



The Iris Standard

Newsletter of the
Ontario Iris Society

An affiliate of the
American Iris Society

Volume 10 Issue 2 – Spring 2015

Inside this Edition

I'm Sorry, I Didn't Get Your Name.....	2
ONIS Matters.....	3
Youth Matters	3
It's Show Time, Folks!	4
'Get the Jump on Spring' - Inside and Out	6
Seedy Saturday at Scadding Court Community Centre.....	7
In the Months Ahead	8
The Last Page	9

It's Spring!



In this edition enjoy a selection of pictures from this year's 'Get the Jump on Spring' at the TBG as well as pictures from 'Seedy Saturday' at Scadding Court Community Centre in Toronto.

ONIS Membership Fees

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

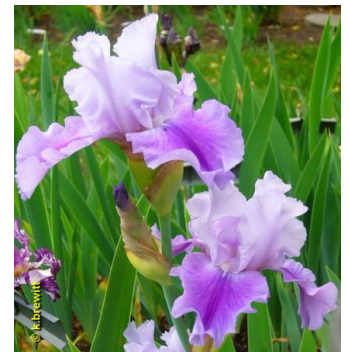
Check the website for details

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

Editor's Message

I spent the better part of the fall watching a small white bird with black markings feeding at our bird feeder. Determined to identify it; I spent many a late afternoon, bird book and binoculars in hand, watching the feeder. When I couldn't come up with a clear ID, I came to the conclusion that because it looks like a sparrow and it 'flocks' with the sparrows...as the saying goes...it must be a sparrow, albeit a "mixed" breed!

I had better luck identifying the 'mystery' iris I lamented about in the Summer 2014 edition. While doing some research on the AIS TWIKI, I came across an iris that looked suspiciously familiar. When I compared the TWIKI pictures to my pictures I concluded that it was "probably", "most likely", my iris. Knowing my iris had come from Terry's Aunt Verna's garden, I checked her plant list. And there it was, 'Inner Circle' (Ghio, 1977), the same iris I had found on the TWIKI. I am pretty confident my mystery is solved! Thanks to everyone who offered suggestions!



However there are more scientific ways to ID an iris. Starting on page 2 is an article by Phil Edinger, one of the Historic Iris Preservation Iris Society's most noted iris identifiers. If you've got your own 'mystery' iris, try using his helpful tips.

Now that it's spring, it's show time! The 2015 show schedule is found on page 4. If you choose not to show, consider coming out to the TBG for an afternoon of flowers and friends! Photographers are more than welcome to join us!

This is also our first edition with our new youth section, *Youth Matters*, complete with a word scramble for inquiring minds.

And check out *The Last Page* before you head out to your garden. You might be happy you did!

Kate

I'm Sorry, I Didn't Get Your Name

by Phil Edinger, HIPS ID Chairman

Collectors of old irises (or old roses, daffodils, etc.) soon encounter the "Nameless plant." [*also known as No I.D. or NOID - Ed.*] The first brush with this creature may be the mis-identified plant: the one you acquired as 'Such-and-Such' but which proved to be not that item. The avid collector determined to retrieve old irises from cemeteries, roadsides, old homesteads, directly and knowingly enters the "Nameless Plant" realm - frequently hoping that identification can be made after a bit of study.

Sooner or later, then, all of us are likely to discover the pleasure of detective work. And almost immediately we discover the pitfalls, frustrations, and blind alleys that go with it. Basically, the problem is this: we will have before us a living individual, all of whose characters we can see at a glance; but where do we find good written and photographic material to give us the detailed information we need to distinguish our unknown individual from other similar irises?

If we have access to old iris catalogues, they're usually the first reference tool in an identity search: their pages tend to be packed with descriptions of a great number of irises. But catalogue descriptions focus on the flowers; and, since sales is the motive, these descriptions emphasize the good and novel points while ignoring or down-playing the negative. Hyperbole is rampant: "monster blooms;" "best blue;" "flawless form;" etc. AIS Bulletins and British Iris Society Year Books may offer more realistic descriptions, though you'll find your share of unhelpful remarks such as "worthless;" "not in a class with So-and-So;" "over-rated;" and such. With the proper resources and enough time, you may find helpful information gems tucked away in old gardening publications.

Photographs sometimes will come to the rescue, showing details that written descriptions fail to mention. However, so few irises were photographed relative to the number of irises that were put into circulation. Earliest photos were black-and white, but if they're clear photographs they can show well all details other than colour. Many of the early colour plates in catalogues were

hand-tinted - sometimes very well done but in some cases with rather bizarre results that wildly overemphasized colour. And to muddy waters further, some of the less-scrupulous cataloguers (never anticipating our needs) would apply different names to the same colour photo in subsequent catalogue issues - leaving you to wonder which iris name (if any) was correct.

