



# Iris Gleanings

## 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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## *From the President*

Are you tired of winter yet? I know I am and very much looking forward to thinking about Spring and getting back into the garden.

Now is when I start surveying the garden for the first signs of those delicate little *I reticulatas*, one of the beautiful little bulbous iris.

Anxious though I may be, it is still a bit too early in the season to be out digging in the garden. That's why I love my garden friends so, who else but another gardener is looking out at their yard with visions of

color and the scent of flowers?

If you've got cabin fever be sure to join us for our kick off meeting March 9th where we'll have a program on new iris introductions and more importantly where to get these beauties for your own garden.

It won't be long before we're back out digging, weeding, and totally immersed in all the chores associated with Spring. So take this last little breather to reconnect with your friends and fellow iris lov-



ers at GOIS. The listing of meetings, programs, and events have been posted on the GOIS website and can be found inside your newsletter as well.

*Linda*

## *Society News*

Spring involves more than garden clean-up, it's time to do a little Spring cleaning at GOIS as well. We will be checking membership lists and updating those in preparation for a membership directory. Check your information at the March meeting please.

We are always looking for program ideas so if there is a topic of interest to you please let an officer know at the next meeting.

The website has been updated with meeting dates, programs, and even our iris coupons for use at our annual sale. Check it out at: [www.greateromahairissociety.org](http://www.greateromahairissociety.org)

## Back to Basics



*'Dividing Line'*  
Photo from AIS Iris Wiki

They don't call it Spring cleaning for nothing... Removing debris from the garden prevents the spread of pests and disease and is a critical step in growing that prize winning iris.

Do watch the weather, removing mulch too early can be every bit as bad as not removing it at all. Those early freeze-thaw cycles can wreck havoc in exposed rhizomes. Ideally you want the rhizomes protected from drastic freeze/thaw and protected from excess moisture.

Apply pre-emergent herbicides when the forsythia

bloom, if annual weeds are problem in your garden.

Iris borer controls are applied slightly later, coinciding with the early daffodil blooms. There are a number of products that will work from powerful and effective pesticides to milder organic measures. Read the label and use only as directed.

Fertilizers should be spread about 6 weeks before blooms so early to mid-April (about the time of the tulips bloom) for your Tall bearded iris and a bit earlier for your medians.

Watch your garden for

overgrowth. Poor air circulation kills more iris than almost any other problem.

Spring is also a good time to move beardless iris. So if you have clumps of Siberian iris or other beardless varieties that need dividing you'll want to do that before the weather gets too warm. It's also a great opportunity to share these special iris with someone who may not be familiar with them.

If you have questions bring them to the March meeting. An experienced member will be glad to offer suggestions.



## Medians...

2014 brought something new to the American Iris Society's awards for iris. "Dividing Lines" a Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB) iris was awarded the Dykes Medal, the highest award an iris can receive. This is a first, no other MTB has ever won this award.

A few people in this area grow "Lady Emma", a MTB, but other MTB's are almost never seen in gardens around here. This should change!

This iris class is distinguished by its daintiness and delicacy. They are shorter than tall bearded iris and have proportional-

ly smaller blooms. Their stems are thin and wiry. A clump in bloom looks like a cloud of butterflies.

A bonus, some varieties rebloom in addition to growing vigorously.

*-John Randall*

2014 Dykes Medal  
**'Dividing Line'**

## Upcoming events

- March 9;** Program: "A Walk through the Garden: what and where to get Iris".  
General Business meeting to review events for the year.
- March 14,** Garden workday to clean beds at Mahoney State Park, weather permitting. Check the GOIS website for weather updates.
- March 30th,** Executive Board and Cabinet meeting. Farmhouse Café, 5:30 PM
- April 13,** GOIS Program and General Business Meeting
- April 27th,** Executive Board and Cabinet meeting. Farmhouse Café, 5:30 PM
- May 11th,** "Preparing to Show" a panel presentation on the nuances of preparing specimens for the show bench. General Business meeting.
- May 15th, 16th, & 17th,** "Spring into Spring" at Lauritzen Gardens. GOIS show and special seminar at the gardens.
- May 18th-23rd,** AIS National Convention, Portland Oregon
- June 8th,** GOIS Annual Picnic, no business meeting
- July 18th,** Dig at Mahoney display garden. Rain date, July 19th.
- July 20th,** Iris prep for the sale, no business meeting
- July 24th,** Rhizome sale 11:00 AM—8:00 PM at St. Andrews Church.
- August 31st,** Executive Board and Cabinet meeting. Farmhouse Café, 5:30 PM
- September 14th,** "Clematis for the Garden" by Gary White. General Business meeting.
- September 28th,** Executive Board and Cabinet meeting. Farmhouse Café, 5:30 PM
- October 12th,** "Program from the National Convention in Portland" by Linda Wilkie. General Business meeting.
- November 6-7,** GOIS hosts the AIS Fall Board meeting in Omaha
- November 9th,** Thanksgiving Potluck. End of year review.



*March Hospitality*

**Officers**

*March 9th*

# Greater Omaha Iris Society

*Greater Omaha Iris Society*  
15115 Grant Circle  
Omaha, NE 68116

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We're on the web:

[www.greateromahairissociety.org](http://www.greateromahairissociety.org)

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## *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](http://www.irises.org) to learn more  
about the AIS and its affiliates.