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BC Iris Society Newsletter

'Iris, the flower for all seasons'

Vol. 6, No. 1, Winter 2011

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Editing: Marshall Soules
Production: Joyce Prothero

President's Message

This promises to be a landmark year for the BC Iris Society as we look forward to hosting the American Iris Society Convention in Victoria this May. It is both an honour, and quite a responsibility!

Many BCIS members have generously donated time and effort to prepare for the convention. Just a few short months away, all the major pieces are in place, but we still have much to do. Thanks to all of you who have contacted Jan Hemming, Volunteer Coordinator, about helping out. If you want to help but have not yet contacted Jan, please do so at <nitinat@shaw.ca> or 250 655 1063.

Even if you can't attend the AIS National Convention, you can benefit from its showcase of extraordinary plants. Many of the hybridizers who sent irises to the convention for display will be donating their plants to BCIS. Traditionally, one plant of each variety is given to the host garden and the rest are donated to the host society to be sold as a fundraiser. BCIS will be selling these plants soon after the convention. Plants will be priced "reasonably" – considering they are exciting new and proven cultivars; also, we will not have to pay for the usual cross-border Phytosanitary Certificate, bringing down the cost per plant. More information about the sale will be included in the spring BCIS Bulletin. Why not add a new selection of irises to your collection this year?

Welcome to

Region 13
of the
American Iris Society

Region 13 of the American Iris Society is excited about the addition of British Columbia, its most active affiliate, the British Columbia Iris Society.

Over the last few years a warm, friendly relationship has developed between BCIS and the AIS Region 13 Iris Societies and their members. We know this relationship will continue to grow and flourish now that British Columbia is officially part of Region 13.

I'd also like to commend BCIS and its President, Ted Baker, for all your time and effort in preparation for hosting the 2011 AIS Convention in Victoria. Many are certainly looking forward to attending.

Again, a warm welcome!

Alan D. Brooks, D.D.S.
Regional Vice-President, Region 13, AIS

Reminders

Membership Dues

In last fall's *Bulletin*, we noted that the BCIS membership year had been adjusted to coincide with the calendar year by extending the 2010 dues expiry date by 7 months, from May 31 to December 31, 2010.

Now that it's 2011 – some memberships expiring in 2010 are still unpaid, we are reactivating the RED DOT REMINDER.

If you see a RED DOT near your address on the front of this bulletin or read "2010" 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 or organization. (Might we also remind you that Ted suggests considering the convenience of paying for three years at one time?)

Please make your cheque payable to BCIS; mail to Joyce Prothero, 281 Cudmore Heights, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2J7.

For membership questions, please contact Joyce at 250 537 9215 or <jprothero@saltspring.com>.

Electronic Delivery

We are now offering the option of receiving electronic versions of the Spring and Fall *Bulletin* (announcements and updates) and/or the *Winter Newsletter* (packed with iris-related articles and a centrefold with four pages of coloured photos).

To request e-delivery, contact Joyce (address above). Please say whether you want digital delivery of (a) bulletins only or (b) all BCIS publications (*Winter Newsletter* and Spring and Fall *Bulletins*).

A digital bonus. Starting with this issue, all photos in the digital version will be in full colour. (To reduce costs, colour is used only in the four central pages of the printed version of the annual *Newsletter* – and not at all in the printed *Bulletin*.)

Schedule Overview 2011 AIS Convention in Victoria

Registration / Information

Locations: Sat-Sun - Upper Lobby South; Mon-Fri - Dover

Saturday, May 28	8:00am - 8:00pm
Sunday, May 29	8:00am - 8:00pm
Monday, May 30	8:00am - 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 31	8:00am - 1:15pm
Wednesday, June 1	7:30am - 8:15am; 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Thursday, June 2	7:30am - 8:15am; 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Friday, June 3	7:30am - 8:30am; 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Programs organized by AIS Sections

Tuesday, May 31	8:00am - noon
Wednesday, June 1	4:30pm - 5:30pm
Thursday, June 2	4:30pm - 6:30pm
Friday, June 3	1:00pm - 5:00pm

Banquets and Evening Programs

Dining: Crystal Ballroom/Palm Court Program: Theatre

Tuesday, May 31	Welcome Dinner	5:30 - 8:30pm
Friday, June 3	Awards Banquet	7:30 - 9:30pm

Garden Tours

Tuesday, May 31	noon - 5:30pm
Wednesday, June 1	9:00am - 3:30pm
Thursday, June 2	* 9:00am - 3:30pm
Friday, June 3	9:00am - noon
Saturday, June 4 (optional, to SSI)	7:30am - 7:00pm
<i>From Wednesday to Friday, refreshments are provided in gardens</i>	
<i>On Wednesday and Thursday, off-bus lunches are provided</i>	
<i>On Saturday, on-bus breakfast is provided</i>	

Judges' Training

<i>Flower Show (Wed): Palm Court</i>	<i>Training Classes (Thurs): Ballroom</i>
Wed., June 1	5:30pm - 10:30pm
Thursday, June 2	7:00pm - 10:30pm

Boutique and Market Place

Location: Kiplings

Monday, May 30	4:00pm - 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 31	10:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday, June 1	noon - 8:00pm
Thursday, June 2	noon - 8:00pm
Friday, June 3	8:00am - noon

Displays (by Sections)

Location: Lower Hallway

Monday, May 30 4:00pm to Friday, June 4, 5:00pm

may be muddy. Footwear should be appropriate for such conditions. Sweatshirts and polos with iris themes are common. Sunscreen is a must.

Are cameras prohibited in the gardens? Cameras are never a problem – although photographers are. Still, photographers haven't been banned yet. Bring your camera. Bring more cards and batteries than you might otherwise – running out is common. Remember to pack a battery charger if necessary.

Protocol tips

A quick check on what is frowned on in the gardens:

Grooming stalks – particularly those with seedpods and tags!

Dangling objects – camera bags, purses, carried garments, etc. – which can make contact with flower petals and stalks. Leave such objects on the bus!

Stepping into beds to touch or smell the flowers, read the tags, or take pictures.

VI. Airport shuttle and other transportation

How do we get from the airport to the hotel? Victoria International Airport (YYJ) is 22 km (14 miles) northeast of downtown Victoria. Arrangements for a reduced fare have been made with the airport shuttle. A rate of \$12.00 each, one way, will be charged for groups of three or more riding on the same bus. No prior reservations are necessary. (The regular rate is about \$19.00 each.) Check the BCIS website for further transportation options.

VII. Checking In

Where do I report when I arrive? The registration and information table will be in the upper level of the lobby of The Empress on Saturday and Sunday, and in The Empress' Dover room (lower hallway, near the function rooms) from Monday to Friday.

