



*Fiddles on Fire
Siberian Iris.
Photo: Ted Baker.*

The Rainbow Goddess

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Bill Dumont, a BC Iris Society Stalwart, Passes Away

Richard Hebda, BCIS President

Bill Dumont, our energetic and innovative Secretary-Treasurer, passed away on January 25, 2023. Bill was a BCIS member for at least a decade, involved in the 2011 American Iris Society National Convention in Victoria and serving on our Executive for many years. He played a key role in the paperwork of our Society being responsible for maintaining our finances and filing our annual report to the Province of BC. He initiated the idea for this colour newsletter/



Bill on the BC Iris Society Okanagan Tour in May 2019. Photo: Richard Hebda.

bulletin combination, edited and coordinated the gathering of articles and contributed his own. He also took care of liaising with the newsletter designer.

Over the past few years, he was a consummate coordinator for BCIS, drawing upon years of experience in organizing both local and world tours that were thoroughly enjoyed by our members. We fondly recall our weekend visit to the Okanagan in May 2019 as he drove us around from beautiful display to beautiful display. In pre-COVID times he even prepared delicious lunches for our AGMs.



Bill Dumont and John Veillette examining the lush display of plants in May 2019 at Linden Gardens in Kaleden, BC. Photo: Richard Hebda.

His most important contribution was to bring BCIS into the digital era turning the earlier bulletin and newsletter into our stunning Rainbow Goddess widely praised and appreciated by our membership and iris lovers on the West Coast. He got all our previous printed materials scanned and available online... a

massive enterprise (<https://www.bcirisociety.com/newsletters-bulletins/>). He transformed our online presence making our society more widely accessible than it had been in the past. Bill also spearheaded the updating of our rack card to entice new members.

Bill loved gardening, travelling, preparing and serving food, and many other activities. He doted on rhododendrons as well as irises and was involved in the Cowichan Valley Regional Rhodo Society and the Duncan Forestry Museum. To each, he gave his full and exceptional energy. Trained as a professional forester he worked not only in BC but in places such as Malaysia.

His garden on Hutchinson Road in Cobble Hill was amazing not only with irises and rhododendrons but many other plants too. In one corner of the garden, countless little tree frogs glistened like little jewels in the paradise he had created for them. Ever the entrepreneur, he shared his flowers, including blooming iris stalks, at a roadside stand frequented by many from the retirement community down the road.

Ted Baker read the following words prepared by me on our Society's behalf at Bill's celebration of life:

"Bill was a dynamo in the BC Iris Society, arranging and leading tours, building display beds, receiving rhizomes and initiating our widely acclaimed Rainbow Goddess newsletter and he kept our books straight. He brought us into the digital age which has helped spread the iris word widely in British Columbia. He recently served as an American Iris Society Director too. It is hard to imagine

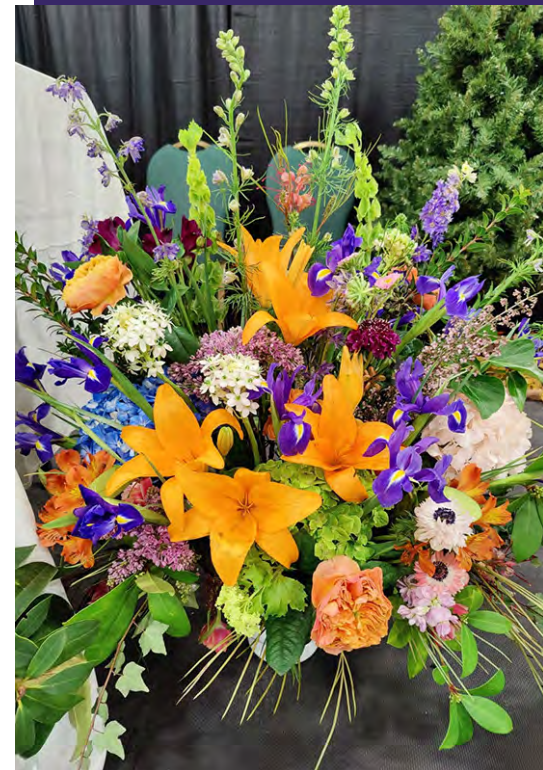
our society without him and his big boots.

