.
- Joint Iris/Lily Society show and sale for 2015 yet to be finalized. Consideration for 'SHOW WHAT WE GROW' only and possible venue, the Couvelier Pavilion at HCP will be dependent on rental price.
- Hosting Region 13 2015 Fall Meeting: Ted offered to contact some members on the Mainland to see if they would help coordinate the meeting and negotiate with a venue. Subsequent to our meeting Ann Booth, Chair and Louise Hart, Venue Coordinator, both agreed to take this on. Thanks to both of them.

**Meeting Adjourned: NOON**

**Next Meeting: AGM Saturday, March 14, 2015**

Ardmore Golf Course. Meeting Room booked. 9 AM to 2 PM

Respectfully submitted, Jan Hemming nitinat@shaw.ca

## “Another Day In The Garden”

### 2015 Siberian/Species Convention, Portland, Oregon

**May 24-25, 2015**



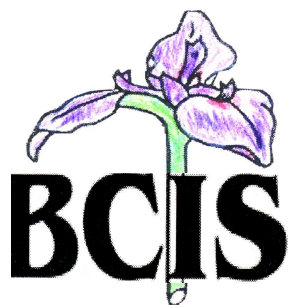
'Lemon Mousse' Siberian [Hollingsworth 2008]

Includes meetings and programs, and tours to: Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, Mt Pleasant Iris Farm, Mid-American Iris Garden, Schreiner's Iris Gardens and KevinVaughn's garden.

Registration Fee: \$135 until March 21st, payable to GPIS (Greater Portland Iris Society) and send registration form to: Judi Nunn, 4728 Jade St. NE,

Salem OR 97305-3138; Phone/Fax 1-503-390-3816; Email: Nunnjk@gmail.com

Conference Hotel Reservation: See page 18.



## 2015 Region 13 Fall Meeting October 2-4, 2015

### Registration

Hampton Inn by Hilton in Langley  
19500 Langley Bypass, Surrey, BC V3S 7R2  
604-530-6545



The British Columbia Iris Society is very pleased to host the 2015 Region 13 Fall Meeting in Langley British Columbia. Thomas Hobbs, an internationally known speaker on garden topics from Langley will be our featured speaker Saturday evening. Also featured on Saturday afternoon will be a two-hour judges training program. The agenda for the weekend includes:

**Friday evening:** Registration from 6-10pm in the Hampton Room (off lobby area)

**Saturday** schedule will feature: Breakfast Buffet from 6:00-10:00am in the hotel lobby, then, in Hampton Room: Registration from 8:00-9:30am; Silent Auction 10:00am-4:00pm; Board Meeting at 10:00am followed by the General Meeting at 11:00am. We will break at noon for lunch (on your own, the hotel has a great restaurant). The afternoon starts out in the Hampton Room at 1:00pm with coffee, tea, cookies and a two-hour judges training from 1:00-3:00pm. The evening events in the Hampton Room begin with a no-host reception at 4:30pm followed by dinner at 5:00pm. After dinner Thomas Hobbs will speak, followed by hybridizers' slides of their latest "kids."

**Sunday** – breakfast buffet followed by the opportunity for registrants to drive to and tour Thomas Hobbs garden at 10:00am. Details will follow.

**Hotel accommodations** will be at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in Langley, a fabulous local hotel with fine food, beautiful rooms, excellent service and hot buffet breakfast each morning. Our special group rate for rooms will be \$119 Cdn. (two queen beds). Other choices offered include King rooms at \$129 Cdn. Please book your room by calling 604-530-6545 and be sure to mention that you are with the Iris Society and use the code "IRI" to ensure you receive the group rate. **The deadline for booking of rooms is September 2, 2015 so be sure to book early!**

**Registration** for the weekend is \$62 US or Canadian funds. Please send completed registration form and check for \$62 to Louise Hart 4681 240<sup>th</sup> St., Langley BC V2Z 2M7 or Ann Booth 6117 150<sup>th</sup> Pl SW Edmonds WA 98026. We look forward to welcoming you and know you will have a great time!

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Please cut here and return this section, along with your cheque for registration, to either Ann or Louise, made payable to the British Columbia Iris Society.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Code \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Dues

If you see a **RED DOT** near your address on the front of this bulletin or read "2014" on your address label, then it is time to renew your BCIS membership.

Annual dues are \$15 for an individual and \$16 for a family. (Might we also remind you that Ted suggests considering the convenience of paying for three years at one time?) Youth dues, \$5 per year, are available for those under 18 years.

Please make your cheque payable to BCIS and mail to: Arlene Ommundsen, 456 Scott Point Dr., Salt Spring Is., BC, V8K 2R2.

## Electronic Delivery

You have the option of receiving electronic versions of the Bulletin.

To request e-delivery, contact Arlene at <arlenebcis@gmail.com>.

## Calendar of Events

### BCIS Spring Meeting

March 14, 9:30am-2:00pm,  
Ardmore Golf Course,  
930 Ardmore Drive, Sidney, BC.  
AGM 9:30-11:30am; Lunch 11:30- 12:30am;  
Median IrisProgram:12:30-2:00pm.  
For additional info, contact Ted Baker  
<tedebaker41@gmail.com>, 250-653-4430  
or Jan Hemming: nitinat@shaw.ca>

### AIS National Convention

May 18-23, Red Lion on the River,  
Portland, Oregon. hosted by the Greater  
Portland Iris Society. For more info,  
see p18 memo or consult the GPIS website.

### 2015 Siberian/Species Convention

May 24-25, Red Lion on the River,  
Portland, Oregon. For more info,  
see p22 memo or consult the GPIS website

### AIS Region 13 Fall Meeting

October 2-4, Hampton Inn by Hilton, Langley;  
For more info, see p23 memo or contact  
Louise Hart, Ann Booth or Ted Baker.

*If you are planning an Iris Event in your area,  
let everyone know by including it in  
the BCIS Calendar of Events on the website  
[bc-iris.org].*

## BC Iris Society www.bcirissociety.com www.bc-iris.org

### Honourary Patron

The Honourable Iona V. Campagnola, PC, OC, OBC

### President: Ted Baker

250-653-4430, [tedebaker41@gmail.com](mailto:tedebaker41@gmail.com)  
185 Furness Rd, Salt Spring Is, BC V8K 1Z7

**1st Vice-President:** Malcolm Ho-You  
250-245-9865, [ho-you@telus.net](mailto:ho-you@telus.net)

**2nd Vice-President:** Brenda Dumont  
250-743-638 [me@brendadumont.com](mailto:me@brendadumont.com)

**Secretary:** Jan Hemming  
250-655-1063, [nitinat@shaw.ca](mailto:nitinat@shaw.ca)

**Treasurer:** Betty Wilkinson  
250-653-2074, [betty@evolveconsulting.ca](mailto:betty@evolveconsulting.ca)

### Directors:

Arlene Ommundsen  
250-537-9515, [arlenebcis@gmail.com](mailto:arlenebcis@gmail.com)

Pat Page  
250-537-5243

Joyce Prothero  
250-537-215

Penny Santosham (Okanagan)  
250-490-4928

Stuart Schoenfield  
250-629-3681

### Membership:

Arlene Ommundsen:  
250-537-9215, [arlenebcis@gmail.com](mailto:arlenebcis@gmail.com)

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