



Inside this Edition

2015 AIS National Convention Cup Winners	2
2015 Siberian/Species Convention Winners	2
Our Members are Winners!	3
Gardens of Uxbridge Garden Tour	3
ONIS Annual Flower Show	4
People's Choice Ballot.....	5
ONIS Matters.....	6
Youth Matters.....	6

And the winners are...

***Lots of visitors were at the TBG
to admire the bloom stalks on display.
Results from this year's
People's Choice Ballot start on page 5.***



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/>

The Iris Standard

Newsletter of the Ontario Iris Society

**An affiliate of the
American Iris Society**

Volume 10 Issue 3 – Summer 2015

Editor's Message

'Opalescent Dream' (*pictured here*) bloomed right on schedule this year. I call it my 'summer solstice' iris as it blooms reliably every year around June 20/21. It's a lovely orchid pink with a fuzzy orange bead. At 38", it stands tall amongst the foliage of the other bearded irises which, for the most part, have finished blooming.



This iris also reminds me that our iris season is pretty much over...except for my favourites, the Spurias. Reflecting back on the season I will admit that it wasn't one of the best...at least in our garden. The heat wave during the first week of May saw our MDBs 'done-in-a-day'. A disappointment because, as the first irises of the season, we look forward to strolling through the gardens, rain or shine, to see what's in bloom.

Fortunately our SDBs made up for the MDBs however just as they hit peak bloom we departed for the AIS National Convention. Upon our returned we found our IBs and MTBs in mid-bloom. We noticed that bloom stalks were shorter than normal with heights closer to those found in the SDB class. Even as our early TBs started to bloom we noted the bloom stalks were again shorter and even the blooms were smaller. Not a stellar season but fortunately for us gardeners we can take comfort in the fact that "there's always next year!"

In this edition you will read about a lot of 'winners' with reports on the winners of the AIS National Convention and the Siberian/Species Convention awards. Locally we have the winners from the ONIS annual flower show as well as the People's Choice winners. And as you read you will discover that even our members have their own 'winning ways'!

ENJOY!

Kate

2015 AIS National Convention Cup Winners

We couldn't have asked for better weather at this year's convention. Temperatures were perfect for spending the day in the garden. As always, it was great fun. Here are this year's winners for the Convention cups.

President's Cup

(Best iris from a Region hybridizer)



'Football Hero' TB (Lynda Miller, 2015)

Franklin Cook Cup

(Best iris from a hybridizer NOT in Region)



'Swans In Flight' SIB (Hollingworth, 2006)

Ben Hager Cup (Best Median Iris)



'Moose Tracks' MTB (Lynda Miller, 2015)

Lloyd Zurbrigg-Clarence Mahan Seedling Cup (Best iris seedling at the convention.)



'Royston Rubies' (Adam Cordes, TB)

This is Adam's very first registered iris seedling. Pretty good start if you ask me!

2015 Siberian/Species Convention Winners

Following the National convention was the Siberian/Species Convention. This two day convention is a great way to see newly introduced beardless irises. Awards were given as follows.

Best Siberian



'Swans In Flight' SIB (Hollingworth, 2006)

Best Species/Species-Cross



'Do The Math' SPX (Copeland, 2008)

Best Seedling

This year's winner, 'Rubicon' (C. Lankow) (pictured right) is a Cal-Sib. Cal-Sib irises are the result of a cross between two iris species, a Pacific Coast (PCI) and a Sino-Siberian.



Our Members are Winners!

By Kate Brewitt, editor

It's always nice to hear from our members! Over the years I've received many letters and emails with photos, inquiries about diseases or with requests to ID "Grandma's favourite iris". They are always greeted with great interest! This year one of our members was busy entering her irises in local horticultural shows and was eager to share her successes.

In May, Anne Hill sent me an email informing me that her dwarf irises had been spectacular this year. As a result she was able to use them in a floral design at a flower show hosted by the East



Gwillimbury Gardeners. The category was 'Van Gogh' which naturally for any iris lover brings to mind his irises. So she set to work and put together a floral display. In the end Anne took home the Best Design award. Congratulations, Anne! Her award winning design is pictured left.

