

# BC Iris Society Bulletin

Vol. 10, No. 2, Spring 2015

*'Iris, the flower for all seasons'*

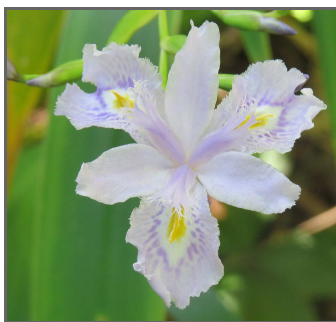
*Content, Editing: Ted Baker*

*Proofreading: John Prothero*

*Editing, Production: Joyce Prothero*

*Photos in this publication: Ted Baker*

## Early Spring in the Coastal Iris Garden by Ted Baker



*Iris confusa* is an elegant plant all year long. The fan of glossy leaves sits on top of a bamboo like stem that can grow over 60 cm tall. The bloom stem, with many branches emerges from the fan in March. The buds are multisocketed so each stem can have up to 75 flowers. The flowers are short lived but flowers open in sequence so bloomtime is over several weeks. Unfortunately it is a tender plant and can only be grown in warmer areas such as the coast here in British Columbia. I have had mine for years, growing in a sheltered spot, and it has never failed to bloom.

# President's Message



*Ted Baker, BCIS President*

With such a warm spring I am sure we are all experiencing early bloom. Our garden is about three weeks early.

Our Annual General Meeting was well attended with Penny Santosham coming the furthest distance; as most of you know Penny lives near Penticton. There have been some changes in the executive. The First Vice-President is now Richard Hebda with Malcom Ho-You as Second Vice-President. Bill Dumont is now both Secretary and Treasurer and Diane Whitehead is Membership Chair. Brenda Burch is our new Webmaster and Jan Hemming has become a Director-at-Large.

I would like to extend all our thanks to Brenda Burch for her time as First Vice-President, Jan Hemming as Secretary, Betty Wilkinson as Treasurer and Arlene Ommundson as Membership Chair. Their dedication and time is very much appreciated by all of us. Thanks to everyone for doing such an excellent job. You can see the contact information for the new slate of officers on page 8 of this Bulletin.

It is going to be another busy year. As well as

looking after our own gardens we can share the enjoyment of others' work by attending garden tours, conventions, shows and sales. The new website, being managed by Brenda Burch, is also an excellent place to check out what is happening in the iris world. The new site is very functional and very beautiful. If you have photos and comments about your garden please send them to Brenda and she will make sure they are posted for the rest of us to enjoy and experience.

Bryce Fradley is organizing a joint purchase of irises from Mid-America Gardens. If you want to participate you can check out their plants online. Once you have made your selection, send the completed order form plus payment to Mid-America with a note on it that it is part of the BCIS joint order. All plants will be sent to Bryce who will then box up the individual orders and send them on. The portion of the original mailing and Phytosanitary Certificate plus sending your plants on to you will be noted so you can pay these charges. You should have your order to Mid-America by the beginning of July at the latest. Thank you Bryce for doing this.

There is still time to register for the AIS National Convention in Portland. Oregon's irises are also about three weeks ahead – and this is not good for the convention – but they have eight gardens on tour with various times of bloom so there will be lots to see. This is a good chance to see the plants you might want to purchase.

Summer is the time for flower shows. Try your best to participate in your local shows. A very good way to promote irises! The Victoria Lily Society is holding their annual show on June 27 with set up on June 26. While it is late for most irises, the Japanese Irises should be in bloom at that time.

Speaking of Japanese irises, we still have most of the JI and Pseudata cultivars for sale that were in the BCIS *Bulletin* for Summer 2014. If you want any of these plants, let me know and we will arrange to have them sent to you. They are all \$7.00 each which is a very good price. 😊

President's Message – continued on page 5

😊 The listing of available Japanese Irises and Pseudatas appeared in Summer 2014 *Bulletin* 9(3). The publication is available on-line at the BCIS website [bcirissociety.com](http://bcirissociety.com).