The last I saw Bill was at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific last fall (2022) as we planted guest irises and spread bark mulch over black plastic cover to control weeds in preparation for the hosting of the 2025 regional convention. Those paths remain remarkably weed-free as we work on the beds and prepare for the convention's bearded arises to arrive.

As president of BCIS, I spent many hours with Bill arranging purchases, preparing articles, sorting rhizomes, planting irises and just talking about so many things. We will all miss him deeply.

Bill, may you have a giant garden to take care of in your next life and may it be full of Rainbow Flowers."

A stunning bouquet of blooms at the Celebration of Life for Bill Dumont, February 7, 2023, among them stalks of Dutch bulbous irises. Photo: Ted Baker.



President's Message and a Favourite Iris: Summer 2023

Richard Hebda, BC Iris Society President

BCIS faced a challenging year in 2023 with the passing in late January of Bill Dumont our energetic Secretary/Treasurer. Bill made many things happen, among them communications and reports with other organizations and especially editing, coordinating and contributing to the Rainbow Goddess. We had little idea of the scope of his work until it fell to us to take up the duties that he performed. For this reason, there was no winter/spring issue of the Rainbow Goddess. I have now taken up the role of editor. This issue includes a special piece about and tribute to Bill and his many roles in our society. He is sorely missed.

In the process of adjusting to Bill's passing we moved our Society accounts from the Island Savings Credit Union branch in Ganges on Salt Spring Island to the one at Brentwood Bay, on the Saanich Peninsula. Our account was brought up to date at the request of the Credit Union. In particular, the cheque signing authorities (there are now four folks) were changed to align with the current composition of the Executive.

We had our in-person Annual General Meeting at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific on June 2, 2023. The group was small but included welcome new faces. For

Ted Baker's Siberian Irises on display during the Annual General Meeting of the BCIS at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, June 2, 2023. Photo: John Veillette.



Richard Hebda and Ted Baker's bearded irises on display during the Annual General Meeting of the BCIS at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, June 2, 2023. Photo: John Veillette.

the first time, we used a Zoom connection. Thanks to Richard Cypher for setting this up. There were tons of Bearded and especially Siberian iris flowers on display courtesy of Ted Baker and myself and enough potted material (donated by John Veillette, Ted Baker and me) for all folks to walk away with plants. Darlene Li kindly picked up the makings of a light lunch for us all. The formal AGM was followed by a lively question-and-answer panel of Diane Whitehead, Ted Baker and myself. We then enjoyed a wonderful tour of the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP) BC Iris Society display beds. Students and staff had done a great job in mulching the plantings under BCIS supervision.

We voted in a new Executive and are very pleased that Darlene Li has agreed to be our Secretary/Treasurer for the coming year. The list of Executive Committee members and their duties is presented elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to thank all the committee members for their service during this challenging time of transition.

We agreed to continue with the hosting of the 2025 AIS Region 13 Convention. We began preparing the beds at the HCP. Beardless irises were sent to us with the much-appreciated help of Barbara Aitken of Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden (Irises and Orchids) in Vancouver Washington. They were planted last fall and now bearded irises are scheduled to arrive in late August. Preparation of beds continues with the assistance of staff and students at HCP.



Preparing the AIS Region 13 Convention 2025 beds-to-be at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, Saanich BC, August 8, 2023. Photo: Richard Hebda.

This issue of the Rainbow Goddess is packed with information and pictures. In addition to the tribute to Bill Dumont and my note, we have Bill's article on growing irises in the cold climates of the central interior of British Columbia. A short note about a post-AGM impromptu tour on Salt Spring Island follows and then a description of Lazistan iris (*Iris lazica*) a native of western Asia. We include a note on the continuing story of E.W. Neal's irises and there is another installment (Part 2) of John Veillette's irises. Lesia and Gerry Lalonde of Penticton BC wrap up the issue with images of some of their favourite beauties.