At this registration table you will be able to pick up a packet that contains, among other things, your nametag, banquet tickets, and the convention booklet.

What is important about the convention booklet? It contains the convention schedule, necessary instructions, descriptions of each of the gardens, and a listing of all the guest irises in each garden. [*We'll talk further about the use of the convention booklet in Section XI.*]

VIII. Meals and Refreshments

What meals are provided with the registration fee? With full registration, you are entitled to the Welcome Dinner on Tuesday evening and the Awards Banquet on Friday evening. Refreshments are provided during the garden visits on Wednesday and Thursday and on Friday morning. Lunch is provided on Wednesday and Thursday.

If you arrive with the majority of delegates in time for Tuesday's activities, you'll have banquets on Tuesday and Friday evenings, which leaves only Wednesday and Thursday evenings without dinner provided. So these days are great opportunities to collect old friends and new acquaintances for an off-site escape. The Empress has a range of venues, and the nearby restaurants are diverse. [You will receive a list of such restaurants in your packet on arrival.]

But what about breakfast? You will be on your own for breakfasts. But remember, there will be refreshments when you arrive in the gardens on tour days.

What about food and beverages on Saturday's optional tour? Breakfast will be served on the bus while waiting for the ferry to Salt Spring Island. You will have an opportunity to purchase lunch in Ganges at the Saturday Market or at one of the many local restaurants.

IX. Section Meetings

What are the "Section Meetings" that I see on the schedule? Under the umbrella of the AIS are smaller units, or sections, concentrating on the promotion of a particular class or similar classes of irises. These sections meet annually at the national convention to share information and their members' passion for a specific kind of irises. These meetings often include a program with a speaker, panel of experts, and/or a slide show.

Do I have to be a member to attend? Everyone is welcome at the section meetings, and many

The buses for excursions have amenities such as larger seats, capacities of 45-55 passengers, air conditioning, heat, toilets, speaker system, and overhead racks or compartments. The buses will be locked at all stops. When visiting the gardens, it is recommended that you leave possessions on the bus if you will not have an immediate need for them.

Contract Conditions. The drivers are professionals employed by the bus company and subject to the policies of their employers, provincial codes, and union dictates. Your hosts have no control over employee breaks, speed of travel, or day-to-day continuity of drivers or vehicles. In many cases, buses will travel in flights of two or three vehicles following a designated leader.

Bus Captains. These are volunteer hosts. Their role is to maintain the schedule, contribute expertise, and provide diversion. Please remember: these are volunteers performing a great service – be nice to them!.

How will I know what bus to board? You will receive specific directions during registration, at the Welcome Dinner, and perhaps also on the convention website and in the convention booklet.

What's for lunch? At noon on Wednesday and Thursday, a buffet lunch will be served in a church hall. Special dietary requests will be accommodated when possible if advance notice is given.

What is a "Guest Iris"? Guest irises are cultivars loaned by the hybridizers to the hosting society for the enjoyment of and evaluation by those who attend, and for the judges who determine the AIS awards. While the rhizomes remain the property of the donor, in most instances, after the conclusion of the event, the hybridizers release the rhizomes to the convention sponsors for fundraising purposes.

How do we use the convention booklet when touring the gardens? The convention booklet contains the following information:

Garden descriptions. Study the garden descriptions and try to remember something about each garden and its history.

Staff from the garden or BCIS members will greet the bus when you arrive. They appreciate your questions and love to talk about gardening and the local region! Bill Reinhart [this article's original author] relates that his friend always posts notes of appreciation after returning home from the convention, and suggests that photos taken in the garden make great postcards.

Order of garden visitation. Boldly number the gardens in the order of visitation. Thus you will proceed from 1 - 4 at this particular convention. This will give you an idea of where you are going and what you will see – and also a guide to what you have seen so you can better select your fifteen favourite irises and vote for other awards.

Cultivar lists: All the guest irises growing in each garden are listed in the booklet. You can use these listings to make notes on the exceptional cultivars, because you might want to acquire them or vote for them for awards.

Not all of the irises growing in a garden are listed. The plants belonging to the host garden are also eligible for some awards. If you would like to obtain, or possibly vote for one of the unlisted irises, you should take notes of the cultivars from each garden you consider most worthy of the awards described in the next segment.

Make your final choices as soon as you can after your last garden visit on Friday. Since the winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet only a few hours after you have returned to the hotel, it is important that you complete your ballot and turn it in to the bus captain as you exit the bus from your last garden trip, either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

Awards selected the the convention: Three of the awards have names, but if you don't already know them, let's keep it simple:

#1. The President's Cup: The best cultivar bred by a hybridizer working *inside* the host region (in 2011, this is Region 13: Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska). A red dot will be affixed to the nametags of irises eligible for award #1.

FEATURED ARTIST

Hyperirisophilia An Over-the-top Enthusiasm for Irises

Jo Hadfield, North Saanich, BC



"Brown Iris"

I don't know where my love of irises came from. It has become like an incurable disease which I believe to be under control but certainly not in remission.

This obsessive disorder has brought me into contact with a great many delightful people. All of us iris-lovers share a bond and become connected the minute we discuss the objects of our passion. I have often seen the eyes of friends glaze over when I meet a fellow iris-nut and we begin talking about frills on falls with contrasting beards and bi-colour standards.

I don't know any botanical terms or names because I am only interested in colour combinations. From these discussions I learn where other iris lovers live and what they have in their gardens. When I find them and visit, I am overcome with enthusiasm and knock on their doors asking to purchase more irises.

The first watercolour painting that I ever did was of a purple iris - the old fashioned one that iris *aficionados* rarely have tolerance for. And why would they, with such a staggering variety of irises to admire.

I thought my first painting was magnificent when really it was truly horrid, but it marked the beginning of a joyful career of painting irises. Although I am now comfortable in my attempts to capture an iris bloom, I never let go of the idea that each one could be better - the painting that is, not the flower. Each iris flower is in a state of perfection that will ever remain elusive to this painter.

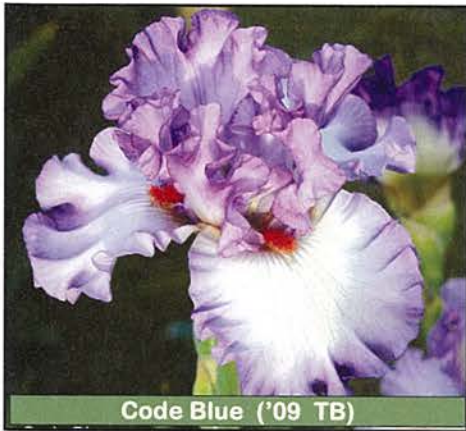
The first "modern" iris that I bought was a dark black mysterious job and its progeny are somewhere in my garden, and also in many other gardens. I split it and moved it many times. When I left the country for a year, I made sure several of these plants were carefully planted in friends' gardens, with the clear understanding that I could dig them up when I returned. I did, along with a brown and white freckled iris that was the black one's constant companion. The brown one is always the first to bloom, and blooms in spite of the neglect that a constant companion can typically suffer.

