



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

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

John Randall, Treasurer
712-520-7754
pkrandall22871@gmail.com

Gary White,
Co-Curator of Collections
402-421-6394
in2iris@yahoo.com

Well it is that time of year when all irisarians are wondering why we dig our favorite plants during the hottest time of the year! I know the thought of freeing up space for a new favorite or two (or 15!) is a powerful motivator; it may indeed be the only reason to be digging in the garden on a hot July day.

Like your own garden the display beds at Mahoney need to be divided in order to keep the cultivars healthy and happy and we need all members to pitch in and help with that task. We will be digging cultivars

on Saturday, July 19th and then reconvening on Monday, evening July 21st to prepare them for sale at our annual rhizome sale the following Friday (July 25th).

We will have an ice cream social Monday evening, July 21st while we are prepping the iris. What could be better than sitting out on a summer evening with friends, sharing a dish of ice cream and helping your society at the same time?

If you have paper bags we need all we can get to

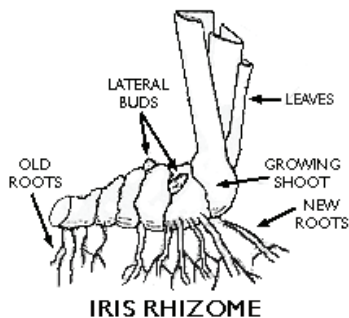


keep the cultivars separated when we dig. Please bring them to the gardens. Details about the upcoming events can be found inside this edition of the Iris Gleanings.

Linda

It's Dig Time!
Meet at the Sass Memorial Garden at Mahoney State Park
Saturday July 19th

Back to Basics



July means dividing iris! To divide your iris, first look at each clump individually. Do you need to lift the whole clump or just remove some from crowding their neighbors?

A good garden fork (spading, digging, or potato forks all fall in this category) is the ideal tool for digging in your iris beds.

Iris rhizomes grow fairly shallow but their roots can go a good 6-10 inches into the soil. You'll want to lift those rhizomes without breaking off their roots.

Once lifted, shake off any remaining soil from the clump. Look for natural breaks between the rhi-

zomes. Separate the clump at those divisions.

A rhizome is a "walking stem" meaning that the growing point is on the leaf end. If you look carefully you'll notice side shoots or lateral buds close to the leaf fan, these are also growing points. Healthy roots are found on the fan end. The older part of a rhizome may have some old roots but they will be dried or hollow. Cut this old part off, it will not grow.

Trim the leaves to about a third of their height with scissors. This stops the plant from toppling over when transplanted. Replant at the same depth.

Like a duck on water, the rhizome should be exposed with the roots buried deep underneath.

Prepare rhizomes for sale or gifting by trimming as above and washing all the soil from the plant. A dip in 10% Clorox will keep any pests from transferring with the plant.

Carefully label your rhizomes as you work. A permanent marker works well for writing on the leaf fan. Some folks even staple a picture to the fan.

Keep in mind that this applies to bearded iris only! Beardless varieties like Siberians and Spurias should be divided in the cool Fall or Spring.

Receive 1 rhizome from our sale for every 10 rhizomes you donate!

Members watch...

Imagine my pleasure when I stumbled across the following announcement on the American Peony Society website:

The Bertrant H Farr Lifetime Achievement Award is hereby awarded to

Don Hollingsworth

The Peony Society went on to say "...Don's Dedicated leadership has been instru-

mental in promoting the peony as a cut flower, a landscape subject and introduction of new peony cultivars to the marketplace. Since 1958, when Don planted his first peony, he has been a student, and more importantly a teacher, for peony culture and propagation. The genus has known no greater champion in the modern

era!"

A long-time member of our society Don and his late wife LaVon have always shared their love of gardening and many of us cherish the Hollingsworth peonies that we've acquired over the years. ...And coveted others, 'Garden Treasure' comes to mind.

Congratulations Don!

Upcoming events

- **July 19, Saturday;** Dig at Sass Memorial Gardens for annual rhizome sale. Gather at the gardens at 8:00 AM . Bring: Paper Bags, Garden Forks or Spades, Gloves, Permanent Markers, bottled water and sunscreen. Rain Date: July 20th, Sunday same time.
- **July 21, Monday 6:30 PM;** Club rhizome prep and Ice Cream Social. Meet at Linda & Bruce Wilkie's [15115 Grant Circle (402-493-3808)] to get the iris ready for sale! Bring: Scissors, Pocket Knife or Rhizome Trimmer, Gloves, Permanent Markers.
- **July 25, Friday 11:00 AM;** Set up for Rhizome Sale. Meet at St. Andrews Church to help set up for the sale. Lunch will be provided.
- **July 25, Friday 2:00—8:00 PM;** Annual Rhizome Sale. Members are needed to answer questions, check out customers, and help take down the sale.

Please consider donating iris from your garden. GOIS offers sales credit for all donations. Rhizomes must be cleaned, trimmed, and named varieties. Contact Linda Wilkie if you have iris you can donate so that sale tags can be prepared.

Remember this is our primary fundraiser for the year and proceeds from the sale fund all of our activities including maintenance of our display garden! Your help is important to our success and very much appreciated.

Earn 1 new rhizome from our table sales for every 10 rhizomes you donate!

No GOIS meeting in August

- August 8-9; AIS Region 21 Fall Educational Conference and Iris Auction, Ames Iowa.
- **September 8;** Program and General Business Meeting
- **October 13;** Program Design Tips for Fall Arrangements and General Business Meeting



July Hospitality
Officers

July 21st

In the July Garden

It's time to :

- Dig iris! Don't risk losing iris to overcrowding, and please consider donating your extras to the GOIS Sale
- Make your shopping list and come get some new iris at the GOIS sale!
- Weed, weed, weed! Poor air circulation can lead to fungal diseases like leaf spot in the hot, humid summer, remove any leaves with leaf spot.
- Start watching for bloomstalks on your rebloomers; some early types like 'Constant Companion' will start in mid-July! Water reblooming varieties to encourage a second or third bloom cycle.
- Leave those leaves! Iris need their leaves to photosynthesize so don't cut them back unless you are transplanting the rhizome.

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 Avenue
Glenwood, IA 51534

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.

