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## 2015 American Iris Society Dykes Memorial Medal Winner!



**'Gypsy Lord' (Keppel, 2006)  
winner of this year's  
AIS Dykes Memorial Medal.**

For a list of all the AIS medal winners go to page 5 or follow this link to the AIS TWIKI:

<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoAwards2015>

## ONIS Membership Fees

1-year single: \$10	1-year family: \$15
3-year single: \$25	3-year family: \$40

Check the website for details

<https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/>

## Editor's Message

The 'call' came in late June. The ominous words hit me like a ton of bricks and hung in the air like a bad smell. "Gertie..." (Terry's pet name for me) I'm going borer hunting!" At this point I knew summer was here and I would be spending the next two months waging war on the nemesis of every iris lover...the dreaded iris borer!

Actually, I had been secretly looking forward to borer season this year. I wanted to know if the 'bug zapper' we put up last August had made a difference. In the end, according to Terry, it had. We now have a way to control the iris borer that meets provincial pesticide regulations. You can read about Terry's conclusions starting on page 2.



In this edition you will also read about our visit to Schreiner's Iris Gardens in Portland, Oregon for the Siberian/Species Iris Convention. The Society for Siberian Irises asked me to review this garden for their newsletter so I thought I would share it with our members. Schreiner's was one of five gardens we visited over the two day convention. The bloom was at peak so we saw many, many irises in flower. The next Siberian/Species convention in May 2018 will be hosted by the Frances Scott Key Iris Society in Maryland. Just an eight hour drive from our doorstep so I imagine we will be there.

This is also the time of year the American Iris Society (AIS) announces its awards for the top irises as selected by AIS Judges. A link to the AIS Iris Encyclopaedia is printed in this newsletter for your convenience.

Now that it's fall ONIS is planning its annual meeting. We will review the year and make plans for next year's events. If you are interested, please join us. See *ONIS Matters* for details.

Kate

## The Borer Wars!

By Terry Laurin

If you recall, last August we set up a *Dynatrap* in our backyard garden in the quest to control the iris borer. We chose the *Dynatrap* over other bug-zapping type devices because its design allows for the capture of moths...and as we all know; the iris borer is the larvae of a nocturnal moth.

Each night the trap was turned on and once a week we inspected the spoils. During the first weeks we were capturing up to three or four a night. As summer waned and turned to fall, fewer and fewer moths were captured each night. Finally around mid-October we retired the trap for the season. We speculated that if the number of moths captured was an indication of the potential reduction in next year's borer population then our little experiment had been a success...however only time would tell.

As the 2015 iris season started my primary indication that our borer population had been reduced was the lack of damage to the iris fans. Early evidence that the iris borer is in an iris is notches in the leaves. These are usually seen in late May, early June. I try to capture the small borer larvae in the leaves before they eat their way down to the rhizome. I do this by cutting the fan down to the rhizome. This year I cut back 50% fewer fans. It would seem our *Dynatrap* experiment had worked! (Note: this practice of cutting the fan down might seem drastic but it doesn't harm the iris plant.)



***Iris Borer Moth – *Macronoctua onusta****

I also made another observation this year and it relates to when the iris borer moth starts to fly. Most material I have read states that the moth starts to fly in mid-August. However I found evidence to suggest it may start to fly earlier.

In mid-July, while tending a clump of irises, a borer moth emerged out of the ground and flew away. That night I set up the *Dynatrap* to see what would happen. The following day I had three borer moths. In the days that followed only two or three additional moths were captured. After that there was nothing until the end of August when the number of captured borer moths jumped dramatically. This suggests to me that there is a need to set out a trap earlier than mid-August.

