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# BC Iris Society Bulletin

*'Iris, the flower for all seasons'*

**Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter 2016**

*Content, Editing: Ted Baker*

*Proofreading: John Prothero*

*Editing, Production: Joyce Prothero*

**Dykes Medal Winner, 2015  
American Iris Society Awards**



Photo by Ted Baker

**'Gypsy Lord'** [Keith Keppel 2006, TB] is a very beautiful Tall Bearded Iris of excellent form; it is a good grower and is disease resistant.

*See 2015 AIS AWARDS on page 14 for more information on the national AIS recognition.*

# President's Message



NEIL GILBERT

*Ted Baker, BCIS President*

What a wonderful iris growing season. My irises loved the heat, and while blooming early this year, they put on a stunning display. I do have lots of water from a spring so we were not on the water restrictions that many of Salt Spring's gardeners had to deal with.

The AIS National Convention was a wonderful success as would be expected when the Greater Portland Iris Society is hosting. Practice makes perfect and this is the sixth time they have hosted. All of the gardens have been written about at some point in our *Bulletin* so those BCIS members who attended have written about the aspects of the convention that impressed them the most. The National was followed by the Siberian and Species Convention and again all the gardens have previously been reported on except for Kevin Vaughn's which is described on pages 12-14 of this *Bulletin*.

As you learned from a previous *Bulletin*, BCIS hosted the AIS Region 13 Fall Meeting in Langley. It was a fun time and details can be found on page 16.

Our Annual General meeting will be held at the Ardmore Golf Course on West Saanich Road on March 5, 2016. The meeting portion of the event will be in the morning and after lunch I am very pleased Ian Efford will be our guest speaker. Ian will talk about species irises. Ian is eminently qualified to speak about species as in the past he had the best collection of species irises in Canada.

I am concerned that many of our members are missing out on some very wonderful events that BCIS sponsors or held by other iris societies. These events are a wonderful way to learn more, make valuable contacts and access new plants for your garden. Over the years many of the people I have met at various events have become very important to me; I know are they are friends for life. True, we are not close geographically but with the communication tools we have today it is easy to keep in touch. I also know it is difficult for many of you to come so far, but if you organize an event in your area, we can come to you.

Speaking of special events, the King County Iris Society [KCIS] is hosting the 2016 AIS Region 13 Spring Meeting on the May 13-15 weekend in the Seattle area. This will be a must-do event as we will see some excellent gardens in bloom. I am especially looking forward to see Bob Seaman's Leonine Iris garden packed with Pacific Coast irises. [Their PCI garden has stairs and is not disability accessible, but someone will be there to help; also, you may remember the paths are very narrow, but anyone with mobility issues can sit on the deck where they can get an excellent view of the entire back garden.] There are usually gardens hosting Guest Irises, but the original host club had to back out and KCIS took it on but too late to be able to plant any guest irises. We will car pool where possible and there is always room share to keep costs down. See page 23 for more details.

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

By the time you read this, winter will be about half over. It will be time to look forward to spring and another year of bloom.

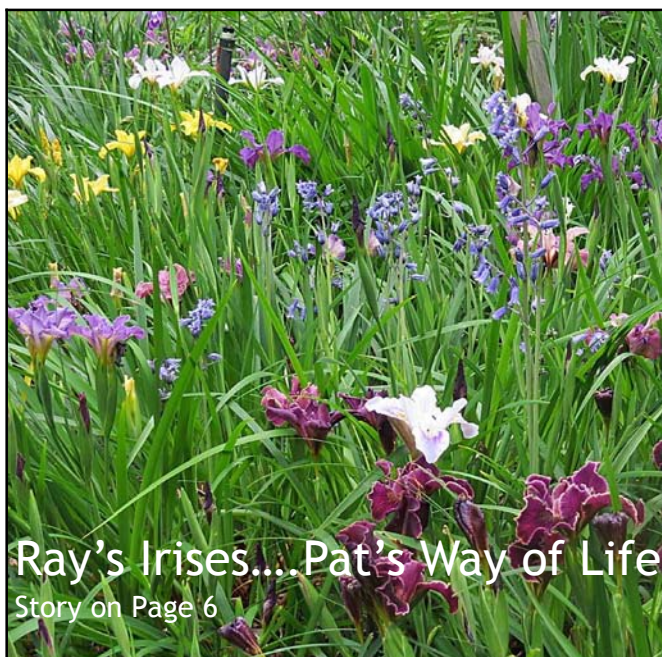
Starting with Keith Keppel and Shreiner's, the iris catalogues start to show up on the internet. It is always exciting to see what new and wonderful irises are being introduced. And no matter how full and overflowing your garden is, there is always something additional that you just must have.

Again, I look forward to meeting many of you at various BCIS events during the coming year. Also, we are planning a garden tour in the Duncan area of Vancouver Island this year. More information will be sent to you in the Spring *Bulletin*.

Have a wonderful bloom season,  
*Ted*

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Ray's Irises.... Pat's Way of Life  
Story on Page 6

# Transplanting the Siberian Irises - Don't Delay!

By Ted Baker, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

<tedebaker41@gmail.com>

Over the years I have had mixed success transplanting Siberian irises. The majority of the time it worked well but there were some failures. This is what I have learned.

