

The Lincoln Iris Society's

Rainbow Messenger

A More or Less Monthly Publication for Anyone who Loves Irises!

Edited by David & Marjorie Lionberger

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President's Message

David Lionberger

Another bloom season has come and gone, leaving us to wonder how fast it passes. Then the realization of how long we must wait for the next season causes some anguish. Perhaps some rebloomers will furnish respite to an otherwise long year of patience and anticipation. Our garden's bloom production was somewhat diminished compared to previous years, but still provided an adequate show of beauty. Some of our iris failed to bloom and their foliage was stunted in various degrees. I believe the warm weather we had in February and March had a negative effect by inducing growth too early which was stopped by cold temperatures that followed. A number of members have reported an unusual amount of soft rot this season. As most of us know, this is a nasty, smelly plague to deal with. I wonder if the aforementioned weather played a part in creating this problem? All in all, from my observations, we were blessed with a beautiful season once again, for which we are thankful.

President's Quote

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in."

Greek Proverb

Meeting

Date: Monday, June 26, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St. Andrews Lutheran Church
1015 Lancaster Lane Lincoln, NE

Program: Honeybees
presented by Herschel Staats

Hosts: Melinda Holcombe, Twila Sass

Pot Luck Supper reminder – bring a dish to share and your own service. Drinks will provided.

Questions about Iris or LIS

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Rhythm of the Prairie Tour in Des Moines

Heidi Brase

This year the national tour for the American Iris Society was held in the Des Moines area. Ten members of the Lincoln Iris Society were able to enjoy the rare treat of attending a national tour so close to home. The “Rhythm of the Prairie” theme for the tour was demonstrated in gardens on the edge of windy cornfields; along a riverfront bike path in downtown Des Moines; nestled among an amazing array of brilliantly colored peonies; within the surrounding backdrop of the mature, stately trees of the Iowa Arboretum; and in a cozy yard in Huxley. Fortunately, the tour dates of May 25th and 26th proved to be spot on for bloom time. Personal highlights of the tour included the opportunity to meet hybridizers from across the country whose flowers are blooming in my garden, and the chance to see some of the newest iris hybrids on the market. Visiting the home garden of Tom and Kris Jurik was truly a privilege. Hours could be spent attempting to see their entire collection of hundreds of varieties of irises, peonies and hostas. It is exceptional! Their ability to landscape and label thousands of plants in areas from naturally shaded woods to sunny southern slopes, complete with mulched or grassy walkways, and to maintain it all without weeds is truly a testament to their passion for flowers, and their dedication to the success of this tour. They accepted over 600 guest irises, doubling their personal collection. I’m grateful that the staff of the Iowa Arboretum was also willing to take on this project. They dug up numerous beds throughout the Arboretum to host over 400 bearded irises, and they did an excellent job maintaining them. Wayne and Pam Messer lined their driveway and yard with the beautiful blooms, brightening the neighborhood. My thanks to each individual who bravely opened their garden to the scrutiny of a national tour and the 79 hybridizers from across the country who shared the best results of their hybridizing efforts with us.

For those who wish that they could have been on the tour, be sure to attend the November 27th LIS meeting. Gary White will be presenting a slideshow of pictures from the tour. A number of these guest irises will be available for bidding at our auction with the July 29th sale for LIS. See Jenny Cich for details if you are able to help dig next month.

LIS Annual Sale- Saturday July 29th, 2017

Jenny Cich, Committee Co-Chair

Our 2017 Annual Sale will be here before we know it. This is the singular fundraising event that the Lincoln Iris Society holds annually. The sale will only be a success if we have enough plants to sell and enough LIS members helping to carry out all the jobs necessary in preparation and on sale day. As last year, the sale will be held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church.

Our goal is to have a good sale. That means we’ll need between 1,200 and 1,500 plants on the tables. Everyone is encouraged to bring plants to the sale. Now is the time to take a look over your garden and make a list of what iris you can bring to the sale. Also be looking through your photo albums for the accompanying pictures for the iris varieties you are bringing. Pictures sell plants!

Our group prides itself on selling accurately named varieties from the tables. Please be sure that you know the accurate identity of all iris you are bringing to sell on the tables. If you are uncertain or have an ounce of doubt on the name, reserve that variety for the bargain bags.

This year the bulk of our Auction Iris will be supplied from the 2017 AIS Convention irises. We are attempting the use of AIS Convention iris hoping to cast a wider net in terms of hybridizers and also securing iris that have been growing in Midwest gardens and climates for the last two growing seasons. As in years past, we also welcome LIS member donated iris for the auction provided they are registered 2013 or later, but ask that you let us know ahead of time so we can include their descriptions and photos in our auction catalog and power point. We are grateful to again have Tom Bassett as our Auctioneer. Tom has always done a wonderful job for LIS and we appreciate the humor he brings to this portion of our event.

