

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

Sitting by the fireplace, I can hear the wind howling over the chimney as it drives falling snow into drifts. The wind-chill is below zero with a forecast of 6-10 degrees below zero for tonight. This new snow on top of an eight inch snow we received recently creates a blanket of at least a foot or more for our iris to sleep under. The moisture is most welcome, although I would prefer it in the form of rain. The iris seeds nestled in their beds require the cold and moisture to germinate and sprout.

Before planting our seeds last fall, I soaked them in water for several days hoping for improvement in germination. Germination in our seedlings has been no more than 50% in the past. I have heard and read that the soaking process does help. We shall see!

A couple of recent e-mails from members that are retired have expressed the joy of avoiding the battle of going to work on stormy days. To which I say "Amen!" To those of you that must brave the weather, be careful, stay warm and look forward to spring.

President's Quote

Now in my 80th year, I can recall many winters in which I doubted springs arrival. It always did sooner or later! - *David Lionberger*

Meeting

Date: Monday, February 23, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Program: Guest Speaker Angie Vandersnick

Hosts: Sandie Shields, Marlene Tracy,
& Karen Kurbis

February Program

Our guest speaker is Angie Vandersnick, one of the managers at the Nebraska Nursery Color Gardens in Lincoln, Nebraska. Part of her program will include problems and solutions while growing flowers either in the garden or in pots. Be sure to come and bring your questions.

2015 LIS Membership Booklet

We are very fortunate to have this informational and convenient reference booklet. Linda Rader and Gary White have once again provided us with an attractive edition of LIS membership, activities and other valuable information pertaining to 2015. As LIS members know it is a reference tool we constantly turn to throughout the year. It is obvious that in order to publish such a professional booklet of this nature, requires valuable time, forethought, and planning.

Our gratitude to Gary and Linda is warmly extended for another job well done.

The 2015 membership booklet will be available at the February meeting.

The AIS Centennial (1920-2020)

Do not miss reading the article pertaining to The American Iris Society Centennial celebration in five years. It can be found on page 25 of the 2015 winter edition of *Irises*, The Bulletin of the American Iris Society. As we have several members that display their artistic talents in many ways, the logo contest provides a huge opportunity for them. Hopefully our youth members will seriously consider submitting entries. Contest deadline is June 30, 2015. There will also be an iris selected as the Centennial Iris and named accordingly. The iris chosen will be among those not yet introduced, but present at the AIS 2019 Convention. See the article for all the details. The contest will no doubt inspire many hybridizers to arise to the challenge of providing outstanding entries.

Did You Notice?

We have several members of LIS that are talented photographers. Three of them have photos in recent AIS and LIS publications. The AIS 2015 calendar features a photo of the beautiful Iris 'Sunny Reflection' with Lilacs, for the month of March, submitted by Stan Sass. Stan has taken many award winning photos and this is an outstanding example of his expertise.

On the back cover of the 2015 winter edition of *Irises: The Bulletin of The American Iris Society* is a photo of 'Symphony' taken by Brett Barney. An excellent close up of a lovely Iris.

Our LIS Membership Booklet is decorated on the front and back covers with photos by Eunice Cernohlavek. We feel honored and pleased to have such a nice photo from our personal garden on the cover. The beautiful photo of 'Loreley' on the back cover, taken in the White/Rader garden won an honorable mention in the AIS 2014 Photo Contest.

Congratulations to all three.