One of the best times to transplant Siberians is in the spring when new growth has started and is from 1 to 4 inches tall. Another is just after bloom is finished. Mid-summer is not a good time. If you have missed the other times, then the fall can also work but not be in colder areas.

Common sense tells one that you need to keep the plants out of the ground for the shortest possible time. However, once dug it is easy to leave them until you get the ground ready, sometimes letting the roots dry a bit: other times letting them sit in a pail with the roots covered in water. They look good when they are planted but some never grow and then die over time.

This past year Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer of Joe Pye Weeds Garden proposed an experiment to see if different methods of wrapping would make a difference in survival. Jan and Marty live in Carlisle, Massachusetts, and usually it takes 12 or 13 days to get the plants to Salt Spring. This means the plants have been dug for at least two weeks but the general rate of survival is about 80%. Not bad for being in a dark box for that long. True, they are very pale yellow when they arrive but if soaked in water for about half an hour and very well watered in and then making sure they are watered daily, gradually the new green leaves will start to show. Jan and Marty generously replace any losses with my order the



Siberians upon arrival after shipping showing bulk-wrapped and individually-wrapped versions



Newly planted Siberians



Siberian transplants showing green leaves about three weeks after planting.

following year. So, while not statistically valid, they sent duplicates of every plant I ordered this past year. One type of wrapping was in a wet jiffy cloth with peat moss within a plastic bag; and the other set was bulked-wrapped in peat moss within a single, large plastic bag. But as luck would have it, the plants arrived in six days! This has never happened before and will probably never happen again. All of the plants survived and did very well which emphasizes that the time out of the ground makes a big difference.

It is also important to plant Siberians about one-and-a-half inches deep. This seems to be the best depth for the transplant to establish new roots. This is also true of other beardless irises except for Japanese which do better if planted about four inches deep. Unlike other irises, Siberians produce new roots up the stem and need to be deep enough so the roots do not grow above the soil surface.

[Two of this year's Siberian introductions, which I have received in the manner described, are pictured to the right.]



'Carnivalito' [Schafer/Sacks 2015] SIB



'Theme and Variation' [Schafer/Sacks 2015] SIB

## **CONGRATULATIONS JOYCE!**

Joyce Prothero started growing Pacific Coast Irises some years ago. For the AIS 2011 Convention, hosted by BCIS, Joyce registered some of her better seedlings. This year three of her irises qualified for the awards given out by AIS. 'Banner For Iona' and 'Saltspring Sunburst' were first and second respectively in the Honorable Mention category for PCIs.



'Banner For Iona' [Prothero 2010] PCN, HM 2015



'Saltspring Sunburst' [Prothero 2010] PCN, HM 2015

## Ray's Irises: A Way of Life for Pat by Ted Baker



Ray Spiers loved irises, especially Pacific Coast Irises. He got seed from various places and over time developed a wonderful collection.

Pat has carried on looking after them, and is one of the best growers of PCIs that I know.

The photos show how well they grow and bloom. Many are very nice and would be a great addition to any garden. It is a real pleasure to see them in bloom.

Pat is also very generous with the increase and has given many plants to Government House and Abkazi Gardens, as well as to individuals and various organizations for their plant sales.



# “Iris in Wonderland 2015” AIS National Convention

By Ted Baker, President, British Columbia Iris Society

The 2015 AIS National Convention was held in Portland Oregon from May 18-23 and hosted by the Greater Portland Iris Society [GPIS]. As they say, practice makes perfect and this being the 6<sup>th</sup> National that members of GPIS have held, they did a wonderful job. We visited the usual iris gardens in the area including Schreiner's, Aitkens, Mid-America and Mt Pleasant and Wildwood. These gardens have been written up in previous Bulletins so I did not include them here. A new garden added this year was Miller Manor, owned and operated by Lynda and Roger Miller.

Miller Manor is located near Canby, Oregon and while not a large garden it is packed with over 100 different perennials plus over 400 different conifers which is their son Nathan's specialty. The ground is flat and has excellent soils so the irises and other plants were growing very well. The Millers moved to this location from Indiana eight years ago and have made the most of this easy to grow in climate. Lynda is the hybridizer and works with all types of bearded irises. As you can see from the list of cup winners she did very well at this convention. She introduces her irises through Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens.

What impressed me most about this garden was the judicious use of space which gave open areas for most of the Guest Irises but behind the house were areas among the conifers that gave a totally different feeling. One area was shaded and had under plantings of hostas and other shade loving plants. In a clearing the MTBs guests were planted and had produced huge clumps in two years. This was also the garden where 'Swans In Flight' was showing just what a wonderful Siberian iris it is. While the first set of flowers was past, everything about this plant was perfect. Tall, excellent upright foliage with thick, perfectly formed stems and a layer of large white blooms held high above the foliage. This 'Swans In Flight' went on to win the cup for Best Out-of-Region convention

iris and also was first runner up for the Dykes Medal. This is an exceptional accomplishment for a Siberian as bearded irises are grown by so many more people and consequently have always won the Dykes.

When in Oregon at iris time I always try to get to Adelman Peony Gardens which is owned and operated by Jim

and Carol Adelman. Stunning displays of well grown peonies are everywhere. They have developed a beautiful display garden in front of the house during the past four years. Recently, their son Steve has taken over the cut flower arm of the family business. Some peonies are better suited to the cut flower trade and have stems with single buds that store well and open successfully after storage. We also saw harvesting of the buds by crews combing the fields for buds just at the right stage for cutting. Carol took me into the packing and cold storage warehouse. Impressive. They ship cut flowers across the United States and export some.

