

The Iris Standard

Newsletter of the Ontario Iris Society

An affiliate of the American Iris Society

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ONIS E-Membership Fees

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

Check the ONIS website for details,
[Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](#)

Visit the AIS WIKI

Use this link to access the American Iris
Society's Iris Encyclopedia,
[WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](#).

*Find information about irises,
hybridizers, iris societies and more.*

Editor's Message

Wasn't that an interesting iris season! Our iris bloom was a week to 10 days ahead of last year but there was more bloom than we've seen in years. Siberians were blooming the last week of May...not seen in 10 years...and Spurias were blooming the first week of June...unusual, but not unheard of. Before the middle of June, we were clearing our garden of spent bloom stalks as most TBs had finished blooming. By the end of June, only the Spurias had a few remaining flowers.

Fortunately, our show was June 2nd. Due to the early season, there were fewer entries, but it was a fabulous day with lots of people dropping by to admire the bloom stalks and pick up a new iris or two from the potted iris sale. Read about it on page 3.

Of course, with the return of the show came the return of the People's Choice Ballot. This year's selection really surprised me. See the results on page 5.



Looking ahead, in July there is our online sale. For details, see page 6. Then August 11th is our annual auction and sale at the TBG. We brought in an order from Mid-America Gardens. See President's Pointers on page 2 for details plus two ways you can help with the sale. Hope to see you there!

Kate

President's Pointers

by Terry Laurin

Have you been to the ONIS annual rhizome auction and sale? If you haven't, you're missing out on an opportunity to buy irises at very reasonable prices. There are two ways to do this, buy from the table sales or bid on rhizomes offered in the auction.

What are Table Sales?

The iris rhizomes in this part of the sale are donated by ONIS members from their personal collections. This is the time of year when we dig and divide our irises. Rather than toss the extras, we ask members to donate them to the sale. Prices typically range from \$2 to \$6 per rhizome depending on the size. There is a variety of irises available, MDBs, medians, TBs, and depending on the season you may even find some Siberians or Spurias. For ONIS members, the doors open at 12 noon. At 12:30 pm the sale opens to the public.

(Please note, table sales are suspended during the auction but resume once it's over...so you can keep shopping until the doors close at 3:30 pm.)

About The Auction

If you've still got money burning a hole in your wallet after shopping the table sales, you can stick around and participate in the auction which starts at 1:00 pm. Careful though...bidding can get lively!



This year's rhizomes are from Mid-America Garden in Oregon. We ordered a selection of newer tall bearded and median irises. At last year's auction, the irises offered retailed between \$25 US and \$65 US. In the end, the average bid was \$17 CDN...and there were no additional fees for a phytosanitary certificate and shipping. You'd be hard pressed to find a better deal.

Every bidder receives an auction booklet which lists the irises up for auction and a picture of each one. Arrive early to get your bidder's number.

Want You Can Do to Help

The success of the table sales is dependent upon our members donating rhizomes. If you are attending this event, bring your donations with you. Irises should be washed, trimmed, and labelled with their cultivar name (see picture below). Please note, only named varieties will be accepted. Arrive by 11:00 am so the set-up committee can price and sort. If you email me the cultivar names beforehand, we'll bring pictures to show off your rhizomes.



A washed, trimmed and labelled rhizome.

You can also volunteer to help on the day of the auction and sale. We need people to assist with the set-up, record the bids and assist with the cash out. If you would like to join us, email Kate at kbrewitt@rogers.com.

As always, feel free to email me with your questions about irises, tlaurin@rogers.com.



ONIS Annual Flower Show

By Kate Brewitt

We were back at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) after a 5-year hiatus. The last year we held an iris show was 2019. According to the Summer edition of *The Iris Standard* that year, the iris bloom was a week to 10 days behind a 'normal' season. The show was mainly median irises with an abundance of intermediate bearded (IB). Quite a contrast from what we experienced this year!

This year most of us found our irises blooming a week to 10 days ahead of a 'normal' season. By the day of the show, the median irises were pretty much done, except for some MTBs, and early tall-bearded irises were waning. As a result, the show was a mix of late blooming tall-bearded irises and Siberians. This was great for visitors who got to see irises that aren't usually available for an early June show. I even got to exhibit some of my Siberian seedlings...which was a first.

Six exhibitors entered 39 bloom stalks into the show. This included two of our youth members who also acted as our welcome ambassadors, greeting visitors at the door and explaining the People's Choice ballot to them. As always, the ballot was very popular, generating a lot of 'debate' between participants. It's always fun to watch them agonize over which irises are their favourites.



