



# 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*

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Co-Curator of Collections  
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## *From the President*

Wow! Where has our summer gone? The lazy days of working in the garden for a couple of hours after dinner have fast disappeared. Hopefully you've gotten all those rhizomes you've purchased into the ground and already setting their new leaves.

This can be a discouraging time for iris growers, leaves are sometimes ragged looking. The weeds seem undaunted by the cooling temps and nothing much is happening in the iris beds.

That just means that you

haven't been introduced to the wonderful world of reblooming iris! Reports are streaming in from all around the region. Best Bet was reblooming in Scottsbluff back in August. Barn Dance was blooming in Southwest Omaha.

There have been numerous reblooming plicata sightings. While there are no signs of stalks, yet, in my gardens it is only a matter of time before my faithful rebloomers start in. What fun the fall show is, I'm always grateful for those perky blooms seemingly popping up



overnight.

So take advantage while you're out in the garden, pulling the old leaves off and admiring the new foliage coming in to look for those bloom stalks, you may be pleasantly surprised.

*Linda*

## *Potluck! November Meeting*

The end of year potluck is just around the corner.

### **November 11**

This is a friends and family friendly event. There is no business meeting and no formal program; although we can guarantee a slide show of new introductions

that may make you drool!

The rules are simple, there are no rules! Bring a dish to share, hot/cold, sweet or savory all are deliciously anticipated. The club will provide beverages, tableware, and the main dish; to suit the season a roast turkey prepared by our

own Vice-President, Phyllis Randall, a gourmet cook in her own right.

We will meet slightly earlier:

### **6:00 PM**

And conclude before 8:00 PM so this is a perfect event for guests.

## *After the Bloom is Gone... or is it?*



*Iris reticulata*

Now is the time to enjoy your reblooming varieties. They are just starting to make their show around the Omaha area.

The recent cold snap seems to have re-awakened some of our rebloomers but this is a bit later than normal for our area and those emerging stalks and flower buds are susceptible to sudden freezes. Unlike your pots of annuals or even tomato plants it's hard to cover a whole clump of iris in the garden to protect it from a freeze. Throwing a blank or sheet over the clump can protect it but it also tends to contort the stalks

so that they end up stunted or twisted into wild pretzel shapes.

Last year I was intrigued by an article in the AIS bulletin written by a California hybridizer of reblooming iris. What caught my eye was less the content and more the photograph that showed a line of iris all sporting long tube socks!

Hmm, I thought, would it work in Nebraska where our cold snaps are much more severe? I'm pleased to report that yes, it did. I was able to save blooms well into November with "Lady Emma" making a beautiful fall arrangement mixed with gold chrysan-

themums for the Thanksgiving table.

The neighbors were a bit skeptical and I'm sure there was talk in the neighborhood as I raced out on those frosty evenings slipping socks onto the emerging bloom stalks. But it did seem to work and I plan to employ the same technique this year as we are bound to have more stalks effected as the season is delayed almost as much as the spring bloom was.

In the meantime, keep the dead foliage cleaned out of your beds to prevent iris borers from overwintering in your beds.

**That's All Folks**

The 2013 winner of the Dykes Medal

Hybridized by William Maryott  
introduced by Joe Ghio

## *Think Spring*

How many times have you heard the complaint, "I love iris, they just don't bloom long enough"?

These are folks that are not exploiting the full genus iris. There is a whole class of bulbous iris that bloom as early as the crocus in the spring, generally several weeks or up to a month before the bearded

varieties begin their show. Some of the most reliable for our area are the *Iris reticulatas* and *Iris danfordiae*. Sweetly poking up through the frigid early spring soil their foliage resembles the grasslike texture of crocus. These are beardless little beauties with spots and signals gracing their delicate falls.

Now is a perfect time to be on the lookout for these varieties. Sold alongside the more common tulips and daffodils, look for them in the "minor" bulb section of your garden store or even the local hardware store. Plant them just 1-2" deep, like other bulbs they need a period of cold in order to bloom.

## *Upcoming events*

- October 14; Regular GOIS meeting. Program on TB and Reblooming iris from the American Iris Society
- November 2 Workday for the Sass Memorial Iris Gardens at Mahoney State Park. Prepare the gardens for winter. Gather at the gardens at 8:30 AM. This is an all members event. Bring gloves, scissors or trimmers, rakes, weeders and leaf bags while we trim the garden foliage and do a final weed before the garden sleeps through the winter. We'll adjourn to the lodge after our work to warm up and enjoy some hot cocoa.
- November 11; Thanksgiving Potluck 6:00 PM at the Extension office. Bring a dish to share. The club will provide tableware, beverages and the main course. This is a friends and family friendly event so bring your spouse, kids, grandkids and friends!
- No meetings over the winter.



*See you back in March 2014!*

*October Meeting*  
Treat Host

*Dí Semper*

## *Support AIS and Plant some Spring Cheer*

The AIS is a registered non-profit organization with the Bloomin' Bucks fundraising program by Brent and Becky's Bulbs!

This is how it works: It's simple...supporters of the registered organization, the (AIS) American Iris Society, can go to [www.bloominbucks.com](http://www.bloominbucks.com) and from a pull down menu of all of the organizations registered, select to support the AIS!

One click takes you into the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website where you can order whatever you want, in whatever quantity you want...books, bulbs, tools, supplements, gift certificates... anything...and a percentage of each order goes to your organization! Every little bit helps and it all adds up to support the AIS!

# 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

Accepting dues for 2014. 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](http://www.irises.org) to learn more about the AIS and its affiliates.