Ann Booth, BCIS member living in Seattle, was in charge of the Boutique and she did an excellent job. Malcolm Ho-You, BCIS member from Vancouver Island, brought an amazing display of his carved birds for sale. Malcolm has won international awards for his carvings, and they were much admired.



'Wild At Heart' [Blyth 1999]  
A Spuria bud opening up.

The Silent Auction was also well attended and Paul Black had introduced a Standard Dwarf Bearded iris named 'Portland Pink,' especially for this convention. It is a lovely clear pink and is very late; it still has blooms when the Tall Bearded irises are beginning to bloom.

This convention was filled with beautiful things to see and so many things to learn. Next time there is a spring meeting or convention in our area, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity and be there!



'Great Balls of Fire' [Aitken 2011] TB

## **My Memories of the AIS National Convention**

**Malcolm Ho-You, Ladysmith, British Columbia <ho-you@telus.net>**

My impressions of the American Iris Convention in Portland will remain with me for a long time - it was an exhilarating experience. My journey began with the MV Coho ferry trip across to Port Angeles and then through the beautiful scenery of the Olympic Peninsula. The Convention provided an invaluable opportunity to meet iris hybridizers from across North America – Keith Keppel, Terry Aitken, John Coble, Marty Schafer, Chad Harris, to name a few. It was indeed a privilege to talk to them regarding their work in the hybridization of such beautiful irises.

Trips to various gardens and nurseries were organized – such as Aitken's Salmon Creek Gardens, Mid-America Gardens, Miller's Manor Garden, Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm and Schreiner's Iris Garden. All of them were beautifully landscaped and planted with familiar varieties and new hybrids – just a sea of gorgeous colour. Also seeing the new hybrids and seedlings in bloom was exciting in itself.

There were lectures to attend given by various societies on topics such as multi-

petaled Siberians by John Coble; an informative program by the Tall Bearded Iris Society; and a question-and-answer session with Keith Keppel, Barry Blythe and Joe Ghio. All talks and lectures were informative and educational in the care and maintenance of irises.

I attended a judge training course given by Carol Warner at the Aitken's garden on the judging of Siberians. She was very informative and knowledgeable on various aspects of judging a healthy Siberian stating the health of the plant, structure, colour and flowers, appearance and general appearance of the species. She instructed the novice judges on how to record their observations - a great workshop.

The culmination of the convention was the banquet held at the hotel. Awards were given out to the hybridizers for their outstanding achievements. The auctioning of new seedlings and varietals was a lively affair as there were many bidders hoping to take home their prize. Altogether the convention was a successful and wonderful event.

## Peonies - Yet Another of Ted's Diversions



### A Trip to the Adelman Peony Gardens

at Salem is an integral part of any visit to the region by Ted Baker. After his visit at the time of the 2015 National Convention in Portland, Ted supplied us with the following peony photos.

Clockwise from top:

1. sample of the diversity of peonies;
2. cutting peony buds in the field;
- 3 packing and
4. storing of peonies. and
5. the display gardens so widely enjoyed.



# American Iris Society, 2015 Awards at National Convention held in Portland, Oregon

## President's Cup for Best-in-Region



WINNER, President's Cup for Best-in-Region: 'Football Hero' [Lynda Miller 2015] TB (left)

SECOND PLACE (tie):  
'Blackwater' [Schreiner's 2014] TB (above), and 'Moose Tracks' [Lynda Miller 2015] MTB (photo below left)

## Ben R Hager Median Cup for Best Median Iris



WINNER, Ben R. Hager Cup: 'Moose Tracks' [Lynda Miller 2015] MTB (left)

SECOND PLACE: 'Sari's Dance' [Ginny Spoon 2008] MTB (above)

## Franklin-Cook Cup for Best Out-of-Region Iris



WINNER, Franklin-Cook Cup (left):  
'Swans In Flight' [Bob Hollingworth  
2006] SIB;

SECOND PLACE: 'Tijuana Taxi' [Doug  
Kanarowski 2014] TB



## Lloyde Zurbrigg-Clearence Mahan Seedling Cup



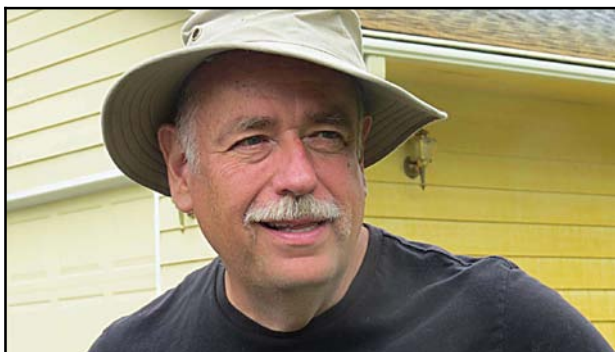
WINNER (above left): 'Royston Rubies' [Adam Cordes] TB;

SECOND PLACE: 'Rubicon' [Carla Lankow] SPEC-X

## Kevin Vaughn's Garden

By Ted Baker, as a member of touring group for the 2015 Siberian/Species Convention, Portland, Oregon, May 24-25, 2015

It was wonderful to explore Kevin Vaughn's garden south of Salem. To say Kevin is enthusiastic is an understatement and his garden is an image of that enthusiasm.



