

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 18 Issue 4

April 2016

President's Message

David Lionberger

Congratulations to our LIS Youth member, Sarah Green, for winning the Clark Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. LIS and Region 21 actively encourage our youth members to pursue their interests in iris and to take advantage of the various opportunities offered by the American Iris Society. As Sarah's career as a youth member nears its completion, we wish her the best in her future endeavors in the world of iris. While on the subject of youth members, I am very pleased to inform our membership that Rebekah Brase has accepted my invitation to write a monthly article pertaining to youth activities, interests, etc. We look forward to Rebekah's help and contributions to the newsletter.

Our calendar of upcoming events is full and several are fast approaching. The Spring Affair will be history by our next meeting, and of course the show on May 14th will be here before we know it. Our April meeting will be dedicated to show prep so try your best to be there. All newer members are encouraged to participate and be involved at all levels. You will find our members are congenial and happy to help you in your particular interests.

Many thanks to Angie Vandersnick of Nebraska Nursery and Color Gardens for her informative and interesting program at our March meeting. Angie provided timely information about weed control and its' environmental impact. She answered many questions from the floor and obviously everyone enjoyed the program.

President's Quote

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May."

Edwin Way Teale

Meeting

Date: Monday, April 25, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Program: Prep for LIS Show including DVD
"How to Show Irises" by Ron Charles of
Monument Valley Iris Society

Hosts: Sally Schrader, Jen Elmer,
Heidi Brase

Questions about Iris or LIS

Contact:

Dave Lionberger

402-466-2838

lionswiss@windstream.net

Dean Douglas

402-994-4805

theirispatch@sblcweb.com

Jenny Cich

402-525-5047

jennycich@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

Yvette Montes & Timothy Jung
1245 Fairfield St
Lincoln, NE 68521
785-341-7641
yvesister@aol.com

2016 AIS PHOTO CONTEST

Entries will be received from May 1st – July 31st at midnight. There are six categories open to adults and youth alike with separate awards for youth submissions. Detailed information may be found on the AIS website. Iris bloom season provides many opportunities for beautiful photos so get your camera out there and enter the contest!

Region 21 Spring 2016 Whirlwind Garden Tour

Saturday, May 21st
Departing from and returning to Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.
Over 200 irises, and over 600 cultivars. The event will be hosted in three private and two public Central Iowa gardens. This is a one day Whirlwind Dress Rehearsal Tour for the AIS 2017 National Convention Two Day Garden Tour in Des Moines, Iowa.
Registration deadline is May 11th.
For additional information, contact:
Kelly Norris
515-323-6299
kellydn@frontiernet.net

YOUTH CORNER

Rebekah Brase

Greetings from the Youth Corner! I have been asked to begin a regular youth column in the Rainbow Messenger to update our readers on youth activities and interests, as well as personal experiences and anecdotes.

This month, I am pleased to announce that Miss Sarah Green has won the Clarke Cosgrove Award. Congratulations, Sarah! The Clarke Cosgrove Award is given to a nominated youth who demonstrates leadership skills and has been involved in various iris activities such as growing an iris garden, hybridizing, helping an iris organization, competing in shows, and other iris-related activities. As well as a travel stipend of \$100, the winner enjoys \$550 and a trophy as a reward. The first runner-up wins \$350 and the second runner-up receives \$250. Sarah has been a runner-up several times, and this year her perseverance paid off. The LIS has also agreed to pay for her registration to the national convention. Enjoy the spring blooms in New Jersey, Sarah!

The LIS youth members have recently finished writing their Ackerman Youth Essays. This year the topic was "My Most Interesting or Exciting Iris Experience." We are eagerly waiting to hear results.

Invitations to the Region 21 Spring Tour in Des Moines just arrived in the mail. Usually the regional tours involve lots of traveling and two days of activities. This year the tour is close enough for us to drive to in a few hours, and all the excitement is packed into one day. Besides some pretty amazing home gardens, the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is scheduled to be a highlight of the tour. It contains the iris garden arrangements of iris enthusiast Kelly Norris. This tour will be a preview of next year's national tour.

Our first iris buds have just opened this week. "Melanie Baither" is our first clump to have blooms. The rest of the irises are growing and look fine. We have had a chilly spring, and now we are looking forward to the bloom season!

Magdalene Pfister Iris Garden

Jenny Cich

On Tuesday, April 12, Jenny Cich visited the garden. The only flower in bloom was the pasque flower and it was quite lovely. Overall the garden appearance was pleasing with no evidence of borer or leaf spot. Some light weeding was done to remove encroaching grass from some of the specimens. As of yet the identification markers have not been placed. UNL Landscaping Services has been in contact with the MPIG committee members and hopefully they will be placed before the 2016 bloom season. At the time of the visit to the new site within the East Campus Arboretum, the lilac collection was in full bloom filling the air with a very sweet aroma. All are encouraged to visit the garden this spring as your schedule allows. The former MPIG site is officially under renovation. We are not sure what UNL Landscaping Services has planned for the old site.



