



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
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Phyllis Randall, Vice President
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Co-Curator of Collections
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For those of you who missed our October meeting all I can say is it was shame; we had a blast! Kevin Smith, a floral design judge and instructor guided members through construction of arrangements. After demonstrating the principles of design while constructing several beautiful arrangements, he turned the members loose!

Each participant received a vase, decorative wire, and buckets upon buckets of fresh flowers to construct their own winning design. Fun was had by all as we

tried our hands at working with new materials. Amy Green has posted some of the pictures on the GOIS facebook page so check it out.

November we draw our gardening year to a close and celebrate with a Thanksgiving themed potluck. Please note that we meet earlier for this special meeting, 6:00 PM in the church social hall (lower level). Bring a friend, family members and a dish to share. GOIS provides the turkey and gravy cooked by our own



VP, Phyllis Randall.

I would like to thank all our members who have worked so hard to keep our garden beautiful and our events running smoothly. It's been a great gardening year.

Linda

Thanksgiving Potluck
Bring a dish to share
Friends and Family welcome!
Monday Nov 10th
6:00 PM

Back to Basics

WINTER TRIMMING



Garden clean-up should be in full swing or completed for the home garden by mid-November. That means removing old foliage from iris and thinning plants that may be overcrowded.

Many members ask about winter protection for their iris. Most iris are adapted to colder climates but newly transplanted rhizomes may benefit from some protection over the winter.

Most winterkill in iris comes from rapid freeze-thaw cycles that damage the rhizome tissue. Some folks refer to this damage as "dry rot" because all that is left of the rhizome

is the papery husk, the tissue inside has disappeared or rotted away. Dry rot differs from the bacterial rots of Spring which tend to be wet, mushy, and have an unpleasant odor.

Preventing dry rot means stopping that rapid thaw and refreeze that happens in January/February. Believe it or not a good blanket of snow will do the trick; in the absence of reliable snow gardeners can add a mulch cover to their beds. There are many kinds of mulch, leaves, compost, and straw all work. (Note: straw is the empty stems of grain crops do not confuse it

with hay which includes the seed heads of the grain crop which will happily sow itself into your garden.) If critters are a problem some local gardeners have even used small stones on their rhizomes which will stabilize the temperature and deter all but the most aggressive of squirrels.

The key to successful use of mulch in the iris garden is its removal in early Spring. As helpful as it might be to stabilize temps in the Winter it can also trap moisture around the rhizomes in the damp Spring which can lead to soft rot.

So use mulch wisely.

Reblooming Iris

8

Blooming at Mahoney

To Serve...

It is time to thank our officers and committee members who have served GOIS for the past two years.

And that means it is also time to welcome new committee chairs and officers.

Our nominating committee has recommended the following slate of officers:

Linda Wilkie, President
Phyllis Randall, Vice-President

John Randall, Treasurer
Mary Schreiber, Secretary

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the November meeting.

There will be opportunities to sign-up to serve on committees and work groups as well.

So if you have wanted to

learn more about growing and showing iris try volunteering for one of the committees where experienced GOIS members serve as a mentors to junior members.

It takes many hands to make all of our activities happen and it is only through the dedication of our members that we are so successful.

Thank you to all who serve

Upcoming events

- **November 10, Monday 6:00 PM;** Thanksgiving potluck and end of year celebration. Bring a dish to share and a friend! Family members including children and grandchildren are welcome. No business meeting but officer elections will be held.



No Meetings until March 2015!

Enjoy those garden catalogs and a warm fire.

The Rebloom Project

Bring a list of varieties that have rebloomed for you this Fall to be included in the Reblooming Iris Society's 2014 census.



*November
Hospitality
All Members*

Nov 10th

In the Fall Garden

It's time to :

- Add bulbous iris for early Spring color until the ground freezes
- Trim and remove excess foliage from rhizomatous iris
- Weed one last time and remove seed heads from promiscuous self-sowers
- Check garden tags and make a map so that you know where your cultivars are in the beds
- Protect rebloomers from frost to encourage bloom into November. It might look funny but tube socks will do the trick

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 2015 can be paid at the October and November meetings. 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.