Another frustration is repetition. You may find the same description or descriptive phrase in a number of different catalogues - just as you will find the same photo used over and over again. Only persistent searching will unearth snippets of detail that will begin to round out the repeated basics. Detective work therefore can become major paperwork as you jot down possibilities and then comb "the literature" for further details to add to your bodies of evidence.

You can see, then, that trying to pin a name on a nameless iris is both a detective project and an obstacle course. Is it possible to succeed? Yes, and no. The "no" is obvious: insufficient evidence to make an I.D. The "yes", though, can be of two kinds.

The only sure identification of an unknown comes when you can match it with living material of a



correctly-named plant (one that has been perpetuated with its name attached). Thus, if your nameless murky blend proves to be the same as my Alcazar (*pictured left*) (which came from someone who bought it as such, 'way back when), then you have a certain I.D.

Lacking this confirmation, the best any of us can say is "probably" or "most likely" for any proffered identification made solely from descriptions and photographs. That's not to say that you may not be absolutely correct in your conclusions. But given the lack of richness in "the literature" and the fact

that you will not have evaluated every possible description and photo, it would be inaccurate to announce positive identification (not to mention misleading, should you be wrong).

Lack of positiveness on your part need not cause despair or discouragement. There is the chance that your tentative identification may be conclusively proved or denied by another grower of historical irises. For example, you might share your "probable Alcazar" with someone who grows the iris and have your educated guess confirmed when they match up at bloom time. At worst, your speculative I.D. may prove incorrect - also an important step in an identification process ("I don't know what it is, but I do know it's NOT Alcazar").

As you collect and study your unknown irises, there are three activities that will greatly aid your research:

- 1) keep records on your unknowns,
- 2) photograph them for off-season reference,
- 3) share the irises.

Especially, record the source of each of your unidentified irises and assign to each some sort of simple "garden name" (or number) for easy reference. Through sharing, you will find that some unknowns were widely grown in their day (your Roanoke lavender may equate to my Mendocino mauve, for example). This minimizes the confusion, as we share and compare, that can result when one unknown iris is passed around under a number of separate "garden names."

Following is a lengthy list of descriptive points that, taken together, will form a "profile" of an unknown iris suitable for distinguishing it from virtually all others. It may appear daunting to make notes on all these aspects (and I confess that this is a "do as I say, not as I do" proposition!), but by training yourself to observe details, you will amass data that will make your excursions into "the literature" more fruitful.

Editor's Note: The 'lengthy list' has been posted on the ONIS website for those interested. The following link will take you there.

POINTS OF IDENTIFICATION

ONIS Matters

2015 Member Benefit!

SHERIDAN NURSERIES has agreed to extend their 10% discount offer to ONIS members!



To take advantage of this program for 2015, you must be an ONIS member in good standing as of March 1, 2015.

To apply for this discount send your name, address and telephone number to Terry Laurin at tlaurin@rogers.com. Indicate "Sheridan Offer" in the subject line. Deadline is **April 15, 2015**.

Discount applies to most regularly priced merchandise and cannot be applied to discounted merchandise, Gift Card purchases, Landscape Design services, Tele-flora services, labour, Bulk Soil and Mulch delivery or other delivery charges. Discount card will be valid for one year.

Youth Matters



Welcome to our new youth members...and just in time for our Annual Flower Show! A Division especially for you

has been added to the Show Schedule. Check it out on page 4. We hope you join us for some fun.

In the meantime, here is a word scramble for you. Unscramble the letters below to form words that have something to do with irises. Answers are below.

lepta: _____

welrof: _____

slafI: _____

rebad: _____

ibrnawo: _____

Answers: petal, flower, falls, beard, rainbow.

It's Show Time, Folks!

For those members who like to exhibit irises from their gardens at the ONIS flower show, here is this year's show schedule. You will notice a new Division for our new Youth members.

For tips on how to show your irises, [click here](#) to access an article which previously appeared in *The Iris Standard*.

If you have any questions, please contact the Show Chair, Terry Laurin, at 905-841-9676 or by email at tlaurin@rogers.com.

ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY Annual Flower Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden 777 Lawrence Avenue E. Toronto, ON



Sunday, June 7, 2015
Show Setup: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Judging: 11:30 to 1:00 pm
Public Viewing: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Free Admission

Show Chair: Terry Laurin 905-841-9676
tlaurin@rogers.com

Photo: "Stairway To Heaven" TB (Lauer, 1993)
 2014 R.D. Little Trophy Winner
 Courtesy of K. Brewitt

ONIS Awards

R.D. Little Trophy

Best Specimen (Queen of the Show)

Toronto Region Award

Second Best Specimen (Princess of the Show)

F.W. Caulfield Trophy

Highest total points in the Tall Bearded classes

Jean Sanderson Trophy

Best Canadian Introduction

W.J. Taylor Trophy - Best Seedling

Verna Laurin Plaque - Best Historic Iris

AIS Awards

AIS Silver Medal Certificate

Exhibitor with highest number of 1st place ribbons.

AIS Bronze Medal Certificate

Exhibitor with next highest number of 1st place ribbons.

AIS Section Medal Certificate

Most 1st place ribbons in qualifying sections provided minimum requirements are met.

Best Specimen of Show Certificate - Youth

The Ruth V. Blenis Award (AIS Region 2 Award)

Highest placed tall bearded iris.

Exhibition Certificates are awarded to the outstanding seedling, plus any seedling that obtains at least five (5) votes from certified AIS judges. All AIS judges are asked to contact the Show Chair in order to pick up seedling ballots.

Show Rules and Regulations

1. This accredited show is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of the American Iris Society (AIS). These rules and regulations may not be violated. Judges' decisions will be final.
2. All entries **MUST** be staged between 10:00 am and 11:30 am. Late and unnamed entries will be accepted for display purposes only.
3. Exhibition privileges are open to all, including judges. Judges may not judge their own entries however they may judge entries of immediate family members.

4. Only specifically authorized personnel will be allowed in the show area during judging.

5. This is a cultivar show. All entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag with the correct cultivar name and placed in the appropriate section. Members of a family may exhibit from the same garden.

Cultivars are to be arranged alphabetically in each section.

Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per cultivar; otherwise the number of entries by an exhibitor is not restricted.

Containers are furnished by the Society except where noted.

The Show Committee will aid the exhibitors to correctly identify the appropriate section.

Seedlings must be entered under seedling name or number and in the name of the originator.

Novices are those individuals who have never participated in an AIS sanctioned iris show.

Youth (persons under 19 years of age) may enter the Youth Division or the Adult Division but not both.

For Tall Bearded specimens, the stem length shall not exceed 25 cm (10") from the top of the container to where the first branch originates on the stem. It may be less if the stem is not of sufficient length.

6. Judging will begin at approx. 11:30 am. The show is open to the public from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Exhibitors may not remove entries prior to 3:30 pm. Unclaimed entries will be sold for the benefit of the Ontario Iris Society.

7. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care, but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.

8. Sections or groups for bulbous irises and collections are eligible to receive award stickers and special section awards. Award stickers are included in the tally for Silver and Bronze Medal Certificates although these entries are not eligible for the 'Best Specimen of Show' award.

Show Schedule

DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE

SECTION A - Tall Bearded Iris

SECTION B - Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB)

SECTION C - Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)

SECTION D - Intermediate Bearded (IB)

SECTION E - Border Bearded (BB)

SECTION F - Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)

SECTION G - Siberian (SIB)

SECTION H - Spuria (SPU)

SECTION I - Louisiana (LA)

SECTION J - Any other Beardless

SECTION K - Any iris of Canadian origin

SECTION L - Historic Iris (Introduced in 1985 or earlier)

SECTION M - Bulbous Irises (not eligible for Best Specimen of Show)

SECTION N - Collections (not eligible for Best Specimen of Show)

Class 1 - 3 stalks/one variety

Class 2 - 3 stalks/all different

DIVISION II – SEEDLINGS

SECTION A - Tall Bearded

SECTION B - Other Bearded

SECTION C - Other Iris

DIVISION III – NOVICE

SECTION A - Tall Bearded

SECTION B - Other Bearded

SECTION C - Other Iris

DIVISION IV – YOUTH

SECTION A – Bearded

SECTION B - Beardless

Exhibitors complete a point credit sheet during the Show and have it approved by the Show Chair. **Each point is worth \$0.30.** The accumulated points may be redeemed at the 2015 ONIS August Auction/Sale.

Major Trophy Awards: 10 pts

Court of Honour: 10 pts

Other Awards: 1st place 5 pts

2nd place 3 pts

3rd place 2 pts

'Get the Jump on Spring' Inside and Out

by Kate Brewitt

It was a very cold and snowy day for this year's *Get the Jump on Spring*. Those who came out were treated to a preview of what spring has to offer.



