

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

David Lionberger

I must confess that winter's approach holds no terror for me. I look forward to having less gardening and yard work. As our iris take their winter nap, I likewise enjoy a slower pace with an afternoon nap occasionally. However, we are at the point where winter is still somewhat distant and there is much to do before it arrives. Keeping the iris beds as clean as possible before killing frost and snow fall keeps me busy at present. Once we have the frost, I will cut our iris back to about six inches from the ground. When I was younger, I cut the foliage into fans which looked good, but at age 78 I decided looking good was the only benefit of fanning. I bought a good pair of shears with long handles that could be extended to even longer handles. Now I cut the foliage straight across and manage to stand upright while accomplishing the chore. The irises don't seem to notice the difference but my 81 year old back definitely approves of the method change. After cutting the foliage, I clean all of it out of the beds and place it in the trash to be hauled away. I am not a fan of composting iris residue as I think it best to be rid of it and avoid disease carry over. Hope to see everyone at this month's meeting

President's Quote

"There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October."

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Meeting

Date: Monday, October 24, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Program: The UNL Master Garden Program
Presented by Terri James

Hosts: Sally Schrader and
Eunice Cernohlavek

Questions about Iris or LIS

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BYLAW AMENDMENT PASSED

The proposed bylaw amendment to Article IV was passed by a unanimous vote at the September meeting. The amendment strikes the last sentence of Article IV which read: "New members joining after July 1 shall pay one-half of dues for the remainder of the administrative year." Copies of the amended bylaws will be available at this month's meeting.

HOLIDAY DINNER

Our members at the September meeting approved the arrangements for our annual dinner on Friday, December 2, 2016, at the Country Inn and Suites, 5353 N. 27th St., Lincoln, NE. We will occupy the Board Room from 5:00-9:00 p.m. and the following buffet was decided upon:

- Beacon Hills Social Buffet
- Mixed Green Salads
- Yankee Pot Roast
- Tomato Basil Chicken
- Herb Roasted Potatoes
- Green Bean Almandine
- Dinner Rolls and Butter
- Dessert Option
- Coffee, Tea, Soda, and Water

There will be no cash bar in our dining room on the second floor. However, a bar is located on the first floor for those desiring an alcoholic drink. Cost for LIS members is \$14.50 each, non-members is \$22.00 each. Please make your reservations with Lois Linke, Treasurer, at this month's meeting or mail them to her at: 103 South 36th Road, Syracuse, NE 68446-7407. Please make your checks payable to The Lincoln Iris Society. All reservations must be received and paid for by November 15th as we are required to furnish a final count to Country Inn by then. We estimated our attendance to be 30 people which has been near our number the past two years. Reservation fees are non-refundable as we must guarantee our final count. Country Inn furnishes food to serve our final count so you must make your reservation in advance.

**AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY 2017
CALENDARS**

We still have nine 2017 calendars to sell at \$5.00 each. These would make nice gifts, so please consider purchasing them for that purpose or perhaps you need one for yourself. Our Treasurer, Lois Linke, will have them at this month's meeting.

LIS SPONSORED YOUTH APPLICATION

In accord with our newly adopted Sponsored Youth Policy, our October meeting provides the opportunity for requesting a youth age 8-18 to be a sponsored LIS & AIS member. At that time, the LIS membership votes to accept or reject the request. A sponsor is an active member of Lincoln Iris Society who is willing to mentor the youth member and keep track of his/her involvement. Membership of the sponsored youth will begin in January of the following year. A child that would attain the age of 8 years by January 1st is eligible for consideration in October. In order to comply with this new policy, we request current sponsors of youth now considered LIS sponsored to make request at the October meeting for continued sponsorship.

LIS ANNUAL DUES

LIS members discussed our dues at our September meeting as our bylaws require. After little discussion, it was voted to keep our dues at the current rate. The dues remain \$6.00 per person and \$4.00 for each additional family member annually. 2017 membership dues are now payable. Please pay our Treasurer, Lois Linke, at our meeting or you may mail your check to her at the following address:
Lois Linke
103 South 36th Road
Syracuse, NE 68446-7407
Please make checks payable to: Lincoln Iris Society

AIS Region 21 Website

Linda Rader

If you've not done so recently, be sure to check out the AIS Region 21 website. It is the go-to place for information and news about iris events, iris gardens and iris people in the area. Region 21 of the American Iris Society includes Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota in the United States, as well as NWT, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in Canada. It is quite a large area, for sure! The site is set up as a blog, which makes it easy to scroll down and read entries from the past that you may have missed. You will find notices of upcoming events such as club shows and sales, as well as details about regional meetings and visiting speakers in this and surrounding regions. And recent exciting news is we have a new AIS affiliate iris society in central Iowa, the Heart of Iowa Iris Growers.

Wayne Messer from Huxley, in central Iowa is the webmaster for the Region 21 site and has done a great job of seeking out information and posting notices of events in a timely manner. He welcomes contributions from iris folks in the region. Write a short paragraph and share a photo of what was spectacular (or not so spectacular) in your garden. Let him know if you or your group has a special iris project in the works. It is a way for us to connect and share our iris gardening experiences.

For the past couple seasons, Wayne has encouraged submissions for the Where's In Bloom? Project. Folks are asked to take note of when irises are blooming that year in their garden. What are your earliest irises? When is peak bloom? And which rebloomers are extending your season? The intent is to determine the best time to visit gardens to see early, mid and late-blooming irises and to keep an ongoing record of dates through the years. On the site, you can scroll down the entries to early 2015 and read bloom dates for that season. In Nebraska, Dottie Ladman and Gary White from our club and Linda Wilkie from Omaha recorded bloom times for 2015. We need to continue this in 2017!