The only negative iris experience I have had was quite shocking. It happened on a hot day in early May several years ago. When I arrived home from a jaunt to Victoria (I live in North Saanich) I thought I should probably water the irises and see how they are doing. I was looking forward to this year's crop as during the previous summer I had dug them all up, colour coded them, and split them. Then I planted them in a "colour wave" starting with purple-to-blue and ending up with yellow-to-brown. To my horror there were no irises in the bed at all. They had all been dug up and removed! Only one broken leaf remained, no roots, nothing.

Judging from the holes, the border had been dug with a proper transplanting spade so I knew it was not vandalism. Because they were too young to be seen from the road, whoever dug them up, perhaps unscrupulous landscapers, must have remembered them from the year before.

I was outraged and called the RCMP. The sergeant listened sympathetically and then

INTRODUCING . . .



Code Blue ('09 TB)



Celtic Woman ('09 TB)



Rimaround ('07 IB)

TERRY AITKEN: Terry and Barbara Aitken live in Vancouver, Washington, and as a team run a very successful iris nursery. Terry has produced numerous award-winning irises of many types over more than 30 years. ^{PIH}



All My Dreams ('09 TB)



For Lovers Only ('08 TB)



Star of the Night ('09 IB)

PAUL BLACK: Paul is the co-owner with Thomas Johnson of Mid-America Gardens, Salem, Oregon. Paul has hybridized some of the best Median irises found today. For nearly 20 years he has also developed a line of very lovely Small Flowered Tall Bearded iris. ^{PIH}



01-342-D (TB)



06-463-12 (BB)



Buckskin Babe ('07 TB)

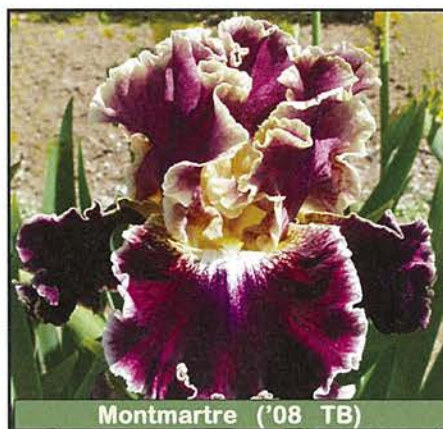
CHUCK CHAPMAN: Chuck lives in Guelph, Ontario, and has focussed his hybridizing skills on developing cold-hardy cultivars that will do well in harsh climates. He is also well-known for his work with colour pigments. ^{PIH}

^{PIH} = Photos by individual hybridizer(s).

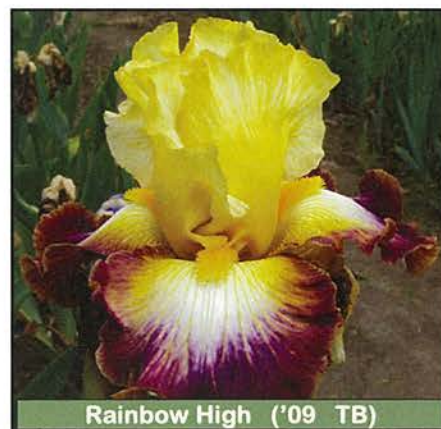
and HYBRIDIZERS taking part in . .



Class Ring (R'09 TB)



Montmartre ('08 TB)



Rainbow High ('09 TB)

KEITH KEPPEL: For over 50 years Keith Keppel has created some of the loveliest bearded irises to which he has given the most exquisite names. Known as The Plicata Man, through an enviable knowledge of genetics, he continues to introduce sought-after irises from his home in Salem, Oregon.^{PIH}



SS-B (PCN)



Saltspring Sunburst (R'10 PCN)

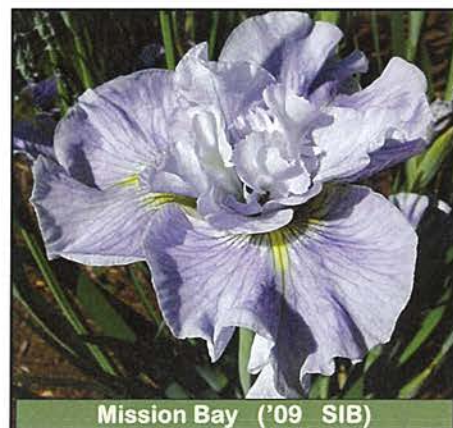


SS-0403 (— PCN)

JOYCE PROTHERO: Joyce lives on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, and has developed a love for Pacific Coast irises. One of her goals is to develop a collection of plants that can act as the basis for a thriving supply of irises for the gardening public.^{PIH}



Hot Sketch ('09 SIB)



Mission Bay ('09 SIB)

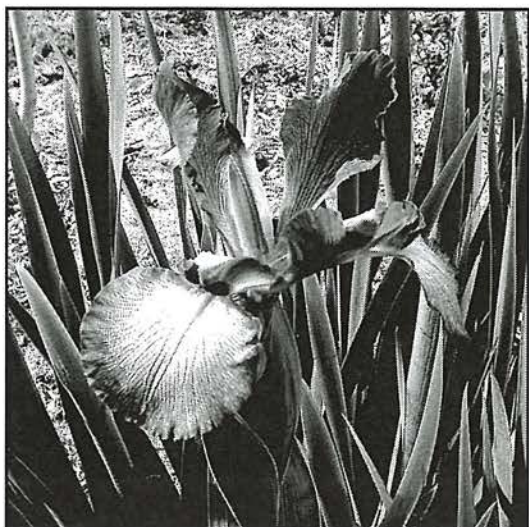


Tipped in Blue ('09 SIB)

MARTY SCHAFER and JAN SACHS: Marty and Jan own the Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, Massachusetts. In the past decade some very striking Siberians have been created by Marty in their garden. High bud counts and new-and-unusual colours are the norm.^{PIH}

Garden Diversity: Spuria Irises

Ian E. Efford, Duncan, British Columbia



Two examples of seedling irises with unknown parentage within the Series Spuriae



ALL PHOTOS IN ARTICLE BY IAN E. EFFORD

Regrettably, a high percentage of executives who retire without a well-defined hobby or activity die within a few years of retirement, and I decided to choose a plant group to study in detail well before I stopped work.