Beautiful Basket arrangements by the Sunnybrook Volunteer Association Greenthumbs



Entry into the Miniature Flower Display category



Free Samples and Free Advice!



Jeff Mason explains...



Busy at the ONIS Table



The View Outside...Brrrrr!

Seedy Saturday at Scadding Court Community Centre

by Kate Brewitt



Presented by Seeds of Diversity, the Toronto Seed Library and the Toronto Community Garden Network, the Seedy Saturday at Scadding Court Community Centre is one of the longest running in the GTA. ONIS attended this year's event, selling seeds and potted irises to the local gardening community.



There were all kinds of seeds



Looking for Seeds



Composting for the Indoors



Terry, ONIS President, and Jinny, ONIS Vice President
tending the ONIS Table!



Looking for More Seeds



In the Months Ahead

Peterborough Garden Show

**April 2, 3, and 4 - Evinrude Centre,
911 Monaghan Rd, Peterborough.**

<http://peterboroughgardens.ca/Showhome.html>

ONIS will not be attending this year however please show your support by visiting this popular gardening show. It is guaranteed to delight!

Iris in Wonderland 2015

**American Iris Society
National Convention
Portland, Oregon
May 18 - 23, 2015**



The Greater Portland Iris Society invites all iris friends to Portland, Oregon for this year's convention. The six host gardens contain over 4200 guest plants from 127 hybridizers. Gardens include Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, Mid-America Garden, Miller's Manor Garden, Mt Pleasant Iris Farm, Schreiner's Iris Gardens and Wildwood Gardens. Besides the guest irises, visitors will find local hybridizers' past introductions plus new and exciting creations for the future.

Visit the convention website for more information,
www.ais2015portlandconvention.com/index.html

Another Day in the Garden

**Siberian/Species Convention
Portland, Oregon
May 24 and 25, 2015**

Immediately following the national convention is the Siberian/Species convention. Garden tours will revisit Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden, Mt Pleasant Iris Farm, Mid-America Garden and Schreiner's Iris Garden, and weather permitting; a visit to Kevin Vaughn's Garden is planned for the last day.

Visit the convention website for more information,
www.ais2015portlandconvention.com/index.html

ONIS Annual Iris Show



June 7 – 10 am to 3:30 pm

Set-up starts at 10 am

Judging starts at 11:30 am

Open to the Public at 1 pm

Toronto Botanical Garden, Studio One

777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.

Free Admission

Everyone is welcome to display bloom stalks from their garden at this American Iris Society sanctioned flower show. All visitors who vote for their favourite bloom stalk will receive a coupon for a free iris rhizome from the table sales at the 2015 August Annual Rhizome Auction and Sale.

The Show Schedule, found on [page 4](#), outlines the criteria upon which the bloom stalks are judged. It is also available from the ONIS website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/annual-show>

Mark Your Calendar!

**ONIS Annual Rhizome Auction and Sale
August 9 – 1 pm – Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.
Free Admission**

This is a great opportunity to buy irises at unheard-of prices. Pictures will be posted on the Ontario Iris Society PINTEREST page in July. Further details in the Summer 2015 edition. Bring your coupon from the 2015 ONIS Annual Iris Show and select your free iris rhizome!

Visit the AIS WIKI

The IRIS ENCYCLOPEDIA of The American Iris Society,
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>

The Iris Standard is published four (4) times a year; Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. Materials submitted must be received by December 1st (Winter), March 1st (Spring), June 1st (Summer) and September 1st (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.

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

Before heading out to the garden this year, take a minute to read this poster provided by Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA).

Plant and Rake Without the Ache

**Smart tips to avoid sore joints, aching muscles
and injuries. Your back will thank you!**

S-t-r-e-t-c-h before you start.

Loosen up to prevent injuries
in your joints and muscles.
Take a walk ... even on the spot,
to get your body ready.



The right tools! The right moves!

Use the right tools and moves for the job.
Kneel to plant. Change positions
frequently while you work.

Bend your knees to lift with ease

When lifting, keep your back
straight and bend your knees.
Always carry the load
close to your body and
avoid twisting.



Take a break so you won't ache.

Give yourself and
your back a break.
As a rule-of-thumb take a
brief rest or stretch break at
least three times each hour.
Drink fluids frequently.



Ontario Chiropractic Association
Association Chiropratique de l'Ontario
1-877-327-2273

For free tips sheets
go to the OCA web site
www.chiropractic.on.ca

Chiropractic.
Treatment that stands up.