



Iris Gleanings

Join us!

GOIS meets on the second Monday of the month. (March, April, May, June, September, October, & November)

At
**Douglas-Sarpy County
Extension Office**

8015 West Center Road
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

Amy Green, Secretary
402-990-9933
irislover1964@yahoo.com

Janet Ott, Treasurer
402-334-5700
jao55@ais-ne.com

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

From the President

At the risk of being labeled a cock-eyed optimist, I do believe that Spring has finally arrived! After an uncertain beginning my iris are rolling into high gear with new bloom evident between my morning and evening garden checks each day.

It was somewhat comforting to see that the gardens on the Regional Tour in Sioux City were experiencing the same disconnect with the weather that we have been fretting over here. Midwest gardeners are a hardy and optimistic group and happy to enjoy

whatever survives our climate. If you've not experienced a regional tour, I highly recommend attending one. You'll find like minded gardeners struggling through challenges just like you. The Spring Tour for 2014 will be hosted by our friends in the Lincoln Iris Society.

Our next event will be the annual picnic. This is the perfect time to invite a friend or family member who would like to learn a little more about our iris society. The event begins at 6:00 PM rain or shine, bring a dish to share and



enjoy the gardens . I've given up predicting what iris may still be blooming but rest assured there will be something blooming and the weeds you might find carry no obligation for you to pull! (although I wouldn't mind if you did!)

Linda

Save the Date

GOIS is hosting the Fall Regional Educational Sessions, Business Meeting and Fall Auction this year.

August 9-10th

Bob Hollingworth the noted Siberian iris hybridizer will be presenting the educational & keynote ses-

sions this year. You may know of or already grow some of his hybrids, a few of which are: Heliotrope Bouquet, Over in Gloryland, Coronation Anthem, and Contrast in Styles. If you don't have any Siberian Iris this is the perfect opportunity learn about

growing and showing these varieties. (The education sessions will count for 4 hours of judges training credit.)

The regional auction is also a great place to pick up some of the very newest iris introductions to add to your gardens.

After the Bloom is Gone...



Sunny Day
Iris spuria

In the blink of an eye (or the flash of a 90° day) blooms seem to disappear. Summer happens so what should be done next to keep your iris in top condition for bloom next year or even later this summer for remonant (or reblooming) varieties?

First, take note of how your varieties performed. Did you have varieties that didn't bloom? Did you have gaps in bloom that could be filled by median or beardless varieties? Are tall bearded plants obscuring shorter varieties? Do you have color combinations planted that are not pleasing to you? Take note of these so that when the summer sales roll

around you are prepared to make smart purchases rather than star-struck ones. Make your list of varieties that need to be thinned out and donated to the summer rhizome sale.

Secondly, remove the bloomstalks before seedpods form. While growing iris from seed can be a fun adventure you definitely don't want to do that in the middle of your established clumps. That's how those weird clump "mutations" or "color drift" happen. Either snap the stalk cleanly off at the rhizome or cut it with a knife as close to the rhizome as possible. This will allow a clean callus to

form. Cutting the blossoms off and leaving the stalk causes an open wound which can lead to rot as the stalk decays.

Lastly, weed and fertilize. Come to the June picnic and receive a copy of the famous Ensminger fertilizer formula. Local hybridizer Alan Ensminger created his own iris blend to supplement our local soils. Remember that remonant varieties will also benefit from a little extra irrigation to promote rebloom.

Then it's a back to regular garden maintenance and planning what varieties to add to your "growing" collection.

Florentine Silk

**The 2012 winner of the
Dykes Medal**

**Hybridized by
Keith Keppel
Florentine Silk is Keith's
fifth Dykes medal!**

Curious?—Check out the Iris Wiki

Are you an impulse buyer? Admit it, we all love a bargain and have been known to pick up one or more of those potted iris at a big box store or farmers market. If you have ever wondered if the variety that you are growing is indeed what the label stated a great resource is the American Iris Society Iris Wiki. This on-line resource

is free and available to anyone with internet access. It has been invaluable in helping to identify cultivars in my own garden. You can search by iris type, by name or even hybridizer. Are you a fan of broken color iris? Search for iris hybridized by Brad Kasparek. Looking to create a theme garden? Search for biblical terms like Angel,

Peace, Hope, etc. The beauty of the Wiki is that iris fanciers from across the country have contributed images so that you can rule out color variations due to local soil conditions when evaluating your cultivars.

Access the Wiki at:

<http://wiki.irises.org>

Upcoming events

NOTE TIME and LOCATION CHANGE for JUNE MEETING!

- June 10; GOIS Picnic. Bring a friend, a dish to share, and relax in the Wilkie garden. Meet at 6 PM. Linda Wilkie's Address is: 15115 Grant Circle. Contact Linda for directions (402-493-3808) [please note that the intersection at 144 and Blondo is closed due to construction]
- June 15; 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.
- July 20; Dig at Sass Memorial Gardens for annual rhizome sale. Gather at the gardens at 8:00 AM
- July 22; Club rhizome prep at Extension Office. Meet at 6:30 PM
- July 26-27; Annual Rhizome Sale and Auction.
- August 9-10; Regional Iris Meeting. GOIS will host this regional event. Bob Hollingworth is the keynote speaker. Mr. Hollingworth will be presenting educational sessions on Siberian Iris. The regional auction will be held Saturday evening, August 10th. Registration details will be sent out shortly.
- August Surprise Event; Watch your newsletter for details
- September 9; Regular GOIS meeting. Program on Iris Spuria will be presented by Jim Hedgecock of Commanche Acres. (program will count for 1 hour of Judges training credit.)
- October 14; Regular GOIS meeting. Program on TB and Reblooming iris from the American Iris Society
- October 19; Workday for the Sass Memorial Iris Gardens at Mahoney State Park. Prepare the gardens for winter. Gather at the gardens at 8:30 AM.
- November 11; Thanksgiving Potluck 6:00 PM at the Extension office.



June Program
Picnic
6 PM
June 10th

Sale Time!

Sale time is right around the corner and like Blanche DuBois in "A Streetcar Named Desire" we do depend on the generosity of our members to populate our sale and thereby fund our activities. Please stroll your gardens now while things are in bloom and see which cultivars you need to divide and consider donating rhizomes to our July sale. All named, bearded cultivars are accepted; from mini to tall and historic to space-age all varieties are appreciated. (beardless iris should not be divided in the heat of the summer). If you have varieties that you think you might be able to donate please contact Linda Wilkie so that sales tags can be prepared before the sale. We would also appreciate any old catalogs that you may want to dispose of. Your GOIS thanks you for your generosity!

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 2013 are past due. Pay Janet Ott at a meeting or mail payment to Janet at:

PO Box 234
Ashland, NE 68003

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.