Even before retiring, I founded the Ottawa Botanic Garden Society and volunteered full-time. Work faded into oblivion and I never actually retired.

When one of my daughters gave me a rhizome of the Japanese iris 'Snow Queen', I chose to study irises in detail. For ten years, I raised species irises from seed and developed quite a diverse collection.

Then we moved from Ottawa back to the West Coast and settled on the side of a mountain on Vancouver Island, a very unsuitable place for irises. I began to raise rhododendrons, more suited to that wet, rocky and gravelly habitat.

After four years we moved to an acre flat garden and real soil, where we continue to grow rhododendrons. But the offspring from

packages of seed from the British Iris Society continue to attract my attention. Now, I have more irises in the garden than rhododendrons – and another twenty packages of iris seed should arrive fairly soon from the UK!

Anyone interested in rhododendrons and irises will admit that both have very beautiful flowers and the plants can form lovely greenery when not in bloom.

There are, however, differences between these two genera.

Rhododendrons have a very limited range of growing conditions: well-drained acid soil, moist throughout the year, and partial shade are their principal demands, although there are the exceptions. On the other hand, irises are so diverse that there is a species that adapts to almost any garden condition:

- deep shade and rocky: *Iris cristata* and *lacustris*;
- sandy and rocky dry desert: *I. cyclogossa* and the wide range of bulbous irises;

scented. I have always wondered if the high temperature and humidity in the south enhance the beautiful fragrance of these plants. Certainly, my garden in Ottawa was rarely both hot and humid for very long.

Taller spurias include the very tall *I. orientalis* [see photo, previous page] that can easily grow to 2 metres high, with a flower up to 20 cm across. This plant is an ideal landscaping plant, adding both height and beauty while remaining tough enough to withstand adverse weather conditions and children running through the garden.

I. crocea is a one-metre high spuria with dark yellow flower, whereas *I. orientalis* is yellow and white. On Bruny Island in the south of Tasmania, we passed through a hamlet of half a dozen houses and saw a cottage with the garden completely covered in flowering *I. crocea*. No one was home, and so I have no explanation as to how the seed arrived in such a remote area, but once there, it appears as if the plants were left alone for many years and spread by seed throughout the property.

Some of the species of spurias have rather dull flower colours, such as yellowy-brown or whitish, although one or two have a beautiful blue or lavender colour depending on the genetic stock one obtains. Gardeners who want really large flowers with striking colours should look at the cultivars developed by breeders such as Dave Niswonger in Missouri.

If I were starting a garden and wished to add a few spuria irises, I would start with the following four:

1. *I. sintenesii* looks like a short grass with attractive blue-lavender flowers. It is very hardy and does not spread like many grasses. I would plant this interspersed with *I. humilis*, which is not a spuria and not well-known. It forms clumps of bright yellow flowers about ten cm, high that resemble in many ways the popular *I. danfordii*. Unlike *I. danfordii*, the flowers continue to grow in patches and do not disappear after a couple of years as *danfordii* does. They flower later in the season but would go well with *I. sintenesii* as they both thrive in dry sandy conditions. (See photos below.)
2. *I. graminea* is an idea garden plant with beautiful dark foliage throughout the year and is attractive even without its flowers. The dark purple and white flowers add colour during the flowering season and, if one is lucky, the plants will have a heavy plum-scented fragrance.
3. 4. For the large, 1-metre-high feature plants in a bed, I would plant a mixture of the very bright yellow *I. crocea* and the lovely dark blue *I. spuria notha*. There are many subspecies of the *I. spuria*, but this one is a beautiful dark

This article concludes on p.18 (lower portion).



Ian's recommended companion planting (See #1, above): *Iris sintenesii* (left) interspersed with *Iris humilis*)

The adventure so far . . .

Twenty years ago, in 1985 and 1986, I went plant collecting in Turkey. I wanted to find a diploid form of the lemon-yellow *Iris danfordiae*¹. In each of those years I traveled 9,000 km over two week periods, getting close to the Russian, Iraq and Syrian borders.

The trips were successful in a number of ways. I was very fortunate, near the end of my first trip, to find *I. danfordiae* with the help of some locals. I was also able to collect an *I. reticulata* pictured in Brian Mathew's e *The Iris* as originating near Erzurum. This is the *I. reticulata* that I refer to as the Çat species, and which has become very important from a hybridizing perspective. Finally, I was able to observe in the wild a host of other bulbs, including juno iris.

Why collect diploid *I. danfordiae*? In 1961 E.B. Anderson crossed *I. winogradowii* and *I. histrioides* to create the lovely, but sterile, 'Katharine Hodgkin'. The cross was repeated by others and we now also have 'Frank Elder' and 'Sheila Ann Germany' in commerce. I wanted to use *I. danfordiae* to see what hybrids its lemon-yellow colour would yield.

Over the late 1980s and early 1990s I made hundreds of crosses to produce over 4,800 seeds, though most didn't even germinate. Of particular note were crosses with *I. sophenensis*, which I was very fortunate to receive from the late Frank Kalich of Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1994, sixteen clones bloomed from three crosses made in 1989.

Disappointingly they were all blues². Some had a bit of yellow influence, but if anything this gave them a muddy appearance — clearly nothing like the lovely 'Katharine Hodgkin' that I had been hoping for. At that time, we expected them to be sterile. If anything was going to work, it would be intercrossing the clones. By early summer, I was able to report to Brian Mathew and others that I had produced 130 seeds from 11 successful crosses. Five years later, in 1999, two of these bloomed. The very first was a gorgeous creamy white with blue markings and a touch of yellow (94-HW-1 [see photo, p20]). I couldn't believe

my eyes — absolutely stunning! The blue and yellow had been turned off, revealing an underlying pattern. The other clone was simply a small pale blue of no interest.

The next year I was particularly amazed by a backcross onto *I. danfordiae* that I categorize as "spotted light blue-green" (96-BN-1 [photo]). It's absolutely gorgeous. Over the next few years, further hybrids bloomed and I was able to classify them into the following five categories:

- Yellow (danfordiae-like)
- Blue (light blue to dark blue)
- Yellow-Blue (from yellow with blue veining, through green, all the way to brown)
- White (typically with an underlying blue or green pattern, and on rare occasions yellow)
- in the case of backcrossing onto danfordiae, the occasional "spotted light blue-green."

I was able to determine from a high-level perspective that two dominant genes are responsible for turning blue on and off, and one recessive gene is responsible for yellow.

Going into 2003, I was wondering if all I was going to get was more of the same.

