

# The Iris Standard

## Newsletter of the Ontario Iris Society

An affiliate of the  
American Iris Society

Volume 13 Issue 2 – Spring 2018

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Time to renew your  
Sheridan Nurseries discount card.

See ONIS Matters for details.

If you don't have one, now is the time to  
sign up for the 2018 season!

**Sheridan website link:**

**<http://www.sheridannurseries.com/>**

### 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/>

### Editor's Message

It was early March when I posted pictures of our first *reticulatas* in bloom on Facebook. They grow at the base of a south facing wall of our house which has been void of snow for many weeks. Just the same, in my mind, it was way too early. And, given the other reports of early bloom I suspect we will have an early Spring. It should be interesting...like every year!



*Iris reticulata* 'Sea Breeze'

ONIS had a busy pre-season. Our first event in February was 'Get the Jump on Spring' at the TBG. We look forward to this event as it signals the beginning of gardening season. Pictures from this event can be found on page 6. We also joined in the fun at two Seedy Saturdays in March, one in Scarborough and one in Innisfil. Both were well attended by eager plant lovers. Watch future editions of *The Iris Standard* for pictures from these events.

As long time members know, our annual flower show occurs each June. This year it is Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. In an effort to encourage others to enter the exhibition (the show is open to anyone who wishes to exhibit irises from their garden) we have devoted this edition of *The Iris Standard* to exhibiting irises. In Terry's *President's Pointers* he outlines some helpful hints when selecting your bloom stalk from the garden as well as some hints on how to exhibit your bloom stalks once you are at the show. Of course our show schedule is also included in this edition.

Hope to see you at this year's flower show, even if it's only to enjoy the beautiful blooms!

Kate

## President's Pointers

### What does a Judge Look For?

by Terry Laurin, Show Committee Chair

You have been entering bloom stalks in the ONIS show for years however the R.D. Little Queen of the Show trophy has been elusive. You have decided that this is THE year you will win! Here are some pointers to help you achieve your goal.

#### It starts in the garden.

Cultural Perfection, or how well the specimen is grown, is the most important part of judging. Does it meet the perfection for that particular variety? For this reason it is important to have as fresh a specimen as possible.

Look for a flower where...

- the colour is clear with no discolourations.
- the size is in proportion to the bloom stalk.
- the petals show no signs of fading, streaking, curling or transparency (crepiness). These are all signs a flower is past its prime.
- the standards and falls hold themselves firmly with no tears, folds or pleating.
- it is almost or fully open. Partially open flowers can be judged but will be penalized as the bloom cannot be thoroughly examined.

Look for a stalk where...

- the bloom sequence is typical of the variety. Most varieties open one blossom at a time. Multiple blooms are acceptable if this is typical of the variety.
- the branch balance and bud placement are typical of the variety being evaluated. Toed-in buds, i.e. buds growing inwards towards the stalk, will be penalized.
- the leaves are free from spots, holes or tears. Pleating in leaves is not normal so avoid these stalks, unless the leaf can be removed.

Specimens are judged as they appear at the moment of judging so careful transportation is important to maintaining the integrity of your 'winning' bloom stalk.



*A well-balanced stalk of 'Montmartre'. Looks good at a distance however a closer look reveals a flaw – see below.*



*Discolouration on the fall will cause this potential R.D. Little Trophy winner to lose points.*

### Before the Judging begins.

Grooming is the next most important part of showing your irises as bloom stalks are judged on the whole stalk not just the flower.

- a. Select a show container proportionate for your bloom stalk. The tubes and the bases, which are supplied by ONIS, come in different sizes. The Show Schedule stipulates that for tall bearded irises the first branch of the stalk should be less than 25 cm or 10" from the top of the container. Position the bloom stalk so it is as straight as possible. Stalks falling forward, backward or sideways loose points. Place wedging material (supplied by ONIS) into the top of the container to keep the bloom stalk standing straight.
- b. Spent blooms should be removed. Try not to tear the spathe (the papery material at the base of the flower).



*The spathe on an iris – 'Hot News' (MTB)*

- c. Discoloured foliage can be removed entirely or neatly trimmed by following the natural contour of the leaf.
- d. Fingerprints should be removed from the bloom stalk using a moist cotton ball or paper towel.
- e. Bugs and/or cobwebs should be removed. They may look good in photographs but they are not welcome on the show bench. Dirt, dust and other residues should also be removed.

- f. Improper modifications such as taping of petals or leaves result in disqualification.
- g. Make sure your iris has been placed in the correct class as outlined by the show schedule. Is that SDB really a SDB or is it an IB that did not grow well? Check with the Show Chair if you are unsure.
- h. Make sure your iris is correctly named. Judges use the American Iris Society (AIS) Iris checklist to verify names of irises. If the name has not been registered with the AIS then it will be disqualified. Again, check with the Show Chair if you are unsure.

Once your exhibit is in place, stand back and admire your efforts. Then go to lunch and wait for the results.

Good luck!