He moved from Mississippi and arrived in Oregon in September of 2010. And to use his own words, "armed with just a few plants but a large crop of seeds from my last crosses." During the few years since his arrival on his 3.5 acre property he has turned about 1.5 acres into a production machine. He has his own well to provide the water needed, especially during this past, very dry, summer. There are plants, raised beds and seedlings everywhere. Kevin crosses everything except Arils which do not like the acid,

wet soils. His hybridizing emphasis is on MTBs (Median Tall Beardeds) and BBs (Border Beardeds) plus yellow TBs (Tall Beardeds) in the bearded classes and PCNs (Pacific Coast Natives), Siberians, Spurias and Louisianas in the beardless types. He is especially excited about being able to cross Siberians in this climate. He has used a lot of older cultivars to cross with some newer introductions to try and incorporate some older traits into modern Siberians.

As a side note there were multiple beds of Sempervivum scattered about the garden. Seeing these was well worth the visit. Kevin has been crossing these since he was ten years old and has approximately 100 cultivars on the market. This year he has lined out about 6,000 seedlings.

Getting the buses in and out of the driveway was tricky but only a neighbour's potted rose was tipped over! As we got off the bus the first thing you saw through the fence was a very densely planted raised bed of MTBs, many tagged because they had been crossed. To the back of the house was a bed of older Siberians including the delightful 'Summer Sky' [Cleveland 1935] – a



reverse light blue amoena – and the pretty 'Lorena Cronin' [A Cronin R1991] with purple styles and white falls with bright blue lines and edge. Next to these were a selection of MTBs.

*A very densely planted bed of MTBs*



*'Black Garnet'* Reid 1996



*'Jannassee'* Hollingworth 2014



*'Lorena Cronin'* A Cronin R1991



*'Something Shocking'* Hollingworth 2013



*'Butterscotch Fizz'* Schafer/Sacks 2013



One of Kevin's seedlings



*'Monstrosa'* Reid 2001 *Laevigata*



*'McKenzie Bruiser'* Reid 2001 *Siberian*

In contrast, at the front of the house was a planting of new introductions including the very unusual 'Black Jaker' [2013] with nearly black falls, yellowed lavender standards and pearly blue styles by Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks; the bright blue ruffled 'Jolly Young Man' [2013]; and the lovely 'Butterscotch Fizz' [2013] – cream and gold with a touch of orange; as well as Bob Hollingworth's 'Hale To The Chief' [2012], a beautiful ruffled iris of bright medium red violet with a creamy white blaze; 'Jennassee' [2014], a lovely ruffled, violet speckled creation; and lovely clump of 'Something Shocking' [2013], a deep red violet with a white center and wire rim – most impressive.

To the north of the house was a nice collection of Pacific Coast seedlings which were blooming well.

Directly in front of the house Kevin has developed a most interesting and unusual landscape feature which goes from bog to desert. In the water, the *Laevigata* 'Monstrosa' [Reid 2001], and 'Red Velvet Elvis' [Kevin Vaughn 1997], a Louisiana introduced by Kevin. *Sempervivums* completed the scene.

The property slopes up a hill from the house. Noteworthy up slope was 'Black Garnet' [Reid 1996] with dark maroon standards, near black styles and dark maroon falls with a black signal, and

'McKenzie Bruiser' [Reid 2001] with bright medium blue standards and falls with a blue black signal, both 40-chromosome Siberians. 'Black Garnet' was so stunning it drew a collection of photographers. This is also where we found Kevin's Siberian seedlings.

We really appreciated seeing Kevin's garden even though it is so new. We look forward to seeing it develop further, and especially his new Siberians.



**Scenes from Kevin's garden:**

(top) Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer

(bottom) Delane Langton, BCIS member from Billings, Montana

## 2015 AIS AWARDS

Each year American Iris Society certified judges vote on the types of irises they feel qualified to judge. This results in awards given to outstanding introductions in each category. The judging is based on garden evaluation and a cultivar should only be voted for after being seen growing in a minimum of two gardens. To see a complete list of awards go to <[irises.org](http://irises.org)>.

This issue of the *Bulletin* features the following 2015 AIS Awards: the Dykes Medal on page 1, the Morgan-Wood Award on page 18, as well as the three awards highlighted below.



'Bay Street' [Ghio 2008], winner of the Sidney B. Mitchell Medal for Pacific Coast Native irises.



'Do The Math' [Jill Copeland 2008], winner of the Randolph Perry Medal for interspecies hybrids [SPEC-X] irises.



'Missouri Morning' [OD Niswonger 2008], winner of the Eric Nies Medal for Spuria irises.

# 2015 MORGAN-WOOD AIS AWARD: Humors of Whiskey

Marty Schafer, Joe Pye Weeds Garden, Carlisle, Massachusetts

Article originally published in The Siberian Iris, Fall 2015, pages 4-6.