President's Favourite: Over Alaska Tall Bearded Iris
As most of our members know I tend to grow small to medium-height irises partly because of the wind and rainstorms that buffet my slope and knock over some tall bearded (TB) varieties. I do have TBs too most of them bought from Ted Baker. One of my earlier purchases was the bi-tone variety Over Alaska. I was struck by the colour match of the light blue standards with the dark blue-violet falls. Among the many blue and violet varieties this one has stood out over the years. Upon close inspection, you can see that the beards are blue and grade to yellow. I imagine the standards like glacial blue ice entering dark violet-blue ocean waters in coastal Alaska as represented by the falls. Over Alaska blooms reliably during the early to mid part of the season. It increases modestly and being only 90cm (36") tall it has never been knocked down by the local stiff breezes. Over Alaska was introduced by R. Schreiner in 2003.

Over Alaska Tall Bearded iris blooming June 8, 2022, Saanich BC. Photo: Richard Hebda.



Growing Irises at Chimney Lake, British Columbia

Bill Dumont, late Secretary-Treasurer of the BC Iris Society

Keith and Delberta Dufresne are longtime residents of Chimney Lake, a small rural community and recreation area about 30 km (19 miles) and a half-hour drive southeast of Williams Lake in BC's Cariboo region. They purchased their one-acre property in the fall of 1998, have resided there since and are now retired from BC's forest sector.



Keith Dufresne next to one of his iris beds at Chimney Lake, BC. Photo: Bill Dumont.

When they purchased their Chimney Lake home several clumps of tall and intermediate bearded iris were thriving already in the gardens around the house. The property is about 900 metres (almost 3000') above sea level and is subject to strong summer heat and intense winter cold (at the transition of plant hardiness zones 4/5). The adjacent lake covers about 400 hectares or 1000 acres and normally freezes over in December with the ice fully receding by mid-April. "Since we moved here we have expanded the area of iris plantings by dividing the rhizomes regularly.



Healthy iris fans and flowers in Keith and Delberta Dufresne's Chimney Lake garden. [R. Hebda: note the absence of leaf spot and tip browning.] Photo: Bill Dumont.

I always trim the flowers off right after they are finished, which seems to encourage greater vigour and rhizome health. Every two or three years I go through the entire flower bed and dig up the plants, separate the rhizomes, and orient them all in the same direction so they are less likely to grow onto or into each other. I like to replant them an inch or so under the surface of the bed, they seem to prefer the soil cover. You can always tell when the rhizomes are overcrowded as they come to the surface looking for room to grow."

"The iris always treats us with an awesome flower show every year in spite of our cool climate," said Keith. "I especially enjoy that the whole bed will flower almost simultaneously, which creates a very special display and effect for us to appreciate."

"We love growing things and the rather short intense summer results in fantastic potato and other edible crops that Keith tends to" commented Delberta.

"We find the iris are easy to manage and don't seem to be affected by

our extreme winter temperatures. Each fall we clean up the flower beds to remove dead or dry plant material. We get enough snow, early enough in the winter to protect our beds, so we do not have to mulch or protect them in any way" said Keith.

Delberta Dufresne and their spectacular iris display at Chimney Lake, BC, June 2022. Photo: Bill Dumont.





Iris display at Keith and Delberta Dufresne's Chimney Lake Garden. Photo: Delberta Dufresne.

Keith noted: "We have a water license, so I have a pump at the edge of the lake for sprinkler irrigation of the lawn, drip irrigation of the flowerpots and some larger plants in the flower beds, and mini

spay irrigation for the cold frames and larger flower beds. The lake gets quite warm by mid-summer, and I believe that the warm irrigation water is gentler on the plants than cold well water for irrigation.

