

*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

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## *President's Message*

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. It seems last year passed very quickly and now we are entering a new year which appears to be challenging and interesting for LIS members. The agenda/programs for our monthly meetings, as well as dates and location for the spring show and annual rhizome sale were decided upon at the November meeting (see the attached minutes of that meeting for the details.) Our annual appreciation dinner was an enjoyable evening with good food, entertainment, and socializing. LIS members have volunteered their time and talents to our various standing committees for 2015 which insures the success of our programs and activities. All committees are staffed with members that are dedicated and dependable which is the life blood of any organization. LIS is in good financial condition and our membership has grown steadily. Our youth members are active and have won various awards from the American Iris Society in the past year. I want to express my thanks and appreciation to my fellow officers, committees and all members who worked to make 2014 an outstanding year of success and growth. I am looking forward to another year of fun and accomplishment.

*President, David Lionberger*

### *President's Quote*

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle—a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl and the anticipation nurtures our dreams.

*Barbara Winkler*

## **Meeting**

**Date:** Monday, January 26, 2015

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

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

**Program:** Bring Your Favorite Vase for Show  
And Tell, Recognition of AIS Youth Awards

**Hosts:** Jean Pedersen & Heidi Brase

## **Membership Booklet 2015**

The 2015 LIS membership booklets should be ready for distribution at the January 26th meeting. The booklet is our one-stop information source for the Lincoln Iris Society. In there you will find a list of committees and refreshment hosts for the year, as well as a full calendar of meeting dates, programs and events. Also included is contact information for all our members. The back pages contain information on the American Iris Society, how to join and where to go online for more details on AIS and its specialty iris sections. Be sure to come to the January meeting and pick up your copy!

*--Linda Rader, LIS Membership Chairman*

## **Newsletter Articles**

We would like to encourage LIS members to consider submitting articles for the Rainbow Messenger. Your interests in Iris and gardening, your experiences with successes and failures are of interest to your fellow LIS members. Please give some thought to contributing an article now and then. Most of us have an Iris tale or two we could share. We do not deliver perfection and perfection is not required. Just write it like you would tell it! As we try to get the newsletter sent a week prior to our monthly meeting, we would appreciate receiving your article by the 15th of the month.

*Thank you - Dave and Marjorie, editors*

## **Newsletter Delivery**

The Rainbow Messenger will either be mailed or sent electronically to members of record as of January 2015. Former members that renew their membership or new members that join during the current year will be added to the mailing list accordingly.

## **Questions about Iris or LIS?**

### **Contact:**

Dave Lionberger

402-466-2838

[lionswiss@windstream.net](mailto:lionswiss@windstream.net)

Dean Douglas

402-994-4805

[theirispatch@sblcweb.com](mailto:theirispatch@sblcweb.com)

Jenny Cich

402-525-5047

[jennycich@gmail.com](mailto:jennycich@gmail.com)

## **Join the American Iris Society**

Membership in the American Iris Society includes many benefits. As the parent organization of regional sections and local societies, guidance is provided for the functioning of the various activities these affiliates are involved in throughout the year. Shows and awards are sanctioned and qualified judges trained through AIS programs are available. Insurance is available for public events sponsored by AIS affiliates. There are societies dedicated to particular iris classes that appeal to special interests such as tall bearded, dwarf, historic, median, re-blooming, Japanese, etc. IRISES: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society, published quarterly is loaded with beautiful pictures, timely news and information. Many members feel this magazine is worth the AIS dues alone! AIS outreach to youth is an important and noble endeavor to involve young people in the activities of the national organization as well as local activities. It is with our youth that the future of AIS depends. To cultivate and promote interest of horticulture, gardening and growing iris in a young person reaps many rewards. As all gardeners know, there is a sense of accomplishment, connection with nature and inner peace that tending a garden provides. To introduce a young person to the experience of finding the pleasure a garden offers can only be beneficial to all parties involved.

AIS offers several options for joining and rate of dues. All information for joining is available on the American Iris Society website. Please consider supporting AIS. Join now and receive a \$25.00 voucher for purchasing iris from a participating nursery.

## **BRAGGING RIGHTS TO LINCOLN IRIS SOCIETY**

*By George H. Green, Jr.  
Youth Chairman*

The Lincoln Iris Society has new “bragging rights” on their youth membership for 2015. Letters arrived at several youth member’s home addresses with the final results of the American Iris Society (AIS) 2014 Youth Coloring Contest. Katherina Brase was announced as the 2014 AIS Youth Coloring Contest over-all winner, and received an additional award for her entry. This is the second year in a row that the Lincoln Iris Society Youth have taken the top artistic and creativity award for this National Contest. Congratulations to Katherina on this exceptional award honor. But let’s NOT stop there, the AIS Youth Coloring Contest has five age divisions and we can’t ignore the other top youth artists that are sponsored members of the Lincoln Iris Society in their age divisions. Other Lincoln Youth did exceeding well in this contest.