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



**LIS Youth Members Winners in
American Iris Society 2014 Coloring Contest**

Left to right –

LIS President David Lionberger

Katherina Brase – Best in Age Division 7-9 and Overall Contest Winner

Rebekah Brase – Best in Age Division 10-12 and Creativity Award

Sarah Green – Best in Age Division 16-18 and Creativity Award

George H. Green, Jr., Youth Chairman

Not Pictured – Alexander Brase, Runner Up Age Division 7-9

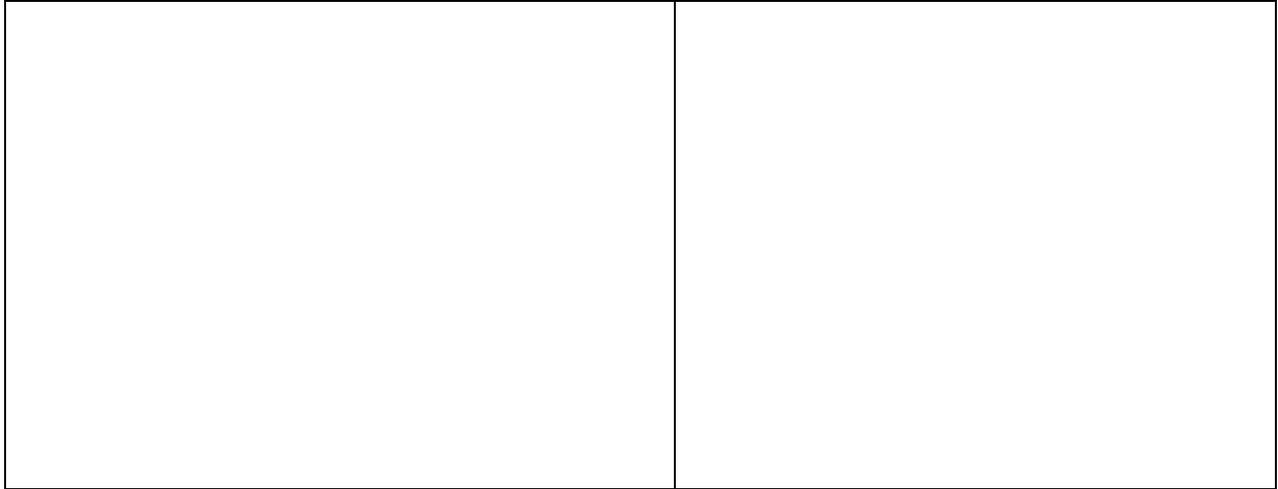
2015 Husker Lawn & Leisure Show

Mark your calendars now for the 2015 Husker Lawn & Leisure Show at the Lancaster Event Center. The show starts Friday, March 20th and runs through Sunday, March 22nd . The Lincoln Iris Society will again have a booth at this event as it is an excellent opportunity to get the word out on our upcoming events. We will have handouts listing dates, times and locations for The Spring Affair on April 25th, The Annual Spring Iris Show on May 16th and our all important Annual Sale on August 1st .

We will have the sign-up sheet at the February LIS meeting and hope that you will plan to be a part of this fun event. There are still times for each day that we need to have filled. We need your help . We will have the tickets for your admission at the February meeting as well.

Thanks for your help.

Dean Douglas



Succumbing To The Iris Virus

Continued from the January issue

By David Lionberger

In the previous issue I had described one type of the iris virus and will now proceed with another type which I have personal knowledge of.

This type of virus attacks the most innocent with a ferocity that compels the victim to crave the possession of as many irises as his planting area can support. The designated area at the onset will be somewhat modest and reasonable, but as the virus rages within, the boundary of the planting area must always increase.

I also mentioned our visit to Mr. Ensminger's garden and the purchase of a few irises. This occurred about 1956, I believe. In the course of raising our family, these irises were left to their own devices and then left behind as we changed our residence.

In the spring of 2005, my wife noticed an ad pertaining to Dean and Judy's Iris Patch, inviting the public to visit their iris garden. On a lovely day in May we made the trip to their garden near Elmwood, NE. Upon our arrival we were pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the garden as we entered through an opening in a hedge. We were warmly welcomed by a friendly couple introducing themselves as Dean and Judy Douglas. At that time we were unaware that Dean was a rampant carrier of the iris virus! Although there were many visitors to the lovely garden, Mr. Douglas was generous with his time and walked

through the garden with us. In retrospect, I am convinced he sensed viability for iris virus in the couple he escorted.

With catalog in hand we selected various irises which would be dug at the proper planting time. Mr. Douglas used and explained various iris terminology which were foreign to us, such as tall bearded, border bearded, median, falls standards, plicata, bitone, blend and hybrids.

Mr. Douglas walked with us to a special area of the garden, which he said contained all the Dykes Medal Winners to the present date. He explained this was the highest award given by The American Iris Society.

We placed an order for future delivery and Mr. Douglas invited us to the upcoming show of The Lincoln Iris Society, and asked us to consider joining the Society. He also asked if we had been to Bev and Bob Smith's iris garden in Prairie Home, NE and assured us it would be worth the time to visit them.

During the drive homeward, we pledged to attend the iris show and visit the Smith garden. It had been a pleasant day and neither of us realized the latent iris virus in her was stirring and I had been fully inoculated.

To be continued next month...