**Early Spring** – continued from page 1

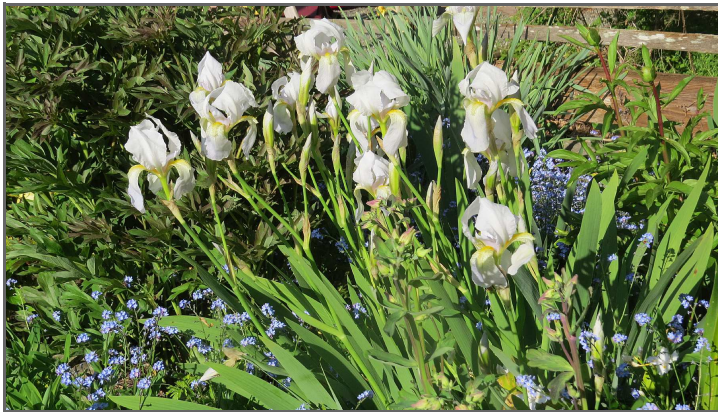
Spring has started and for some *Iris unguicularis* and *Iris lazica* have finished blooming along with the reticulatas. Now we wait for the bearded irises to start. A good iris fix at this time of year are the Standard Dwarf Bearded and some Species irises.

We learned a lot about the shorter bearded irises from Paul Black at our AGM. What colours and patterns! I also particularly like to have some species to bloom with the dwarfs as they have such wonderful plant forms. *Iris confusa* and *Iris henryi* are excellent examples.

***Iris japonica***



***Iris florentina***



*Iris florentina* is also known as the Oris Root iris. The powder made from the rhizome is still used today in making perfume. The Oris oil is also used to flavor candy, soft drinks and gelatin desserts, however, its use has decreased due to concern about allergies. It has mild medicinal properties. As a bearded iris it is very easy to grow, is one of the first to bloom, and has the charm of the species.

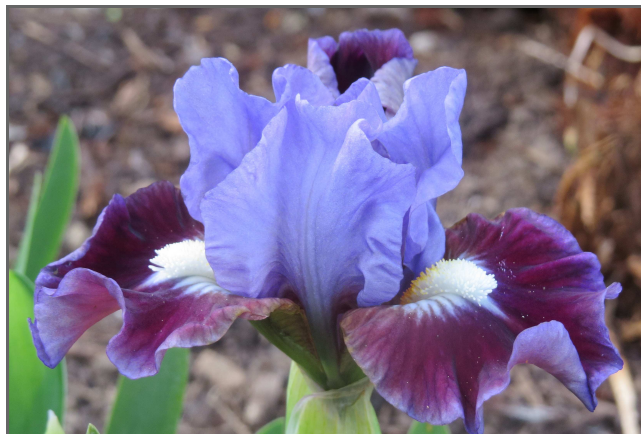
***Iris henryi***



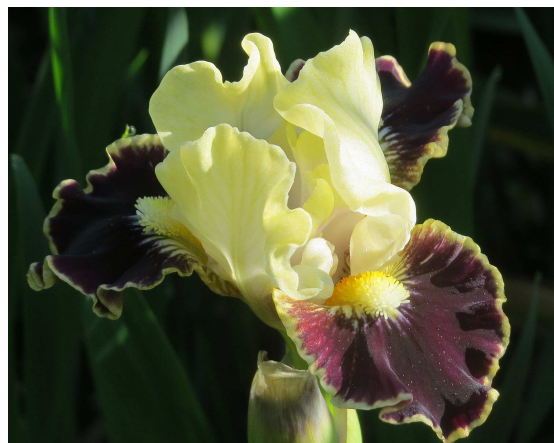
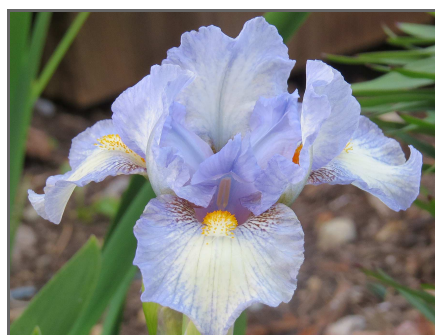
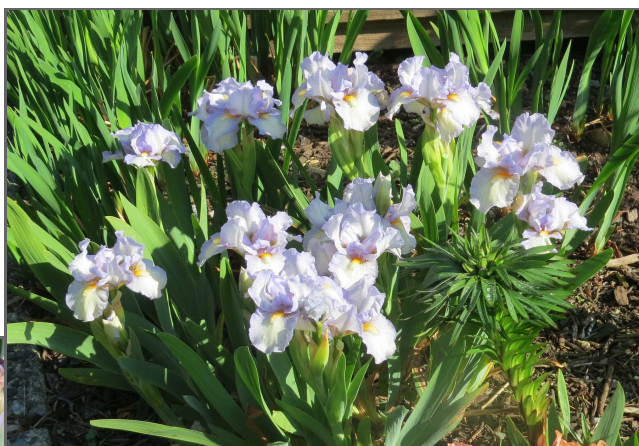
*Iris henryi* is rare but special. From China, it is small with very narrow, grassy like, glossy leaves which over time form a loose mound. The delicate, flat, white flowers with yellow signal open on 3 inch stems which carry two buds. It continues to be one of Far Reaches Farm favorite plants of all time.

