



Iris Gleanings

Join us!

GOIS meets on the second Monday of the month. (March, April, May, June, September, October, & November)

At
**Douglas-Sarpy County
Extension Office**

8015 West Center Road
Omaha, NE

**Doors Open at 6:30 PM
Program begins at 7:00 PM**

Executive Board

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From the President

Whew, do you feel like the summer has blown by in a whirlwind? With the wealth of activities from sales and auctions to educational sessions its been all iris all summer.

I want to thank all the members who contributed to the success of our summer activities. It takes many hands to successfully pull off the many activities that we enjoy as a society. We've had members digging, cleaning, and prepping iris for sales, manning sales tables, creating auction presentations and doing promotional pieces all

to fund our annual sale. A special thank you to our friends at the Lincoln Iris Society who helped dig at the Sass garden and then generously donated iris from their own display garden to our sale as well.

If you did not get a chance to attend the Regional Conference in August you missed an excellent meeting. The presentations by Judy Keissling and Bob Hollingworth were thoroughly enjoyable and informative. It is always a pleasure to welcome other irisarians to our city and



share our love of all things iris but it is a big bonus when you get to rub elbows with the "big" names only to find that they are genuine, warm, interesting gardeners just like you.

Linda

Extend your season with Spurias

Did you indulge your passion for iris by stocking up on exotic rhizomes during our summer sales? Maybe you even branched out and bought a dwarf or median iris to extend your season. Now is your

chance to really extend your season with some of the finest of the beardless varieties for our region, *Iris spuria*. Tall and stately these beautiful iris resemble the bulbous dutch iris in flower form but are

hardy, carefree, and long-lived in our area. Jim Hedgecock of Comanche acres, will present the September program on these remarkable iris. (this session will also be eligible for 1 hour of judges training.)

In Memoriam



On Friday, August 2, 2013 GOIS member, Jim Ennenga passed on to his final rest.

A long-time member of GOIS and the American Iris Society, Jim served many roles over the years. He was both a president for GOIS and an RVP for the Region. He served on countless committees including the 1990 AIS National Convention in Omaha.

As an emeritus judge for the American Iris Society, Jim was incredibly knowledgeable about iris of all varieties including arils and

arilbreds which he grew very well.

He was also a “pollen dauber” introducing both bearded and beardless varieties. His “Oxmoor Hills” is a particularly handsome and faithful rebloomer for our area.

Many of our long-term members will recall both Jim and his wife Ruth as their first contact with GOIS. A couple of such gracious hospitality as to be legend. Jim and Ruth were always welcoming a new member into the wonderful world of iris and many of us still grow iris or

other plants that were given to us by Jim or Ruth. A visit to Ennengas wasn’t complete without a glass of Jim’s homemade wine, a stroll through the seedling beds to check out the newest possibilities, a quick look at what new apple parers or fountain pens Jim had collected, and a new little “slip” that Ruth happened to just have handy for the right person to come along.

Jim is survived by his wife of 65 years Ruth, four daughters and their families, and the iris he introduced to the world.

‘That’s All Folks’

The 2013 winner of the Dykes Medal Hybridized by William Maryott, introduced by Joe Ghio.

Got Questions? We’ve got answers!

If you’re anything like me you are now looking at an abundance of iris and wondering where to plant all those coveted new varieties. Sometimes this is when talking to an experienced member can come in handy.

We have a wonderful resource in the AIS wiki that will allow you to look up

nearly any iris you may have purchased but what happens if you’re not sure what all that specialized lingo means? Does it rebloom or not, and when? Does it need some pampering? Does it grow taller or shorter than advertised? Is that pink pictured really pink or is it more salmon?

We were all there at one time or another and that’s why we belong to groups that can help us over those rough patches. If you purchased a variety and are unsure of how it grows or when it blooms ask a member, chances are one of us has grown it and can fill you in on how it performs in our area.

Upcoming events

- September 9; Regular GOIS meeting. Program on Iris Spuria will be presented by Jim Hedgecock of Comanche Acres. (program will count for 1 hour of Judges training credit.)
- October 14; Regular GOIS meeting. Program on TB and Reblooming iris from the American Iris Society. Treat Host Di Semper.
- October 19; Workday for the Sass Memorial Iris Gardens at Mahoney State Park. Prepare the gardens for winter. Gather at the gardens at 8:30 AM. This is an all members activity as we trim fans, remove debris and do a final weed of the garden before the end of the growing season. Please bring leaf bags, garden gloves, scissors or shears to trim foliage, your favorite weeder, and a rake.
- November 11; Thanksgiving Potluck 6:00 PM at the Extension office. The club will provide the main dish and beverages, please bring a dish to share. This will be the final meeting for the year so come for some early holiday cheer, to close out our growing year and make plans for our next season.



September Meeting
Treat Hosts

Janet & Richard Ott

Sales and Auction News

Thank you to all the members who contributed to our sales events this year. As you know the proceeds of these events fund our programs, activities, and the upkeep of our display garden. Membership dues cannot cover all our expenses so we are heavily dependant on these events to subsidize our activities.

This year our members contributed rhizomes in record numbers, with over 300 varieties donated for the table sales. This year 50 new introductions were available for our auction through the generosity of our commercial growers, Keith Keppel, Superstition Gardens, Sisters Iris Farm, and Comanche Acres who all sold their newest varieties for less than catalog to aid our fundraising efforts.

The net proceeds from our sale/auction this year were just over \$2,190. Our members can be proud of their efforts and thankful that we will be able to continue our work to preserve the historic cultivars at our display garden and promote the love of iris to a new generation of gardeners.

Greater Omaha Iris Society

Greater Omaha Iris Society
15115 Grant Circle
Omaha, NE 68116

We're on the web:

www.greateromahairissociety.org

Stay Current and informed

GOIS Dues

- Single AIS Member \$3.00
- Single non-AIS Member \$10.00
- Family AIS Member \$5.00
- Family non-AIS Member \$15.00



Dues for 2013 are past due. Pay Janet Ott at a meeting or mail payment to Janet at:

PO Box 234
Ashland, NE 68003

And remember guests are always welcome at GOIS events. Bring a Friend!

American Iris Society Dues

- Single Annual \$25.00
- Dual Annual \$30.00
- Triennial Single \$60.00
- Triennial Dual \$75.00
- Single e-Member \$15.00

Visit www.irises.org to learn more about the AIS and its affiliates.