

*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 17 Issue 7

August 2015

## President's Message

Our annual sale/auction held on August 1<sup>st</sup> was a huge success. Thanks to a lot of hard work and dedication of the sale committee and LIS members. Special thanks to Dean Douglas for chairing the sale committee and providing his guidance, knowledge and organizational skills, which led to another record event. I was impressed throughout the sale and auction with our member's ability to greet visitors and share their knowledge of Iris culture. It was a busy day from start to finish, which was entertaining and pleasant as well as profitable. We also had some of our newer members involved which is always welcome. Our Region 21 vice president, Linda Wilkie came from Omaha and spent several hours with us and I think she spent some money too! Thanks Linda, always good to see you and you are always welcome. We now have our two major events for the year successfully completed, but there is still much to do. It is not too early to begin thinking of our upcoming events for the rest of this year, as well as next year. The October meeting is our annual business meeting. The November meeting will include setting goals, designate responsibilities, determine programs for each monthly meeting, and set dates for all tours, shows or sales to be conducted in the coming year. Please give all this some thought and bring your ideas. Thank you to everyone for your participation and labors that make LIS so successful. I also wish to thank my fellow officers for their reliability, accuracy, dedication and support.

*David Lionberger*

### President's Quote

No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.

Thomas Jefferson

## Meeting

**Date:** Monday, August 31, 2015

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper

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

**Program:** Sass Family – A Timeline  
Presented by Gary White

**Hosts:** Heidi Brase & Melinda Holcombe

*Potluck Supper Reminder – Bring a dish to share and your own service. Drinks will be provided.*

*The trophies for the Spring Show winners will be available. Mark & Jenny also plan to bring plant markers for sale.*

*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)

### **Local Hybridizing News**

Congratulations to longtime LIS member and iris fancier, Dean Douglas, for his two new tall bearded iris introductions this year. Dean generously donated a rhizome of each of these lovely new irises for our auction on August 1st. Bess Streeter Aldrich is the name of a beautiful lemon yellow iris with white falls that are edged narrowly with lemon yellow. The standards and falls are heavily laced and ruffled. Dean named this iris for one of Nebraska's beloved authors who lived in Elmwood, Nebraska from 1909 until 1946. His other introduction is Elmwood Sunset which bears the colors of a lovely Nebraska sunset. The standards and style arms are bronze orange. The falls are yellow with a wide red plicata edge and red center stripe. A small white area appears on either side of the orange beards. Dean and Judy Douglas maintain a beautiful iris garden near Elmwood and these new irises will certainly enhance their garden as well as the gardens of others that obtain them.

Eli, a tall bearded iris, hybridized and introduced in 2014 by David Lionberger, was also included in this year's rhizome auction. Standards are pale gold, ruffled slight tan edges, light tan at interior base. Style arms are pale gold. Falls are gold/tan, ruffled gold edges, occasional white streaking on falls. The blaze is tan veined, lighter gold. Bears are gold/tan, long and narrowing at end. A tan crease in the fall from the beard end creates an illusion of the beard extending the length of the fall. This iris was named for one of our great grandsons.

### **Membership Update**

We have two updates for August. Please make the changes in your membership booklet.

New email address:

Lois Linke

loispetersenlinke@gmail.com

New phone number:

Susan Johnson Russell

402-817-9973

*Linda Rader, Membership Committee*

### **Borer Control**

A timely reminder that this is the season the nocturnal moth that lays eggs which become Iris borers is active. From now until hard frost the moth is looking for the best place to lay eggs. Old iris leaves and blown in trash around the rhizomes provide an ideal site. The eggs, if left over winter in the debris, will hatch in the spring as larvae. The larvae will go up the iris leaf to enter and chew their way down the leaf to enter the rhizome. Once into the rhizome they develop into a caterpillar which is pink in color and about two inches long when fully grown. The borer then eats away the rhizome interior, the injury to the rhizome allows for the entry of a bacterial soft rot, which kills the plant. The larvae then make their way into the soil to pupate, emerging as adult moths in July or early August. Adults then mate and females lay eggs in August and September completing the cycle. The practice of good iris bed sanitation in the fall pays huge dividends in borer control. Remove the debris from the beds periodically during the fall. After the first hard frost, trim the iris foliage back to about six inches from the soil. Remove the foliage and all other trash from the iris beds, taking special care to remove as much as possible from the rhizome area. It is recommended that debris cleaned from the iris beds be burned or removed from the property. Do not include any foliage or other debris removed the iris beds into a composting process. There are various chemical products available to assist borer control, but the aforementioned sanitation process will provide fewer borer infestations and leads to little or no chemical applications.