Best in Age Division 7-9            Katherina Brase

Runner-Up in Age division 7-9     Alexander Brase

Best in age Division 10-12        Rebekah Brase (Creativity Award)

Best Age Division 16-18         Sarah Green (Creativity Award)

Lincoln Iris Society youth took top honors in three of the five age divisions of the American Iris Society Youth Coloring Contest. Katherina’s entry will be published in an upcoming issue of “Irises”, the American Iris Society quarterly bulletin. We hope that these youth members will bring copies of their coloring contest entries to the upcoming January meeting of the Lincoln Iris Society to share with the membership and give them a chance to “show off” a little. I hope to get a group photo of these youth members to send to Cheryl Deaton, the American Iris Society Youth Chair for her scrapbook too! There is no other local iris society that can claim to have the top artists in the American Iris Society membership, so feel free to do a little “bragging”!

A little history may also be in order, so I researched this Youth Contest and found four Lincoln Iris Society youth membership have been over-all winner of this contest since 2006. Grace Farley was the over-all winner in 2006, Sarah Green in 2010, Rebekah Brase in 2013, and now Katherina Brase wins in 2014. When we add Calla Janke, a youth member from the Greater Omaha Iris Society over-all winner in 2009, Region 21 has had the over-all winners for the AIS Youth Coloring Contest for the past 5 of the 9 years of this contest. I am also hoping that several of our American Iris Society local members take a moment to nominate a Lincoln iris Youth Member for the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Achievement Award for 2014. Nominations are limited to two pages and should be mailed or e-mailed to: Cheryl Deaton, 27218 Walnut Springs, Canyon Country, CA, 91351 or region15kids@hotmail.com. Nominations are due by January 31, 2015, so please consider sending a note to Cheryl to get our youth some possible recognition. If you need some filler information, call and speak to our youth member’s parents found in the membership booklet. It would certainly be an honor to have a Lincoln Youth Member wins this award at the Iris Capital of the World in Portland, Oregon.

There are several other opportunities for our youth members to participate in American Iris Society Contests including, Ackerman Essay Contest due March 1st,2015, Design the Youth Newsletter “The Iris Fan “cover Page, and the Youth Patch Program. For additional information on these youth contests check your youth newsletter, the Youth Page on the American Iris Society Website, or the “Irises” Bulletin (past “Youth Views” articles). Results of these other contests and youth achievement will be announced at the American Iris Society Spring Convention.

*Editor’s note,*

*Thanks to our youth chairman, George H. Green for his dedication to our youth. Their success in AIS projects reflects his attention to all events, dates and deadlines which he faithfully keeps our youth informed of. If there are any AIS youth related activities, George knows all about them!*

## *Succumbing to the Iris Virus*

*By David Lionberger*

As we are now in the dead of winter and it's bitter cold, there is some concern about the flu virus and other winter malady's we are prone to catching.

Thinking about such things has caused me to reflect upon my exposures and infection of the Iris virus. I had been exposed to this peculiar virus from time to time during my life. My paternal grandmother was an avid iris lover. She had a 50'x150' lot next to her house that was mostly dedicated to her iris garden. Other family members and friends grew a few here and there. I always admired them, but never felt a strong desire to grow more than a few of the old purple, blue and yellow that were coming up in most yards and gardens. One would naturally conclude that such minimal exposure over time would impart immunity to the virus, which was unknown to me at that point in my life.

Sometime shortly after our marriage in 1954, my wife stated that the iris was her favorite flower. I had heard of Mr. Ensminger and knew he was growing iris on his acreage near Lincoln. Wishing to please my wife, we drove to Mr. Ensminger's garden at bloom time and she picked out six or eight and ordered them. She was afflicted with the iris virus prior to this event, but it now began to show signs of serious consequences. Ordering nursery catalogs, pointing out her favorites, hinting about good planting sites, buying greeting cards and vases decorated with iris, calendars and pictures.

As with other types of viruses the Iris Virus is contagious and seeks a new host, which was of course me.

There appears to be more than one type of Iris virus, two that I know of for sure. One type will cause the afflicted to only admire, select their favorite, instruct where to plant, cut bouquets, enter iris shows and socialize with other iris lovers.

*To be continued next month...*