Remember, the sale will begin promptly at 10 am and the auction at 11 am. Mark that date on your calendar and plan to be a part of this important day.

JULY MEETING REMINDER

Our July meeting will be held on Monday, July 24th, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Lutheran Church. This is one week prior to our regular meetings held the last Monday of each month, except for the months of December and May. This change was made to provide a meeting prior to our Sale & Auction which is scheduled for July 29th. Also, a reminder that the July meeting is a scheduled pot luck supper.

Magdalene Pfister Iris Garden

Jenny Cich

We really have something to be proud of! The Magdalene Pfister Iris Garden has been bringing smiles to everyone that visits. This relatively small garden began blooming around April 20th and is still providing color in mid-June. Our garden focuses on iris but also hosts three varieties of herbaceous peonies and several pasque flowers. There are 79 varieties of iris in this collection consisting of two miniature dwarf bearded, nine standard dwarf bearded, ten intermediate bearded, six border bearded, four miniature tall bearded, 39 tall bearded, five siberian and four spuria iris. We have been taking photographs of these iris as they bloomed in 2017 and we are hoping to be able to include iris from this garden at our 2018 annual sale. This garden would not be possible without the relationship created by the family of Magdalene Pfister through the University Foundation and the partnership with UNL East Campus Landscaping Services. (*see photo page*)

THE BIG SHOW

David Lionberger

Our 2017 Show now holds the record for total entries in the history of the Lincoln Iris Society. The record of 269 entries was outstanding in beauty and variety. A show of this size was successful only by the dedicated efforts of our members and Show Committee. We can all take pride in such a major accomplishment. There were of course a few problems, created by such an unexpected number of entries, but all in all it was a wonderful show much enjoyed by our members and the attending public. Every effort will be made by the Show Committee to identify each problem that occurred and propose solutions. With the usual cooperation of LIS members, our goal to improve constantly will no doubt be attained and ensure even greater success with our shows in the future. My personal thanks to our members that worked so diligently by applying their various talents in the spirit of cooperation that is rarely found in such an endeavor.

SPECIAL THANKS

David Lionberger

Melinda Holcombe has served LIS for many years as Chair of the Hospitality Committee. Each year she enlists members to serve as hosts for refreshments at meetings, designates potluck suppers for the year, and takes care of luncheon provisions for the annual show. These duties require time, effort, and planning which she cheerfully and quietly performs. With Melinda in charge, you may rest assured that all food and drinks are handled properly in regard to safety and cleanliness. Her natural instincts with hospitality are notable as she makes everyone feel welcome, comfortable, and cared for. I observed her work on show day, constantly overseeing and cleaning up. All spills or messes were immediately dealt with, countertops were kept free of debris and were wiped clean. Melinda put in a long day and we owe her a big Thank You! I am confident the kitchen was left much cleaner than found. Her homemade coffee cake is a highlight of the show and heartily enjoyed.

A FUN FILLED PROGRAM

David Lionberger

One of our talented members, B.J. Ohme, provided us with an entertaining program, "Arrangements with Irises", at our April meeting. B.J.'s request for members to bring bloomstalks provided ample material for him to demonstrate various methods to obtain beautiful floral arrangements with iris as the principle flower. One of the highlights of this well planned presentation was to invite members to participate by making their own arrangements with his guidance. Three of our young members – Katharina Brase, Ava and Evelyn Toth – volunteered and B.J. took them aside for each of them to create their individual arrangements. This was done quietly while the business meeting was held. At the close of the business meeting, the girls presented their arrangements to the assembly which was surprised and impressed with the beauty and variety of their creations. Our thanks to B.J. for a pleasant evening. Your creative talents, as well as a skilled teacher, are recognized and appreciated.

The LIS Show was held May 13th, 2017. Members held their breath through a record setting high temperature February followed by an average March and then a cooler than normal April only to breathe a sigh of relief when our show hit and gardens had a wide variety of iris in bloom. Tall bearded iris represented the majority of the iris at the show with an Intermediate Iris winning Best Specimen of the Show. We had a record number of entries and a very strong showing from our youth members. The show was well attended by the public- when we were finally able to open the doors. For the second year in a row, we were unable to open the doors at the designated time. This and a variety of other issues are being addressed by the Show Committee in a meeting June 16th as well as in the membership meeting June 26th.