**Early Spring** – continued from page 3

The delightful species (see page 3) intermesh happily with the smaller bearded irises. Below, 'Dark Vader' (R & L Miller, 1987) is an older SDB iris, a good grower and with a wonderful fragrance.



'Devoted' (above) and 'Canadian Kisses' (2 views below), both by Paul Black, are ideal companions for the spring iris species.



'Incendiary' (above) and 'Coconino' (left), both by M Smith, and 'Absolute Joy' (right) by Aitkens, add vibrant colour to the collection of iris blooms in the spring garden.



**BCIS Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, March 14, 2015, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM**  
**held at Ardmore Golf Course, North Saanich, British Columbia**

**Present:** Ted Baker, President; Malcolm Ho-You; Randy McEwen; Joyce Prothero; Brenda Burch; Betty Wilkinson; Richard Hebda; Jan Hemming; John Veillette; Pat Page; Pat Spiers; Bill Dumont; Diane Whitehead; Bryce Fradley; Richard Cypher; Ruth Cypher; Penny Santosham; Stuart Scholefield. Guest speaker: Paul Black

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Meeting convened at 9:45 AM. Welcome via Ted, plus self-introductions.
2. **Adoption of Minutes of last AGM Meeting:** minutes approved.
3. **Committee Reports:**
  - **Membership:** Diane reported that she has 105 renewals. Ted had about six more members to give to Diane.
  - **Treasurer:** Betty Wilkinson tabled her report as at February 28, 2015. It now includes an amalgamation of accounts from the Convention. US fund is reported separately. Total assets approximately \$28 K. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report: Bill Dumont. Seconded: Richard Hebda. All in favour. Discussion among members about what to do with the money in the bank. Several options were considered. **ACTION:** Bill Dumont volunteered to look at options for endowments, legacies etc. to botanical gardens in the Province. He will bring back suggestions to Executive Committee for their fall meeting.
  - **Website Overview:** Brenda Burch did a PowerPoint presentation on the new website for the BCIS. She advised that it is still a work-in-progress but asked members to take a look at what had been developed to date and provide feedback to her: **BC Iris Society** <http://www.bcirissociety.com/>
4. **BCIS Show/Sale with Lily Society:** Show will be held at the Salvation Army Citadel from 10 AM to 3 PM on June 27. Iris Society members may sell their own Iris and pay 10% to the Lily Society on final sales. Ted will be in attendance selling his Iris. **ACTION:** Volunteers required for assisting with information for Iris Information Booth. Bryce advised about the Plant Sale at Abkhazi Gardens on May 2 from 10 AM to Noon. A tool sharpening service will be on hand and the tea room will be open.
5. **Election/confirmation of Officers:** The Nomination Committee presented the slate for the officers to serve for two years (2015-2017) as follows:

Continued on next page.

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*President's Remarks - continued from page 2.*

Now is also the time to register for the Region 13 Fall Meeting in Langley. As well as meeting many wonderful iris people you will hear Thomas Hobbs and be able to tour his garden. A highlight for me will be the Silent Auction where many new iris introductions will be offered. This is a rare opportunity to be able to bid on the best from some of the best hybridizers. Additional program details are in the Winter 2015 *Bulletin*; a

registration form is reprinted on page 7 of this Bulletin.

If you are on or near Salt Spring, especially during the iris bloom season, you're most welcome to drop by for a look and visit. If I know you are coming, we can also set up a couple more gardens for you to tour.

May you have a wonderful iris season. *Ted*

- President: Ted Baker
- First Vice President: Richard Hebda
- Second Vice President: Malcom Ho-You
- Treasurer: Bill Dumont
- Secretary: Bill Dumont
- Membership Chair: Diane Whitehead
- Directors-at-Large: Penny Santosham; Joyce Prothero; Pat Page; Stuart Scholefield; Jan Hemming
- Historian: Howard Smith
- Bulletin Editor: Ted Baker
- Website Manager: Brenda Burch

In addition, it was suggested that President Ted Baker approach a member from the Lower Mainland to sit on the Committee as a Director-at-Large.