With these findings in hand I presented them to the iris lovers who attended our annual auction and sale at the TBG. In Billy Graham fashion I preached the word of *Dynatrap*, giving members hope for controlling their iris borer problems. One member was so impressed she bought herself a *Dynatrap* when she got home. Three days later she called me with her first report. She had bought the 'Cadillac' version of the *Dynatrap* (protects up to one acre) and within one night had captured an impressive 30 iris borer moths. I nearly fell off my chair when she told me! Two weeks later a letter from her came in the mail. She had sent photographs of her '8-day catch' with the caption, "Are you jealous or glad you don't have this many?" I wouldn't have believed it had I not seen the picture for myself (see below).



**Photo courtesy of H. Tengesdal**

As for my continuing experiment, I went out and bought a second *Dynatrap*. I now have one in the front yard and one in the backyard. Since both protect up to half an acre (I have barely a quarter acre) perhaps I will capture a few of the nasty moths lurking in wait in my neighbour's garden. One can only hope!



## Schreiner's Iris Gardens 2015 Siberian/Species Convention

by Kate Brewitt

We visited Schreiner's Garden on Memorial Day and it would seem that everyone in the state of Oregon had the same idea! Liz Schreiner was the first to greet us. She informed us our lunch was going to be the best chicken dinner we'd ever had. Steve Schreiner greeted us next with news of great bloom. With pad and paper in hand, I was ready!



Looming large at the entrance to the host beds was a vigorous clump of the species cross, 'Do The Math' (Copeland, 2008) (*left*). The flowers of this iris have light violet standards and

style arms that contrast against dark violet falls. The white/yellow signal brings to mind a starburst. It is no wonder it went on to win the Best Species iris award.

With 5 to 6 buds per stalk 'How Audacious' (Hollingworth, 2009) (*right*) had lots of blue-violet blooms with a showy yellow signal covering half the fall. This waist-high clump was a 'stand out' in the garden.



Next to it, standing just as tall as if trying to outdo its neighbour, was 'Encore Performance' (Hollingworth, 2010) (*below*). A healthy clump of this iris displayed masses of red-violet blooms with contrasting light blue style arms.



A large clump of 'Swans In Flight' (Hollingworth, 2006) (*right*) displayed an abundance of snow white blooms which rested just above the foliage giving the impression of...need I say...swans in flight. The visual effect is outstanding. No surprise it won the Best Siberian iris award.



'Neptune's Gold' (Hollingworth, 2014) (*left*) is a slightly ruffled Siberian with attractive rounded and flaring smoky blue falls with a faint blue rim. These are contrasted against light blue standards

and style arms. The blooms are held well above the foliage.

'Colonel Mustard' (Schafer/Sacks, 2013) (*right*) is an iris that needs to be looked at closely. At a glance one sees light yellow standards with dark mustard



falls. However looking deep inside the iris there is a deep blue center at the base of the yellow-tipped style arms resulting in a dramatic effect.



Another iris with an interesting interior was 'Butterscotch Fizz' (Schafer/Sacks, 2013) (*left*). Not only are the style arms feathered but they have a double light blue-violet line down

the midrib. Added to this are light yellow standards and light orange falls which have a few light pink speckles.



If there was ever an award for the iris considered the 'most fun' at a convention 'Black Joker' (Schafer/Sacks, 2013) (*below*) would have been this year's winner. This Siberian's novel colouring



garnered attention in every garden. It has light blue, feathered style arms, lavender standards and dark purple falls both edged in yellow. The gold signal has a violet line that runs down to the edge of the fall; a very attractive combination of colours and attributes.

The large blooms of 'Blueberry Brandy' (Bauer/Coble, 2010) (*right*) look more like those found on a Japanese iris. Standards and falls are a dark blue violet but the most eye-catching feature of this iris is the wide serrated style arms.

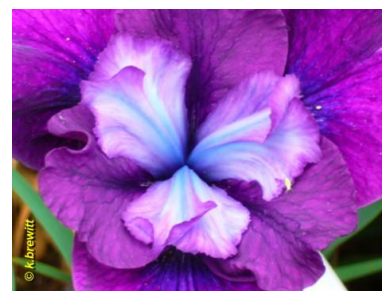


The brilliant shades of yellow, red and orange displayed by 'Paprikash' (Schafer/Sacks, 2012) (*below*) are probably the reason for its name. The pink standards have dark red-violet veins while dark yellow edged falls are heavily speckled in orange-red. The dark green foliage grows very upright.



