

The Iris Standard

Newsletter of the
Ontario Iris Society

An affiliate of the
American Iris Society

Volume 15 Issue 1 – Winter 2020

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The Ontario Iris Society has a
Facebook page.

We hope you will 'like' us then...

- upload your pictures,
- share your experiences
- ask questions.

It's the visitors to the page that
make it a success!

ONIS Membership Fees

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

Check the ONIS website for details
<https://sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety>

Visit the AIS TWIKI

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

Find information about irises, hybridizers
and different iris societies.

Editor's Message

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a happy holiday season!

Twenty-twenty is a big year for the American Iris Society (AIS) as it will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. This year's AIS convention will be based in New Jersey but will include host gardens at the New York Botanical Garden, where it all began in 1920; a time of flappers, 'talkies' and prohibition. Times and iris form have changed in the last one hundred years. Read *Iris: 1920 vs 2020* starting on page 3 to find out some of the differences.



Left - IB 'Alliés' (Vilmorin-Andrieux et Fils, 1920)

Right – IB 'Half Sister'; (L. Miller, 2020)

In this edition's *President's Pointers* Terry provides an update on his ongoing work with the DynaTrap to control the iris borer. He also provides an update on the ONIS and the Region 2 meetings that took place during October.

Sadly in my part of the province the late December rains and record breaking temperatures took away most of our snow cover. Our irises were well protected during most of December however now they are exposed to the elements. As I think I have said many times before, it could be an interesting spring!

Kate

President's Pointers

By Terry Laurin

Another year has come and gone. As we look forward to the iris season ahead I would like to share something I learned during last year's season.

The irises in one area of our garden had a small increase in borer damage. I could not understand why as I had not done anything differently the previous year i.e the DynaTrap was placed in the same location and it was turned on every night from July to October. I pondered the possibility of a peak in the borer's cycle, something like lawn grubs which can spike in certain years. Then while reading a post on Facebook for light bulbs for the DynaTrap it mentioned that a bulb's effectiveness does decrease with age even though the bulb is not burnt out. The light dims and the insects no longer detect the ultraviolet light. It was recommended that light bulbs be changed every 3000 hours. A quick 'finger count' made me realize that the light bulb in the trap in question had well exceeded its 3000 hours...time for a change! I was able to find replacement bulbs at my local Home Depot. Hopefully this will make a difference in 2020. Please note, old bulbs are considered household hazardous waste and should be taken to your local hazardous waste depot for recycling.

ONIS Annual Meeting Review

ONIS held its annual meeting in Aurora on October 27th. It was a very productive meeting as we discussed the successes of 2019 and organized events for 2020. We are planning to attend 'Get the Jump on Spring', the Newmarket Seedy Saturday and the Innisfil Seedy Saturday. Check out 'In the Months Ahead' in this newsletter for details.

Some highlights; our membership numbers are up, Kate is working on a new website and we are in great financial shape.

It was noted that the TBG is now charging for parking. ONIS is working with the TBG to determine how this will affect our members who wish to volunteer at our events. Watch this newsletter for more details as they become available.

Notes from the 2019 AIS Region 2 Meeting

Last year's AIS Region 2 meeting was held in Honoeye Falls, New York. Our hosts, the Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS), did a great job of putting together an event filled weekend. A small group of attendees gathered for dinner Friday night at a local pub where we were joined by AIS President, Jody Nolin and her husband, David. On Saturday, our speaker, Hugh Stout, gave a very informative presentation on Tall Bearded irises as well as two Judges' Training sessions.



David Saxby, Jody Nolin (AIS President), Hugh Stout and Neil Houghton.

Kathryn Mohr of Capital-Hudson Iris Society continues in her position of AIS Region 2 Regional Vice President (RVP) while Carolyn Schaffner of Western New York Iris Society continues as the assistant RVP.