All nominations were accepted and confirmed as presented. Congratulations to those who were nominated and endorsed by acclamation.

- 6. Other Business:** Ted gave an overview of other events for 2015 including the AIS National Convention in Portland Oregon, May 18-23, and the AIS Fall meeting in Langley October 2-4. Bill reported that the American Rhododendron Society will hold its 2015 convention at Mary Winspear Centre in May. Bill is also hosting a UK tour of English Gardens. Ted proposed that we continue our affiliation with Region 13 and pay the registration fee for Executive Committee members. All in favour.
- 7. Plenary Session:** Open forum roundtable discussion on care and nurturing of irises – compost, water, fertilizer etc. Good discussion with lots of useful information exchanged.

**NOON:** Buffet lunch catered and served by Trish Bendall, Chef and Manager at Ardmore Golf Course.

**Guest Speaker:** Paul Black, Oregon State, gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on “ALL ABOUT MEDIAN IRIS.”

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:00 PM. Moved by Bruce Fradley, seconded by Richard Hebda. All members present in agreement.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** October, 2015. Date and Place to be confirmed.

**Next AGM:** 2016. Date and Place to be confirmed.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Hemming nitinat@shaw.ca



## AIS 2015 Convention: Portland, Oregon

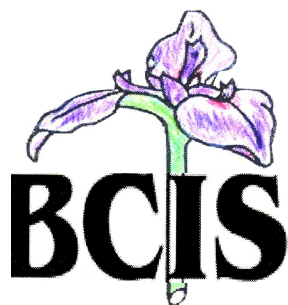
The Greater Portland Iris Society, host for the 2015 American Iris Society Convention, invites all iris friends to Portland, Oregon for Iris In Wonderland from May 18-23.

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

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



## 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 remind you that Ted suggests considering 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: Diane Whitehead, 5088 Clutesi Street, Victoria BC, V8Y 1X4. Questions: [voltaire@islandnet.com](mailto:voltaire@islandnet.com).

## Electronic Delivery

You have the option of receiving electronic versions of the Bulletin. To request e-delivery, contact Diane at [<voltaire@islandnet.com>](mailto:voltaire@islandnet.com) or Joyce Prothero at [<jpthero@saltspring.com>](mailto:jpthero@saltspring.com).

## Calendar of Events

### AIS National Convention

May 18-23, Red Lion on the River, Portland, OR. Hosted by the Greater Portland Iris Society. For more info, consult the **GPIS** website.

### 2015 Siberian/Species Convention

May 24-25, Red Lion on the River, Portland, Oregon. For more info, consult the **GPIS** website.

### AIS Region 13 Fall Meeting

October 2-4, Hampton Inn by Hilton, Langley; For more info, see p23 memo of Winter 2015 issue or contact Louise Hart, Ann Booth or Ted Baker. To reserve **hotel accommodations** and/or to **register for the conference**, see form on previous page.

*If you are planning an Iris Event in your area, let everyone know by including it in the BCIS Calendar of Events and on the BCIS website [[bcirissociety.com](http://bcirissociety.com)].*

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## BC Iris Society

[www.bcirissociety.com](http://www.bcirissociety.com)

### 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 Road, Salt Spring Is, BC V8K 1Z7

### 1st Vice-President: Richard Hebda

250-652-6863, [hebda@shaw.ca](mailto:hebda@shaw.ca)

### 2nd Vice-President: Malcolm Ho-You

250-245-9865, [ho-you@telus.net](mailto:ho-you@telus.net)

### Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Dumont

250-743-9882, [wedumont@shaw.ca](mailto:wedumont@shaw.ca)

### Directors:

Jan Hemming, 250-655-1063

Pat Page, 250-537-5243

Joyce Prothero, 250-537-9215

Penny Santosham (Okanagan), 250-490-4928

Stuart Schoenfield, 250-629-3681

### Membership:

#### Diane Whitehead

250-658-5640, or [voltaire@islandnet.com](mailto:voltaire@islandnet.com)  
5088 Clutesi Street, Victoria BC V8Y 1X4

### Bulletin:

Content / Editing: Ted Baker

Production / Editing: Joyce Prothero

**Historian:** Howard Smith, 250-598-3385

**Logo Design:** Pat Parkes

**Webmaster:** Brenda Burch 250-743-1638