



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

Fall has finally arrived and with it those hurried last minute garden chores; it's a race against the elements.

It's a pleasant time to be in the garden, cool and crisp with the fall blooming plants a sweet bonus to the end of the season.

It's also time to keep a close eye on your reblooming iris with an ear out for frost warnings. Watch for those late emerging stalks, they're vulnerable to late frosts. Cover them or if there is color showing cut them for an inside bouquet when freeze warnings

are forecast.

If they do get nipped just remove the stalk as close to the rhizome as you can. Trim fans where they begin to tip over (generally about 6-8 inches) to allow the plant to continue to take in nutrients over the dwindling season.

We have two activities remaining for the year. The first is the annual garden clean-up at Mahoney Park. Join us to trim foliage and do a final weeding in the beds. We'll meet at 8:30 AM to allow the frost to burn off before working. Our final activity is the pot-



luck, nobody cooks like gardeners so bring your friends and family for this fun event. Trade stories of your trials and triumphs as we close out the gardening season together.

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; suitable to the season a roast turkey will be pre-

pared 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...



Fall Arrangement

Do you need just one more hurrah before the season ends? Try a fall inspired arrangement to lift your spirits.

Steven Elder, senior gardener at Lauritzen Gardens, leads design classes at the gardens. He recently shared some tips to seasonal arranging during a presentation to the South Omaha Horticultural Society.

Rather than filling your container with soil Steven recommends using a sturdy bucket packed with floral foam (wet oasis™) that will sit inside your decorative container. [Recycled kitty litter buckers and the

like work perfectly, their handles make lifting them in and out a breeze.]

A collection of large bare branches, branches with fall leaves still attached and various pods and seed heads all make great additions to a fall arrangement.

Steven recommends that you start with the largest branches in the center and then evenly work in your next smaller branches.

Clustering your decorative pods and seed heads in groups of three will give them more “presence” in the arrangement. He always adds an element that will retain a bright pop of color, such as yarrow

(Achillea), or freeze-dried pomegranates. Have some fun and add feathers or small gourds and pumpkins. Add a floppy element such as corn leaves or the last of your cannas to counter-balance all the upright material. Finish it off with a “skirt” of moss or dried twig garland to conceal your mechanics.

So instead of composting all those fallen leaves and branches try creating an arrangement with them!

And consider taking a class from Steven and Lauritzen Gardens during the long winter months.

www.lauritzengardens.org/Learn

Florentine Silk

The 2012 winner of the Dykes Medal

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

Curious?—Contemporary Views

OK, you've bought a few iris, you've started to look at catalogs with an eye to next years garden purchases and you may even covet that iris one of your garden buddies outbid you on at a local auction; you've definitely been bitten by the iris bug!

Here is a perfect project for those long winter evenings just around the corner.

Perry Dyer, a hybridizer of some renown, has for many years produced a commentary on new iris introductions. These “Contemporary Views” are posted on the AIS website at:

http://www.irises.org/About_Iris/Cultural%20Information/Cultural_Information.html#Contemporary_Views: They are freely accessible to anyone with an

internet connection. Current up through the 2007 National Convention you can read the commentary about an introduction and now look it up on the AIS wiki to see the flower described.

Pretty soon you too will be evaluating iris with the eye of a pro and slinging lingo like “velvet texture” and other superlatives around.

Upcoming events

- **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.



AIS Calendars have arrived!

Paid members (2014) can pick theirs up at the November Potluck

See you back in March 2014!

*November Meeting
Treat Host
All Members*

Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreaterOmahaIrisSociety>

Iris Resources

The following websites have been recommended by our treasurer, Janet Ott as sites she has found interesting and informative:

“**World of Irises**” The blog of the American Iris Society <http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

AIS members can receive the new “**News and Notes**” a monthly e-publication of the American Iris Society. Contact Bob Pries if you would like to receive News and Notes. robertpries@embarqmail.com

“**Dave’s Garden Newsletter**” is a free e-publication from the popular gardening site. <http://davesgarden.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 2014 are 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.