I do use fertilizer for the pots and the cold frames, but I do not have a schedule for fertilizing the flower beds, so they might accidentally get some overspray from the lawn fertilizer, otherwise, it is hit-and-miss for the irises."

Keith noted that Chimney Lake



Thermometer reading showing bitter cold winter temperatures (close to -40 C or -40 F) and the irises survived just fine. Photo: Keith Dufresne.

irises are hardy! "5:30 AM during the winter of 2020-2021 – minus 36 degrees C! We already had 30 cm+ of snow by this time, so the iris were fine for the most part. Not so great for vehicle batteries and heating bills" commented Keith.

British Columbia Iris Society Membership

Annual membership remains at \$15 for individuals and \$16 for families. Three-year subscriptions are preferred.

Please send dues for new memberships or renewals to our membership chair:

BC Iris Society
c/o Diane Whitehead
5088 Clutesi St
Victoria BC V8Y 1X4

For the time being please pay by cheque made out to the BC Iris Society or make other arrangements. We are revising our online payment process and anticipate that you will be able to pay at bcirissociety.com before the new year.

Thanks for continuing to support BCIS and our iris promotion work in the community and with our members. For more information, please contact Richard Hebda at hebda@shaw.ca or Diane Whitehead at ldiane.whitehead@gmail.com.

Gold Reward (SDB), May 8, 2020, Saanich Peninsula. Photo: Richard Hebda.



Salt Spring Island Iris Visit: An Impromptu Success

Ted Baker, Past BC Iris Society President

Siberian Iris, "So Van Gogh" growing with hostas in Jim Matsuyama and Bob Beranskiup's garden on Mount Tuam, Salt Spring Island, June 2023. Photo: Diane Whitehead.

Following the BCIS Annual General Meeting in June, a tour of a couple of Salt Spring Island gardens was arranged. Even with a very short lead time we had sixteen BCIS members and friends show up to tour the gardens. We first visited Jim Matsuyama and Bob Beranskiup on the slopes of Mt Tuam. They have developed a stunning garden and their irises were beginning to bloom. Irises bloom a bit later than lower down because of the elevation. The group then visited my garden where members were able to purchase irises



BCIS members visiting Ted Baker's Salt Spring Island garden in early June 2023. Some of the tall bearded irises are: pale blue "Adoregon" in the front left, "Swingtawn" in prominent bright violet at centre right; "Don't Stop Believing" pale pink behind Swingtawn at right; and "Blowing Kisses" large pink clump at centre. Photo: Ted Baker.

including Tall Bearded, Medians, Siberians, and Spurias among others for future delivery. The impromptu tour generated about \$450 which was donated to the BCIS.

Spuria iris, "Adriatic Blue" on display during BCIS Salt Spring Island Tour, June 2023. Photo: Ted Baker.



Lazistan Iris (*Iris lazica*)

Richard Hebda, BC Iris Society President

In 2021 Randy and Janice McEwen of Oak Bay donated a very large clump of *Iris lazica* to the BC Iris Society. I divided the clump and potted up some in 10" plastic pots. These were picked up by several folks at the BCIS Annual General Meeting in 2022. I kept a couple of pots aside to see how this iris would grow and how it compares to its cousin the Algerian Iris (*Iris unguicularis*). I was delighted to see wonderful flowers on the plants in my pots this spring (Figure 1). It flowered in late April, later than my Algerian iris but with equally attractive blooms. I discovered that Lazistan iris has a couple of qualities that make it a valuable garden plant; these features I will mention at the end of this article.

Lazistan iris is a beardless, evergreen, clump former from the eastern Black Sea coast native to northeastern Turkey and adjacent Georgia. In the wild, clumps consist of masses of moderately narrow leaves standing about 25-50 cm (10-20") tall. Leaves are typically 25 cm (10") long by 1-1.5cm (half inch) wide, though vary widely in length. In gardens, according to some sources, this iris grows 30-60cm (12-24") tall and 60 cm (24") wide or more.