'Humors of Whiskey' [Schafer/Sacks 2007] SIB

Bee Warburton used to tell me how Japanese flower breeders would look for the smallest change in flower color, knowing that they could eventually spread that small bit of color across the whole flower. It made a strong impression on me. With that in mind I was inspired to pursue a sibling of 'Off She Goes' with 'Dawn Waltz.' It was not a beautiful flower. It was a dull lavender-pink over yellow, with irregular speckles, but it had a color on the rim and shoulders that I hadn't seen in a Siberian before – maybe gold, maybe orange. Two generations later, adding overlays like 'Dandy's Hornpipe' and 'Uncorked' to the mix, came 'Humors of Whiskey.' It surprised me that the change was not incremental, that is, building one area of color on another painstakingly over many generations. It was more like an explosion. First there was this hint of color, then it disappeared totally in the next generation, and then bam! In the next generation, the first brownish-orange Siberian iris. I was especially pleased that it was not speckled, but a lovely smooth color. While it does lighten when the weather is hot, it can add to the charm to have the darker new flowers as well as the older golden flowers.

At the time it appeared as a seedling, there were no other flowers in our field of this coloring. Today it is common. We are quite close

to an orange Siberian, not just orangey brown. Needless to say, I used 'Humors of Whiskey' in many, many crosses. Its children were interesting, but not remarkable. However those children were used extensively in breeding and have produced many wonderful irises including 'Paprikash,' 'Butterscotch Fizz,' 'Cherry Fling' and 'Evening Comes.' It has two great grandchildren that will be introduced in 2016 that are quite bright and more easily described as orange than anything else.



Photo by Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks

Seedling S10-18-12A

In addition there have been many wonderful breeders, including another great grandchild of 'Humors of Whiskey,' S10-18-12A, which is the closest to true orange I have seen. While not introduction quality, I am again spreading its potential around the field.

Currier McEwen thought the road to orange was through classic yellow Siberians, by deepening the yellow to orange. His 'Dreaming Orange' was a pale yellow in which he saw hints of orange in the signal. I have also pursued this approach to orange and that is an incremental process. So far, progress is slow. Perhaps it will someday produce a purer orange color. For now, combining pigments – pink, red, and blue-violet with yellow – is giving the most rewarding results.

# Fall Meeting, AIS Region 13, Langley, British Columbia

Ted Baker, President, British Columbia Iris Society

For our new BCIS members the American Iris Society [AIS] is divided into Regions. We are part of Region 13 which includes Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, The Yukon and Alaska. We are very fortunate to be included in this region because in it are some of the very best iris hybridizers in the world. Also, many of the Region 13 members are very generous with their time, talents and plants so we have benefited greatly from our association with them.

The Region holds two meetings a year, Spring and Fall. The Spring Meeting is really a mini-convention as there are usually guest irises to see as well as the business meetings. This meeting is held during bloom season, usually in May. The Fall Meeting is a business meeting but there is usually Judges Training, a Silent Auction and a Guest Speaker. AIS also holds a National Convention each year, usually at a US location.

BCIS hosted the Region 13 Fall Meeting in Langley this past October. Ann Booth

and Louise Hart organized the meeting and did an excellent job. Ann, a BCIS member from Seattle [Ann's 'home' Iris Society is King County] and Louise is from Langley. Forty-three people attended but only eight of them were from BC. The remaining were from Washington and Oregon.

Highlights for me included being able to purchase some new iris introductions at very reasonable prices. The Greater Portland Iris Society had brought a large box of convention irises with them for BCIS plus another box for the Silent Auction. Funds raised by the Silent Auction went to Region 13 and the rest went to BCIS. I also enjoyed Thomas Hobbs' talk and the visit to his "farm garden." But as usual the best part was visiting with old friends and making new friends.

The Region 13 Spring Meeting in 2016 is being held in the Seattle area so don't miss this opportunity to have a really great time. More information can be found on page 23.



'Portland Pink,' a Standard Dwarf Bearded iris and 2015 introduction by Paul Black.

One of the many irises available for purchase at the 2015 Region 13 Fall Meeting.

# From Hollywood North to Green Acres

William Dumont, Cobble Hill BC

<wedumont@hotmail.com>

At the recent American Iris Society Region 13 Fall meeting held October 1-3, organised by the BC Iris Society, Thomas Hobbs, a well-known garden specialist and owner of Southlands Nursery in Vancouver, spoke as the guest speaker and also invited attendees for a tour of his new garden and property in south Langley.

Thomas and his partner Brent lived for many years in a beautiful Spanish style home in the Arbutus area of Vancouver which they both invested tremendous planning and plants into their amazing garden. Of course, it really helps if you own a large and well-known retail plant store. Looking for a change as the couple ages and work becomes less important they made a decision to find a large rural property on the lower mainland and move from Vancouver.

About six years ago they found an abandoned farm covering 20 acres in South Langley just north of the US border. It includes a wooded area logged perhaps 100 year ago, the Campbell River and rolling

landscapes. The rundown property had a heritage barn and two residences and came with a marijuana grow-op and squatters who were eventually evicted after some real challenges to the new owners. The empty palette of former farmland has been slowly modified to an impressive plant-filled landscape including a new lake fed by an underground spring, vast expanses of lawn, a huge veggie garden with seed-origin dahlias, some decent bearded irises and soon-to-be-abandoned daylilies.

One of the original residences has been redesigned into a very attractive home for Thomas and Brent. An amazing swimming pool has been added along with a big equipment storage building and an attached greenhouse. Brent works full time at the property along with some other occasional help.

