

ID Chair Committee Annual Report 2017

I believe I was present at all but one of our teleconferences.

Putting on my National Collections hat for a moment I joined forces with Doug Paschall and GG this past June & July to rescue a collection of MDB & MTB at Winterberry Gardens. Cultivars from that venture were distributed mainly to 4 National Collections but also to GG. Thanks to Nancy McDonald and Judy Schneider for hosting MTB cultivars. Judy may well have the largest collection of MTB (modern and historic) anywhere. The largest known collection of MDB is now here on Orcas Island and Will Plotner is curating a growing collection of mostly modern MDB. Doug and I also visited the James Madison Estate at Montpelier and consulted on period iris (and other genera) for two period gardens being planned there. I shipped 30-40 varieties from my collection to Montpelier.

I contributed a couple hundred rhizomes to the HIPS Sale and filled a request from GG.

I gave a talk on the history of Iris Preservation to King County Iris Society (Seattle in April) and opened my garden for an annual Iris Social in May.

The ID committee received a number of requests for ID, almost entirely TB and one beardless species (foetidissima). As one would expect, ID is intermittent and until DNA testing is readily available and affordable, identification will likely be no more certain than "appears to be so and so".

I am preparing a new format with introduction and criteria for ID requests and considering how to most easily activate ID committee to respond to ID requests. Hope to finish this by the end of March, 2018.

I have established correspondence with Alan McMurtie of Canada re: the acquisition, promotion and preservation of his reticulata introductions. (Trying to get Dwarf Iris Society to feature his work). Continue to encourage Iris Societies to add preservation to their mission statements.

I have become the recipient of a collection (from Maine) of Siberian varieties that was intended to form the foundation of a National Collection of Siberians. I have begun a survey of the Siberian class and will soon begin one for SDB. Will continue with MTB & MDB surveys. Next fall Arils and AB survey. These surveys and the collections that are assembled using survey data will create collections where, aside from the goal of preservation, we will have opportunity to vet and photo document iris cultivars to assist with future ID.

I also assembled representative samples of plant markers from numerous commercial sources and wrote an article reviewing their merits, to be published in two parts in ROOTS, Spring and Fall issues. Wrote an article about the rescue at Winterberry.

I plan to approach HIPS for the acquisition of scuba gear to facilitate safe swimming in this sea of iris.

Charlie Carver