

Twin City Iris Society

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IRIS NEWS and VIEWS of the TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY

February 1953

O silvery stream, with glint and gleam
Where dipping boughs are laving,
The current lags where Sweet Blue Flags
By ripples stirred are waving.
Amid the green, their soft, blue sheen,
With white and purple penciled,
Like bits of sky, where sunbeams lie,
Through leafy branches stenciled.

.....W.B. HUNT

Oh well, only 108 more days until Iris time and if you grow some dwarfs, its not quite that long. But anyway its nice to know that most of the winter is now behind us.

Despite slippery roads and the current "flu" epidemic, we had a rather nice turnout for our January meeting. Mr. Chet Tomkins, who was to have been our guest speaker, met with an unfortunate mishap and was unable to be here, however our program chairman, Mr. Bud Foss, called on Mr. Budd Straub and Mr. N. Burns and arranged for a slide program which was enjoyed by all. Slides that drew special attention and comment were of Mary Randall, Zantha, Black Hills, Truly Yours, Sunset Blaze, Starshine, Honeyflow, Bollerive, Fantasy and several others. The little dwarfs, shown in bloom with the tulips and other early spring flowers were also favorably received.

Our dinner was excellently prepared and most delicious while the surroundings were comparable to what one might expect to see in the Swiss Alps, with occasional glimpses of skiers moving to and fro behind snow encrusted windows. A roaring fire in the fireplace added a cheerful note to the entire program.

Our Society was asked by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society to recommend a list of Iris suitable for Minn. culture. After some spirited voting, the following list of Iris varieties was agreed upon:

White.....Sharkskin	Light Blue.....Sylvia Murray
Med.Blue...Blue Rhythm	Blue & White plicata
Orchid Pink...Harriet Thoreau	Blue Shimmer
Shell Pink...Pink Cameo	Purple & White plicata...
Rose.....Mulberry Rose	Minnie Colquitt
Blend.....Three Oaks	Yellow & Red plicata.....
Dark Purple...Sable	Royal Scot
Red.....Ranger	Dark Yellow...Ola Kala
Brown.....Bryce Canyon	Light Yellow...Moonlight Madonna
Cream.....Amandine	Arcena.....Wabash
Variogata..Gypsy	Mohr Hybrid...Lady Mohr

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1953 are now being accepted by our new secretary, Mrs. Esther Berger, 2336 East 42nd. St, Minneapolis. In order to get your copies of the Horticulturist on time, you must attend to this immediately. Dues for this year are \$2.00 for an individual membership and \$2.50 for a family membership. This includes membership in the Minn. Hort. Society with which we are affiliated. If you have already paid for membership in the Hort. Society through some other group such as the Dahlia, Gladiola or Rose Societies, or through your neighborhood garden club, your dues would be \$1.00 less, but you must include your Horticultural Society number with your remittance.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

- Q. Can manure be used for fertilizing iris?
 A. Not too long ago the answer to this question would have been "Never", in recent years however, this has proven to be a fallacy. You CAN use well rotted manure to advantage providing it does not come into direct contact with the rhizomes.
- Q. When should I divide my iris clumps?
 A. When they become too crowded, usually after about three or four years. Dig the entire clump and save only those rhizomes that have healthy fans, destroy all diseased or rootless rhizomes. Trim the fans to a height of six or eight inches and replant in new or enriched soil, water well and often until new growth is visible. Be sure to use a protective cover, marsh hay etc, for at least the first winter. You can divide anytime between June 15th. and Sept. 15th. in this area.

VARIETAL COMMENTS

Cloth of Gold: A very charming iris done in a clear shade of bright gold, enhanced by a brilliant orange beard. Ruffled and dependable.

- Ola Kala: This iris has won acclaim wherever grown. It is an outstanding brassy yellow, very floriferous and hardy.
- Zantha: A very large flowered golden yellow with flaring falls. Extremely smooth and clean and of exceptional substance.
- Lady Boscawon: This tall, large white is surely a crowd stopper. The textured veining adds rather than detracts to the beauty of the flower.
- New Snow: This white iris has everything. Tall-large-ruffled-good substance- and good form, one of our favorites.
- The Capital: A warm white with an almost orange haft, gardenia-like texture, quite tall and late blooming. It is just a little slow of increase but worth growing nevertheless.

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to the following new members who have joined our society since January 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Bates of St. Paul.
 Mr. Herbert D. Johnson of Stillwater.
 Mr. W.E. Rixe of Minneapolis.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th. at 8.00 P.M. in the meeting room of Rutherfords new garden store, at 4995 Excelsior Blvd., just East of the Miracle Mile in St. Louis Park. Our speaker will be Dr. A. Orville Dahl, professor of Botany, University of Minnesota. Dr. Dahl, an iris enthusiast for many years, has grown over 250 varieties of iris and has done some important work in embryo culture of iris seed for the American Iris Society. His talk will be devoted entirely to iris. Dr. Dahl has also promised to bring along a copy of W.R. Dykes beautifully illustrated book "The Genus Iris" a real collectors item. DON'T MISS THIS MEETING and try and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served, at no charge.

Remember, this is your bulletin. Don't hesitate to send in your questions and comments and any other information which you feel would be of interest to fellow members. Address all such correspondence to Mrs. Edythe Burns, 1707--77th. Ave. No. Minneapolis 12, Minnesota.

For your information and date calendar, Our March meeting will be a pot-luck supper..... the date, MARCH 26th. this meeting to also be held at Rutherford's.

See you at Rutherford's February 26th.