

The Lincoln Iris Society's

Rainbow Messenger

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

Edited by David & Marjorie Lionberger

Lincoln, Nebraska

Volume 19 Issue 3 March 2017

President's Message

David Lionberger

Thanks to all our members who volunteered to staff the LIS booth at the Husker Lawn & Leisure Show. I talked to a few members that worked the show and received various reactions to their experiences. The basic consensus was although traffic past the booth was perhaps less than in previous years, the interest displayed by those that stopped was genuine and enthusiastic. Many Show and Sale leaflets were distributed as well as several LIS membership applications. Ample time for discussion and review of this event will be allotted at this month's meeting. Other major events are fast approaching as we move into the spring season. The Spring Affair is our next one on April 22nd. This consists of the LIS information booth and we will need volunteers to staff our booth. A sign-up sheet will be available at this month's meeting so please give some thought to helping with this project. Of course our Annual Show on May 13th will be here before you know it, and the Show Committee is already hard at work preparing for it. They have the necessary fundamentals and ground work done but it will take lots of member involvement to have a successful show. Hope to see you at the meeting.

President's Quote

How deeply seated in the human heart is the liking for gardens and gardening.

Alexander Smith

Editor's Note

Jen Elmer's new email address is: eggrollnet@gmail.com

Please record this change in your membership booklet.

Meeting

Date: Monday, March 27, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Program: The Salt Creek Tiger Beetle
Presented by Bill Smith

Hosts: Judy Dovenbarger &
Marjorie Lionberger

Questions about Iris or LIS

Contact:

Dave Lionberger
402-466-2838

lionswiss@windstream.net

Dean Douglas
402-994-4805

theirspatch@sblcweb.com

Jenny Cich
402-525-5047
jennycich@gmail.com

LIS MEMBERSHIP BOOKLETS

Once again, Linda Rader and Gary White have produced a classic membership booklet for LIS members. These are a handy size and filled with information vital to our society. I would be lost without my copy and I am sure that is the feeling of our members. These have been provided to LIS members for years by Linda and Gary. To produce such a professional item requires a great deal of time and work and we thank both Linda and Gary for their generous support and dedication to LIS.

IRIS GARDEN SPRING CLEAN UP

David Lionberger

I know I have written similar articles in past years, but for newer members and iris growers, as well as a reminder to the more experienced, it is worth repeating. Speaking from my own experience, I have found it not only beneficial, but vital to maintain a program of thorough cleaning of my iris beds each spring. The principle benefit of cleaning all leaves, dead foliage, and blown in trash from iris beds is the control of borers. The moth that lays the eggs in the fall prefers the leaves and trash around iris rhizomes for that purpose. The eggs overwinter in the trash and with two consecutive days of 70 degrees or warmer will begin to hatch. By removing the trash, you are of course also removing eggs and reducing the hatch. I do not compost any of the removed trash but have it hauled away from our property. By keeping your iris clean and free of trash, you will have taken the primary step in borer control. Careful observation for borer activity and manual removal will help avoid the use of chemicals by a great deal. Another benefit of a clean garden is fungus control, such as leaf spot. Fungus thrives in moist and shady environments such as a leaf pile around iris rhizomes. Removal of such trash allows for sunshine and wind to move freely about your iris, discouraging fungus growth. Better weed and grass control is obviously maintained in a trash free garden where you can readily see their encroachment. Taking advantage of the young sprouts for their removal is far easier than warfare against them in their maturity. Last, but not least, is the pride and satisfaction gained by an attractive and healthy iris garden.

AIS REGION 21 BULLETIN

The recent arrival of the Region 21 Bulletin was a pleasant and welcome surprise. Wayne and Pam Messer have produced a timely and informative source of news and information that is very much appreciated. Many thanks to both Wayne and Pam for taking on the bulletin project which requires considerable work, inspiration, and dedication! Looking forward to future issues.

Iris Related Items for Silent Auction

Gary White

Have some iris themed items that you are ready to part with? You know the ones I'm talking about. If you do, there will be a silent auction at the AIS convention in Des Moines in May. This silent auction is a fundraising project for the American Iris Society. Donations are accepted during this time, and you may bring items for donation to the March LIS meeting. I will then deliver them to the silent auction folks for the convention in April. Some examples of items that are acceptable are Iris books and publications, pictures and artwork on irises, dishes and trinkets, wall plaques, iris wind chimes, cloth runners, linens, garden art, jewelry, etc.etc. And, if you will be attending the convention, it's a great place to pick up items, including new irises that are donated for the auction by hybridizers. There can be some real treasures, historical items and unusual things at this silent auction. This is a great way to do some spring cleaning and give back to the American Iris Society at the same time.

SPRING AFFAIR

Jenny Cich

The Lincoln Iris Society will again be an educational vendor at the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's Spring Affair Plant Sale April 22nd from 9 am-2 pm at the Lancaster Event Center Pavilion I. Please contact Jenny Cich (jennycich@gmail.com or 402-525-5047) if you are interested in assisting at our educational booth or watch for the signup sheet at the March meeting. The following information was taken from the website for the Spring Affair <http://arboretum.unl.edu/spring-affair>

This is the largest gardening show in the midwest and will feature [more than 700 different varieties of plants](#)--perennials, herbs, native plants, temperennials, vines and a variety of trees and shrubs. Plants are selected for regional suitability, uniqueness and demand. Spring Affair will also feature free plant talks & classes as well as a variety of garden vendors. Plants are provided by [Bluebird Nursery, Inc.](#) of Clarkson, Nebraska. Admission is free. Ample free parking is available and wagons or carts of any kind are encouraged! Plant talks will be held at the west end of Pavilion I. Each will last approximately 30 minutes:

10-10:30 "Tough Plants," by Mark Canney, Park Planner and Urban Designer for Lincoln Parks and Recreation

11-11:30 "Gardening 101: I've got my plants, now what?" by Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

12-12:30 "Brighten the Corners of Your Landscape with Container Gardening" by Terri James, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, Nebraska Extension Educator