Figure 1: Opening flower of *Iris lazica* (Lazistan Iris) blooming on the Saanich Peninsula, April 30, 2023. Note the bud pointing horizontally in the lower right corner. Photo: Richard Hebda.



Figure 2: Fully open flower of Lazistan iris (*Iris lazica*) showing yellow and white areas on the falls with lavender stitching extending into the solid violet zone. Saanich Peninsula, April 30, 2023. Photo: Richard Hebda.

Iris lazica blooms in late February and March in its native range, but April to early May on the Saanich Peninsula of south Vancouver Island. Flowers are single on short stems, generally pale to mid-violet and reach about 7-10 cm (3-4") wide (Figure 1,2). The standards are erect and wide; falls are typically drooping and wide. Falls have a yellow crest/signal surrounded by a whitish area in the centre of the blades. Lavender stitching occurs throughout the yellow and white zones progressing into dark lavender veins in the violet portion of the fall. Stigmatic arms are short and have a very irregular margin. The base of blades and falls is pale green. This iris has a curious feature of buds emerging at a right angle to the stem before straightening in full bloom (Figure 1).

According to the *Native Plants of Turkey* by Brian Mathew and Turhan Baytop (Batsford Press 1984), Lazistan Iris grows in woodlands on damp shady banks at low elevations in its native habitat. In the garden, choose a site with moderately well-drained soil and in contrast to most other irises, partial shade. The soil needs to be kept moist though I water my pots only every two weeks or so with no ill effect. The iris prefers neutral to alkaline soil so for those of us on the BC coast this may require adding lime (ground dolomite).

Good garden settings include flower beds, borders, and near shady walls (concrete is limey). In my experience, it thrives in medium to large pots too (Figure 3). Iris folks (such as Diane Whitehead) have grown this species from seed. Otherwise, to propagate divide rhizomes in mid-summer to early autumn which is the dormant season. According to Randy McEwen the species transplants easily but doesn't bloom for one year after. There are no serious pests reported for this species, though Diane Whitehead reports chewed flowers (Figure 4). Randy and Janice reported that in their Oak Bay garden, this iris usually blooms in late January or February but cold weather and snow seem to set flowering back. They report about 5 or so blooms per plant at once and a total of 15 blooms per year on a mature 3-year-old plant.