I encourage everyone to check out the site, read past entries and plan to submit iris notes and photos when you have them. You do not have to be an AIS

member to participate. The website address is www.aisregion21.org. You can also "Follow" the site. By doing this, every time there is a new entry, you will receive an email message with the content of the post. To do that, while on the site, look in the far lower right corner of your monitor screen for the rectangle with the word "Follow". Click on Follow, enter your email address and then click on Sign Me Up. If you don't see the rectangle, try scrolling upward. Curiously, on my screen the box disappears whenever I scroll down. For more information or to contribute iris news or notes, contact Wayne Messer at wrmesser@gmail.com.



Blossoms Aflame TB 2016

David Lionberger

THE LINKE GARDENS

David Lionberger

This month it is my pleasure to feature the lovely gardens of Lincoln Iris Society and American Iris Society members, Karl and Lois Linke. Karl and Lois have lived on their well-kept acreage east of Syracuse, NE, for 36 years. It is evident that they have done a great deal of planning and labor to achieve such a pleasant home with attractive grounds, buildings, beautiful trees, and gardens. Although their iris gardens are our primary interest, we are impressed with the artful layout of the various types of other flowers, berries, and vegetables that occupy a good portion of their grounds. Lois has been growing iris for 25 years. Her interest in iris was enhanced by a Mother's Day tradition she and her mother shared by visiting Schliefert's Gardens. Every year they each purchased three or four different iris with the intent of sharing them eventually. Their visits to Schliefert's resulted in awareness of iris variety and their names. Her father made name labels for them and the practice of accurate inventory and plant markers was adopted and remains to this day. As with most of us, just a few iris at first, then the garden kept expanding to plant more. Lois has 260 varieties at this time, mostly tall bearded with some medians. Her initial plan was to stop with 200, then 250. We are all well acquainted with this phase of the iris virus! A focal point in one of the iris gardens is a rustic footbridge that spans a realistic dry streambed. Karl built the bridge and everyone admires his carpentry abilities. As pictures attest, the bridge in the center of the garden surrounded by beautiful iris is a memorable scene. Lois plants a large vegetable garden which yields a variety of produce. She cans and freezes much of the bounty and generously shares with family and friends fresh garden treats. Much to the benefit of LIS, Lois has served as our Treasurer for the past few years. Her dedication, dependability and accuracy are very much appreciated. We all thank you for your service! On a more personal note, Lois agreed to plant iris seed from some of the crosses I made as I lacked room to plant them. She was interested in growing iris from seed and I was glad she was willing to experiment with the project. A portion of her garden became the seed bed from which the seeds sprouted and new iris thrived under her care. As they began to bloom, we were both somewhat disappointed with most of them with the exception of one. Lois knew I wanted to register an iris named for our new great granddaughter and told me to use the best one of the seedlings if I wished to register it. I submitted the registration application and named the iris "Lena Grace". The name was accepted and the iris duly registered with AIS this year. I had given the seed to Lois with the understanding that the resulting iris were hers to do with as she wished. Fortunately for me, she wished for me to have it to register. I appreciate it Lois – thank you!



Linke Gardens



Lois Linke & Marjorie Lionberger



Lena Grace TB 2016

David Lionberger

A Question and Answer Session with our Secretary- Jenny Cich

Q. What does it take to be Secretary of the Lincoln Iris Society?

A. In my opinion it takes very little effort other than the commitment to attend the meetings regularly, attention to detail and a little bit of planning/organizing. There is homework after the meeting in terms of reviewing your work, spelling and grammar checking and getting the minutes submitted in a timely manner to the newsletter editor and LIS President, but this is easily handled and appreciated if one does not procrastinate. I generally considered my homework "late" if I was submitting the minutes more than 7 days after our meeting.

Q. How long have you held the duties and responsibilities of Secretary?

A. I first took on the job in 2010 (just a year or so into becoming an LIS member). I held the position for two years before changing jobs to treasurer for one term (in 2012) then I switched back to being Secretary and have been so ever since – so 6 years total. P.S. Being Secretary is waaayyyy easier than being Treasurer. Thank you Lois for the awesome job you do!

Q. What exactly are the responsibilities of the LIS Secretary?

A. Simply put by the Bylaws responsibilities are:

SECRETARY- The Secretary shall take and keep the minutes of all meetings of the LIS and the Board of Directors, and furnish a copy of the minutes for the next meeting of the LIS, keep the Bylaws updated with the minutes of the meetings, and keep additional records as directed by the President or the Board of Directors.

Q. We see you handling and being involved in other things like the Annual Show, Annual Plant Sale, organizing our participation at the Spring Affair and acting as the liaison with UNL for the Magdalene Pfister Garden- those aren't LIS Secretary responsibilities?

A. Nope- those are my own decisions to be involved in and contribute my time and talents to the LIS in these other avenues. If you are interested in being more involved in any of these let's chat.

Q. We hear you're interested in stepping down as Secretary. Can you tell us why?

A. Well, it's not because I am looking to hold a different office :) Simply put I think a fresh set of ears and ideas will help keep our officer group dynamic and interesting. That and being Secretary is one of the easiest ways to become more involved in the LIS and it takes little extra time outside of the meetings.