

2018 Iris Show

*(From the Maine Iris Society Newsletter, July-August 2018,
edited by Harriet Robinson)*

Our June show was a resounding success! In spite of a fewer number of irises blooming in members' gardens due to the odd spring weather, the iris we exhibited were admired by a greater participation from the public. A good turnout by our member volunteers made this show fun for all.

This year's Best in Show (Queen) was "Crimson Fireworks", hybridized by, and exhibited by, Jeff Dunlop. It received the John White Award as the Best Siberian. This iris was also the Queen at our June show in 2016. It's a great addition to any Maine Iris Society member's garden (and many of us do grow it).



Hilde Ginchereau and Marta Robinson admiring iris at our show

The runner's up were: 1st runner up "**Are You Free**", a Tall Bearded exhibited by Ted White (also best in the tall bearded iris division); 2nd Siberian "**Edge of Tomorrow**" exhibited and hybridized by Jeff Dunlop; 3rd "**Fairy Fingers**", a diminutive iris (see its story below) exhibited by Jeff Dunlop; 4th Standard Dwarf Bearded "**Ruby Eruption**" exhibited by Peter Young; 5th Siberian "**Careless Sally**" exhibited by Harriet Robinson, and 6th TB "**Swivel Hips**" exhibited by Ted White.

The silver medal for the most blue ribbons was won by Harriet Robinson in a tie breaker with Jeff Dunlop (who wins the bronze medal). The tie was broken by the number of second place ribbons Harriet won.

The best seedling winning the Currier McEwen Award was entered by Dean Cole. It was entered as DC-T6-12-207-7 but we can expect that Dean will give this Siberian a name and introduce it to the public.

The best design of the show was won by Peter Young for his interpretation of "Black Holes." He will receive the Alice Yates Award.

The four People's Choice categories were very popular with all present who voted for their favorites. The favorite blossom "**Express Yourself**" was entered

by Peter Young. Second was Lee Harvey's "**Discovered Treasure**". The favorite iris stalk (with flowers) was Peter Young's "**Living Legend**". Second was Katherine Lothrop's "**Currier's Dream**". The favorite peony was Peter Young's "**Joker**" followed by Sue Labonville's "**Glowing Candles**". Due to recording difficulties, we do not have the name of the favorite hosta leaves.

Although we give awards at our shows, the real reward is the fellowship with other iris-lovers. Pauline's selection of doorprizes won by all members in attendance just before clean-up was an added bonus.

Peter Young and Sue Labonville co-chaired this wonderful show. Pauline Grenier spearheaded the very successful sale that accompanied the show.