Display Table at the Show

Thank you to everyone who cut their bloom stalks for the show. We understand it can be difficult to remove them from their natural setting, however, we like to look at it as a way to share our gardens!

The Award Recipients

ONIS Awards

R.D. Little Trophy

Best Specimen (Queen of the Show)

TB 'Celebration Song' (Schreiner, 1993)

Exhibitor: Terry Laurin



Toronto Region Award

Second Best Specimen (Princess of the Show)

MTB 'In My Veins' (Bunnell, 2009)

Exhibitor: Kate Brewitt



Verna Laurin Plaque - Best Historic Iris

TB 'Beverly Sills' (Hager, 1979)

Exhibitor: Kate Brewitt



F.W. Caulfield Trophy

Highest total points in the Tall Bearded classes

Kate Brewitt.

Jean Sanderson Trophy

Best Canadian Introduction

Not Awarded

W.J. Taylor Trophy

Best Seedling

Not Awarded

AIS Awards

**William McGarvey Beardless Iris Award
(AIS Region 2 Award for Highest Placed
Beardless Iris)**

Siberian 'Lucy Locket' (Schafer/Sacks, 2009)

Exhibitor: Kate Brewitt.



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

Terry Laurin

On the Hunt for 4" Plastic Pots

By Terry Laurin

During any given year, ONIS uses a lot of 4" square hard plastic pots. We use them to pot up the irises we sell at garden events like our June iris show, and, this year, Evergreen Brick Works Seedy Saturday, and Innisfil Seedy Saturday.

Sadly, our supply is dwindling, and we are now in desperate need of more so we can pot up irises for next year's events. We've googled until we're cross-eyed. We even did a 'tour-de-force' of the local nurseries...however, none were to be found.



4" square plastic pots

That said, if any ONIS member (or anyone you know) has 4" plastic pots they would be willing to donate to the club, it would be greatly appreciated. You can email me at tlaurin@rogers.com if you have any questions.

Please note, only pots, as pictured above, will be accepted. Pots other than 4" square plastic pots will not be accepted. Recycle them or contact your local nursery. Many have recycling programs.

People's Choice Ballot
at the ONIS Annual Flower Show

Compiling the results for the People's Choice ballot is always entertaining. It is impossible to guess what visitors may have selected until the counting is done. This year was a total surprise.

The iris selected most often was TB 'Hook'. People remarked on the luminous colouring on the purple falls. The fourth ranking iris was a 1922 introduction, 'Damosel'. This iris has very old form with its dog-eared falls which goes to show that despite the new irises with all their ruffling, the historic irises can still make an impression.

Thank you to everyone who participated! If you join us at the TBG on August 11th for the auction and sale, don't forget to bring your coupon for a free iris rhizome from the table sales!



1st choice – TB 'Hook' (Johnson, 2001)



2nd choice – TB 'Up In Flames' (Johnson, 2010)



3rd choice – TB 'Sweet Geisha' (Blyth, 2004)



4th choice – TB 'Damosel' (Morrison, 1922)



5th choice – TB 'Golden Panther' (Tasco, 2000)

If you want to know how your choices compare, email Kate at oniseditor@gmail.com and she will send you your list.

Annual Online Sale

It's time for the Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) online rhizome sale. 'The List' of available irises will be emailed to our fee-paying members and posted on the ONIS website: [Ontario Iris Society - Auctions and Sales \(google.com\)](https://www.ontarioirisociety.com/AuctionsandSales). You can also email Kate at the email address provided at the end of this article.

To ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible here are some guidelines.

Please read carefully

REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE

Anyone who lives in Canada can participate.

SALE PERIOD

ONIS MEMBERS: as a perk for fee-paying ONIS members, you can start placing your orders beginning at noon (ET) on Friday, July 12th.

NON-MEMBERS: beginning at noon (ET) on Monday, July 15th, the sale will be open to Canadian residents who are not fee-paying ONIS members.

Sale closes Saturday, July 20th at midnight (ET).

RHIZOME AVAILABILITY

Some varieties are limited in number so order early. Orders will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. Since we want to make as many iris lovers as possible happy, please order only 1 or 2 rhizomes per cultivar. Substitutions are welcome. Mark these in your order with 's' or 'sub'.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All varieties on the list will have a link to the American Iris Society's Iris Encyclopaedia (aka the AIS IRIS WIKI). Click on the link to view pictures and details. If clicking on the link does not work, copy, and paste the link into your browser.