At just 18 inches, the biversata 'Simply Cute' (Copeland, 2015) (*left*) was found tucked in between two towering Siberians. This adorable little iris displayed dark red-violet standards and falls and bright white style arms with red-violet midribs. It would be a great iris for the front of a flower bed.

One of those towering Siberians was 'Fisherman's Twilight' (Copeland, 2014) (*right*). This Siberian has light turquoise style arms which are edged in the same red-purple as the standards and falls. This makes for a striking contrast.



The aptly named 'Bluebird Kisses' (Schafer/Sacks, 2014) (*left*) is a stunning 'true' blue color, bluer than your typical blue iris. This is offset by a white signal with blue veining.

This is just a sampling of some of the Siberian and Species irises seen at Schreiner's Iris Gardens during this year's convention. I wish I had more pages in which to 'sing the praises' of all the lovely irises that we saw. Thanks to all the hybridizers for the wonderful work they are doing! The results are a joy to behold!

For more information on Siberian and Species irises check out these websites

The Society For Siberian Irises: [www.socsib.org](http://www.socsib.org)

The Species Iris Group of North America: [www.signa.org](http://www.signa.org).

## 2015 American Iris Society (AIS) Awards

Here are this year's recipients of the AIS awards as voted by the Society's accredited judges. To view the complete list including the runners-up in each category and pictures, click on the following link,

<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/InfoAwards2015>

### **THE DYKES MEDAL**

'Gypsy Lord' (Keppel, 2006) *(below)*



### **THE JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL – TB**

This award goes to 3 irises,

'Money In Your Pocket' (Paul Black) *(below)*



'Snapshot' (Thomas Johnson) *(below)*



'Temporal Anomaly' (Richard Tasco) *(below)*



### **THE KNOWLTON MEDAL - BB**

'Niche' (Joseph Ghio) *(below)*



### **THE HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL - IB**

'Man' Best Friend' (Paul Black) *(below)*



### **THE WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL - MTB**

'Hot News' (Stephanie Markham) *(below)*





**THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL – SDB**

A tie this year between,

‘Maui Sunrise’ (J.T. Aitken) (*below*)



‘Zooboomafoo’ (Paul Black) (*below*)



**THE CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL - MDB**

‘Keeno’ (Thomas Johnson) (*below*)



**THE CLARENCE G. WHITE MEDAL - AR and AB**

‘Aztec Prince’ (Richard Tasco)

**THE WILLIAM MOHR MEDAL - ARILBRED**

‘Prince of Egypt’ (Perry Dyer)

**THE FOUNDERS OF SIGNA MEDAL - SPECIES**

‘Jin Yu’ (Jill Copeland)

**THE RANDOLPH PERRY MEDAL - SPEC-X**

‘Do The Math’ (Jill Copeland) (*below*)



**THE SYDNEY B. MITCHELL MEDAL - CA**

‘Bay Street’ (Joseph Ghio)

**THE MARY SWORDS DEBAILLON MEDAL - LOUISIANA**

‘Seminole Sunrise’ (Harry Wolford) (*below*)



**THE MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL - SIBERIAN**

‘Humors of Whiskey’ (M Schafer/J Sacks) (*below*)



**THE ERIC NIES MEDAL - SPURIA**

‘Missouri Morning’ (O.D. Niswonger) (*below*)



### THE PAYNE MEDAL – JAPANESE

'Sugar Dome' (Bob Bauer/John Coble) (below)



### THE FRED AND BARBARA WALTHER CUP (Most Honorable Mention votes in any category)

'Snow Desert' (Paul Black) AB (below)

This iris received 75 votes.



### ONIS Auction At The TBG



Thanks to everyone who...  
dug, washed, trimmed, labelled, sorted and  
organized the rhizomes for the table sales!