Back in 1988 one cross I made was between *I. danfordiae* and the Çat species. Four small clones eventually bloomed. They largely looked like their Çat parent and didn't increase very well. There was a chance something interesting would result if they could be crossed with the *I. danfordiae* x *I. sophenensis* clones. Indeed, that was the case: in 2003, 16 clones from three 1998 crosses bloomed, eventually increasing to 30 clones from four crosses. In particular, the 11 from the cross 98-NP were amazing. They ranged in colour from pale yellow to almost black (with blue style arms and yellow around the fall ridge, so a natural name would be Storm), including one that I call "Chameleon" (pale yellow-green). There was also a spotted blue, a white with navy marking, a white with infused yellow, and a veined brown on yellow ground. The last three were solids: a purple, a plum, and a dark red. Almost all could be introduced over a

BULB BUILD-UP RATES IF THE NUMBER OF BLOOM-SIZE BULBS DOUBLES ANNUALLY

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	...	2016	2017	2018	...	2022	2023	2024	2025
Flowers	1	2	4	8	...	512	1024	2048	...	32,768	65,536	131,072	262,144

I am looking forward to pursuing this further in future and seeing where it takes me.

I now have some 140 whites, some are more beautiful than others. The shade of white or cream can be more striking with the underlying shade of blue or green markings, and the amount and size of spotting may be more appealing. The width of the fall can also make a difference in a flower's appeal.

Ideally, we want a bulb to form a clump of perhaps 5 or 6 flowers after a few years, and which consistently bloom year-after-year without any maintenance. A number of times this has happened for me with small bulbs left behind when I replant part of the garden. Often, these replanted clumps do poorly, perhaps because I don't give them enough space. I haven't yet tried to remove

half the clump, leaving the remaining bulbs as undisturbed as possible.

For years I've been trying to interest the Dutch in my hybrids. They would grow the bulbs commercially while I concentrate on hybridizing. Unfortunately, several of the growers testing my hybrids have dropped out. (I'm not clear why, particularly in view of the significant breakthrough I have achieved.) I am still working with Wim de Goede and I am confident that my hybrids will be introduced. Wim is critical that many of my hybrids have no standards, a reality of using *I. danfordiae*. (Personally, I don't believe it really matters (e.g. 02-GR-3); but they do come back (e.g. 02-GR-2 [photo]). Wim is also critical that my flowers tend to be on the small side (35-50 mm)³, due again to diploid *I. danfordiae* as well as the Çat species. But small can be nice. From a large-scale commercial perspective, they should be 70 mm or more.

A significant number of years are required to build up stock. (For example, take 02-GH-3 [photo] and assume the number of bloom-size bulbs doubles; the stock build-up rates are shown in chart above.) It would be at least 2021 before 02-GH-3 could be introduced in a large-scale manner. Of course Wim is well along the way to building up stock of several of my hybrids.

I have opened a door to a whole new world I never knew existed and I am just beginning to explore it.

For more photos and more detailed information, visit www.Reticulatas.com

Culture Tips

Ideally, well-spaced bulbs should over the course of a number of years form clumps, which continue to bloom year after year and not require any maintenance. It is key that they be in a well drained location. Slightly sandy topsoil would be perfect.

Plant the base of the bulbs about 2¾ inches deep. If you are replanting smaller bulbs they should be shallower. A bit of mulch such as straw can be helpful to prevent the bulbs from heaving due to freeze-thaw cycles in early spring.

A little bit of low nitrogen fertilizer at the beginning of the bloom season is good for bulb regeneration

¹ The commercial clone is a triploid, and hence is sterile. Incidentally Kew Gardens did a cytological study on the bulbs I collected and conclusive concluded that *I. danfordiae* is 2n=18. Reference: *The Identity Of Iris 'Katherine Hodgkin'* - "A Cytological And Morphological Approach," Margaret Johnson & Brian Mathew, *Kew Bulletin* Vol. 44 #3, 1989, page 516.

² Their standards were very narrow, from 1 to 3 mm vs. the normal 7 to 10 mm width. This is the result of combining *I. danfordiae*'s bristle with *I. sopherensis*' normal standard.

³ Measured from fall tip-to-tip

Cutting stalks

In selecting and cutting stalks, either the night before or the morning of the show, select erect stalks with good branching; and select stalks with well-displayed blooms in good condition. If you staked them carefully a week or two in advance, great. Don't cut anything YOU didn't grow, at least this year.

Cut stalks horizontally, at ground level, because an iris doesn't balance well on a slanted cut, and looks wrong to judges with a shorter stalk than usual. Also, a decaying stump left on a rhizome harbors disease. Put some kind of IDENTIFIER on each stalk BEFORE YOU CUT ANOTHER. Gently remove insects and spent blooms.

Remember that a stalk without an open bloom can't be judged. If you cut your stalks the night before, store them in cold water in a cold dark place to keep them as is, or in (very) warm water in a warm, brightly lit area to speed their development. In either case, store them UPRIGHT. Blooms will turn toward a light source, so be careful.

Transporting entries to the show

Choose containers for the stalks, and carriers for the containers to keep the stalks relatively still – and far enough from each other and everything else – to minimize damage. Many people use wine bottles in their cardboard cases, or old milk bottles in their wooden cases; some folks have constructed their own custom setups with chicken wire, etc.

Whatever system you use, be very careful putting things into your vehicle and taking them out. Stalks are often longer than we think, and door frames and windshields are inconveniently close!

Allow extra time, in case you need to drive a little slower than usual with that load of "children," – but don't think ahead to the show while you're driving.

At the show

The preparation area has worktables, water buckets, boxes full of containers for the exhibits, piles of entry tags and supplies as promised.

Registration may be required beforehand or at the time of the show.

- Get [or bring] a container of the appropriate size (they vary) for each of your exhibits
- Fill out an entry tag (for each of your exhibits if you haven't yet. (You can do this at home.) Attach each tag to a container.
- PARTIALLY fill each container with water (use the turkey baster). Keep paper towels handy.
- Insert irises. Wedge stalks into the containers as needed to keep the desired aspect of the stalk faced the same way as the entry tag
- Finish grooming each entry. Yes, you CAN (and should) remove spent blooms, so that their absence isn't obvious and their presence isn't ugly. Yes, you CAN trim off damaged or diseased areas of remaining leaves; follow the general contour of the leaf when scissoring. Be sure to get rid of all the livestock (the paintbrush tip works well for this), and to wipe off (with the cotton ball) any fingerprints you may have left. Judges DO look at that little stuff.

Whether you or the show assistant places your entries, try to leave enough time before the judging to be sure all your entries are where they should be and looking as you intended. It's YOUR work, from planting to placing on the table, that's being judged and may or may not win Queen of Show!

