



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

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It seems that we are being treated to one of those winters that just won't loosen it's grip this year.

There are signs of life, if you look hard enough though. There are bulbs poking up, peonies nosing up cautiously, and even growth on the bearded iris. No matter how grim the weather, we can be confident that Spring really is just around the corner.

We have some great events coming up for the Spring blooming season. This month it's all about medians, learn about this

under-utilized group of bearded iris at the April meeting. May it's an outdoor excursion to Mahoney park to learn tips about garden photography. And for those competitors out there it's "Show Time"! We'll share some tips for exhibiting iris at the next two meetings.

Don't forget to check out the new "virtual iris show" being sponsored by the AIS this year. Details can be found at: <http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/VirtuallIrisShow>



And take advantage of all the activities sponsored by other gardening groups. A partial listing can be found on the calendar inside.

Linda

New Meeting Location!



Back to Basics



This is the perfect time to look around your yard and gardens and think “microclimate”. Look for areas with windbreaks and heat sinks, near walls, sheltered by larger plants, etc. Areas that fit these descriptions are perfect for early iris, mark out a few spots where color would be welcome and remember to pick up some bulbous iris and some miniature bearded iris (MDBs) during

the summer planting season for these areas.

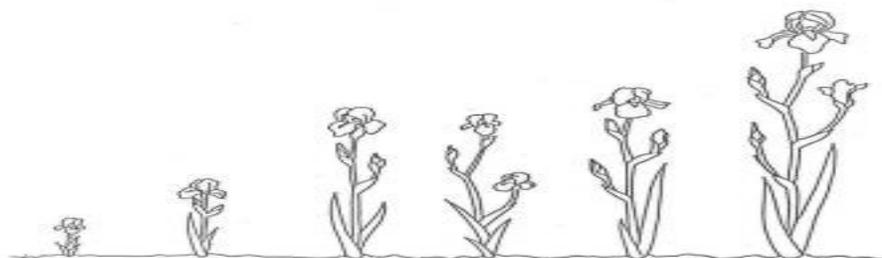
Look for the areas with thawed ground and early growth. These are beds that can be cleaned off before those that are still frozen and asleep with little danger of damaging bearded iris. Pull off any dead, dried leaves and disposed of the debris to get a jump on iris borers and other pests.

Iris in favorable microcli-

mates are already growing and many are up 6 or more inches. Apply an insecticide if borers are a problem in your area.

Watch for the emergence of the other bulbs and time your application of fertilizers when the early tulips bloom. If you use commercial fertilizers look for those lower in nitrogen and higher in potassium and phosphorus. A 10-10-10 works very nicely .

Rimaround
2013 winner of the Hans & Jacob Sass Medal for IBs
(JT Aitken)



In the Middle with medians

Median iris are those bearded iris varieties between 8 & 27 inches tall. They include; Standard Dwarf (SDB), Intermediate (IB), Border (BB), and Miniature (MTB) bearded iris, as well as Arils (AR) and Arilbreds (AB).

Straddling the bloom season between the early MDBs and the Tall Bearded (TBs) these are the work-horses of the iris garden.

Bred for their clump appearance, they come in many of the same colors and patterns as their taller and flashier cousins the tall bearded. Medians perk up the early garden landscape with delicate pastels to strong, saturated, velvety darks and everything in-between.

Medians require the same care as all bearded iris but seem to be less prone to

some of the common problems in our area. Rarely bothered by rot or leaf spot they are a well-behaved plant in the garden.

The BB class in particular provides interest in the landscape. Blooming with the TBs they bring some color lower down in the garden and are a good foil in front of the tallest of TBs.

Upcoming events

- **April 14;** GOIS Program on Median Iris.
- April 15; Omaha Council of Garden Club's Spring Meeting. "Great Plants for the Great Plains" by Bob Henrickson is the program
- April 25-26; Spring Affair. Nebraska Arboretum fundraiser in Lincoln, plant sale and educational seminars.
- **May 12;** Photography in the garden. Meet at Mahoney Park, Sass Memorial Display Garden for potluck and photo tips on photographing your garden. 6:30 PM. Date subject to change due to weather.
- **May 17-19;** Spring into Spring annual Sales and Exhibition event at Lauritzen Gardens. GOIS Show to be held at Lauritzen Gardens.
- May 24-25; 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
- **July 26-27;** Annual Rhizome Sale



April Hospitality
Cramptons
April 14th

In the April Garden

It's time to :

- Watch for signs of rot as the freeze thaw cycles stress exposed rhizomes. Scrape out any rotten tissue and expose the rhizome to sunlight.
- Remove debris, dead or diseased foliage from iris beds to prevent pests like iris borer. Treat plants with systemic insecticide for iris borer when TB foliage is 4-6 inches high if borers have been a problem.
- Put down pre-emergent, if applying, when the forsythia bloom.
- Watch iris foliage for "chew" marks on the margins that might indicate borers. Physically remove the larvae before it moves down into the rhizome.

Interested in an organic alternative? Ask a member for advice!

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 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.