Many hands make light work  
and you proved it!

Thanks to Helen for the laugh!

Thanks to everyone who...  
donated draw prizes, answered questions,  
directed the public, helped with the cash out  
and helped with the clean-up.

Thanks to...

Tara Perennial Farms  
Aurora Borealis Iris Garden  
and ONIS members  
for supplying irises for the auction.  
Without you there wouldn't have been  
an auction.

Thanks to everyone who...  
bid on rhizomes and purchased rhizomes  
from the table sales.

The day was a big success  
raising over \$700  
which will go towards  
the funding of future ONIS events  
at the TBG.

*Terry Laurin, President  
Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)*

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### Join the American Iris Society

(New rates effective October 1, 2015)

\$30 US for one year (single)  
\$70 US for three years (single)  
\$35 US for one year (dual)  
\$85 US for three year (dual)  
(All include a printed quarterly AIS  
bulletin)

\$15 US for one year e-memberships – AIS bulletin  
sent via email.

Visit the AIS website for details:  
[http://www.irises.org/About\\_AIS/Membership\\_Info/  
AIS\\_Membership.html](http://www.irises.org/About_AIS/Membership_Info/AIS_Membership.html)



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### Rebloom and Report

Reports on your rebloom are welcomed. Please  
send to Kate at [oniseditor@gmail.com](mailto:oniseditor@gmail.com) and watch  
for the Winter edition for the results.



## Youth Matters

Do you like jigsaw puzzles?

In honour of 'Gypsy Lord' being selected as this year's Dykes Memorial Medal

winner, [click here](#) to try a 20-piece jigsaw puzzle of the winner. Your puzzle should look like this when you are done.



## Jigsaws Are For Everyone!

For those members who like the challenge of a jigsaw puzzle, here is a 56-piece puzzle of the first runner-up for the Dykes Memorial Medal, just as important but never as praised. It is seen elsewhere in this newsletter for winning the Best Siberian at this year's Siberian/Species Convention. Know its name?

[Click here](#) and enjoy!

*The Iris Standard is published four (4) times a year; Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. Materials submitted must be received by December 1<sup>st</sup> (Winter), March 1<sup>st</sup> (Spring), June 1<sup>st</sup> (Summer) and September 1<sup>st</sup> (Autumn). Submissions may be edited for style and clarity. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the editor, [oniseditor@gmail.com](mailto:oniseditor@gmail.com)*

Title page: Aurora, ON. Photo: K. Brewitt, Editor,

## ONIS Matters

### Welcome New and Renewing ONIS Members!

C. Blakeman – Mississauga, ON

S. Ives & M. Mark – Ottawa, ON

N. Serrick – Keswick, ON

H. Tengesdal – Little Britain, ON

## In the Months Ahead

**ONIS Annual Meeting**  
November 1 – 11:00 am  
Port Perry, ON



The ONIS Board will review the year and discuss upcoming events for 2015/2016. If you are interested in attending please contact Kate at [oniseditor@gmail.com](mailto:oniseditor@gmail.com) for details.

**AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting – Fishkill, NY.**  
October 2 – 3, 2015

Details can be found on the AIS Region 2 website, [http://www.aisregion2.org/region2\\_014.htm](http://www.aisregion2.org/region2_014.htm).

Questions? Email Jim Robinowitz at [jmrobinowitz@hotmail.com](mailto:jmrobinowitz@hotmail.com) or call him at 845-454-6415 or 845-464-8423 (cell).

**Get the Jump on Spring**  
February 2016

Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG),  
777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.

The TBG's annual open house, watch this newsletter and the TBG website for details: <http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/jump-on-spring>

## Going East in 2016



**American Iris Society**  
**National Convention**  
Newark, New Jersey  
May 23 – 28, 2016

Presby Memorial Iris Gardens is one of the tour gardens for the 2016 AIS convention. This was the home of Frank Presby, a horticulturalist and one of the founders of the AIS. Details can be found on the convention website, <http://ais2016convention.com/>