Be sure to come back at closing to pick up your entries and your ribbons, too, or ask a friend to do it for you. If you don't want them, recycle as others love to take home the irises.

In Celebration of

The 91st National Convention of the American Iris Society

&

- The beauty of the guest irises
- The camaraderie of its delegates
- The contributions of participating hybridizers
- The efforts of all the volunteers involved in preparing for



Iris-istible Victoria 2011

With appreciation from the 2011 AIS Convention Organizing Committee

Ted Baker, *Convention Chair*-- Randy McEwan, *Vice-Chair*

**Gina Ballard - Kate Brewitt - Bill Dumont - Brenda Dumont - Chris Hall - Jan Hemming
Hope Hilliard - Sheila Hodgson - B.J. Jackson - Karen Phillips - Joyce Prothero - Keith Rogers
Penny Santosham - Howard Smith - Val Smith - Diane Whitehead**

Ex officio: Paul Gossett, AIS Convention Liaison – and invaluable advisor

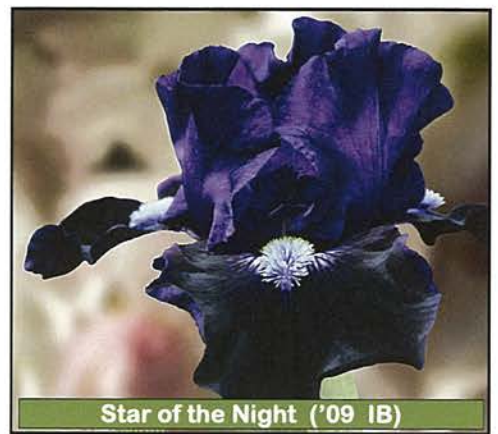
highlight all contributing hybridizers



All My Dreams ('09 TB)



For Lovers Only ('08 TB)



Star of the Night ('09 IB)

PAUL BLACK: Paul is the co-owner with Thomas Johnson of Mid-America Gardens, Salem, Oregon. Paul has hybridized some of the best Median irises found today. For nearly 20 years he has also developed a line of very lovely Small Flowered Tall Bearded iris.^{PIH}



01-342-D (TB)



06-463-12 (BB)



Buckskin Babe ('07 TB)

CHUCK CHAPMAN: Chuck lives in Guelph, Ontario, and has focussed his hybridizing skills on developing cold-hardy cultivars that will do well in harsh climates. He is also well-known for his work with colour pigments.^{PIH}



'Celia Weila' ('04 Spec-X)



'Seakrill' ('04 Pseud.)



'Wooly Bully' ('06 Spec-X)

JILL COPELAND: Jill and her husband Jim live near Lawton, Michigan. Jill hybridizes Japanese and species cross irises. She particularly likes Pseudatas (*Iris pseudacorus* crossed with *I. ensata* [Japanese Irises]). Pseudatas are vigorous, long-blooming, and non-invasive.^{PIH}

their 2011 Guest Irises, we hope



02B2A15 (Sib)



05Q7A12 (Sib)

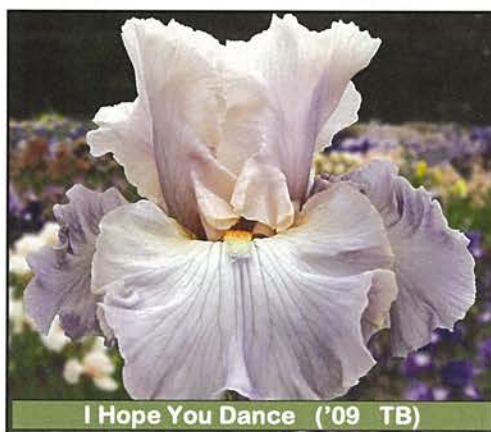


'Judy, Judy, Judy' ('10 Sib)

BOB HOLLINGWORTH: Bob has been very successful in hybridizing Siberian irises and has produced elite winners over many years. He and his wife Judy live near Lansing, Michigan. They are active members of the Society for Siberian Irises.^{PIH}



Fashion Diva ('09 TB)



I Hope You Dance ('09 TB)



Ink Patterns ('07 TB)

THOMAS JOHNSON: Thomas was originally from Alberta and currently is co-owner of Mid-America Gardens with Paul Black. Thomas won the 2010 Dykes Medal and will receive it at the 2011 Convention, the first time a Canadian has received this award at a convention held in Canada.^{PIH}



Class Ring (R'09 TB)



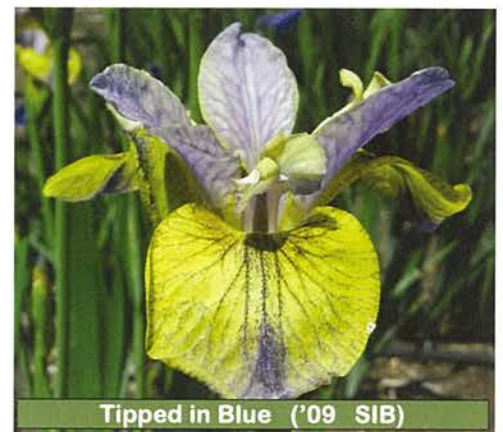
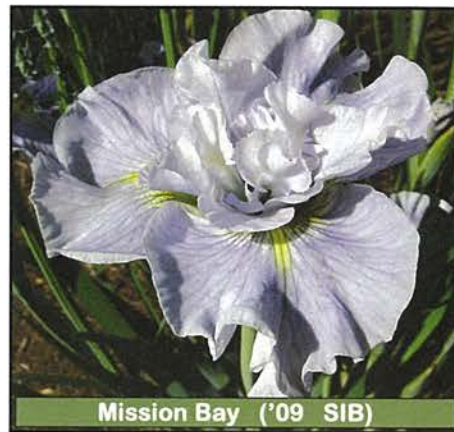
Montmartre ('08 TB)



Rainbow High ('09 TB)

KEITH KEPPEL: For over 50 years Keith Keppel has created some of the loveliest bearded irises to which he has given the most exquisite names. Known as The Plicata Man, through an enviable knowledge of genetics, he continues to introduce sought-after irises from his home in Salem, Oregon.^{PIH}

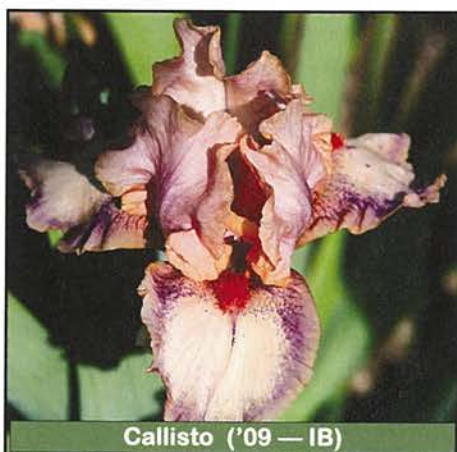
will bring back memories.