During the winter Neil Houghton will be looking at how Region 2 can hold its meeting via video conferencing. This is being done in the hopes that more members will join in. Information will be provided as details unfold.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at tlaurin@rogers.com.



Iris: 1920 vs 2020

by Kate Brewitt

With the American Iris Society celebrating its 100th anniversary I started thinking how irises have changed over the years. The classes that exist today did not exist in 1920. Looking at the 1939 AIS Alphabetical Iris Check List there were three classes of bearded irises (Pagoniris); Dwarf (DB) which included bearded irises up to and including seventeen inches in height, Intermediate (IB) which included irises eighteen to twenty-eight inches in height and Tall Bearded irises which were thirty inches or over in height. There are now six classes of bearded iris; Miniature Dwarf (MDB) up to eight inches, Standard Dwarf (SDB) eight to sixteen inches, Intermediate (IB), Miniature Tall (MTB) and Border (BB) sixteen to twenty-seven and a half inches and finally Tall (TB) for those irises growing over twenty-seven and a half inches.



'Ambassadeur' (Vilmorin, 1920)

Irises were described in the checklist based on a color classification system. For example 'Ambassadeur' (pictured above) was described as "Color class S9D", in other words a dark pink to red toned bicolor or bitone blend. If you could get your hands on a grower's catalogue the description was more helpful but usually only words. In this case the grower, Vilmorin–Andrieux, was located in Paris so the catalogue was in French. The following description was taken from the 1938 Vilmorin-Andrieux catalogue,

Tardif. Haut. 1m20. Très grandes fleurs a divisions supérieures violet rougeâtre fume, les inférieures

violet rougeâtre fonce et veloute. Certificat de mérite de la S. N. H. F. La pièce – 3 francs.

If you did find a picture it was in black and white. One had to have a very vivid imagination to imagine the red/rouge colouring of this iris. Below is a picture taken from the Vilmorin-Andrieux catalogue.



Over the years irises have changed dramatically. The long, dog-eared falls have been replaced by ones that are wider, ruffled, flared and, at times, overlapping. Colour patterns have changed and there are now plicatas, amoenas, neglectas and luinatas. Standards are overlapping and either upright or open. Compare 'Ambassadeur' to one of Keith Keppel's 2020 introductions, 'Tamale Time' (pictured below), and the differences are clear, while the description from his website reads more like a recipe than a description of a flower!



'Tamale Time' (Keppel, 2020)

TAMALE TIME (Keppel 2020) EM 38” (High Desert X Flash Mob) #13-17G Cornmeal yellow standards more toasted at edge. Matching falls with near-solid to washed markings of port to chili powder and tomato paste, hafts a touch more brown. Beards a bronze yellow and port wine mix. Usually seven or eight buds, gentle ruffling. Enjoy!

Beardless irises (Apogon) have also changed in one hundred years, in particular the Siberians. A popular Siberian iris of the time was ‘Emperor’ which is still found in gardens today. The 1939 AIS Alphabetical Iris Check List describes the colour as B1B or a dark blue self.



‘Emperor’ (Collected by Barr & Sons, named by Wallace)

For many years Siberian irises were found only in shades of white and blue however as hybridizers continue to work with this iris other colours and forms are being uncovered. Like the tall bearded irises, Siberians lost their long dog-eared falls to be replaced by ones that are more flaring. This ‘modern’ flaring form began with the introduction of ‘White Swirl’ (Cassebeer, 1957).

Siberians have also seen an expansion of colour into browns, oranges and near reds. They have speckles, ruffles, colourful style arms and veining that extends throughout the fall. ‘Art In Bloom’ is a good example of this. It is also a bicolor, unheard of in 1920. ‘Festive Coquette’ is full and ruffled and is a good example of overlapping falls and fancy styles arms...and it is pink!



‘Art In Bloom’ (Schafer/Sacks, 2016)



‘Festive Coquette’ (Schafer/Sacks, 2018)

The older Siberians were diploids with only two sets of chromosomes while the introduction of tetraploids with their four sets of chromosomes has brought about a plant with larger flowers. ‘Neptune’s Gold’ is a good example of this.



