



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

Linda Wilkie, President
402-493-3808
lrwilkie@gmail.com

Phyllis Randall, Vice President
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Mary Schreiber, Secretary
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712-520-7754
pkrandall22871@gmail.com

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

From the President

Someone asked me recently why we always seem to be digging iris on the hottest days of the year. It's a logical question and the reasons are based on need and garden sense. It's always best to move plants when they are dormant and for most of the bearded varieties that means that period in the heat of the summer when they stop their vegetative growth. That's why commercial growers start shipping their cultivars out this

time of year. As for why GOIS follows suit, it's because we know our members might want to take advantage of nearby club sales and we need to make some accommodations for that purpose. If you didn't find that special variety at our sale check the calendar for upcoming sales events in our area.

In addition to digging and donating from your own garden we do need all members to assist with the



sales events this year. Check the calendar for details. Hope to see all of you at the park dig this Saturday.

Linda

Sale Time!

Friday, July 24th

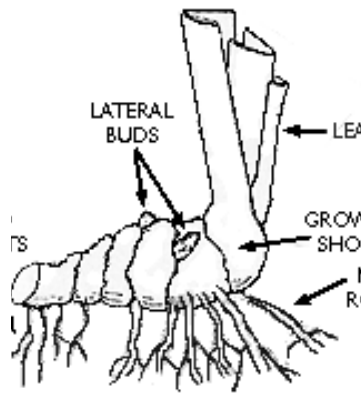
3:00—8:00 PM

St. Andrews Episcopal Church (lower level)

on the corner of 84th and Pacific Streets in Omaha

Members set-up at 10:00 AM. On Friday. Don't forget members receive credit for one free table iris for each 10 rhizomes they donate.

Back to Basics



IRIS RHIZOME

Iris Rhizome

Yes, it's hot and yes it's time to divide your bearded iris.

We get a lot of questions from members about how, when, and what to do when transplanting iris so here is a little primer for you.

Lift the plant using a garden fork (commonly called a potato fork). You can lift the entire clump or just part of it. Shake off as much soil as you can so that you can see how the rhizomes are connected. Separate the rhizomes by breaking them at the natural connection points.

Further separate the rhizomes into those with fans (or leaves) and those without. Rhizomes without

leaves are spent and should be discarded. Sort the remaining rhizomes by size discarding those that are significantly smaller than their partners. They will take many years to build up enough energy to bloom. Look for rhizomes that resemble the picture at left with strong roots, healthy foliage, and lateral buds; these will produce the most growth and flower sooner.

Trim the leaf fan only enough to keep the plant from toppling over when replanted, there should be at least 6-10 inches left on a tall bearded iris fan. Label as you go so that you don't get your cultivars mixed up. (A permanent marker, ink pen, or grease

pencil will all work).

Wash off any remaining soil. A quick dip in a 10% bleach solution will kill fungal spores, bacteria, and other pests.

Replant 1-3 rhizomes back into your garden and package up the remainders for donation to the GOIS sale.

Rhizomes store best in a cool, dry location protected from moisture so no plastic bags please. Paper sacks from the grocery are ideal for storing and transporting your donations.

Be sure to let Linda Wilkie know what you will be bringing so that we can have photos ready at the sale. In the case of iris sales a picture is worth a thousand words.

2015 Clark Cosgrove
Runner Up

Sarah Green

News from AIS...

Congratulations to our youth member, Sarah Green, who was awarded the Clark Cosgrove award at the 2015 AIS convention in Portland. The Clark Cosgrove award recognizes AIS Youth members who are actively promoting the growth and culture of iris.

The Region 21 Fall educational sessions, organizational meetings, and iris

auction will be held August 7-8th in Sioux Falls, SD this year. Details can be found on the Region 21 website. You do not have to be an AIS member to participate.

It's time for AIS members to vote the Tall Bearded Iris Symposium Ballot. All members can select up to 25 of their favorite iris from the ballot. GOIS will

be submitting a ballot as an affiliate during the sale so plan to come and pick your favorites.

Have you heard about the AIS voucher program? Upgrade your membership and receive a voucher certificate worth \$25 from a long list of participating iris vendors. Details can be found on the AIS website.

Upcoming events

July 18th, 8:00 AM, Dig at Mahoney display garden. Bring garden fork, scissors, markers, paper grocery bags. This event supplies the bulk of iris sold at our sale so all members are encouraged to help. There are tasks for those of all capabilities. Rain date, July 19th.

July 20th, 6:30 PM, Iris prep for the sale, no business meeting. Gather at the Wilkie home; 15115 Grant Circle. Bring scissors, markers, and help clean iris for our sale. Call Linda for directions (402-493-3808)

July 24th, Member Set-up from **10:00 AM** –2:00 PM Rhizome sale Public Hours 3:00 AM—8:00 PM at St. Andrews Church.

August 1st, Lincoln Iris Society sale and auction. 10:00 AM doors open and auction starts at 11:00 AM. Questions can be addressed to Dean Douglas of the LIS

August 7-8, AIS Region 21 Fall Educational and Organizational Meetings and Auction. Contact Dorothy Ver Hey for registration and the Region 21 website for details. <http://aisregion21.org>

August 31st, Executive Board and Cabinet meeting. Farmhouse Café, 5:30 PM

September 14th, “Program from the National Convention in Portland” by Linda Wilkie. General Business meeting.

September 28th, Executive Board and Cabinet meeting. Farmhouse Café, 5:30 PM

October 12th, “Clematis for the Garden” by Gary White. General Business meeting.

November 6-7, GOIS hosts the AIS Fall Board meeting in Omaha

November 9th, Thanksgiving Potluck. End of year review.



July Hospitality

Ice Cream Social

Bring a cookie or bar to share

In the Garden...

Now is the time to:

- Dig and divide iris. Remember to donate your extras to GOIS for our main fundraiser of the year! Profits from our sale fund our activities and maintain our display garden throughout the year.
 - Clean, trim and label your iris for sale. Minimally include the hybrid name and type (i.e. TB, SDB, IB, etc.)
 - Package in Paper Grocery sacks for transport to the sale
 - Let Linda Wilkie know what you will be bringing so sale tags can be prepared

Every member who donates iris from their garden will receive a coupon good for one table iris for every 10 rhizomes they donate!

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.

