

2005 AIS Convention Iris Awards

by Riley Probst, Convention Chairman

The 2005 AIS Convention was held in the St. Louis, Missouri, metropolitan area. There were a total of eleven gardens containing guest irises. There were 280 votes cast for the Cook Cup (best out of region), and there were 274 votes cast for the President's Cup (best in region). Also, a total of 4,140 votes were cast for the favorite guest irises seen in the convention gardens.

The winner of the Cook Cup was QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Fred Kerr, 2002 TB), with 26 votes. First runner-up was also by Fred Kerr: QUEEN'S CONSORT (2004 TB) with 23 votes. In third place was a Siberian by Schafer/Sacks, ON HER TOES (2004), receiving 16 votes. In fourth place was an MTB by Chuck Bunnell, DIVIDING LINE (2005), receiving 15 votes. In addition to Kerr, Rick Tasco (3) and Keith Keppel (3) also landed more than two irises in the top fifteen. Tasco's were #5 ROYAL STORM (2001 TB), #9 CELESTIAL EXPLOSION (2004 TB) and #12 FIRST WAVE (2003 TB). Keppel's were #5 TOUR DE FRANCE (2004 TB), #7 DRAMA QUEEN (2003 TB) and #9 IN LOVE AGAIN (2004 TB).

The winner of the President's Cup was HEARTSTRING STRUMMER, a 2001 TB introduction of Ben Johnson of Springfield, MO, receiving 63 votes. First runner-up was HAZELNUT DELIGHT a Dave Niswonger 2002 TB receiving 23 votes. In third place was an MTB by Riley Probst, PRETTY JAZZY (2004), receiving 20 votes. Fourth place was a tie between two of Dave Niswonger's TBs: HALO IN NUTMEG (2005) and KIWI CHEESECAKE (1998), each receiving 16 votes. Three hybridizers' irises accounted for eleven of the top fifteen vote-getters. Niswonger also had #11 AMBROSIA FOOL (2000 TB) and #14 SNOW AND WIND (2002 TB). Jim Hedgecock had three irises in the top fifteen: #6 ELIMINATOR (2004 TB), #9 COWBOY IN BLACK (2005 TB) and #13 HOPI TRAILS (2004 TB). Riley Probst also had two additional MTBs in the top fifteen: #8 PLUM QUIRKY 2005 and #12 SOMEWHAT QUIRKY 2001. Calvin Helsley had two Siberians in the top fifteen: #6 WHERE EAGLES DARE (1995) and #9 NAVY TRIM (2002). Steve Stevens'

TB DIVINELY KISSED was in 14th place.

QUEEN'S CIRCLE, the Cook Cup Winner, also topped the favorite iris voting with 75 votes. Closely behind in second place was DRAMA QUEEN (Keppel) with 74 votes, followed by QUEEN'S CONSORT (Kerr) with 73. In 4th was Paul Black's DOLCE (2003), a Species-X intro. In 5th place was the President's Cup winner HEARTSTRING STRUMMER (Ben Johnson). In 6th place was Dave Niswonger's HAZELNUT DELIGHT, followed by the top median vote-getter, Marky Smith's IB DELIRIUM (2001). In all, 50 different hybridizers were represented in the top one hundred vote-getters; Rick Tasco led the pack with eight introductions in the top 100, followed closely by Keith Keppel with seven. Eighteen of the top 100 were hybridized by Region 18 hybridizers. ♪



MOBOT Gardens at St. Louis 2005 Convention