

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 9

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President's Message

On behalf of the Lincoln Iris Society, we extend our sympathy to the family of Opal Wulf, who died on October 6, 2015 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Although my wife and I became members of LIS after Opal had become inactive we certainly had heard of her support, accomplishments and dedication to AIS and LIS.

Thanks to B.J. Ohme for his interesting program at our September meeting. B.J. is very knowledgeable about many different flowers and everyone enjoyed his presentation in regard to the culture of dahlias and gladiolas.

Our October meeting is our annual business meeting and the November meeting will deal with forming goals, designate responsibilities for the coming year, and determine the nature of the program for each monthly meeting to be held and set dates for all tours, shows or sales to be conducted.

Obviously these are important meetings that will impact our activities in the upcoming year. All LIS members are encouraged to attend these meeting and bring your ideas.

David Lionberger

President' Quote

There are basically two types of people, people who accomplish things and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.

Mark Twain

Meeting

Date: Monday, October 26, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Program: Various Iris Culture –
Monument Iris Society, Scottsbluff, NE
by Heidi Brase

Hosts: Sally Schrader
and Eunice Cernohlavek

Questions about Iris or LIS

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New Honorary Life Members

Honorary life memberships to The Lincoln Iris Society were approved and conferred upon, Dean Douglas, Judy Douglas, Linda Rader and Gary White at our September Meeting. Each of these individuals have provided outstanding services to the Lincoln Iris Society for many years and are well deserving of this recognition. Honorary life members shall retain all rights and privileges of regular members of LIS. It was also approved at our September Meeting to honor Gary White by commissioning a Trophy in his name for the Best Tall Bearded Iris in our annual spring show. This trophy is to be awarded as a traveling trophy annually. An honorarium in the amount of \$500.00 for Gary White and Linda Rader was also approved at the September meeting.



New LIS Honorary Life Members:

Left to right:

Dean Douglas, Linda Rader, Gary White
Not pictured – Judy Douglas

NEW MEMBER

Welcome new LIS member!
Diane Anderson
4101 N 134th St
Lincoln, NE 68527
402-467-1088

Gary White, President of the American Iris Society

The Lincoln Iris Society is proud and excited that our own Gary White will become president of The American Iris Society at the AIS Fall Board of Directors meeting in Omaha, NE, November 6-7, 2015. Lincoln Iris Society members are acutely aware of Gary's numerous talents and his dedication to whatever tasks he applies those talents too. We have reaped the benefits of Gary's knowledge and generous spirit and the American Iris Society has been the recipient of his talents for many years. The Iris world can be assured The American Iris Society will continue to be the great organization it is with Gary White at the helm!

Gary, please accept heartfelt congratulations from the members of your home society, the Lincoln Iris Society of Lincoln, NE, Region 21. We wish to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing AIS President Jim Morris and the board of directors for their dedicated service.

David Lionberger, LIS President

Editor's Note

LIS members are welcome to attend The AIS Board of Directors meeting in Omaha, November 6-7. Anyone interested in attending, see attached information.

Lis Dues for 2016

With little discussion, it was approved at the September meeting to keep our dues rate unchanged for 2016. Dues per individual are \$6.00 annually and \$ 4.00 for each additional individual in their family. New members joining after July 1st shall pay one-half dues for the remainder of the administrative year. LIS administrative and fiscal year is January 1st thru December 31st. It is important for members to pay their dues no later than January 1st to remain on the membership list and to be included in the LIS membership booklet.

2016 dues are now payable, please pay our treasurer:
Lois Linke

103 South 36th Road
Syracuse, NE 68446-7407

Please make checks payable to The Lincoln Iris Society

Opal Wulf

We were saddened recently to hear of the passing of Opal Wulf on October 6, 2015. She was a longtime and loyal member of the Lincoln Iris Society and the American Iris Society, as well as a hybridizer of irises.

Opal and her late husband Henry joined AIS and the Lincoln Iris Society in the early 1980s and quickly became involved in the activities of our local group and Region 21. Opal participated regularly in the LIS Show, preparing the Show Schedule, as well as entering numerous irises over the years. She won Best of Show on three occasions, the first in 1984. She was also the recipient of the Most Blue Ribbons award in 1992 and 1994. Opal and Henry's major contribution to LIS was managing the annual sale for many years, including donating many rhizomes from their own garden. Opal served as LIS membership chairman and also appeared on KZUM radio broadcasts of "How's It Growing" for a few years, publicizing the club's events. Opal and Henry were Honorary Life Members of the Lincoln Iris Society. The LIS Youth program was a special interest of Opal and Henry's. They mentored several youth members and their families over the years. And, Opal sponsored a Mother's Day iris project at 3 or 4 elementary schools in Lincoln. Each year she would pot dwarf irises with cute names in as many as 100 small white pots, then deliver them to first grade classrooms at these schools. The children finger-painted the pots and then gave them to their mothers as a Mother's Day gift. Other LIS members often helped prepare the pots, but Opal did the great bulk of the work herself, and delivered the potted irises to the schools.