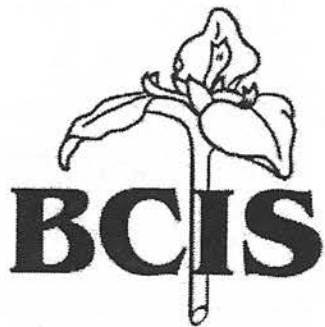
MARTY SCHAFFER and JAN SACHS: Marty and Jan own the Joe Pye Weed's Garden in Carlisle, Massachusetts. In the past decade some very striking Siberians have been created by Marty in their garden. High bud counts and new-and-unusual colours are the norm.^{PIH}



SCHREINER FAMILY: The Schreiner family has been growing exceptional irises since 1925, won 11 Dykes Medals, and is one of the largest commercial iris growers in the world. A visit to their garden near Salem, Oregon, at bloom time is an iris-lovers dream-come-true.^{PIH}



MARKY SMITH: From a small garden in Yakima, Washington, Marky Smith has produced many wonderful Siberians and bearded irises in all classes. Most notable was 'Starwoman', the only Intermediate to win the American Dykes Medal.^{PIH}



A RED DOT here means your membership has expired and that you are late with your renewal. Renewals must be received before Guest Iris orders are shipped.

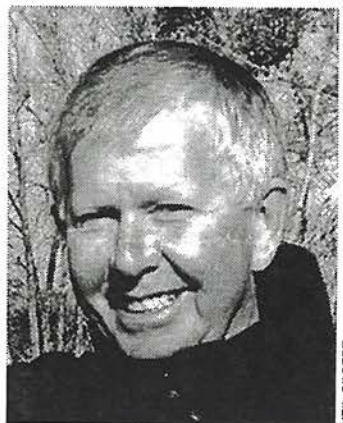
BC Iris Society Bulletin

'Iris, the flower for all seasons'

Vol. 6, No. 2, Summer 2011

Content: Ted Baker
Production: Joyce Prothero

Message from BCIS President



Ted Baker, BCIS President

The 2011 Convention of the American Iris Society is now history. While Tall Bearded bloom was limited, the Medians and some Siberians were putting on a good show – and the Rhododendrons were stunning.

Reports from delegates have been most positive. Some comments from the delegates included:

- *I enjoyed this convention more than any I have attended*
- *It was a fabulous experience - My friend and I had a wonderful time.*
- *I enjoyed every aspect of the experience. It will always be a fond memory*
- *perfectly organized*
- *friendly people*
- *An outstanding success. We deeply appreciate it*

Once again BCIS would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the convention such a memorable event.

One of the objectives of BCIS for hosting the convention was to increase the awareness of irises and to promote their garden use. This has been partially accomplished through the extensive publicity about the event. Continued exposure to irises will be through their distribution to the gardens of BCIS members.

And now, as BCIS members, we have the opportunity to purchase many of the Guest Irises at reasonable prices. After BCIS members have ordered their plants, we will be selling any that remain to the public. The sale of Guest Irises is a fundraiser for BCIS. The pricing of each cultivar is by type and year of introduction.

Already some BCIS members have said they will help dig, label and package the Irises. We will start these activities on Monday, July 25th and should have all orders filled and plants mailed by July 27th and 28th. But **we need more help**. Please volunteer to assist by contacting Ted Baker.

An order form is enclosed with this issue of the *Bulletin*. Note that this Order Form also offers "slightly used" plant markers at 50¢ each, \$10 for 25, or \$18 for 50. A great post-Convention bargain!

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TALL BEARDED - continued-

2007	Good As It Gets	Ernst, R	2008	Moonlight Romance	Spoon, D
2009	Good Point	Sutton, M	2006	Morning Run	Ernst, R
2009	Got the Melody	Schreiner's	2008	Mountain Halo	Ernst, R
2007	Grand Classic	Tasco, R	2007	Mountain Sunrise	Sutton, M
2009	Grapetizer	Johnson, T	2009	My Beloved	Ghio, J
2009	Grecian Sea	Mego, A	2008	New Face	Black, P
2006	Gypsy Lord	Keppel, K	2007	Niche	Ghio, J
2009	Harbor Skies	Sutton, G	2009	Nimitz	Spoon, D
2010	Haunted Heart	Keppel, K	2010	NN 248-1 Black is Black	Schreiner's
2009	Highland Lord	Tasco, R	2009	No Count Blues	Schreiner's
2007	Hologram	Miller, L	2006	None Surpassed	Ernst, R
2007	Hoosier Dome	Miller, L	2008	Nouveau Riche	Keppel, K
2009	I Hope You Dance	Johnson, T	2007	On The Town	Markham S
2010	Iconic	Ghio, J	2008	Orange King	Schreiner's
2007	I'm Back	Johnson, T	2007	Orange Titan	Aitken, T
2007	Indiana Dreams	Miller, L	2009	Orangelo	Sutton, M
2007	Ink Patterns	Johnson, T	2007	Orchid Dove	Spoon, D
2003	Innocent Devil	Cadd, A & D	2005	Other Voices	Markham L
2009	Inspired	Black, P	2007	Pacific Fire	Johnson, T
2008	Island Pearl	Aitken, T	2009	Pale Fire	Baumunk, L
2009	Jaime Delgado	Spoon, D	2011	Paris Romance	BeVier, B
2010	Jazz Era	Keppel, K	2009	Passionate Embrace	Black, P
2009	June Krause	Schreiner's	2008	Pep Rally	Ghio, J
2009	Just A Kiss Away	Baumunk, L	2006	Pewter & Gold	Filardi, B
2009	Kick Up Your Skirt	Stewart, D	2007	Phantom Ship	Baumunk, L
2007	King of Light	Baumunk, L	2008	Pink Presence	Markham L
2009	Kiss of Passion	Black, P	2009	Plum Ringer	Chapman, C
2008	La Scala	Keppel, K	2009	Point Counterpoint	Baumunk, L
2009	Latte	Ghio, J	2008	Polished Bronze	Markham L
2008	Legerdemain	Keppel, K	2008	Political Zoo	Cadd, A & D
2011	Line Of Thought	BeVier, R	2008	Pop Idol	Ghio, J
2006	Long Time Gone	Ernst, R	2009	Powdered Sugar	Sutton, M
2008	Love Is Pink	Cadd, A & D	2005	Power Point	Johnson, T
2008	Loving Pink	Spoon, D	2008	Power Woman	Mogenson, N
2009	Lucky Thirteen	Filardi, B	2010	PP1142-1 Annabelle Rose	Schreiner's
2008	Lullaby Of Broadway	Begley, J	2010	PP133-1 Just Like Heaven	Schreiner's
2008	Luscious Lace	Black, P	2005	Prague	Johnson, T
2009	Magic Lamp	Mego, A	2008	Purple Madness	Cadd, A & D
2008	Magical	Ghio, J	2007	Pursuit of Happiness	Johnson, T
2009	Mambo Italiano	Black, P	2007	Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine	Baumunk, L
2004	Manhattan Hattie	Begley, J	2007	Queen Empress	Filardi, B
2010	Marching Orders	Ghio, J	2010	RR 17-1 Miles Ahead	Schreiner's
2005	Material Girl	Johnson, T	2007	Raging Tide	Keppel, K
2007	Men Like Me	Deaton, C	2009	Rainbow High	Keppel, K
2007	Merchant Marine	Keppel, K	2010	Reach For The Sky	Stewart, D
2007	Mercury Rising	Keppel, K	2008	Red Handed	Ghio, J
2009	Merry Amigo	Blyth, B	2007	Red Skies	Ghio, J
2008	Midnight Passion	Keppel, K	2009	Renegade Lady	Deaton, C
2009	Midnight Seas	Sutton, G	2009	Reversal of Fortune	Sutton, M
2007	Milan	Johnson, T	2009	Rio Rojo	Schreiner's
2009	Miss Moonbeam	Schreiner's	2009	Rock Climber	Filardi, B
2006	Mojave Monlight	Begley, J	2010	Role Reversal	Ghio, J
2009	Momma's Angel	Spoon, D	2007	Rosa Vieja	Sutton, G
2008	Monsoon Moon	Keppel, K	2009	Round of Applause	Ghio, J
2008	Montmartre	Keppel, K	2009	Rio Rojo	Schreiner's
			2007	Royal Majesty	Keppel, K
			2005	Royal Sterling	Keppel, K