There are many other projects underway including restoration of the heritage barn and continually adding trees and shrubs to the already attractive site.



*Thomas Hobbs*



*Entrance to Hobbs Farm*

Views of 'Green Acres' showing various aspects of the estate.



*Main Residence*



*Fenced veggie and plant garden*



*Greenhouse*



*Pool*



*Main Garage*



*New Spring-fed Pond*

## A Garden Tour to Remember - Cowichan Valley, May 28, 2016

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the BC Iris Society will hold a Garden Tour in the Cowichan Valley. It's the first time our annual tour has been held in the Cowichan, and those of us who live here are putting together the best tour we can with gardens that either feature Iris or have some good Iris representation.

Plans are still in progress but we do have some gardeners already confirmed and would welcome any suggestions of other gardens from Ladysmith to Malahat that include or hopefully feature Iris.

One garden confirmed is mine! Mine is a very new garden, only established two years ago, but that definitely feature several varieties of both Siberian and Japanese Iris with a smattering of Tall Bearded Iris along with a brand new rhododendron bed, grasses, a pretty great hosta collection, and various types of Japanese Maple. This is a much smaller garden than the previous and is surely a work in progress but what fun to see a newish garden and then check in years to come to see how its developed. I live in the Duncan area of the Cowichan Valley.

Another confirmed garden on the tour is our Treasurer, Bill Dumont's garden. Also a work in progress, Bill has spent careful time building up his site with fill, soil amendments, and planning to create excellent 'bones' for what will be a show garden for sure. Bill has an excellent selection of Iris both inground and in pots and he has the latest in automatic drip irrigation for his many plots. There are over 300 rhododendrons planted on the property which was once nearly a swamp. Bill cautions that I should emphasize it is a new garden but again, so great to see gardens in their early stages. Bill lives in the Cobble Hill area of the Cowichan Valley.

Also confirmed, is Ian Efford's garden.

Ian will be our guest Speaker at our AGM on March 5, 2016. I can personally testify that Ian's knowledge of all Iris species is advanced and I am very fortunate to have been the recipient of some of his excellent Iris. Ian and his wife have developed a wonderful garden with all sorts of plants and shrubs, but the real show are the Iris and the rhododendrons.!

Another Director, Malcolm Ho-You has agreed to take part in our garden tour. Malcolm is a highly accomplished grower of both Iris and Peonies and a visit to his garden in Saltair (in between Chemainus and Ladysmith) would show some outstanding varieties in both species. There is a great deal to see in Malcolm's garden.

Again, if you are in the Cowichan Valley and would be kind enough to include your garden on our tour, please contact me at [me@brendaburch.ca](mailto:me@brendaburch.ca) or call me at 250 743 1638.

We are working on some treats and learning opportunities at each garden. Please mark your calendars for May 28<sup>th</sup>. Cowichan is, after all, the warmland and considered one of the best growing climates in Canada.

Lastly, if you are travelling to attend the Garden Tour, with a little notice I can surely provide you with the 'best' places for accommodation - both economical and convenience minded. If anyone is further interested, I could certainly provide a little tour of some of the many wineries in the Cowichan region and can make solid recommendations on all types and economic levels of restaurants.

I hope everyone has a marvellous holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Brenda Burch, Social Media Director,  
BC Iris Society



## BCIS Spring Meeting

**DATE:** Saturday, March 5, 2016

**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: Species Iris by Ian Efford, Duncan, BC

**PROGRAM:** Ian Efford will be talking about Species Iris. He is very well qualified on this topic as at one time he had one of the best collections in Canada. There are almost 300 species in the world (Northern Hemisphere) and Ian had a good number of them. He is a very interesting speaker, and he welcomes your questions.

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

**REGISTRATION:** If you plan to attend the luncheon, please contact Bill Dumont by March 1st by emailing to <wedumont@shaw.ca>, phoning 250-743-9882, or posting to 995 Hutchinson Road, Cobble Hill BC V0R 1L4. The venue holds up to 40 people, so register early. A cheque for lunch, payable to BCIS, may be mailed to Bill in advance or paid as cash or cheque on the day of the program.

## The British Columbia Iris Society Online

As many of you probably know, we have a new website as of last summer. It is beautifully created, educational, easy to use, and economical to the Society. The proper address is

<http://www.bcirissociety.com/>

We are hoping to use this website and the British Columbia Iris Society Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/britishcolumbiairissociety/> to not only use these to communicate our Society's events and meetings and tours, but to also use it as a great communication spot for asking questions about Iris, sharing some pictures of beautiful Iris in your garden, connecting with your fellow members, and making suggestions on what we can do better to improve our Club.

The old website for the BC Iris Society has been taken down after transferring over all the data, so please ensure you use <http://www.bcirissociety.com> when looking for us online.

Facebook isn't the scary place it once was. The British Columbia Iris Society Facebook Page is a Page .....not a person..... and any comments you make, questions you ask, and pictures you share will not be circulated around the world. Many, many folks of all ages and all interests like knitters, gardeners, Corgi Owners, Canucks fans, etc. etc. enjoy safe communication and great sharing without any potential harm.

