

Invitation

AIS Region 21 Spring Convention

May 23-24, 2014

Country Inn & Suites Lincoln North
5353 North 27th St
Lincoln Nebraska 68521

Greetings Iris Friends,

The Lincoln Iris Society is hosting the Region 21 Spring 2014 Meeting and Garden Tour. We are pleased to invite you and guests from around Region 21 to our fair city for this spring regional iris convention. All activities other than tours to the gardens will be held at the Country Inn & Suites Hotel.

Enclosed you will find these items:

- 1) This letter with a description of the meeting.
- 2) Information about the Hotel and room costs, and a tentative Schedule of Events
- 3) Registration Form for you to complete and return to our registrar, Linda Rader.

We hope that you will all plan to attend.

Friday Evening

On Friday evening at the hotel, we will host an informal, unstructured social time in the Capital Room on the lower level of the hotel. We will have coffee, tea, ice water, cookies and other snacks for this meet and greet. Since people will be arriving from around the region and some after work hours, dinner is on your own. There is a very nice full restaurant in the hotel called Beacon Hills. In addition, there are numerous restaurants and fast food dining venues up and down 27th Street from the hotel.

Garden Tours

There are six gardens slated to be on the garden tour this Spring, showcasing the private iris collections of our members. The garden owners are Dean and Judy Douglas, Jenny and Mark Cich, David and Marjorie Lionberger, Dottie Ladman, Jean Pedersen, and Gary White & Linda Rader. This will be the first time on regional tour for most of the gardens. Back on the tour are the Douglas and White/Rader gardens, both large gardens. In addition to a whole lot of irises, our gardeners also dabble in an eclectic assortment of other perennials, so there should be something of interest for everyone. Three of the gardens are large, so bring your comfy shoes.

Saturday Evening

After the garden tours, and back at the hotel, we will have a buffet style meal in the Lighthouse Room on the third floor of the hotel. This is a spacious room for our dinner. This will be followed by the awards presentation by our RVP, Linda Wilkie. The Judges Training session on Exhibition Judging of Historic Irises will be after the awards. And, Judy Keisling will be presenting a program for us.

Judges Training

We are happy to announce that **Judy Keisling, of Liberty, MO, near Kansas City, will conduct a Judge's Training School during our spring garden tour.** Judy is the national Chair of Judges, conducts numerous Judge's Training schools every year, and is also the Immediate Past President of the American Iris Society. One hour of in-garden credit will be available for judges and apprentice judges. This hour credit will be divided into 30 minute segments, each segment in a different garden. This will allow participants ample time to view the garden and attend the judging sessions. We hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to expand your knowledge of evaluating irises in the garden.

We will also have a **second Judges Training session presented by yours truly, Gary White.** This training school will be something a little different. **It will be Exhibition Judging of Historic Irises,** and as with all other Judges Training sessions, will be open to all attendees at the convention. I am planning for this session, one hour credit, to be geared to anyone who is interested in showing historic irises as well as to all judges who must be prepared to judge historic irises.

Anyone and everyone attending (whether a judge or not), is welcome to partake in the Judge's Training sessions. We encourage all those interested in learning more about irises to take advantage of these educational sessions.

Sunday Morning

The only thing planned for Sunday morning is a Region 21 Board meeting, which will be held in the Hotel Board Room on 3rd floor. We have that room reserved from 8:30 till Noon. Anyone who wishes can go to the Beacon Hills Restaurant, purchase brunch, and take to the Board Room for the working meeting of the regional board. We hope that most of the Region 21 board members can attend this meeting. Other interested members are welcome as well. However, seating is limited and the members of the board have reserved seating.

Food

Of course, there will be plenty of food for you at the Spring meeting. There will be a Friday evening meet and greet with cookies, salsa and dip, brownies, etc, as well as a banquet buffet on Saturday evening. We will provide snacks and drinks in the gardens, and a very good lunch on Saturday in one of the gardens. In the mornings, hotel guests may partake of the full hot breakfast provided by the hotel. And the Beacon Hills Restaurant is open on Friday evening as well. The restaurant and its bar are open 11 AM to 11 PM on Friday and Saturday. Their brunch on Sunday is open 9am to 2pm.

Registration

Send in your registration soon and reserve a spot. We will return a confirmation letter along with other pertinent information. When you arrive we will have a schedule and other miscellaneous information for you.

If you have any questions or other concerns, please contact me and we hope to see you in May,

Gary White
Convention chairman
701 Old Cheney Rd.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68512-1168

Phone: (402) 421-6394
Email: in2iris@yahoo.com

Lodging Information

The location for the convention will be the **Country Inn and Suites** at **5353 North 27th Street in Lincoln, Nebraska** — off the 27th St exit of I-80, then 1.6 miles south on the right (west).

***** Please make your own reservations with the Country Inn & Suites by calling (402) 476-5353.** To obtain the convention rate, be sure to mention the **Lincoln Iris Society and Iris Meeting** when making reservations***

The **cost of motel rooms** is as follows:

Standard Room = \$89.99 (plus taxes)

A block of rooms has been reserved at these prices. **The hotel will only guarantee this rate, however, until April 25, 2014.** After that date, you may still make reservations, but the above rates are not guaranteed.

The **Country Inn & Suites** offers a free hot breakfast and has a fitness room and indoor swimming pool and outdoor hot tub for your convenience and pleasure. The hotel also has free wireless internet access and a business center. Guests at the hotel also get a 10% reduction in meals at the Beacon Hills Restaurant.

Tentative Schedule of Events—subject to updates

Friday evening May 23rd

4:00—9:00 PM Registration desk open
5:30—9:30 PM Welcome meet and greet with snacks, coffee, tea
—Social time, informal chitchat, etc.

Saturday May 24th

6AM—9:30 AM Complimentary full hot Breakfast for Hotel Guests
7:30—8 AM Registration Desk Open
8 AM—Noon Van Tours to gardens with snack breaks
Noon—1:00 PM Lunch in convention garden
1:00—4:30 PM Van Tours to gardens with snack breaks
6:00—7:15 PM Banquet
7:15—7:30 PM Region 21 Awards and Acknowledgements
7:30—8:30 PM Judges Training—Exhibition Judging Historic Irises
8:30—9:30PM Program by Judy Keisling

Sunday May 23rd

9:00—2:00PM Beacon Hills Restaurant brunch buffet—on your own
8:30—Noon Region 21 Board meeting — Hotel Board Rm, 3rd Floor

Registration Form for AIS REGION 21 Spring Tour

May 23-24, 2014

Country Inn & Suites Hotel Lincoln North

5353 North 27th Street

Lincoln, Nebraska 68512

Name(s) of attendees: _____

(as you want them to
appear on nametag)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Registration for Convention:

Full Convention	\$55 each	X	_____	registrants	=	\$_____
Garden Tours/lunch only	\$30 each	X	_____	registrants	=	\$_____
Sat. Banquet/Program only	\$30 each	X	_____	registrants	=	\$_____
Youth (under 19 yrs)	\$25 each	X	_____	registrants	=	\$_____

Total amount enclosed = \$_____

Make checks payable to: The Lincoln Iris Society

Mail above registration form along with your check for the Total amount to:

Linda Rader

Registrar

701 Old Cheney Rd.

Lincoln, Nebraska 68512-1168

Phone: (402) 421-6394

Email: rizndough@yahoo.com