

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

This year is passing quickly with our major activities successfully completed. Of course, we have important decisions to make in the remainder of this year that will impact next year's functions and into the future. I encourage all LIS members to give some previous thought to upcoming meetings and agenda items that will be decided upon. A few of those topics include – annual dues review, officer elections, setting dates for annual show, sale and tours, determine programs for each monthly meeting to be held, and committee volunteers. I firmly believe that an interesting program at each meeting is vital to member retention and continued growth of our membership. These programs need not be expensive or overly long but they must be interesting! We have ample talent in our society to provide many programs, and talent in our near community as well. Last month's meeting was a perfect example of two of our members producing an exceptional program. Karen and Marlene obviously gave much thought to preparing their program about water gardens. The photos of their water garden, advice, and comments in building and maintaining – as well as information pertaining to various plants, fish, and wildlife – held everyone's interest from start to finish. The fact they are LIS members and have hands on experience which they generously share adds the final touch to an interesting program. Thank you, Karen and Marlene. As most of you know, our Vice President, Heidi Brase, serves as Chairman of the Program Committee as our bylaws direct. Heidi is open to suggestions so please do not hesitate to bring your suggestions and ideas to her.

President's Quote

“By all these lovely tokens, September days are here. With summer's best weather, and autumn's best of cheer.”

Helen Hunt Jackson

Meeting

Date: Monday, September 26, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. – Pot Luck Supper

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

Program: no formal program, an evening to socialize and relax

Hosts: Melinda Holcombe & Carla Green

Pot Luck Supper reminder – bring a dish to share and your own service. Drinks will provided.

Questions about Iris or LIS

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Notice of Pending LIS Bylaw Amendment

Article IX – Amendments to the Bylaws

Amendments to the Lincoln Iris Society bylaws can be made, when considered and discussed at a regular meeting of the LIS, and then voted upon at the next regular meeting. Such amendments must have a two-thirds majority of those eligible voters present.

Article IV – Dues

The administrative and fiscal year of LIS shall be January 1 thru December 31.

Membership dues to the LIS shall be reviewed and set at the September business meeting by the LIS members. Members whose dues remain unpaid after January 1st of each year shall be removed from the LIS membership list without further notice. New members joining after July 1st shall pay one-half dues for the remainder of the administrative year.

In compliance with the bylaws, the subject of new members paying one-half dues when joining after July 1st was considered and discussed at our regular August meeting. After consideration and discussion by LIS members, a proper motion was made to strike the last sentence of Article IV. The motion was then properly seconded. Therefore, in compliance with the bylaws, the motion to amend Article IV will be voted upon at our next regular meeting on September 26, 2016. Please note that Article IV also requires that dues shall be reviewed and set at the September meeting. This requirement shall also be discussed and voted upon at said meeting.

Sponsored LIS Youth Policy Adopted

Drafts of suggested LIS Sponsored Youth Policy were submitted at the July meeting for membership consideration. The committee of three – George Green, Jr., Lois Linke, and Lyle Hermance – worked to formulate a policy that was clear and concise and were very successful in attaining their goal. With three changes made to the original proposal at the July meeting, the policy was voted upon and adopted by members at the August meeting. Printed copies of this new policy will be available at this month's meeting. At least one copy will be kept on file in the records of LIS. Our thanks to the committee for their work on this project and it should serve to make clear our Sponsored Youth Policy in the future.

September Program Change

It has become necessary to cancel our scheduled program for the September meeting. LeRoy Meininger, of the Monument Iris Society, who was to present the program, notified us that his health at this time will not allow him to make the trip from Gering, NE. Mr. Meininger underwent heart surgery in June and is recovering at home. We are all disappointed of course, but wish him the best for a complete recovery. After discussion with Program Committee Chair Heidi Brase and other members, it was decided to have a social evening with no formal program. As this is a potluck supper, we think our members will enjoy the opportunity to relax and visit. A card was sent to Mr. Meininger from LIS.

Holiday Dinner

Mark your calendars for our annual dinner on Friday, December 2, 2016. Reservations at Country Inn and Suites have been made for the Board Room from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This is the same facility where we have had our dinner the past two years. Menu options and costs will be discussed at this month's meeting.

Raffle Results

The raffles that David, Ava, and Evelyn Toth have conducted the past few meetings were finalized at our August meeting. This resulted in gross sales of \$313.00 for Paul Black's Median iris rhizomes and many rhizomes donated by David Toth from his garden. LIS had donated \$100.00 to the Median Iris Society earlier this year and Paul Black was to send two of his recent Median introductions to iris societies donating \$100.00. Paul actually sent us six of his Medians in his support of the Median Iris Society. LIS has not only recovered our \$100.00 donation, but have netted a \$213.00 profit. Our thanks again to David and his daughters for suggesting and managing the raffle. LIS members attending the August meeting had the opportunity to select free rhizomes Dotty Ladman had sent from her garden. Also, the garden committee brought rhizomes from the Magdalene Pfister Garden for members to take at no cost. Thanks to these folks as well.