If you wish to share your latest bloom, offer some suggestions on the best fertilizer or growing conditions for your Iris in British Columbia, want to connect with members in other parts of the province or anything else to help us promote and support the Iris species in British Columbia you can either:

- Just email me what you want posted . You can reach me at [me@brendaburch.com](mailto:me@brendaburch.com). If you have a Facebook personal profile you can message me on my personal profile at Brenda Burch. I will ensure your contribution is posted immediately. If you want to post to the Website, please just click on <http://www.bcirissociety.com/contact-us/> and fill in the blanks and we will see that it's posted promptly.
- If you are a little confused about the process, just give me a call - 250 743 1638.

As we hope to attract new members, using digital channels like our Website and Facebook really help to spread the word. I fully appreciate everyone has different levels of understanding about the mighty world wide web. Please just call me if you need any type of explanation.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and the VERY best for 2016. *Brenda Burch*, Webmaster

# BCIS Executive Meeting Minutes

Saturday October 17, 2015 1:00-2:30 PM, Salt Spring Island

**Present:** Ted Baker, President; Bill Dumont, Secretary-Treasurer; Brenda Burch; Joyce Prothero; Stuart Scholefield; Guest, Pat Spiers

1. **Meeting convened** at 1 pm.
2. **Agenda:** “That the agenda be approved as circulated and amended to include the Iris promotion program proposal developed by W. Dumont for discussion” Moved: W. Dumont; Second: S. Scholefield; Carried
3. **Minutes:** “That the minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2015 be approved as circulated noting that the proposed Show/Sale with the Lily Society and the 2015 Joint Iris purchase did not proceed” Moved: W. Dumont; Second: S. Scholefield; Carried
4. **Business Arising:**
  - Ted confirmed there were no sales for JI and Bearded host liris nor any 2015 joint Iris purchases. Bryce Fradley was acknowledged for her efforts.
  - An eight-point promotion program for discussion was tabled by Bill Dumont. It proposed a number of projects that were discussed in detail and after discussion it was agreed to proceed with several of the initiatives to get the program underway:
    - o Prepare a new “rack” card for BCIS for use in various venues to promote Irises
    - o That work proceed on preparing a professionally developed PowerPoint program that can be used by all members to speak to various groups
    - o That up to \$50 per month be invested in social media to promote BCIS and Irises on Facebook and other social media forums
    - o Ted will forward an older PPT presentation to Bill who will seek out someone to develop the new PPT for BCIS
    - o Joyce and Ted will forward the old rack card to Brenda for review
    - o Ted will forward to Bill the Iris handbook to consider for use for a BC version of such a book
    - o The other programs discussed included:
      - A large poster promoting irises in BC
      - Donations of irises to public and private gardens and garden clubs
      - Youth contests to promote Iris awareness
      - Financial support for Iris culture research
      - Use programs such as Communities in Bloom to promote iris cultivation

“That up to \$50 per month be invested in social media coverage for irises and work proceed on a new rack card, the Iris PowerPoint program, and the Iris handbook for BC.” Moved: J. Prothero; Second: S. Scholefield; Carried

5. **Financial Report**

Bill circulated the September 2015 financial report based on the current bank statements. He also noted that there was sufficient registrations for the Region 13 meeting in Langley this month to have generated a small surplus from the event. There were approximately 42 registrations including 8 BCIS members. Bill prepared a brief report with pictures on the visit to Thomas Hobbs garden and will forward that to Ted for the newsletter. Current bank deposits are Can \$28581 and US\$1648.

“That the financial report be accepted as circulated” Moved: B. Burch; Second: S. Scholefield. Carried.

## 6. Social Media/Website Update

Brenda provided a detailed report on website response and the investment of \$30 in Facebook promotion of the Langley meeting earlier this month. Contacts were made with more than 2000 like-minded Facebook participants.

## 7. New Business

- **Region 13 Donation** "That BCIS donate US\$300 to Region 13 for newsletter distribution"  
Moved: W. Dumont, Second: B. Burch, Carried
- **Region 13 Spring 2016 Meeting**  
The King County Iris Society is hosting this meeting on the weekend of May 14, 2016. Tours will include Bob Seaman's garden and KCIS has offered to billet BCIS members.
- **2015 Convention Irises**  
The convention Irises donated by the Greater Portland Iris Society were all sold for \$273 at the Langley meeting.
- **BCIS Bulletin**  
There will not be a fall bulletin. The mailing list for the next bulletin should include the Region 13 VP and the Presidents of each section.
- **NW Flower and Garden Show - Seattle - Feb 17 to 21, 2016.**  
KCIS is seeking volunteers from BCIS to staff the Iris booth at this show. Participants will receive a free day pass for a couple of 2-hour shifts. Brenda Burch expressed interest. Let Ted know
- **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AIS Book/Celebration**  
AIS will celebrate this event in 2020 and has asked all affiliates to provide up to \$100 per year towards the celebration and book project. The events will occur in New York state which is where the AIS was formed. After discussion it was agreed BCIS will make one donation now to this project:  
"That the BCIS donate US\$800 to the AIS as our contribution to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary projects"  
Moved: W. Dumont, Second: B. Burch, Carried

## 8. 2016 Programs

- **BCIS AGM** - to be held at Ardmere Golf Course on **Saturday March 5, 2016** starting at 10 am with a business meeting, lunch and then Guest Speaker. Ted will ask Iris specialist Ian Efford from Duncan to be the guest speaker. Bill will organise.
- **2016 Garden Tour** - planned for **May 28<sup>th</sup> 2016** in the Duncan/Ladysmith area to include the Don and Louise Loewen garden at Maple Bay, possibly Ali Morris and Malcolm Ho-You gardens as well. The garden tour could be coordinated with the Cowichan Valley rhodo society who also have garden tours organised at that time. Brenda will organise.