LIS SPRING SHOW

Jenny Cich

The LIS show is set for 1-4:30 PM on Saturday May 14, 2016. **Please note the new location is the Cafeteria of Meadow Lane Elementary School, 7200 Vine Street, Lincoln NE.**

We will use rectangular tables at one end of the cafeteria for grooming and preparing iris stalks and arrangements. There will be no special room available to store LIS or personal supplies during judging or while the show is open to the public. While the show is being judged you will be asked to wait in the vestibule/hallway. There will be no luncheon on site for this year's show.

We encourage everyone to participate in the show and enter iris stalks and arrangements, English boxes, educational displays, etc. This is an official American Iris Society sanctioned show. As such, it will be judged and there are ribbons and trophies to be won! A special invitation goes to our newer members to enter the show. There are always helpful LIS members available to offer advice on entering the show. Even if you are not ready to enter the show, stop by during the preparation time 7:30-10 AM. It's a great opportunity to learn as you watch everyone prepare their irises and arrangements, and to see what goes into the preparation and set up of the show. And, of course be sure to stick around in the afternoon when the visitors arrive to view our gorgeous irises.

Arrangements are a great way to begin entering the show. To help you plan ahead and to start you thinking about what you might put together with your beautiful irises, here are this year's categories for Artistic Arrangements. Our theme this year is America the Beautiful!

Class 1: Oh Beautiful, for Spacious Skies- A contemporary look, with height

Class 2: For Amber Waves of Grain- A design showing motion using yellows, tans and creams reminiscent of the country's breadbasket

Class 3: For Purple Mountain Majesties- Use blues, purples and whites for this centerpiece

Class 4: Above the Fruited Plain- A multicolored display incorporating fruit & vegetables

Youth Only: And Crown They Good With Brotherhood- A design using an accessory you might find in your brother's room- or your friend's brother's room

A few rules for arrangements: An exhibitor may enter only one arrangement per class. Irises must be the predominant flower, but you do not need to know the name of the irises. Accessories are acceptable and encouraged. Other plant materials (fresh or dried) are ok, but no artificial/fake plant materials.

Bloom season and the LIS show is right around the corner! It is important that all traveling trophies be polished up and on display at the show May 14th. For that reason, 2015 winners, **please bring the trophies to the April meeting**. Please give them a wipe down before packing them safely in the boxes you received them in. It will help out the Show Committee tremendously!

Trophy	2015 winner
Best Historic Iris of the Show	Stan Sass
Best Bicolor Iris of the Show	Dottie Ladman
Best Beardless Iris of the Show	Gary White
Best Miniature Tall Bearded Iris of the Show	Brett Barney
Best White Iris of the Show	Dottie Ladman
Best Plicata Iris of the Show	Marjorie Lionberger
Best Ensminger Hybridized Iris of the Show	Lois Linke
Gladys Ensminger Award- Best Arrangement	Sarah Green
Most Blue Ribbons of the Show	Dottie Ladman
Queen of the Show-Best Specimen of the Show	Marjorie Lionberger
Viewer's Choice Award- silver plate	???

LINCOLN IRIS SOCIETY
Show Agenda-May 14, 2016

Jenny Cich

FRIDAY NIGHT SET UP –May 13th

7:00 PM- Meet at Meadow Lane Elementary School Unload show materials, arrange tables, add tablecloths, place section and award cards on tables. Assemble vases & bases.

SATURDAY A.M.

7:30 AM-10:00 AM- PREPARATION TIME Groom and prepare iris stalks, attach completed entry cards, set on placement table. Placement committee moves irises to appropriate section on the show tables. Assemble arrangements and place directly on show table. Classification committee peruses show to check for mis-identified, mis-classified and mislabeled entries.

10:00 AM- ENTRY CLOSED. All irises and arrangements must be on the tables.

10:00 AM -10:15 AM- MEETING OF JUDGES, CLERKS, SHOW CHAIRMEN to preview show and determine order of judging. These will be the only individuals allowed in the cafeteria at this time.

10:15 AM to finish- JUDGING OF SHOW. During this time any excess LIS materials are to be neatly stowed away with excess materials taken to vehicles. Show participants are welcome to remain on premises in the vestibule/entry way to the school.

SATURDAY P.M.

1:00 PM- SHOW OPENS TO THE PUBLIC. LIS members work the Greeter Table or float around the room, talk with visitors about irises, answer questions, promote Auction/Sale, hand out sale fliers, encourage everyone to vote for Viewer's Choice Iris. Please wear your LIS name tag.

4:00 PM- VIEWER'S CHOICE VOTING CONCLUDES. Ballots are counted

4:30 PM – SHOW CLOSES

4:30 PM-4:35 PM- All entrants should remove any iris stalks they wish to keep.

4:35 PM- IRIS BLOOMSTALK SALE- visitors may purchase bloom stalks. **ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT TO BE SOLD OR TAKEN** unless by previous arrangement with the **EXHIBITOR.**

4:45 PM- CLEAN AND PACK- Empty water from vases, return bases and vases to marked boxes. Fold up tablecloths etc.

***Helpful Grooming Supplies-** Cotton balls, Q-Tips, tissues, sharp pointed scissors.

*****Win a Traveling Trophy? BEFORE you take a trophy see the SHOW CHAIR. All trophies must be signed out. Some trophies need to be engraved before they are awarded. Best of section certificates, medals and engraved trophies will be awarded at a later meeting.***