

*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*

January and February 2018 are history and the days are getting longer. This, to the iris gardener, is the harbinger of the long awaited bloom season. The avid iris lover will soon be surveying the iris beds for winter damage and anticipating the opportunity for spring cleanup. There is always a certain amount of repair required; timbers replaced in raised beds, addition of black dirt, plant markers to be cleaned and updated, plus the desire to build new beds and plant more iris. All of this work is eagerly accomplished while keeping an eye on the weather...always hoping for the proper growing season and timely bloom of the spectacular show of color and variety only our favorite flower can produce. I have often thought the gardener shares the natural response of a bear coming out of hibernation in the spring. Both are happy to see the sun, feel its warmth, and anxious to get out and get moving. As the bear is ravenous and overindulges, so is the gardener likely to be excessive in over working. So as spring approaches, consider your winter hibernation and take time to warm up slowly and enjoy your garden.

## *President's Quote*

*"Gardening is how I relax. It's another form of creating and playing with colors."*

*Oscar de la Renta*

## Meeting

**Date: Monday, March 26, 2018**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

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

**Program: Growing Siberian Irises**

**Presented By: Jenny Cich**

**Hosts: Eunice Cernohlavek & Sally Schrader**

*Questions about Iris or LIS*

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## SIBERIAN IRIS

*Jenny & Mark Cich*

Siberian iris- these beardless beauties offer so many things to our gardens; delicate and graceful blooms are followed by fine bladed grass like foliage that offers season long interest. At the March meeting we will share some photos from our garden and what we have experienced during the last 4 growing seasons on a full sun, windy hill top in northeastern Lancaster County. If you grow Siberian iris, we hope you'll share your experiences during the March presentation time as well. See you then!



*Jenny & Mark's garden  
Photo from Jenny Cich*



*Photo from Anna Smith's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party  
l to r: Eunice Cernohlavek, Gary White, Linda Rader,  
Marjorie Lionberger, Sally Schrader, David Lionberger,  
front row: Anna Smith*



*Cich's garden 2016  
Photo by David Lionberger*

**2018 SPRING & SUMMER  
REGION 21 BULLETIN**

Once again we owe Wayne and Pam Messer a huge thank you for their commitment and work in publishing the Region 21 Bulletin. As we all know, this is a much appreciated volume of information and requires many hours of preparation. On behalf of the members of the Lincoln Iris Society, please accept our gratitude and recognition for your dedication to the American Iris Society and Region 21.

**SPRING AFFAIR**

*Jenny Cich*

We still have a few slots open. To help with this event on Saturday April 28th, contact Jenny Cich. There are slots to fill for the times of 9-10:30, 10:30-12 or 12-2. Also remember to keep an eye on your early blooming iris and bring out any blooms that you can. This is an excellent opportunity for LIS members to publicly display these "fun size" iris while promoting their availability at our July sale.



*Lois Linke's Garden 2016  
Photo by David Lionberger*

**GOT MILK?**

Last month's article pertaining to Anna Smith's milk delivery experience reminds me of a milkman's dilemma I once heard of. It all began when one of his regular customers, a middle aged lady, was advised by her doctor to take milk baths to retard skin wrinkles which she expressed concern about. The practice in those days was to put a note in a milk bottle on your porch if you wished an order different from your normal purchase. Her milkman was surprised to see her note requesting 25 gallons of milk for his next delivery. He thought this was surely an error and she must have meant to order 2.5 gallons, so he rang the bell. Upon hearing his request for clarification, she confirmed the order for 25 gallons of milk was correct and explained the milk bath theory. In his desire to provide her with his best service, he asked if she preferred whole or skim milk. She told him she thought whole milk would be most beneficial. He then asked her "will you need it to be pasteurized?" and she replied "no, I think up to my chin would be sufficient"!

**CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Many thanks to Dean Douglas for overseeing the Husker Lawn & Leisure Show arrangements and to all LIS members who volunteered to help with this event. Remember the Spring Affair will be on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jenny Cich at [jennycich@gmail.com](mailto:jennycich@gmail.com) or 402-525-5047 for more information and to volunteer to help at this function.

Auction & Sale Committee Chairman, Dean Douglas, reports he has placed orders for the auction rhizomes and has confirmed Tom Bassett will again be our auctioneer.