‘Neptune’s Gold’ (Hollingsworth, 2014)

Hopefully this has piqued your curiosity as this is by no means a comprehensive evaluation of changes in irises over the years. If you are interested in more information there is a lot to be found on the AIS Iris Encyclopaedia. Go to www.wiki.irises.org. On the main page look in the left side bar for ‘Other Special Topics’ and click on ‘History’ to be taken to a world of historic irises!



In the Months Ahead

Get the Jump on Spring and Seedy Saturday

Toronto Botanical Garden

777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto.

February 22 - 10 am to 3 pm

Two great events on the same day! Admission is free however those making a \$2 donation will have their names entered in free hourly prize draws!

Join us for the TBG's annual Horticultural Open House with 30+ exhibitors including horticultural societies, garden clubs and environmental organizations. There will be live displays, free gardening advice, talks, demonstrations, seed swaps and a floral design competition. Enjoy lunch in the Jump Café, browse the artisan booths and the Garden Shop. ONIS will be there providing information and selling potted irises and different types of iris seeds. For more information, visit the TBG website, <https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca>, or call 416-397-1341.



Important Notice

Paid parking began at the Toronto Botanical Garden in July 2019. Funds from paid parking go directly to the Toronto Botanical Garden, which is a registered charity. These funds will support the long-term sustainability of TBG's mandate – horticulture, education, conservation and research – as TBG develops a world-class botanical garden for Toronto. The cost is \$2.50 per hour.

Free parking will be offered to Toronto Botanical Garden members as a new membership benefit. Regular visitors to the gardens are encouraged to become members to enjoy the benefits and support the greening of Toronto. Memberships start at \$45 per year.

Newmarket Seedy Saturday

Newmarket Community Centre

200 Doug Duncan Drive, Newmarket, ON

March 7 - 10 am - 2 pm

York Region Food Network hosts this annual Seedy Saturday event. There will be a Seed Swap, a Seed Library, a Market Place, Kidz Korner, food, an interactive area and more! ONIS will be there selling potted irises and iris seeds.

Innisfil Seedy Saturday

**Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Lakeshore Branch,
967 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil, ON**

March 28 - 10 am - 3 pm



Admission is free! Non-perishable food donations for the Innisfil Food Bank will be accepted. The day will include seed vendors, community groups, a community seed swap, expert talks and demos, kids' crafts, and onsite lunch for purchase. ONIS will be there selling potted irises and iris seeds.

ONIS In Brief

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss these upcoming ONIS events. Details to follow in future editions of *The Iris Standard*.

June 9 – ONIS Annual Iris Show at the TBG.

August 11 – ONIS Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale at the TBG.

Some Other Garden Shows in Ontario

Canada Blooms

Energare Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto

March 13 – 22, 2020

Details: www.canadablooms.com

Peterborough Garden Show

Fleming College

599 Brealey Drive, Peterborough, ON

April 24 - 26, 2020

<http://peterboroughgardenshow.com>

Upcoming Conventions



**“VISIONS 2020”
2020 Median Iris
Convention**

**APRIL 16-18, 2020
Oklahoma City, OK**

On April 16-18, 2020, the Oklahoma Iris Society and the Median Iris Society will be hosting the "Visions 2020" Median Iris Convention in Oklahoma City, OK. The convention headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn and Suites Oklahoma City North, 6200 N. Robinson Ave, Oklahoma City, OK. Full registration includes Thursday Welcome Dinner, Friday night auction, Saturday Awards Banquet, convention book and a two-day five garden tour with lunches, and judges training. Deadline for the discounted registration is March 16, 2020. Visit the convention website for details: <https://medianvisions2020.weebly.com>.