On the national and regional level, Opal was a member of several American Iris Society Sections, including the Median Iris Society (MIS) and the Tall Bearded Iris Society (TBIS). In fact, she was the Vice-President of the TBIS for a year in 2001-2002. She also served a term as Regional Vice President (RVP) of AIS Region 21 and she and Henry were recipients of the Region 21 Distinguished Service Award for 1995. Both Opal and Henry were AIS Judges, Opal becoming a Master Judge. She also served the region as the Judge's Training Chair.

For the 1990 AIS national Convention, headquartered in Omaha, Opal and Henry were asked to chair the convention, which they did. And a huge job that was! During that convention, Opal and Henry's garden, Wulf's Backachers, was one of the host gardens in the Lincoln area. They opened their garden for many spring regional conventions after that, including the Region 21/TBIS convention in 2004.

Opal's hybridizing was a large part of her iris "life" as well. Over the years, from 1993 to 2004, she registered 40 irises with the American Iris Society. Of these, 20 were MTBs, 9 TBs, 8 BBs, 1 SDB, 1 IB, and 1 Siberian iris. Of the 40 registered, 25 were introduced. Two, 'Wistful Wisteria' and 'Snickerdoodle' won HMs (Honorable Mention) in the AIS awards system, and in 2002, 'Wistful Wisteria' was awarded an AM (Award of Merit) in the MTB class. Many LIS members still grow some of Opal's creations in their gardens. Miniature Tall Bearded Irises always were a special interest of hers. She and Henry sponsored the Best Miniature Tall Bearded Iris award trophy for the LIS show. Alas, the first trophy for that award (a metal sculpture) was severely damaged in a fire in the late 1990s. Opal replaced it with a lovely stone vase depicting Miniature Tall Bearded Irises. In addition to her own irises, Opal maintained a near complete collection of Allan Ensminger's irises at her home, and also introduced irises for Allan after his farm was sold.

Opal Wulf was a dedicated and avid supporter of irises and the Lincoln Iris Society. She gave of her time and talents for the club. We could always count on her to take charge of an activity and "make it happen". And then there were her cookies. Her motto was "Have cookies, will travel!" We loved her for that and being part of our lives. We will miss her.

-----Gary White and Linda Rader



Opal Wulf

Two of the many irises hybridized and introduced by Opal



Funny Freckle Face (MTB, introduced 2004)



Speck So (MTB, introduced 2002)

2015 Fall AIS Board Meeting

November 6th – 7th

Omaha, Nebraska

Meeting Registration:

Name (s): _____

Number of People Attending? _____ Banquet Only Attendees _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you require special accommodations? (food allergies, vegetarian etc.) _____

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Your registration fee includes Friday evening hospitality (light hors d'ouvres), Saturday luncheon and Saturday evening Banquet. (Friday evening dinner is on your own.) The hotel provides free shuttle service from the airport and registrants will receive complimentary parking in the adjoining hotel garage. Registration does not include your hotel accommodations (see details below for hotel information)

Meeting Fee: \$65.00 (banquet only fee \$35.00)

Checks should be made payable to **Greater Omaha Iris Society** and mailed to:

Phyllis Randall
22871 Kane Avenue
Glenwood, IA 51534

Credit Card payment can be accepted. Contact the Registrar, Phyllis Randall for instructions.
(phone: 712-520-7754 or email: pkrandall22871@gmail.com)

Questions may be directed to:

Linda Wilkie, 402-559-7649 (day time) 402-493-3808 (evenings) lrwilkie@gmail.com

Meeting Location:

**Hyatt Place
Omaha Downtown Old Market**

<http://omahadowntownoldmarket.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

Address: 540 South 12th Street

Reservations: **(800) 233-1234** please ask for the American Iris Society room rate of: **\$114.00** for single/double/triple/quad occupancy. This rate is exclusive of applicable state and local taxes; currently 18.16%.

This rate is good through **October 6th**.

The hotel highlights include:

- Complimentary wireless internet in the guest rooms and throughout the hotel
- Complimentary hot A.M. Kitchen Skillet® breakfast daily
- Enclosed on-site parking structure (complimentary for AIS registrants)
- Complimentary transportation within five miles
- Spacious guestrooms featuring living area, Hyatt Grand Bed™ and a 42" flat panel HDTV
- Indoor swimming pool & 24 hour fitness center
- 24 hour Gallery Kitchen serving hot made-to-order menu
- Bakery Café serving Starbucks® specialty coffees, premium beers and wines
- Grab 'n Go case offering muffins, salads, sandwiches and bottled beverages
- e-room with complimentary computer use and printing

The hotel is located in the popular entertainment district of the Old Market in Omaha, the area has many restaurants, art galleries and upscale shopping. The area retains its brick paved streets from the turn of the century, horse-drawn carriages, and covered sidewalks in some areas. It is not uncommon to see a variety of street performers, artists, and other vendors.

Attractions available in Omaha and within the 5 mile limit for the hotel's complimentary shuttle include:

- The Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo
- Lauritzen Gardens and the Dougherty Conservatory
- Joselyn Art Museum
- Midtown Crossings Shopping and Dining

Within walking distance of the hotel are over 40 dining venues and numerous art galleries and shops. November 6th is "First Friday" in the Old Market and most galleries are open into the evening hours for these open events.

Check: <http://oldmarket.com/> to plan any activities for yourself or your travelling companion.