BCIS MEMBERSHIP: WHERE WE LIVE

This annual listing of BCIS members is organized by city-of-residence. Should local members so desire, collaborative arrangements could be made for submitting Guest Iris Orders and/or organizing for pick-ups of orders destined for the same geographic location.

British Columbia

Linda Edwards, Cawston BC
 Anme Lee Sing, Cawston BC
 Ross Flint, Chemainus BC
 Henry Pauls, Chilliwack BC
 Ali van Klei, Cross Wind Gardens, Chilliwack BC
 Lynn Waterston, Clearwater BC
 Brenda/Bill Dumont, Cobble Hill BC
 Loraine/Garry Little, Cobble Hill BC
 Lynne Richards, Cobble Hill BC
 Ruth Carrie, Coldstream BC
 Barry/Louise Rafuse, Coldstream BC
 Lynne Powell, Courtenay BC
 Iona V. Campagnolo, Courtney BC
 Donna Mullan, Delta BC
 Marjorie Cahill, Duncan BC
 Sharon Martin, Duncan BC
 Fred/Janet McCullough, Duncan BC
 Shirley Painter, Duncan BC
 Charlotte Senay, East Sooke BC
 Barbara O'Donoghue, Hope BC
 Margaret/Ken Hayter,
 Hayter Orchids/Linden Gardens, Kaleden BC
 Gloria Moore, Kamloops BC
 Darlene/Randy Cross, Kelowna BC
 Dorothy J. Robison, Kelowna BC
 Bonnie Semeniuk, Kelowna BC
 Malcolm Ho-You, Ladysmith BC
 Marshall Soules, Ladysmith BC
 Marilyn Darkes, Langley BC
 Marian Vaughan, Langley BC
 Sheilagh/Glenn Foster, McBride BC
 Mhairi Bruce, Mill Bay BC
 Debby Smith / Keith Rogers, Mill Bay BC
 Paula Bernard, Nanaimo BC
 Bob Harder, Nanaimo BC
 Harold & Lydia Baumbrough, Naramata BC
 Joanna Hadfield, North Saanich BC
 Jan/Douglas Hemming, North Saanich BC
 Susan Burdak, North Vancouver BC
 Janet M. Kugyelka MD, North Vancouver BC
 Avis Laphan / Tom Tarr, North Vancouver BC

Theresa Nolet, Okanogan Falls BC
 Jean Neisen, Oliver BC
 Leslie O'Shea, Oyama BC
 Stuart/Wendy Scholefield, Pender Island BC
 Gerry Smith, Pender Island BC
 Garnet/Pat Klassen, Penticton BC
 Penny/Tom Santosham, Penticton BC
 Cheryl Bales, Port Alberni BC
 Catherine Speechley-Pell, Port Alberni BC
 Susan Steidle, Prince George BC
 Harry Hill, Roberts Creek BC
 Chris and Dennis Hall, Saanichton BC
 Joan/Lon Schill, Saanichton BC
 Rita Alexandra, Salt Spring Island BC
 Barb Archer, Salt Spring Island BC
 Barb Aust, Salt Spring Island BC
 Ella Baker, Salt Spring Island BC
 Jonah Baker, Salt Spring Island BC
 Ted. E. Baker, Salt Spring Island BC
 Kevin Burgess, Salt Spring Island BC
 Lorna Cammaert, Salt Spring Island BC
 Trish/Audrey Cannon, Salt Spring Island BC
 Joan Dickenson, Salt Spring Island BC
 Pat Dickson, Salt Spring Island BC
 Jim Erickson, Salt Spring Island BC
 Liz/Gerard Farry, Salt Spring Island BC
 Alison Fenske, Salt Spring Island BC
 Patsy Fisher, Salt Spring Island BC
 Oscar Fox, Salt Spring Island BC
 Yvonne/Dave Gibbon, Salt Spring Island BC
 May/Bill Henderson, Salt Spring Island BC
 Teresa Hitch, Salt Spring Island BC
 Lexi Kilgour, Salt Spring Island BC
 Josie/Philip Lake, Salt Spring Island BC
 Steve Lynch, Salt Spring Island BC
 Lin Marcotte, Salt Spring Island BC
 Tannice McKillop, Salt Spring Island BC
 Lloyd Nicholson, Salt Spring Island BC
 Arlene Ommundsen, Salt Spring Island BC
 Bob/Jane Oudenaarden, Salt Spring Island BC
British Columbia (continued)
 Pat Page, Salt Spring Island BC