Then in June I got another email from Anne announcing she had just won 'Champion Specimen' at the Mount Albert Sports Day flower show. What...flowers at a sports day? I wondered about this and had visions of her irises competing with other irises by doing push-ups and lifting miniature barbells. It turns out this was also a

Spring Fair so, not one to miss an opportunity, the East Gwillimbury Gardeners sponsored another flower show. Anne enthused about her winning iris in her email, "...this iris really is gorgeous. Five blooms and it's holding them for a nice long time." She attached a beautiful picture (seen right) that supported her enthusiasm.



Unfortunately Anne has misplaced the name but some 'sleuthing' has lead us both to believe that it is 'probably', 'most likely' 'Sky King Returns' (Lauer, 2003).

Are you inspired by Anne's successes? If you have any 'iris' news, please consider sharing it! It is always interesting to read stories about what other iris lovers are doing with their irises!

Gardens of Uxbridge Garden Tour

The Community Care Durham – Uxbridge hosts its 19th Annual Gardens of Uxbridge garden tour on Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This self-guided tour offers a variety of urban and rural gardens. Your ticket allows you to see gardens that otherwise would not be open to the public. Tickets are \$25, which includes a box lunch to take on the road or enjoy at the Uxbridge Seniors Centre, (75 Marietta Street, Uxbridge). Purchase tickets by July 8 to be entered in an Early Bird Draw for dinner for two at the Tin Mill Restaurant, Uxbridge.



For tickets and event Information contact: Chrystal Paisley, Phone: 905-852-7445

Email: cpaisley@communitycaredurham.on.ca.

More information is also found on their website, www.ccdgardensofuxbridge.org

ONIS Annual Flower Show at the TBG

Seven exhibitors entered over 50 bloom stalks in this year's annual flower show. Mother Nature dealt out her usual pre-show rains having members fretting over soggy blooms. However, as always, there were plenty of dry blooms by show day. It was a very successful show with lots of visitors to the TBG dropping by. Thanks to everyone who brought their bloom stalks and to those who helped with the set up and take down. Congratulations to all our trophy winners!

ONIS Awards



R.D. Little Trophy Best Specimen (Queen of the Show)

Terry Laurin – TB –
'Paul Black' (Johnson,
2003) (left)

Toronto Region Award - Second Best Specimen (Princess of the Show)

Lyn Hickey – TB – 'No
Place Like Home'
(Black, 2011) (right)



Verna Laurin Plaque - Best Historic Iris

Kate Brewitt – TB – 'Blue
Sapphire' (Schreiner,
1953) (left)

**Jean Sanderson Trophy - Best Canadian
Introduction - No entries.**



Novice Division Winner:
Karen Lockyear for 'Batik'
(Ensminger, 1986) (left)

**F.W. Caulfield Trophy -
Highest total points in
the Tall Bearded
classes - Lyn Hickey.**

AIS Awards

AIS Silver Medal Certificate

Exhibitor with highest number of 1st place ribbons –
Kate Brewitt

AIS Bronze Medal Certificate

Exhibitor with 2nd highest number of 1st place
ribbons – Lyn Hickey

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

Best tall bearded iris - Terry Laurin – TB – 'Paul
Black' (Johnson, 2003).

There were two new exhibitors this year representing our Youth Group. Izzy and Abbie both came to our show with bloom stalks in hand. Abbie brought a beautiful stalk of 'Wabash' (Williamson, 1936) while Izzy brought a newer introduction 'Judy Nunn' (Kerr, 2010). Both irises won second place awards...not bad for their first showing!

Join the American Iris Society

\$25 US for one year
\$60 US for three years
(Includes a quarterly bulletin)

One (1) year electronic memberships, or e-
memberships, are also available for \$15 US.

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)



People's Choice Ballot

I look forward to tallying the results from the People's Choice Ballot at the ONIS show. Visitors are always eager to share with us which irises on display they like. Since I'm curious about the reasoning behind people's choices this year I decided to listen to the discussions taking place. What I heard was very enlightening.