Youth News

Heidi Brase

This has been quite a year for the kids to build up their collection of newer irises, thanks to the generosity of many people. George Hildebrandt from Slatington, Pennsylvania, who is the Region 3 RVP, sent median irises from the 2016 Convention guest bed to each youth member of the American Iris Society. The Iris Society of Dallas generously assisted with the funding to mail these rhizomes. Volunteers from Region 3 helped to dig and package the rhizomes from Mr. Hildebrandt's garden. In addition to these rhizomes, we were pleasantly surprised to receive a box from Riley Probst and Shirley Trio of the Fleur De Lis Garden in Modesto, California. They sent recent TB introductions as a gift to each child who entered the Ackerman Essay Contest. Alexander received "Not Broke This Time" by Bill Tyson. Rebekah and Katharina received the Joe Ghio introductions of "Soul Mate" and "Celebratory." Judging by the pictures on the AIS encyclopedia, these are some stunning flowers, which we can't wait to see bloom in the Spring. As an added bonus, Riley personally added his own 2013 MTB introduction: "Leave The Light On." The generosity of these fellow iris lovers has really excited the kids about having their own special flowers, and offered a terrific reward for taking the time to write their essays. We are thankful to the many people from coast to coast who assisted with all the gift irises to youth members. We hope that they will grow well in our garden, and we will in turn be able to share these newer introductions at our own club's auction, just like Rebekah did this year. Alexander is hoping that he will have some better luck this time. His gift irises rarely seem to do well. Late last fall, he got "Getta Gander". In the Spring, it sent up a small bloom stalk, and then seemed to die down. We dug it up. We moved it to a sunnier spot. We fertilized and watered it. Small green leaves began to emerge, only to be chomped all the way down to the rhizome by hungry grasshoppers! We will keep our fingers crossed that it survives. He got his new irises planted right away, and all the recent rain should help them to root in well.

We also wanted to say thanks to those who dug the irises from the Magdalena Pfister Iris Garden to share with the club. That was a fun surprise at the last meeting! We've also enjoyed the rhizome raffles during the last 3 meetings, sponsored by David Toth. Dietrich was thrilled that the one ticket he entered in the raffle won him "Talkin' Turkey." He's got it planted in the front yard, where he can keep a close eye on it! David put a lot of work into the raffle, and it was very successful in not only covering our donation to the Median Iris Society Tour, but surpassing it by nearly \$200. What a great idea! We have been trying to weed the garden as schedule permits, and when the ground is dry enough. We noticed one bloom stalk full of buds last week, and we are hoping that there will be more rebloomers with all of the recent rain. It sure makes the hoeing and weeding easier when the ground is soft! We hope that each of you has been able to spend some time in your garden as well, preparing for another beautiful spring.

AIS Youth Encouragement

David Lionberger

Our great granddaughter, Madeline Ruth, entered the Ackerman Essay Contest this year at age seven. Her entry subject pertained to having an iris named for her. Although she did not win an award for her essay, she did receive acknowledgement in the form of a rhizome of the tall bearded iris Melody Ruth from Carol Warner, Essay Contest Chairman. I felt this was a nice gesture from Carol to a young girl just beginning her interest in irises. Madeline asked if we could send Carol a Madeline Ruth rhizome. I had her come over and help dig, clean, label, and box the rhizome for shipping. Madeline and her dad planted Melody Ruth and she is excited to see it grow and bloom. This is a small example of thoughtfulness and generosity that I don't think was required on Carol's part which inspired a young child to respond in like manner. Madeline's hands on experience in the iris garden will be retained for her lifetime and her new iris will be a reminder of Carol's encouragement.

Watch for Re-bloomers

David Lionberger

Much to my surprise, as I was working in our iris beds, I noticed there were bloom stalks on Peach Jam. Gary White gave us this 1989 Ensminger tall bearded iris about four years ago. It has performed well in previous years but had never re-bloomed before. There are two large stalks with several buds each. May blossoms have competition for September blossoms on this one!



Dean & Judy's Iris Patch

David Lionberger

Approximately 25 miles east of Lincoln, NE, lays the village of Elmwood, NE. To the north and west of Elmwood a few miles, located in the rich and fertile soil of Eastern Nebraska, is the lovely iris garden of Dean and Judy Douglas, which is known as Dean & Judy's Iris Patch. Many an iris fancier and others have passed through the hedge opening leading into the garden to be astonished at the beauty before their eyes. To behold such an array of colors and iris variety in this well planned garden is a pleasure not soon forgotten. During prime bloom season visitors arrive by chartered buses, school buses, cars and vans to be welcomed by Dean and Judy. The time they spend in the garden is relished by all and the sense of quiet tranquility is transmitted as only a flower garden can do. Of particular interest to American Iris Society members is a separate area that contains the AIS Dykes Award winners dating from 1927. This portion of the garden required finding and purchasing these irises of renown and I'm sure it was not an easy task. I have expressly mentioned Elmwood, NE, because Dean has honored a famous Nebraska author, Bess Streeter Aldrich – whose home was in Elmwood – by naming an iris he hybridized for her. In addition to naming the iris "Bess Streeter Aldrich", Dean also named another iris he hybridized "Elmwood Sunset". Bess Streeter Aldrich is a lovely tall bearded iris with lacy lemon standards and white falls edged in yellow. A beautiful, pastel, very feminine, and fitting tribute to this talented lady. Elmwood Sunset is also a tall bearded iris which has standards of bronze orange and falls of yellow edged in red. The hues and blends of color in this iris certainly contain many features of a Nebraska sunset. Dean, having observed numerable sunsets over his years living near Elmwood, is well qualified in his judgement of sunsets. In conclusion, I would be remiss in failing to mention Dean and Judy's dedication to the American Iris Society and the Lincoln Iris Society over the years. They have actively supported all activities and functions of AIS and LIS. In recognition of their involvement and support, The Lincoln Iris Society members bestowed Honorary Lifetime Memberships to Dean and Judy in 2015.



BESS STREETER ALDRICH 2015 by D Douglas