Convention Gardens

- Hugh Stout Dancingtree garden (master planting)
- Dr. Warren Low garden
- Will Rogers Garden Center
- Cynthia Wade garden
- Randy Moore garden



MTB 'Breakfast in Bed' (Bunnell, 2014)



**The American Iris Society (AIS)
National Convention
A Centennial Celebration
May 19 - 23, 2020**

Details can be found on the convention website, www.2020irisconvention.org

Early Bird Registration due January 31, 2020

Guest gardens include,
Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
New York Botanical Gardens
Wave Hill Public Gardens

Additional optional tours include,
Untermeyer Gardens
The High Line NYC

Keynote Speaker

Kirk Ryan Brown is President of the Garden Writers Association Foundation: The Foundation for Garden Communicators, and has served that organization in many other volunteer capacities. He is a horticulturist, world-recognized botanist, keynote speaker, business lecturer and dramatist appearing across the United States and Canada.

International Iris Competition

For the first time in AIS history an International Iris Competition, in honour of the Centennial Celebration, will be held during the convention at Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. A panel of international judges will be charged with reviewing the irises. The results will be viewed by Convention attendees, and the winners will be presented with their respective awards during the Closing Banquet.

ONIS Matters

Your 2019/2020 ONIS Board

The ONIS Board met at President Terry Laurin's home in Aurora for the annual meeting on October 27th. Minutes from this meeting and others are available on the ONIS website. Your Board for the upcoming year is as follows,

Terry Laurin, President
 Jinny Missons, VP
 Lyn Hickey, Treasurer
 Kate Brewitt, Secretary/Membership

Questions? Comments? Email the ONIS Board at just1moreiris@gmail.com.



Youth Matters

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



Iris for Sale at 2020 Events

Look for the Ontario Iris Society on Pinterest to see pictures of some of the different potted irises being offered at our 2020 events.

Join the American Iris Society



Annual Single: \$30 US / Dual: \$35 US
 Triennial Single: \$70 US / Dual: \$85 US
 (Includes a quarterly bulletin)

A one (1) year electronic membership, or e-membership, is also available for \$15 US.

Go to the American Iris Society website (www.irises.org) for details and a list of additional membership types.

ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY (ONIS) INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

OCTOBER 1, 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

ASSETS

Bank Balance 01Oct2017	\$ 4,099.67
Petty Cash 01Oct2017	\$ 116.95
TD Canada Trust GIC	\$ 5,335.01
TOTAL ASSETS	\$9,551.63

INCOME

Memberships	\$ 285.00
Plant Sales	\$ 1,591.30
Seed Sales	\$ 33.00
Draw Tickets	\$ 57.00
Interest Income	\$ 145.54
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,111.84

EXPENSES

AIS Insurance (\$30 US)	(\$ 40.98)
TBG Horticulture Fee	(\$ 250.00)
100 th Anniversary Contr.	(\$ 687.50)
Region 2 Contribution	(\$ 134.30)*
Rental Fees	(\$ 457.44)
Iris Acquisitions	(\$ 518.55)
Supplies/Postage	(\$ 301.50)
2018 Annual Meeting	(\$ 68.48)
Show Credits	(\$ 63.00)
Banking Fees	(\$ 23.40)
Stipend Reimbursements	(\$ 821.34)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(\$3,366.49)

Annual Profit/Loss **(\$1,254.65)**

Bank Balance 30Sept2019	\$ 2,851.84
Outstanding cheque	\$ (81.36)
Petty Cash 30Sept2019	\$ 45.95
TD Cda Trust GIC (mat. 2Nov2020)	\$ 1,118.84
TD Cda Trust GIC (mat. 1Feb2020)	\$ 4,361.71
Total Assets 30Sept2019	\$ 8,296.98

* includes contributions for 2018 (\$66.65) and 2019 (\$67.65)

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: 'Ginger Twist' (Schafer/Sacks, 2009) taken at Aurora Borealis Iris Garden, Aurora, ON. Photo: K. Brewitt, Editor.