## 9. Adjournment

"That the meeting be adjourned" Moved: S. Scholefield, Second: B. Dumont, Carried

W. Dumont Secretary

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## A Note from Keith Keppel

on November 20, 2015

Yeah, we're about as ready for winter as we'll ever be. And ready for it to be here and done with. Haven't started counting the days until spring...yet....just the months. Crazy thing, tho....iris seed is already beginning to germinate. Not that many, but I rarely have anything up before late December or January, but already have one cross that has passed the 50%

mark...66 out of 125 seeds already. Must be the blood lines....almost entirely based on Blyth yellow or pink amoenas. Barry says he has some TBs now that bloom BEFORE the standard dwarfs, so that may be part of the answer.

A couple of seedling selections in bloom, but we're scheduled for our first killing frost tonight, so have cut them to take to the OTIS pot-luck tomorrow. Hope the weather has been kind up your way and that spring 2016 will bring good bloom for both of us.

# 2016 Region 13 Spring Convention Meeting

## May 14-15, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn - Seattle/Bothell 22600 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell WA 98021  
425-486-0400 or 425-486-1267  
www.seattlebothell.hgi.com

The King County Iris Society is very pleased to host the 2016 Region 13 Spring Meeting in Bothell, WA. We offer a self guided tour including four gardens for your viewing pleasure along with two hours of judges training. The agenda for the weekend includes:

**Friday evening, May 13, 2016** - Registration from 7-10pm in the Hilton Garden Inn

**Saturday May 14, 2016** - Tour schedule will feature:

8:30am - 10:30 am **Leonine Iris garden - Bob Seaman.** Bob's garden features an outstanding display of Pacific Coast Iris along with a variety of bearded iris. Judges training on PCI.

10:30 am - 11:15 am Travel time from **Leonine Iris Garden to Bob and Sandy Williamson's garden.**

11:15 am - 1:15 pm Tour **Bob and Sandy Williamson's garden and have lunch.**

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm Travel time from **Williamson's to Lake Serene Iris Garden - Ann and Dwayne Booth.**

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Tour **Lake Serene Iris Garden** and Judges Training on Medians.

4:00 pm - Return to **Hilton Garden Inn** for no host cocktail (drinks available in the bar), dinner and evening events.

**Sunday May 15, 2016** - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm **Tour Cascadia Iris Garden - Patrick and Margaret Spence.** View their wide variety of bearded and beardless iris planted on their five-acre property.

Complete addresses and driving directions with the Hilton Garden Inn as the starting point, will be emailed to each registrant. Please feel free to contact Dwayne or Ann Booth at 425-743-3066 (home) 425-244-1354 (Ann cell) or 425-971-5607 (Dwayne cell) with any questions.

**Hotel Accommodations** will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bothell, a fabulous local hotel with fine food, beautiful rooms, excellent service and breakfast available at additional cost. Our special group rate for rooms will be \$119 US Funds. Please mention the King County Iris Society when booking your room to receive the special rate. Other choices include the Extended Stay America, located just behind the Hilton Garden Inn at 923 228<sup>th</sup> St SE, Bothell WA 98021, 425-402-4252. Call for rates and booking information. Another breakfast option is the Crystal Creek Café, located within walking distance of both hotels. **The deadline for booking of rooms is April 15, 2016 so be sure to book early!**

**Registration** for the weekend is \$55 US funds. Please send completed registration form and check for \$55 to Ann Booth, 6117 150<sup>th</sup> Place SW, Edmonds WA 98026. We look forward to welcoming you and know you will have a great time!!

Please cut here and return this section, along with your check, made payable to the King County Iris Society.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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 "2015" on your address label, then it's time to renew your BCIS membership.

Annual dues are \$15 for an individual and \$16 for a family. (Ted suggests considering the convenience of paying for three years at one time.) Youth dues (\$5/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) or 250-658-5640

## 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).



Schreiner's seedlings - AIS Convention, May 2015

## Calendar of Events

### BCIS Spring Meeting

March 5, 9:30am-2.00pm, Ardmore Golf Course, 930 Ardmore Drive, Sidney, British Columbia.

For additional info, contact Ted Baker: [tedebaker41@gmail.com](mailto:tedebaker41@gmail.com), 250-653-4430 or Bill Dumont: [<wedumont@shaw.ca>](mailto:wedumont@shaw.ca)

### Region 13 Spring Convention

May 14-15, Seattle, WA For more info, see page 23, or contact Ann Booth, Ted Baker

### AIS 2016 National Convention

May 23-28, Newark, New Jersey  
For more info, visit the AIS website

### BCIS Cowichan Garden Tour, May 28, 2016

For more info, see page 19, or contact Brenda Burch, [<me@brendaburch.ca>](mailto:me@brendaburch.ca) 250-743-1638.

*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](http://bc-iris.org)]*

## BC Iris Society

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

[www.bc-iris.org](http://www.bc-iris.org)

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

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185 Furness Rd, Salt Spring Is, BC V8K 1Z7

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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)

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