It seems people take a close look at our irises and selections are being made based on not just the colour of the iris but on its attributes. For example, *Iris pallida* was admired because of its heavenly scent even though it has a non-descript blue flower. Another iris admired by many was 'Mesmerizer'. Most would consider the flower as 'just a white' however some looked beyond that and selected it because of the interesting flounces at the end of its beard. 'Kiss of Caramel' intrigued many visitors because they had never seen a *Spuria* iris before and thought it novel. And 'Black Magic Woman' was popular because of the velvety-look texture on the falls. In the end, the top six selected were as follows. Thanks to all who participated.



1st choice: TB – 'Lady Baltimore'



Tie for 2nd choice: TB – 'Chic Attire'



Tie for 2nd choice: TB – 'Queen's Circle'



3-way tie for 3rd choice: TB – 'Judy Nunn'



3-way tie for 3rd choice: SPU – 'Kiss of Caramel'



3-way tie for 3rd choice: TB – 'Ziggy'



ONIS Matters

In the Months Ahead

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

This is a great opportunity to buy irises at unheard-of prices. For a link to pictures of some of the irises in this year's auction go to the ONIS website, <https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/> and click on the link to Pinterest.

Following the auction is a sale of older rhizomes provided by ONIS members from their personal collections. If you attended our June flower show and received a coupon, don't forget to bring it.

ONIS Members: Come out at 12:00 pm to have first choice on the Table sale rhizomes. If you are donating rhizomes please arrive by 10:30 am with your rhizomes washed, trimmed and labelled. This will give the setup committee time to price and sort.

ONIS Annual Meeting
October/November – Port Perry, ON

Details to be announced.

AIS Region 2 Annual Meeting
October 2 – 3 2015
Ramada Inn, Fishkill, NY

Hosted by the Hudson Valley and Daylily Society. Watch the AIS Region 2 website for details.
http://www.aisregion2.org/region2_014.htm

Welcome New and Renewing

ONIS Members!

F. Kershaw – Toronto, ON
 I. Shtephan – Toronto, ON
 R. Walker – Toronto, ON

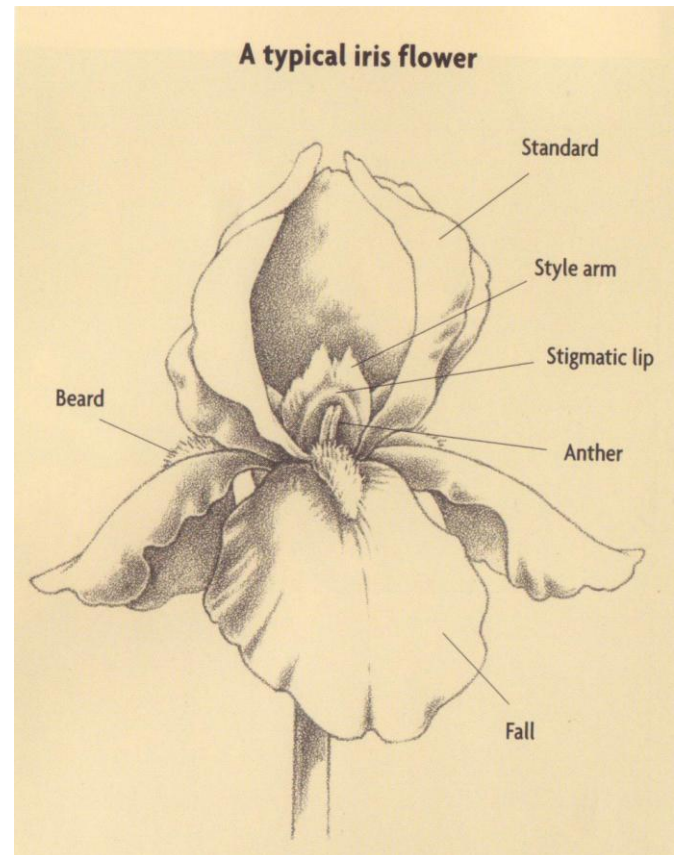
Visit the AIS WIKI

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



Youth Matters

Do you know the parts of an iris flower? Below is a picture of a typical bearded iris flower. You can learn the parts of the flower so that when you read a description of one in an iris catalogue you can picture what the flower looks like. Knowing the parts of the flower helps you do this.



For information about the ONIS Youth group, contact Jinny Missons at jojimiss@sympatico.ca

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.

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