*Example of a 'toed-in' bud or a bud growing towards the flower stalk.*

For those of you who do not know the story of R.D. Little, check out the Annual Flower Show page on the ONIS website. In the sub-pages you will find articles on the history of all the ONIS show trophies.

### It's Show Time, Folks!

This show is not just for ONIS members. It is open to ANYONE who grows irises and wishes to exhibit bloom stalks from their garden.

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

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



**Sunday, June 3, 2018**

**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](mailto:tlaurin@rogers.com)

*Photo: 'Quantum Leap' TB (Sutton, 2004)  
2017 R.D. Little Trophy Winner  
Photo 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.

**Ethel Anson S. Peckham Award** (AIS Region. 2 Award) – Best Historic Iris

#### **Best Specimen of Show Certificate - Youth**

**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 may 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 1988 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 2017 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

## Pictures from “Jump”

by Kate Brewitt

This year the TBG combined ‘Get the Jump on Spring’ and ‘Seedy Saturday’. The result was wall to wall people looking for plants, seeds and comradery. Thanks to all the ONIS members who stopped by to say ‘hello’!



*Nothing says spring like pussy willows and irises!*



*Lots of flowers in bloom to admire.*



*Making notes at the ONIS Table*



*Irises were popular in Flower Displays*



*Outside the TBG it was still winter!*



## In the Months Ahead

### **Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society Super Plant Sale**

**May 6 – 11 am to 3 pm**

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

Free Admission

An annual fundraiser for ORGHPS featuring plants of all kinds grown by their members. There is also a used book sale. ONIS will host a table offering potted irises, seeds and information. For details visit their website at [www.onrockgarden.com](http://www.onrockgarden.com).

### **President's Open Garden**

**May and June – by appointment**

Aurora Borealis Iris Garden

With over 600 cultivars the ONIS president's garden has continuous iris bloom from May to mid-July. Bloom times are as follows;

MDBs – early to late May

Medians (SDB, IB & BB) – mid-May to early June

TBs, Siberians & Spurias – early June to early July

Please email Terry to make arrangements  
[tlaurin@rogers.com](mailto:tlaurin@rogers.com).

### **ONIS Annual Iris Show**

**June 3 – 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 Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale in August.

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.



## 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*.

**August 12** – ONIS Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale at the TBG.

## Upcoming Conventions

### Fleur-de-Gras



Greater New Orleans Iris Society

**American Iris Society  
National Convention  
and the Society for  
Louisiana Irises Convention  
Hosted by Greater New**

**Orleans Iris Society**

**AIS Convention: April 8 - 13, 2018**

**SLI Convention: April 12 – 14, 2018**

Convention hotel is the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062

Details will be available on the convention website:  
[www.2018irisconvention.org](http://www.2018irisconvention.org)

### Silver Siberian Species

**Siberian/Species Convention**

**Society for Siberian Iris (SSI)**

**Upperco, Maryland**

**May 25 – 26, 2018**

**Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley,  
245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21031.**

This convention is being hosted by the Francis Scott Key Iris Society. Visit six host gardens to view the latest in Siberian iris hybridizing efforts.

Details are posted on the SSI website;  
[www.socsib.org](http://www.socsib.org), on the 'Conventions' page.

## Garden Shows in Ontario

**Peterborough Garden Show**

**Evinrude Centre,**

**911 Monaghan Road,**

**Peterborough.**

**April 13 - 15, 2018**

<http://peterboroughgardenshow.com>



## ONIS Matters

### 2018 Member Benefit!

**SHERIDAN NURSERIES** is offering a 10% discount to ONIS members!

**To take advantage of this program for 2018, you must be an ONIS member in good standing as of April 1, 2018.**



To apply for this discount send your name, address and telephone number to Terry Laurin at [tlaurin@rogers.com](mailto:tlaurin@rogers.com). Indicate "Sheridan Offer" in the subject line and if you are renewing a previous card, please include the card number. **Deadline is April 14, 2018.**

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.

## Welcome New and Renewing ONIS Members!

- A. Leggatt – Toronto, ON
- J. Major – Toronto, ON
- R. Purwins – Toronto, ON



**The Ontario Iris Society has a Facebook page.**

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

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



*We are also on Pinterest!*

## Youth Matters



Hope to see you at this year's flower show! There is a special section for Youth (persons under 19 years of age). See the Show Schedule starting on page 4 for details.

For information about the ONIS Youth group email Jinny Missons at [jojimiss@sympatico.ca](mailto:jojimiss@sympatico.ca)

## Join the American Iris Society



Annual Single: \$30 US / Dual: \$40 US  
Triennial Single: \$70 US / Dual: \$85 US  
Both include the quarterly bulletin, *Iris*.

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

Click here to go to the American Iris Society website and a list of additional membership types.

## Visit the AIS TWIKI

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

Learn about hybridizers, view articles, books and catalogues in *The AIS Hager/DuBois Memorial Library*, watch videos from *The Iris Video Library* and much, much more!

*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.

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