

The primary efforts of members [those who have said they will become members] has been to identify others who are interested in joining BCIS and providing suggestions to further BCIS goals.

To date we have 16 'members'. Nine are on Salt Spring Island, one is in Arizona, and the rest are from other parts of BC. One of the judges at our Fall Fair, Bryce Fradley has contacted Garden Clubs in the Victoria area who will put a notice in their news letters. Ian Efford, a life member of CIS, who now lives in Crofton is also putting an notice in their news letter as we are on SSI. Bryce has also made contact with the Victoria Times Colonist and they have some interest in doing an article about iris gardens and the BCIS. Barry and Louise Rafuse of Vernon, are also letting the Garden Club and other interested people know about BCIS. They say they have some good prospects in the Okanagan.

Bob Harder of Naniamo has suggested that we set our interim membership fee at \$15.00 per year per household. It is hoped this should be enough to cover a web site, copying, mailing and other expenses. He also suggests we set up a Yahoo Group site to exchange information, and that members let others know if they will open their gardens for viewing by other members.

Pat Parks of SSI is interested in starting a Seed Exchange. This is an area of interest for Pat as she has been collecting seed for years.

I have had two enquiries about affiliation with the Canadian Iris Society [CIS]. Chuck Chapman, Pres of the CIS, said that at the present time all Founding Members must be members of the CIS for us to be a Member Club. The CIS are reviewing this policy and the requirement may drop to 50%. This would make it much more possible as most 'members' are not currently CIS members as far as I know. We will discuss the requirements and benefits of affiliation with CIS at our Organization meeting. We should also consider some form of affiliation with the American Iris Society [AIS] Region 13 [Oregon, Washington and Alaska] if it is possible. We have lots in common with this AIS Region.

I have talked to most of you and those not living on SSI think it reasonable to have our Organization Meeting on SSI because of the numbers living here. This meeting will be held in January, weather permitting. A few of us will get together prior to this meeting to develop an agenda which will be sent out for your information, additions and comments. Minutes of the meeting will be sent to everyone.

You may be interested to know that the American Iris Society Convention is being held in the Portland Area from May 24 to the 27th. The Siberian Iris Society are meeting on the 28th. You can get more information at the AIS website, irises.org.

If you have anything you want to put into the next Update just call or send it to me.

BC Iris Society Update #2 04 November 2005

To date we have 43 BCIS members. And even more important than the number, we have members with a wide variety of talents, experience and interests that live throughout BC. As a result we should all be prepared to learn lots and also be prepared to share our knowledge and experiences. Members continue to send the message out about BCIS and as a result new members are joining almost daily. So don't forget to mention BCIS to your gardening friends, they will be glad you did!

In other developments, Harry Hill of Roberts Creek on the Sunshine Coast volunteered and has set up the BCIS Website. It is registered as 'bc-iris.org' and will cost the Society only \$40.00 per year as we are a non-profit organization. The site is up and running, however it is just being developed so Harry says he will make additions and upgrades as time allows. He also developed and manages the websites for the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society and the Vancouver Hardy Plant Group. Many thanks Harry.

Bob Harder of Nanaimo has volunteered and is in the process of setting up a BCIS Yahoo Group so we can exchange information in a timely manner. This will be a very effective tool that we can use to discuss 'iris issues'. Many thanks Bob. However, don't be alarmed if you do not have access to the Internet as there will be a News Letter which will include all the important information. We have yet to determine how often the News Letter will come out and we need a compiler/editor.

I have been asked about when to send in the membership dues. I suggest that we set the fiscal year from January to January at this time, and that membership dues are due in January. But I am already receiving dues from some members so yours can be sent to me any time [\$15.00 per family per year]. I will set up a bank account within the week so your cheques will be deposited promptly.

A Planning Meeting to prepare for our Organization Meeting in January will be held November 18th, 1:00 PM at 185 Furness Road, Salt Spring Island. If there is anything you think we should be prepared to discuss at the January meeting let me know and we will get it on both agendas. Topics for the Planning Meeting to date include; Activities for 2006; Communications which will include Website, BCIS Yahoo Group, News Letter, Meetings, Constitution, Executive etc. Everyone is invited to this meeting. Let me know if you need a ride from the ferry or even a place to stay over night.

Concerning the Website, what are some things that you would like to see included? Proposals include, Mission Statement, Goals, Membership Information, Contacts, Iris Culture, Photographs, Links to other sites, and Activities and Events. We will also need articles of interest to members for both the News Letter and the Website so we would like to hear from you..

Kate Brewitt and Chuck Chapman, Secretary and President of the Canadian Iris Society [CIS] respectively have been most helpful to us by sharing ideas and giving us contacts. Many thanks Kate and Chuck. For more information about CIS visit the website at cdn-iris.ca.

CULTURE CORNER: This is the time of year when gardens are 'put to bed' for the winter. For best results, transplanting should have been finished in September on the Coast and in early September in the Interior. Bearded iris are best moved about a month after they bloom as they are in their dormant phase then. It is recommended that beardless iris are moved in the early Spring or early Fall. However, my experience with both bearded and Siberians is that if watered properly they can be moved any time after they bloom. Now is the time to cut back the old foliage, clean up all debris and mulch the beardless types. This helps to reduce disease and reduces the places where slugs can over winter if they are a problem. It is also a good time of year to begin thinking about ordering iris catalogues. In a future News Letter we will include sources where you can order iris either by mail or online.