



Iris Gleanings

From the President

Join us!

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

At

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

925 S 84th Street
Omaha, NE

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

Executive Board

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Co-Curator of Collections
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It is finally here! The merry month of May when iris lovers can wander their gardens in utter enchantment.

Along with all the holidays, graduations, and weddings please take time to enjoy some of the events that the iris world and GOIS have planned for you.

Our exhibition and plant sale will be held in conjunction with Lauritzen Garden's Spring into Spring open house, May 16-18th. There will be plant sales from other garden clubs and of course our own

show. Admission fees to the gardens will be waived for GOIS exhibitors and volunteers so take advantage of this unique opportunity to experience this event.

If you love medians check out the Lincoln Iris Society's show May 10th.

Don't forget our May meeting will be held at Mahoney State Park in the Sass Memorial Garden. A potluck with a program on photographing iris will take the place of our regular meeting.

The highlight of the Spring



season is the Regional Garden Tours hosted this year by the Lincoln Iris Society, May 23-24th.

I encourage you to take advantage of these wonderful events.

Linda

Photography in the Park

May 12th, 6:30 PM

Sass Memorial Display Garden at Mahoney State Park.

Pot luck Supper and Photographing Iris

Bring a dish to share. Drinks and tableware will be provided.

We will have photographers on hand to teach you some tricks to capturing beautiful flower photos. Bring a camera, humble or grand, and your appetite for a fun evening in the garden. (Due to the nature of this event there will not be business meeting.)

[Nebraska Park Permits are required for park entry. Call an officer if you need to arrange for a car pool.]

Back to Basics: Exhibiting Iris



There is no event that causes as much anxiety among iris lovers as the annual iris show.

Showing iris can be a great deal of fun and anyone can enter from the novice to the experienced gardener. Any well-grown specimen can end up being “Queen of the Show”.

Here are some hints to make your show day a winning one.

- Stalks must have at least one bud open to be judged. It’s tempting to show a stalk with 3 open buds but rarely will all be in perfect condition. Opt for perfect over number.
- Cut stalks as close to the rhizome as possible. You want to show the iris as tall or short as it grows naturally.
- Choose stalks and flowers without damage. Torn petals and twisted or bruised stems don’t win prizes.
- Clean stalks and flowers carefully. Remove fingerprints, fluffy cotton or other debris.
- Follow the rules. If a design class says no accessories don’t include them. If entry ends at 9:45 it ends at 9:45.
- Check your cultivar name and class carefully. Use the Iris Wiki to confirm

In Memoriam

This Spring has brought the loss of several of our long-standing members.

It is with great sadness that I share the following.

Irene Boardman, life member, passed to her final rest on January 1, 2014.

Irene was a tireless member of GOIS for many, many years serving in a multitude of roles and as an AIS judge. Irene loved her iris and while she had a fondness for the newer, brighter, fluffier varieties the sight of the historic varieties in the display garden always had her sighing in enchantment. Irene

also named our newsletter the Iris Gleaning as part of a member’s contest. Irene was 93, Irene is survived by her children and grandchildren.

LaVon Hollingsworth, passed to her final rest on December 22, 2013. Best remembered as half of the dynamic duo of Hollingsworth Peony Growers, LaVon was an artful floral arranger and shared many of her tips over the years with our members. LaVon was 89, she is survived by her husband Don and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Joan Stamer, passed to her final rest April 9, 2014.

Long known to the Omaha community as the “Flower Lady”, Joan knew the cultural habitats of an impressive number of flowers and was a prominent fixture at the local farmers markets. One of her favorite iris was ‘Immortality’ for its faithful rebloom and sturdy growth. Joan was 74, she is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Memorials have been sent to either the American Iris Society or the American Peony Society on behalf of these treasured members.

Absolute Treasure, Elizabethan Age, & Ink Patterns

2013 winners of the
Wister Medal for TBs

Upcoming events

- May 2; Garden grooming at the Sass Memorial Gardens at Mahoney State Park. Gather at the gardens at 9:00 AM for some light weeding and to check for bloom.
- May 10; Lincoln Iris Society Show. Contact Gary White for details.
- **May 12;** Photography in the garden. Meet at Mahoney Park, Sass Memorial Display Garden for potluck and tips on photographing your garden. 6:30 PM. Date subject to change due to weather.
- **May 16-18;** Spring into Spring annual Sales and Exhibition event at Lauritzen Gardens. **GOIS Show** to be held at Lauritzen Gardens. Exhibitors can walk their entries in from the parking lot or may pull around to the garages on the east side of the floral display hall. There is no stopping in the circle drive at the gardens. Exhibitors and Show volunteers will be admitted free to the gardens, just let the check-in volunteers know you are with the iris society.
- May 23-25; Region 21 Spring Iris Tour hosted by Lincoln Iris Society
- **May 25;** GOIS in the Garden. Members host an Open Garden event for the public
- June 7; Omaha Council of Garden Clubs Bus Tour. KSU Botanical Center and Flint Hills Discovery Center.
- June 8; Munroe Meyer Garden Walk. Tickets available at local nurseries.
- **June 9;** GOIS Picnic at Joslyn Castle. Bring a friend & a dish to share, 6:00 PM
- **June 14;** 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 19** Dig at Sass Memorial Gardens for annual rhizome sale. Gather at the gardens at 8:00 AM
- **July 22;** Club rhizome prep



May Hospitality
All Members

May 12th

In the May Garden

It's time to :

- Watch iris foliage for "chew" marks on the margins that might indicate borers. Physically remove the larvae before it moves down into the rhizome.
- Remove spent bloom stalks when the blossoms have faded to prevent rot and seedling contamination in your iris beds.
- Check your blooms against the Iris Wiki to be certain your cultivars are correctly identified.
- Pick your best stalks to exhibit in the GOIS show. Let GOIS know if you have any for reserve sale.
- Watch for crowding in your iris beds and note which iris need to be divided. Plan to donate extras to the GOIS sale in July.

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 2014 are past due. Pay John Randall at a meeting or mail payment to John at:

22871 Kane Ave
Glenwood, IA 51534-5212

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.

Visit the iris Wiki at:
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view>