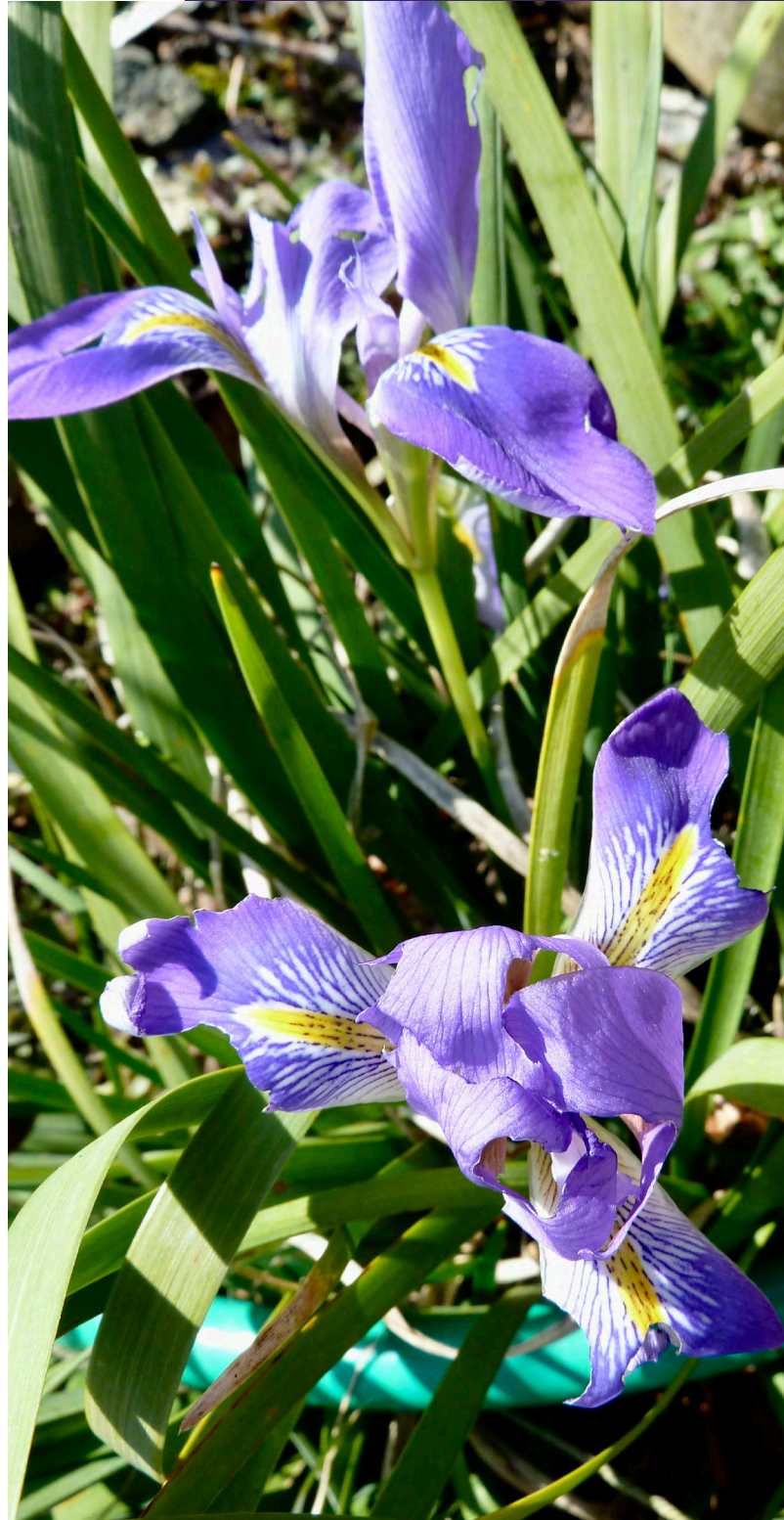
Figure 3: Pot of Lazistan Iris (*Iris lazica*), July 12, 2023, Saanich, BC. Photo: Richard Hebda.



Iris lazica has received the Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and according to them it survives winter temperatures in the -10 to -15 C (14-5 F) range. Like my Algerian iris, this species is strongly deer-resistant. One website notes that Lazistan iris has some toxicity to dogs, cats and horses. It may be an irritant to people though I have had no problem handling the plants.

To sum up, the great characteristics of this iris are that it grows in partial shade, is suitable for pots and is deer-resistant. Its modest size suits it well for urban and suburban gardens. We will be planting an example in the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific display beds this fall!

Figure 4: Pest damage on Diane Whitehead's Lazistan iris flowers, possibly by slugs, Saanich, BC. Photo: Diane Whitehead.



John Veillette's Irises - Part 2

Richard Hebda and John Veillette

BCIS member John Veillette has grown historic irises for decades in Victoria. In this contribution, John shares some more of his beauties with comments. All the photographs are by John.

Bayberry Candle

This is a tall bearded (TB) iris which was introduced by Caroline DeForest in 1966. John obtained this variety from the Historical Iris Preservation Society's annual rhizome sale. John's comment: "I found the colour blend very attractive. Not keen on bright yellows".



Gibson Girl with Dalmatian iris in the background

Gibson Girl and Dalmatian

Gibson Girl is a TB bred by James Gibson and registered in 1946/1948. It reblooms sometimes and has a slight fragrance.

Iris pallida "dalmatica" (Dalmatian or Sweet iris) is a variation of *Iris pallida* and has been known in gardens since the 1500s. It has a scent of violets.