INDICATION OF REBLOOM AND/OR HISTORIC

Cultivars indicating 'rebloom' are listed as such on the AIS WIKI. It does not guarantee the iris will rebloom in your part of Canada.

Varieties classified as 'historic' were registered with the AIS 30 or more years ago (1994 and before).

PRICING

Prices are as indicated in the '2024 On-Line Sale List'. Prices do not include shipping.

Fee-paying ONIS members receive a \$1/rhizome discount. If non-members are ordering more than 10 rhizomes, they may want to consider joining our group. A 1-year e-membership is \$10. Other rates can be found on the ONIS website [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](https://www.ontarioirisociety.com).

SHIPPING CHARGES

Shipping rates continue to rise however we have decided to maintain the same shipping charges as last year.

Ontario & Quebec residents

1 – 9 rhizomes: \$22.00

10 or more rhizomes: \$22.00 plus \$0.50 for each rhizome over 9.

Pick-up available in the GTA area. Let us know and arrangements can possibly be made.

Residents Outside of Ontario and Quebec

1 – 9 rhizomes: \$27.00

10 or more rhizomes: \$27.00 plus \$0.50 for each rhizome over 9.

SUBMITTING YOUR ORDER

E-mail your order to Kate, Sale Coordinator, at kbrewitt@rogers.com with a subject line of "**ONIS Rhizome Sale 2024**". Include method of payment plus full mailing address and telephone number in case we need to contact you about your order. Confirmation of receipt of your order will be emailed to you within 48 hours.

ACCEPTED PAYMENT METHODS

Money Orders or cheques made payable to the ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY or an e-transfer using the email address provided below. Do not pay until your order is confirmed.

We have tried to make this as simple as possible however, if you have any questions, please contact Kate at kbrewitt@rogers.com.



ONIS Matters

In the Months Ahead

Online Rhizome Sale

Starting July 12 (noon) – Orders from ONIS members accepted.

Starting July 15 (noon) – Orders from non-members accepted.

Sale Ends – Saturday, July 20 (midnight ET)

Details for ordering are on page 6. A list of available irises will be emailed to ONIS members and posted on the ONIS website, [Ontario Iris Society - Auctions and Sales \(google.com\)](https://www.ontarioirissociety.com). Email Kate at kbrewitt@rogers.com if you don't get your copy.

ONIS Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale

August 11 - 12 pm

Toronto Botanical Garden 777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.



12:00 to 12:30 pm – Table Sales

Fee-paying ONIS members receive early entry into the sale for priority selection.

12:30 to 1:00 pm – Table Sales

Opens to non-members.

1:00 pm – Iris Auction – Open to All

Bring your friends and family, the auction is open to everyone.

2:00-ish to 3:30 pm – Table Sales continue

Last chance to pick up a deal...or two.

Want to volunteer at the auction/sale? Contact Kate (kbrewitt@rogers.com) for details.

Welcome New & Renewing Members!

A. Bright – Toronto, ON
 M. Lepa – Collingwood, ON
 J. McLean – Mitchell, ON
 H. Moran – Markham, ON
 B. Pennycook – Tweed, ON
 C. Phelps – Mississauga, ON
 C. Rogers – Lindsay, ON
 I. Shtepan – North York, ON
 I. Smith – Aurora, ON
 D. Tunaitis – Campbellville, ON
 R. Walker – Toronto, ON

AIS Matters



August 1 - AIS Symposium is due. Anyone can participate in this tall bearded iris popularity poll; it's not restricted to AIS members. Here's a link to the ballot. [AIS-2024-TB-SYMPOSIUM-BALLOT-1.pdf \(irises.org\)](https://www.irises.org/ais-2024-tb-symposium-ballot-1.pdf). Non-AIS members can email their choices to Kate (kbrewitt@rogers.com) before July 30, 2024, and they will be forwarded to Cara Hutchings, the AIS Region 2 RVP.

Deadlines for AIS Region 2 Judges

August 1 - AIS Official Ballot for judges is due. Vote online (<https://system.irises.org/user/login>) or mail your paper ballot, postmarked no later than August 1, 2024.

August 3 - AIS Judges' Activity Report is due. The form can be printed from the Region 2 website (www.aisregion2.org). Complete the form and email it to Wendy Roller, AIS Region 2 Judges' Chair, (gwr67@frontier.com).

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: IB 'Rififi' Photo: K. Brewitt.