



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**

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From the President

The upside of our crazy spring is that the bloom we've had when it finally decided to appear was truly spectacular. It is now July first and the last of my Japanese iris are just finishing up, never would I have expected to still have spring blooms lingering into July! All that careful planning to extend the bloom season has certainly paid off handsomely, with 94 days of bloom and still counting.

It was a GOIS program presented by Dr. Baer of Lincoln many years ago that inspired me to extend the varieties in my garden. I hope you'll be inspired by

Save the Date

GOIS is hosting the AIS Region 21 Fall Conference this year.

August 9-10th

Bob Hollingworth the noted Siberian iris hybridizer will be presenting an educational session & the keynote program this year. If you don't have any Siberian Iris this is the perfect

our upcoming programs in the same way. The August Regional and the September GOIS meetings will feature noted hybridizers of beardless iris varieties a perfect way to stretch your season.

Hopefully you've made your shopping list and are ready to "extend" your collection at our annual rhizome sale and auction. This year we will have recent introductions from Comanche Acres, Superstition, Iris Sisters, & Mid-America Gardens at auction in addition to many wonderful varieties for our table sales. The suc-

cess of our table sales depends on the generosity of our members who dig and donate to our sale. So please look through your own gardens for varieties to dig and tell your friends and family to come shop!

opportunity learn about growing and showing these varieties. The regional auction is also a great place to pick up some of the very newest iris introductions to add to your gardens. This year the auction will include varieties from Sutton, Stouts, and Ensata Gar-



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Linda

dens.

The conference will be held in the architecturally stunning Mammel Hall on the Technology Campus of UNO in Ak-Sar-Ben Village.

Ask an officer for details about this fabulous opportunity to meet other iris lovers.

A Time to Dig...



Iris rhizomes ready to divide

Now is the time to divide and transplant your bearded iris varieties. If you've noticed a decline in bloom it is probably time to divide the clump.

You'll need a few tools to accomplish the job. A good garden fork to lift the clumps, a knife or heavy duty scissors to cut rhizomes, scissors to trim leaves and a good quality marker to write on the fans.

Use your garden fork to dig under the rhizomes and lift the clump, being careful to loosen the roots. This is best done when there is a modest amount of moisture in the soil; too dry and it can become difficult to get your fork in the soil, too wet and you risk tearing the roots off your plants. Shake off any loose soil so that you can see the

rhizome and roots.

Rhizomes are technically an "underground" stem with nodes or growing points and roots. The leaf "fan" is the furthest growing point on the plant but you may notice additional side nodes developing along the rhizome, these will make additional fans and contribute to a nice lush garden plant, these are "premium" sized rhizomes. As the plant grows it "walks" away from the older part of the rhizome, which can be distinguished by its lack of roots or side nodes. Trim this "old mother" back to where the roots are attached leaving you with single rhizomes each with a leaf fan and roots. Mark the name on the fans now so that you don't lose track of the variety while you work.

Examine the leaves removing any that are loose or damaged. In our windy environment it is advisable to trim the fans down to about 6-10 inches. This will help to keep the plant from toppling over before it gets its roots re-established when planting.

Select out 1-5 large rhizomes to replant in your garden. Discard small, damaged, or rhizomes with leaves but no roots. If you have rhizomes left please consider donating them to GOIS' rhizome sale to help support our club activities.

You will receive a coupon good for one rhizome from our table sales for every 10 rhizomes you donate. Contact Becky Kadel or Linda Wilkie with the names of the varieties that you plan to donate so that sale tags can be prepared.

Sunset Serenade

First rebloom of 2013

Reported June 15th at Mahoney State Park

Sunset Serenade is more properly called a repeat bloomer, throwing up a second series of stalks immediately after it's primary bloom

Prepping Iris for Sale

Every one likes a bargain, fess up, we know you've all dug through produce bins looking for the biggest and the best. So do our customers!

When selecting rhizomes for sale (and replanting) pick the largest rhizome,

with the best roots and leaves. Better to have two market ready plants than 10 that won't sell.

Trim the fan to about ten inches and write the variety name with a permanent marker on the center leaves. Wash any remain-

ing soil from them and allow to dry before packing them into paper bags for transport to the sale.

If you have taken pictures of the variety please send it along, a picture really can make or break a sale.

Upcoming events

- **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.** Friday sale opens to public at 3:00 PM and runs till 8:00 PM, Saturday sale opens 8:00 AM—1:00 PM, Rhizome auction at 12:00 PM. Members needed to set-up/take-down and staff the sale. Contact Becky Kadel or Linda Wilkie for information on donating iris or to volunteer.
- 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 afternoon, August 10th and will be open to the public. Registration letters have been mailed to AIS members. If you are not an AIS member contact any officer to receive information and a registration form.
- August 31st; Iris Splendor art adventure at Village Canvas and Cabernet (Aksarben Village) from 6:30—9:00 PM. A \$35.00 registration fee is required.
- September 9; Regular GOIS meeting. Program on Iris Spuria will be presented by Jim Hedgecock of Comanche 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.



July

Get a coupon for
one table rhizome
for every 10 you
donate to the sale!

August Surprise!

Have you ever wished you could capture your garden or your favorite flower in bloom and hold that picture forever? Now is your chance to stretch your artistic wings and try your hand at capturing that image in paint and canvas. Join us for an art adventure at Village Canvas and Cabernet! This guided art session will provide everything you need to create a 16" x 20" canvas painting of an iris. Register on-line at: <http://canvasandcab.com/>. Just click on the "Iris Splendor" event in the calendar, **August 31st (Saturday) 6:30 PM—9:00 PM**. There is a \$35.00 fee payable at the time of registration. Adult beverages, snacks, an artist guide, and all your painting supplies are included in the evening's activities.

And no, you do not have to have an artistic bone in your body to participate, come, dab some paint and enjoy a fun activity outside the garden.

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.