Below is a summary of the results of the 2017 Lincoln Iris Society Show

27 Exhibitors: 19 adults – 211 entries, **8 youth** – 58 entries.

Total entries (269) 256 stalks, 10 seedlings, 2 collections, and 1 arrangement

Breakdown by Categories – 1 MDB, 4 SDB's, 22 IB's, 19 BB's, 14 MTB's, 110 TB's, 0 AB, 21 Siberian- and & Species, 40 Historics, (19 pre-1950 and 21 1950-1986), 0 Other Irises, 2 Collections, 0 English Boxes, 10 seedling, 1 arrangements and 0 educational exhibits.

Judges for the show were Lee Chariton of Elkhorn, Dorothy VerVerhey of Lennox, South Dakota, and Arnie Koekkoek of Sioux Center, Iowa.

Following are the awards chosen by the America Iris Society accredited judges:

Top Awards

Best Specimen of the Show

Starwoman (IB)

Exhibited by **Heidi Brase**

Best White Iris

Spanish Peaks (H)

Exhibited by **Dottie Ladman**

Best Specimen 1st Runner-up

Broadband (TB)

Exhibited by **Madeline Obrecht**

Best Bicolor Iris

Crow's Feet (BB)

Exhibited by **McClain Kuhel**

Best Specimen 2nd Runner-up

Shattered Dreams (NOV)

Exhibited by **David Toth**

Best Miniature Tall Bearded Iris

Void

Exhibited by **void**

Best Artistic Arrangement

None

Best Plicata Iris

Broadband (TB)

Exhibited by **Madeline Obrecht**

Best Un-introduced Seedling

10-08

Exhibited by **David Toth**

Best Beardless Iris

Coronation Anthem

Exhibited by **Gary White**

Best Ensminger Hyridized Iris

Maria Tormena (TB)

Exhibited by **David Toth**

Best Historic Iris

Gracchus (MTB)

Exhibited by **Dottie Ladman**

Best Historic Iris

Gracchus

Exhibited by **Dottie Ladman**

Best Novelty Iris

Shattered Dreams (TB)

Exhibited by **David Toth**

Best Seedling Iris

10-08

Exhibited by **David Toth**

Best of Section Awards

Best Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB):

none

Best Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)

none

Best Intermediate Bearded Iris (IB)

Starwoman

Exhibited by **Heidi Brase**

Best Border Bearded (BB)

Crow's Feet

Exhibited by **McClain Kuhel**

Best Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB) **Void**

Exhibited by **Void**

Best Tall Bearded (TB):

Tazmanian Tangerine

Exhibited by **Brett Barney**

Best Aril or Arilbred (AB): none

Best Species or Siberian Iris

Coronation Anthem

Exhibited by **Gary White**

Best Other Type of Iris: none

Best Collection: none chosen

Best English Box: none chosen

Best Educational Exhibit: none

Youth Awards

Best Specimen-Youth

Broadband (TB)

Exhibited by **Madeline Obrecht**

Best Tall Bearded-Youth

Broadband (TB)

Exhibited by **Madeline Obrecht**

Best Median-Youth

Web Master (SDB)

Exhibited by **Ava Toth**

Ribbons – 120 blue, 79 red, 55 white, 1 honorable mention, 5 no ribbon 9 seedlings **Adults: Silver Medal –David Toth** (ribbons: 18 blue, 2 red, 3 white, 9 Seedlings) **Bronze Medal – Dottie Ladman** (ribbons: 11 blue, 9 red, 12 white). **Youth: Silver Medal—Ava Toth** (ribbons: 7 blue, 3 red) **Bronze Medal—Alexander Brase** (6 blue, 3 red).

Popularity Vote (or People’s Choice Award): First Place-Boundless (TB), Second Place-Voices Carry (TB), Third Place-Tie between Society Lady (TB) and Shattered Dreams (TB).

A big thank you to our Popularity Vote tabulators, Eunice Cernohlavek & Sally Schrader, for their expertise in handling this portion of the show. We also want to extend a big thank you for everyone who brought snacks or drinks to share and to Melinda Holcombe for managing our luncheon for the judges, their guests and those LIS members that chose to participate in the meal.

Show results compiled by Lois Linke. Narrative on show information provided by Jenny Cich & Gary White- Show Chairmen

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Madeline and Eli Obrecht
Youth Members

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(l to r) Evelyn Toth, Katharina Brase, BJ Ohme, and Ava Toth with their floral arrangements, photo by David Toth



Magdalene Pfister Garden, photo by Jenny Cich



Winner's Table, photo by David Lionberger



Magdalene Pfister Garden, photo by David Lionberger