### **AIS 2014 CLARK COSGROVE MEMORIAL AWARD FOR YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT**

This year's award winner was Faith Winzer from Region 18. Chosen as first runner up was LIS Youth member Sarah Green of Region 21, and the second runner up was Hope Winzer from Region 18, Faith's younger sister. These young iris enthusiasts were nominated for their service to local clubs, hybridizing efforts, growing many different varieties of iris in their own gardens and promoting the American Iris Society. Congratulations to all three for their accomplishments.

## 2015 LIS SALE RESULTS

Thanks to all who had a part in making the 2015 Sale a resounding success. When Lois Linke finished with all the numbers, our net profit was \$3965 which is over \$300 more than either of the past two annual sales. About everyone had some part in making this sale so successful. Approximately 900 bearded table iris were sold, plus 70 or so other plants, including daylilies, Spuria and Siberian iris and even eight bags of narcissus bulbs that Dottie prepared and brought to the sale. In addition, over 70 iris were sold on the auction, which is a lot of plants to be purchased by about 20 bidders. The auction totaled \$1315 which is down slightly from last year. Twenty nine bargain bags were sold at the sale plus Dottie sold a bunch after the sale.

All in all, give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done. Lois will likely give the final report at the August meeting.

*Dean Douglas*



*Auction Crew (left to right – standing) Brett Barney, Gary White, Mark Cich (left to right – seated) Becky Barney, Jenny Cich, Dean Douglas*



*Gary White and Linda Wilkie*



*Sales Crew – (left to right – standing) Lois Linke, Twila Sass, Eunice Cernohlavek (seated) Judy Douglas*

## *Succumbing to the Iris Virus*

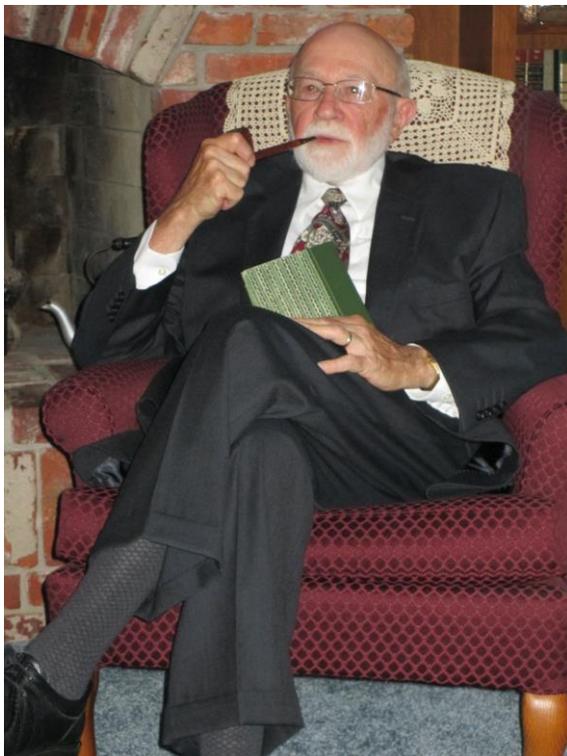
*continued from the July issue*

*David Lionberger*

The fence project being completed, more raised beds were built and more irises were planted. As each bed was planted, the demand for another raised bed or two seemed obvious to the iris lady. Her unflinching attitude was “surely you can find room for a few more that I just love”. As the iris garden matured, the bloom season yielded scores of beautiful blossoms from which to select entries for the Lincoln Iris Society’s annual spring show. For the first show, we entered thirteen tall bearded irises and twelve were awarded ribbons of various places. The show was a pleasant experience, the camaraderie of fellow exhibitors and members being the most enjoyable aspect. Sharing experience with novice exhibitors was cheerfully and generously offered. The show remains a favorite activity each spring and provides the opportunity for the public to see “the fairest of them all” in great variety.

The next phase of Iris Virus motivated the afflicted to consider hybridizing. After researching the process, we have hybridized, registered, and introduced three tall bearded irises. This is a fascinating and rewarding endeavor that requires patience and dedication with set goals always in mind.

In conclusion, our Iris Virus infection has been acute but pleasant. We have enjoyed our association with everyone we have met in our involvement with the Lincoln Iris Society and many others in the world of irises.



*David Lionberger BEFORE Iris Virus Affliction*



*David Lionberger AFTER Iris Virus Affliction*