



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

Mary Schreiber, Secretary
402-614-3797
schreiberjames101@gmail.com

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

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

Well it's finally here! May is definitely iris month and we are off to a good start for the iris growing season.

Plan to take advantage of the number of opportunities that we have planned to see iris during the month.

First up is our monthly meeting which will be a visit to the garden of Gary White and his wife Linda Rader. Gary is the upcoming president for the American Iris Society and has an appreciation of iris and

garden design that is awe-inspiring. This is a not to be missed opportunity to see many varieties that you will only have read about.

Our display garden at Mahoney State Park has begun blooming and a visit to the park is highly recommended. The median bed has begun its bloom and the garden should be non-stop color for the next several weeks.

Finally we have the big



Spring into Spring event at Lauritzen Gardens May 15-17. Another opportunity to acquire plants and learn about growing and displaying iris.

Linda

Garden Tour and Plant Swap

The May meeting has been transformed into a garden tour and plant exchange. Plan to join your GOIS friends May 11th for a tour of the White-Rader Garden in Lincoln, Nebraska. Gary and Linda have created an iris lovers slice of heaven in their suburban lot with iris of all classes and perennial plantings galore. We will meet at St. Andrews Church at 6:00 PM on the 11th and form carpools to Lincoln. Carpools will depart St. Andrews at 6:15 PM and caravan to Lincoln. (directions can be found on the Society website for those driving separately). Volunteer drivers are needed.

Bring your plants for the plant exchange as well, your extra seedlings are another gardeners prize! Plants do not have to be iris, bring as many plants as you like, bring two plants, go home with two plants. No money exchanged—just plants.

Back to Basics



Iris reticulata

Stop! And smell the ... iris! Too often we reduce our gardening tasks to a chore but now is the time to stop and enjoy all you've sown.

This year we are seeing an uptick in borer activity, probably due to the early warm-up. If you notice chew marks or slime on your iris fans this can be an indication of borer activity. You can still treat effectively with Imidacloprid containing insecticides. Please

use caution and read all label directions carefully when using any chemical interventions. It is probably too late to treat with beneficial nematodes but you may want to consider that for next year if you have an infestation.

Watch for signs of fungal diseases like leaf spot during damp weather. Good air circulation is the best treatment for those. Remove diseased foliage.

You may notice some odd stalk deformities or extra petals (particularly in the falls) due to early cold weather fluctuations. They aren't great for the show bench but they won't cause permanent harm to the plant.

If you have questions regarding your iris bring them to the next meeting and a member will assist you.

Spring into Spring...

2014 Dykes Medal

'Dividing Line'

If you have never attended Lauritzen Gardens Spring into Spring open house and plant sale are you in for a treat!

Not only does the botanical garden sell their excess plants but many of the local garden clubs have plants for sale as well, including GOIS. If you've ever wanted to expand your hostas or day-lilies this is the affordable way to acquire very nice varieties at a reasonable price.

The members only pre-sale is Friday, May 15th from 4:30—7:00 PM and regular admission Saturday and Sunday from 9AM—5 PM.

GOIS has been an annual

participant, and this event brings in about 1/3 of our annual revenue each year; so it is an important fundraising and PR event for us. We will again be reserve selling iris for pick-up during our July Sale. We do need members to bring cut stalks for display and to commit to donating rhizomes for the pre-sale. Local glass artist Brenda Morsey will be offering her garden themed jewelry and garden art for sale and has generously offered to donate a portion of her proceeds to GOIS.

We will also have displays for arrangements this year, no competition just put together a display that

showcases your favorite flower.

Stalks and arrangements can be brought throughout the weekend but are particularly needed Friday evening.

We will need all the volunteers we can get as we must man our booth for the duration of the event. Contact Linda Wilkie to volunteer. (GOIS volunteers receive free admission to the garden for the day that they volunteer.)

Spring into Spring is a major event for the gardening community and a great way to share our love of iris. Please consider participating this year.

Upcoming events

May 11th, “White—Rader Garden Tour (Lincoln, NE) and Plant Swap. Meet at St. Andrews Church at 6:00 PM, carpools will depart at 6:15 PM for Lincoln. Bring your extra plants for the plant exchange, anything you enjoy growing and have to trade is welcome. General Business meeting.

May 15th, 16th, & 17th, “Spring into Spring” at Lauritzen Gardens. GOIS show and special seminar at the gardens. *GOIS volunteers receive free admission to the gardens during the event.* Need members to bring cut stalks to display and arrangements for the weekend. Design Category “Iris Big and Small”. GOIS will also have garden themed jewelry and art for sale during the event.

May 16th. Kevin Smith will present two seminars on floral design during the Spring into Spring event. Seminars are at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM Saturday only!

May 16th, Lincoln Iris Society Iris Show. Contact Gary White for show schedule.

May 18th-23rd, AIS National Convention, Portland Oregon

June 8th, GOIS Annual Picnic, Hosted by the Otts, 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



May Hospitality

May 11th

In the Garden...

Now is time to:

- Treat for Iris borer if they have been a problem in the past. Read all insecticide labels carefully for application and disposal. Most that are effective for borers are also lethal towards our honeybees and other pollinators so use responsibly.
- Check your bloom against the descriptions that can be found on the American Iris Society wiki. If you find a cultivar that has been mislabeled take a photo or bring a bloomstalk to a meeting for help in identifying it.
- Join the “What’s in Bloom When...” project through AIS Region 21. Report what you have blooming in your garden and help inform others what grows and blooms in our area. You can comment directly at: <http://aisregion21.org/> or send your information to Wayne Messer at: wrmesser2000@yahoo.com

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



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.

And remember guests are always
welcome at GOIS events.
Bring a Friend!