

The Lincoln Iris Society's

Rainbow Messenger

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

Edited by David & Marjorie Lionberger

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President's Message

David Lionberger

The days are getting longer and that always seems to be the first sign that spring is on its way. We have noticed a robin or two in our yard recently, another welcome indication of springs' approach. The robins may regret their decision to come back to Nebraska this early though!

It has been a long winter in many ways. I cannot recall cancelling a meeting because of the weather in the past five years or so. As the January meeting was cancelled, we plan to have the January and February programs presented at the February meeting. Both should be interesting, so plan to attend if the weather allows! Our spring events, The Husker Lawn and Leisure show and the Spring Affair will soon be upon us. We will need volunteers to staff both events, so please give some thought to helping out with these entertaining and educational projects.

President's Quote

There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogs.

Hal Borland

Meeting

Date: Monday, February 29, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Program: 2015 AIS medal winning flowers
and descriptions of various medals

Presented by Jenny Cich

Guardian Gardens Program

Presented by Brett Barney

Hosts: Judy Douglas & 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

Anna Smith's 98th Birthday

Honorary Lincoln Iris Society Life Member and longtime American Iris Society Member Anna Smith celebrated her 98th birthday on February 15, 2016. Several of Anna's fellow Lincoln Iris Society members met at a Lincoln restaurant and treated Anna to lunch on her birthday. Those in attendance were Eunice Cernohlavek, Stan and Twila Sass, Sue Thompson and Marjorie Lionberger. Their waitress informed everyone in the restaurant of Anna's 98th birthday and everyone sang happy birthday to her. Best wishes from all your friends at LIS.

Never Count an Iris Out

Sally Schrader

Digging through a pile of what I thought was empty sacks, I found one that had some very dry looking Iris. I realized they were from the year I got sick and thought to myself, I think I'll put the roots in water and see what happens. Well, I put the roots in water overnight and when I looked they had plumped up a bit. Okay, so I dug up a pot, put some potting soil in it that had some fertilizer in it and planted it. Watered it just a bit day after day. After the third week, I looked at it and thought, well maybe it was too late. But after I looked closer, there were little green shoots. Got a little excited about that. Day by day, I could see more green on the shoots. It now has four sets of leaves on it. So don't ever count your dusty, dry looking iris out. There may just be life left in that old thing yet.

Editor's Note -

Sally plans to bring the iris to the meeting for everyone to see.

Do You Know...

The fleur-de-lis is The National Symbol of France, and the emblem for the city of New Orleans, LA. The iris is the emblem of Florence Italy and is the state flower of Tennessee.

AIS Youth Note

Have you entered the AIS Ackerman Essay Contest? The deadline is April 1, 2016. This year's topic is "My Most Interesting or Exciting Iris Experience". Entries are limited to two pages. Send them to Carol Warner as an attachment to draycott@qis.net or by post to Carol Warner, 16815 Falls Rd., Upperco, MD 21155.

There is a junior division for age 12 and under and a senior division age 12-18. The winners of each division receive \$100.00 each and every youth receives a newer iris, just for participating. Put on your thinking caps and enter before the deadline!

Be sure to see page 10 "Youth Views" of the AIS Winter issue of the Bulletin. Our own Alexander Brase's overall winning color contest entry is pictured. Good job Alexander, we are proud of you and our Region 21 youth who participate in AIS events.

2016 LIS Membership Booklets

Once again we are fortunate that Gary White and Linda Rader have produced another informational and handy membership booklet. These booklets contain a current membership list, meeting dates, programs, events and much more. They will be available at this month's meeting, so be sure to attend and pick yours up.

Gary and Linda put a lot of effort into providing this service to LIS and we thank them for a job well done.

HUSKER LAWN & LEISURE SHOW **MARCH 18, 19 & 20**

Dean Douglas

Again this year, LIS will have a booth at the Husker Lawn & Leisure Show. This is a great opportunity for us to get the word out on our upcoming Spring Show on May 14th, and our annual sale on July 30th. Also, it is another chance to invite iris lovers to be a part of the Lincoln Iris Society. The show will be open at 5:00 p.m. on Friday the 18th, continues all day Saturday the 19th, and will finish up on Sunday the 20th. We will have a sign up sheet at the February meeting and are enclosing a copy with this newsletter so you can think about when you can help. We will also have admission tickets for you at the meeting. Thanks for your help!