



# 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*

Linda Wilkie, President  
402-493-3808  
lrwilkie@gmail.com

Phyllis Randall, Vice President  
712-520-7754  
pkrandall22871@gmail.com

Amy Green, Secretary  
402-990-9933  
irislover1964@yahoo.com

Janet Ott, Treasurer  
402-334-5700  
jao55@ais-ne.com

Gary White,  
Co-Curator of Collections  
in2iris@yahoo.com

## *From the President*

Like the weather our Spring has had its ups and down this year.

We kicked off our first meeting in March with a potluck meal and chance to catch up with friends old and new. The proposed amendments to the constitution and by-laws were read and questions answered. Voting to accept or reject the changes will take place during our April meeting.

Our first garden work day was very well attended. The display beds were cleaned and pre-emergent

herbicide was put down in just over an hour and a half. Truly many hands make for light work. The next work day will be April 13th, light weeding and a marker check will be the task for the day.

Sadly, long-time member and dear friend Susan Anderson has passed away since our last meeting. Ever pragmatic, Susan had predicted her last day and obligingly met her self-imposed "due-date" just as she'd honored so many other deadlines as our show chair and newsletter



editor. It did lift my spirits to see the bright yellow crocuses and beautiful *Iris reticulatas* blooming the day she died. A tribute to an artist who captured them on film, canvas, and garden for many years.

*Linda*

## *Show Time!*

GOIS's annual Iris Exhibition will be held Saturday, May 11th at the Douglas-Sarpy County Extension Office.

The theme this year will be "In My Mother's Garden" with design classes writ-

ten as a tribute to mothers everywhere.

Show schedules will be available at the April meeting and the design classes have been included in this newsletter (page 3).

Entries will be accepted between 8:00—9:45 AM the day of the show & open to the public from 12:30—4:00 PM. Judges training will also be offered.

Tell a friend!

### *In Memoriam*



On Thursday, March 14, 2013 GOIS member, Susan Anderson passed on to her final rest.

A long-time member of GOIS, Susan served many roles over the years. As a past president, she always maintained that the best way to enjoy what an organization had to offer was to stay involved.

She served as president, secretary, show chair, newsletter editor, and perhaps most importantly as

Curator of Collections for our display gardens.

Susan had a flair for the artistic and wrote the beautiful descriptions for the floral design section for our shows for over a decade.

She instigated the photography contest that so many of our members have enjoyed. First suggested as a way to bring color, beauty, and art to a time when dividing rhizomes and preparing for

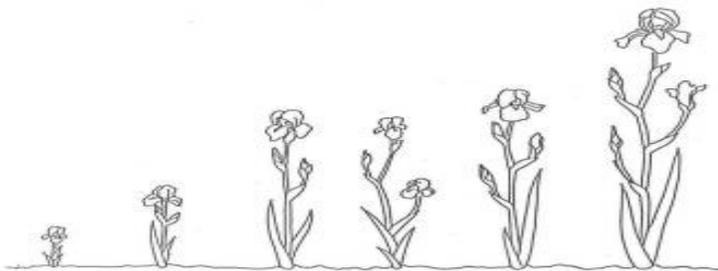
our sale was hot, tiring work with little respite, the photo contest was an instant hit.

Susan also had a gift for connecting with people far and wide. Her appreciation of history and inquisitive nature was treasured by members of the Historic Iris Preservation Society. Members often sent her rhizomes to "ID" in her own garden.

She will be sorely missed.

**NICKEL**

The 2012 winner of the Hans and Jacob Sass Medal for Intermediate Iris.



### *In the Middle—Medians*

Our program this April will be on Median iris. A class particularly well suited to our windy prairie gardens.

Median iris are 1) bearded iris and 2) all classes between 8" and 27.5" tall (SDBs, IBs, BBs, and MTBs).

Medians bloom in the season between the beardless bulbous iris and the flamboyant Tall bearded clas-

ses of iris.

The Sass Medal was created by the American Iris Society to honor the pioneering work done by Hans and Jacob Sass in breeding intermediate iris (IB). Crossing dwarf irises with tall bearded irises, they were the first American breeders to develop many new colors and

forms in the IB class. You can see examples of their IB hybrids and the modern Sass Medal winners at our Sass Memorial display garden at Mahoney State Park.

If you don't already grow medians come and learn a bit more about these great garden plants. It'll make a convert out of you.

## Upcoming events

- April 8; Program on Median Iris. Meeting to approve amendments to constitution and by-laws
- April 13; Workday for the Sass Memorial Gardens at Mahoney State Park. Gather at the gardens at 9:30 AM
- May 11; Show to be held at Douglas-Sarpy County Extension Office. 1 1/2 hours of Judges training will be offered during the show.
- May 13; Garden Tours , Gent and Immanuel Iris Gardens
- May 17-19; Spring into Spring annual Sales and Exhibition event at Lauritzen Gardens
- May 17-18; Region 21 Spring Iris Tour hosted by Sioux Land Iris Society
- May 25; Lincoln Iris Society Show
- May 25; GOIS in the Garden. Members to host an Open Garden event for the public
- June 10; GOIS Picnic. Bring a friend, a dish to share, and relax in the Wilkie garden
- June 15; Workday for the Sass Memorial Gardens at Mahoney State Park. Gather at the gardens at 8:30 AM to remove bloom stalks and deadhead peonies.
- July 20; Dig at Sass Memorial Gardens for annual rhizome sale. Gather at the gardens at 8:00 AM
- July 22; Club rhizome prep at Extension Office. Meet at 6:30 PM
- July 26-27; Annual Rhizome Sale and Auction.



*May Program*  
**Garden Tours**

*May 13th*

## Artistic Schedule for May 11 Iris Show

Design criteria are the same for Adult and Youth, entries will be separated for display, judging and awards.

Class 1. **READ ME A STORY** -Use a storybook themed container. Select bold colored varieties of iris suited to your story. Accessories permitted.

Class 2. **GRANDMA'S GARDEN** - Use older varieties of iris to create a cottage garden arrangement.

Class 3. **I LOVE YOU MOMMY!** -Using a found container as a vase, create an arrangement expressing a child's sweet, pure love.

Class 4. **BREAKFAST IN BED** – Create a small arrangement suitable for a breakfast tray. Your choice of vase and additional materials.

Class 5. **5 MINUTES PEACE** – Create a serene iris arrangement using a low, linear vase and monochromatic colors of iris.

# Greater Omaha Iris Society

*Greater Omaha Iris Society*  
15115 Grant Circle  
Omaha, NE 68116

---

We're on the web:

[www.greateromahairissociety.org](http://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](http://www.irises.org) to learn more about the AIS and its affiliates.