John's comments: "Gibson Girl came

from the Summerland Ornamental Gardens via Penny Santosham (BCIS Director), a good bloomer. *I. dalmatica* came from the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) annual sale. My trips to Croatia (in the native range of the species) have been in fall so I have not seen any in bloom".



Bayberry Candle

Bumblebee Deelite

A Miniature Tall Bearded Iris (MTB) bred by Jack and Glenda Norrick and registered in 1985/1986. John's comment "One of the first MTBs I grew. Still a favourite."

Bumblebee Deelite



Little Freak

Originating in the late 1950s it was registered by John Steel by Roger Nelson in 1999. This "flattie" form

Little Freak



Redrock Princess

has no standards, all the tepals having yellow beards. According to John: "Obtained from Mike Unser (HIPS expert see <https://historicism.org/hips-library/33806/>). I

like flatties. Sometimes my Loreley (a very old Intermediate bearded variety) produces flat blooms - very handsome."



Redrock Princess

This MTB was bred by Jean Witt and introduced in 2003. John's comment: "One of my early MTBs and reminds me of earlier TBs in form & colour so I'm fond of it."

Award-Winning British Columbia Iris Goes to Ottawa

Richard Hebda and Lesia Lalonde

We have been writing in the past few issues of the Rainbow Goddess about the historic Iris breeder E.W. Neel. Last year we received a request from the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa for rhizomes of Shah Jehan the Royal Horticultural Society prize-winning iris bred by Neal in the Cowichan Valley of Vancouver Island. In the last issue, we even showed

British Columbia-bred Shah Jehan (TB) blooms at Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, June 2023. Photo: Friends of the Central Experimental Farm.



the certificate of award received by the iris in 1938. Lucky for us this historic iris was alive and well in the iris beds of Sage Hill Farm in Penticton BC. (Lesia and Gerry Lalonde proprietors). Shah Jehan was dispatched forthwith in the summer of 2022 to Carol MacLeod, a lead of the Friends Iris and Lily team

and planted at the Central Experimental Farm in the Nation's Capital on August 31, 2022. Carol has now reported to us that the plants are thriving and bloomed beautifully this spring in early June. The Central Experimental Farm has wonderful iris display beds worth a visit in the spring when you go to Ottawa. The volunteers continue to look for old iris varieties, according to Carol MacLeod Siberian irises bred by Isabella Preston.

Considering their success and our observations of the rapid increase and durability of this BC tall bearded iris we recommend it strongly for the easy-care corner of the garden. You will enjoy the reliable bloom of our BC historic iris for years to come.



A clump of Shah Jehan (TB) in flower at the Central Experimental Farm Ottawa in June 2023. Rhizomes were sent from BC's Sage Hill Farm in the summer of 2022.

My Friend, Keith Keppel

Ted Baker, Past BC Iris Society President

Many readers of this newsletter may have noticed the name Keppel associated with images or descriptions of stunning bearded irises. These are hybrids developed by Keith Keppel of Salem Oregon.



Keith Keppel making iris crosses in his Salem Oregon Garden in May 2005. Photo: Ted Baker.

I have known Keith for over 30 years. He is an incredible person and I consider him a Rock Star of the Bearded Iris World. Keith started hybridizing irises in the 1960s and his first introduction was Humoresque in 1961. He won his first Dykes Medal, awarded by the American Iris Society, for the best iris of the year with Babbling Brook. This was the first of many Dykes Medals; in fact, Keith has won more Dykes Medals than any other hybridizer in history!

Adoregon TB, Keith Keppel hybrid. Photo: Ted Baker.



Sterling Silver TB, Keith Keppel hybrid. Photo: Ted Baker.

Each year he starts his hybridizing journey in January by sorting out his crosses. This means checking his goals, reviewing the genealogy of his plants and deciding on the crosses he will make during bloom season in the coming spring.

