



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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Have you found yourself happily humming in your garden this past month? I know I have been.

I hope you were able to take advantage of the season and get out and see some gardens. Mahoney has been exquisite as the cooler temps seem to have extended the bloom a bit out at the park.

The Region Tours hosted by our neighboring society in Lincoln were spectacular. While there never seems to be enough bloom for the garden hosts, I can assure them that the gar-

dens were all beautiful and a testament to well grown specimens. I've started my own shopping list for the "must haves" seen on the tours.

A special thank you to all our members who pitched in to make our annual exhibition a success. And for those of you who are a bit intimidated by the thought of showing iris, please be advised that the novices did pretty well this year. The Best of Show winner was our youth member, Sarah Green, and a novice member, Donna Sobczyk,



took home a Best of Section Rosette and travelling trophy as well!

This Monday is our annual picnic, 6:00 PM, held at Joslyn Castle. Bring a dish to share and friend!

Linda

New Meeting Location!



Back to Basics



June is when our beardless varieties come into their own. You should expect to see a splendid show from your Siberian, Spuria, Louisiana, and Japanese varieties as the Tall Bearded varieties wind down.

It is also time to remove the spent bloomstalks from all your iris. We remove these for two reasons. 1) to reduce the risk of rot as the stalk disintegrates and 2) to remove any fertilized seed pods

from your garden.

While it is great fun to grow iris from seeds, we don't want those growing up in the middle of our known varieties.

Modern iris are what we call "hybrids" they are bred by strategically placing pollen from one variety on the reproductive parts of another. This "cross" results in off-spring of many different types and colors. These seedlings are then propagated clonally to maintain their unique

traits. You are actually harvesting "clones" when you divide the rhizomes in a clump. They have grown out from their "mother" and are genetically identical to her. Iris grown from seeds are genetically diverse and are never identical although they may look similar. These seedlings are usually the culprits when a patch of iris reportedly go "all purple or all yellow". So always vigilantly remove those stalks and pods!

And the winners are...

Chivalry

Best Specimen of Show

Exhibited by youth member

Sarah Green

Congratulations and thank you to all those folks who brought iris to the show this year. The public viewers were truly in awe of the varieties shown and thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition.

Congratulations to the following members who took home top honors and trophies to match!

Sarah Green; Best Specimen of the Show with the Tall bearded variety 'Chivalry'. Sarah received the Copper Iris and Best Specimen trophies to display in her home for a

year.

Best Arrangement went to **Linda Wilkie** for her design "Say it with Peonies". Linda took home the debut Wesemann Award for her arrangement.

First runner-up in the horticultural division was **Stan Sass** with "Amitola". Second runner-up was **Linda Wilkie** with "Polish Princess". They received the travelling Peggy Carr Iris Plates.

Best Intermediate Bearded went to **Donna Sobczyk** with "Rare Edition". Donna received the Kavan Tro-

phy to display for a year.

Stan Sass won best historic section and received the debut Schliefert Award for "Amitola".

Linda Wilkie won best Tall Bearded section for "Polish Princess".

Ron Crampton received the Iris Artist Trophy for the most blue ribbons in the design classes.

Linda Wilkie received the Silver Medal and **Stan Sass** the Bronze for the most blue ribbons in the horticulture classes.

Congratulations to all!

Upcoming events

- 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 and 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.
- June 30; Submission deadline for AIS Photo contest. See http://www.irises.org/Photo_and_Galleries/Enter_Photo_Contest.html for rules
- **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;** Annual Rhizome Sale 2-8 PM

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
- **October 18th;** Workday for the Sass Memorial Gardens at Mahoney State Park. Gather at the gardens at 9:00 AM to trim foliage and ready the beds for winter
- **November 10;** Annual Potluck and end of year festivities. Bring a friend and a dish to share.



June Hospitality
All Members

June 9th

In the June Garden

It's time to :

- Remove spent bloomstalks at the base.
- Remove any foliage that becomes damaged or diseased. Watch for leaf spot and remove affected leaves, do not compost.
- Feed with a good 10-10-10 fertilizer after bloom has finished.
- Water reblooming varieties to encourage a second or third bloom cycle.

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 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.