Reckless Abandon TB, Keith Keppel hybrid. Photo: Ted Baker.





Haunted Heart TB, Keith Keppel hybrid. Photo: Ted Baker.

A few years ago when I visited Keith he said he had cut back a lot, and indeed he had. He had reduced the iris production area from 5 acres to two. However, as I explored the field of plantings I saw his seedling beds. When I asked him about these, he said that he had 11000 seedlings! And Keith does all the work himself! And yes, he has continued to reduce the cultivated area but even though in his late 80s he still was doing all the work and making and evaluating those hybrids!!

As I look back on my years with irises I particularly love some of Keith's creations such as Adoregon, Sterling Silver, Reckless Abandon, Happenstance, and Sea Cruise

Happenstance TB, Keith Keppel hybrid. Photo: Ted Baker.



to name a few. Keith is always the gentleman and is so welcoming to all who visit his garden... like the time BCIS members toured as a group in May of 2018. I really do not think Keith is aware of the excitement,



BC Iris Society Iris May 2018 tour at Keith Keppel's Salem, Oregon garden. Keith welcomed us, explained his breeding program and posed for photos with us. He currently has welcomed younger hybridizers to make crosses in his garden. Left to right Richard Cypher, Brenda Burch, Keith Keppel, Ted Baker, Bill Dumont. Photographer not recorded.

pleasure and joy that he has brought to thousands of gardeners across the world with the irises he has created. I know for myself he will always be a special person because of what he has given to the gardening world. He has been able to do this because he is truly a professional, and because he approaches his hybridizing program in a very systematic and scientific way.

When I visited with Keith last May (2023) it was so good to talk about his thoughts on where he has been, the present and the future. Being together and standing in the field of his creations is something I will always value.

Arrivederci TB, Keith Keppel hybrid. Photo: Ted Baker.



BCIS Executive 2023-2024

Position	Name	Email/Contact
President	Richard Hebda	hebda@shaw.ca
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Director	Malcolm Ho You	ho-you@telus.net
Director	Richard Cypher	cypher.rl@gmail.com
Director	Penny Santosham	pennysantosham@gmail.com

Sage Hill Farm Favourites

Lesia and Gerry Lalonde grow tons of irises in Penticton, BC. We recommend them as one of our BC iris rhizome sources. Here are some of their favourite irises for you to enjoy.

All photos are by Gerry and Lesia Lalonde.

Haunted Heart (TB), Keppel 2010. Dykes Medal '18. Photo: May 18, 2023.





Ninja Warrior (TB) Lynda Miller, Registered. 2014. Photo: June 4, 2023



Dubai (Arlbred), White Medal 2019. From Sage Hill Garden: "This is Gerry's pick... his absolute favourite. We're happy these beauties have survived our winters." Photo: May 18, 2023.

Waterline (TB) Keith Keppel, Registered 2011. New to Sage Hill Garden this year. Photo: May 18, 2023.



Table for Two (TB), Schreiners 2016. Photo: May 2020.



Keith Keppel's "Gypsy Lord"

Photo by Ted Baker, Past BC Iris Society President

Registered in 2005 and introduced in 2006, Tall Bearded Iris "Gypsy Lord" is a standout. It is vigorous, and robust and produces a stunning display in any garden. "Gypsy Lord" has won many awards including an American Iris Society (AIS) **Honorable Mention in 2008; Franklin Cook Cup 2008** (AIS Convention voters); **Award of Merit 2010; Wister Medal 2012** (AIS Best Tall Bearded Iris), **American Dykes Medal 2015** (AIS award for the best iris).

For more of Keith Keppel's award-winning irises see the AIS Dykes Medal web page at <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoMedalAmericanDykes>.



*This newsletter was produced by Richard Hebda with graphic design by Raielene Langdon of **Blue Pixel Design**. Thanks to all who contributed articles, photos and other information. Please send contributions for our next Winter 2024 newsletter by December 15 to Richard Hebda at hebda@shaw.ca.*