

# Twin City Iris Society

## NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. XII, Book 10

November, 1964

With the daytime temperatures reaching into the upper 50's and 60's it is hard to realize that it is time to write about a "Christmas Party" but Christmas is only six weeks or so in the future-- how time flies!!--and our annual Twin City Iris Society "Christmas Party" is in the offing. Thursday, November 19, is the day, 8:00 p.m. the time, at our usual meeting place the Minneapolis YWCA, 12th and Nicollet.

Those of you who have attended in the past know that this is one of the "fun" programs of the year, with a good program, friendship, delicious refreshments, and a real preview of the Christmas spirit. All ingredients which are guaranteed to provide an evening which will be most enjoyable and worthwhile.

Each person attending is asked to bring an inexpensive gardening gift (50¢, 75¢ or thereabouts) for the gift exchange, and your favorite Christmas goodies. These can be cookies, cakes, fancy breads or any Christmas delicacy that is your specialty. If this year follows the trend of other years just the sight of the tables spread with these delicacies is worth the trip to the meeting, and the taste--m-m-m-m-m-m-m-m.

The program consists of many beautiful slides taken by Mr. O. A. Bakke of iris in member's gardens during the past year as well as some taken at the auction and other places. These slides are beautiful!

We hope to see each and everyone of you there--THURSDAY, November 19, 1964  
8:00 p.m. - YWCA

Bring: Yourself, your gift and your Christmas delicacy.

Take Home: Remembrance of a warm evening of friendship and  
good fellowship, lingering beauty of lovely flowers,  
a satisfied appetite--and a beginning of the  
Christmas spirit!

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We are very happy to make the following announcement from Mrs. Edna Yunker from Taycheedah, Wisconsin:

The Board of Directors of the AIS has approved of, and appointed Mr. Glen F. Hanson to the appointment of Regional Vice President of Region 8 for the next three years.

I know he will make a good one, so again Congratulations Glen, and best of luck to you and all the members.

May we add our congratulations too, Glen and I'm sure the whole Society is very pleased and proud of this appointment. We know you will fill this position with competence and distinction.

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We would like to have our year book made up and in your hands by an early date. To do this, we must have your dues for the coming year--1965. For your convenience you will find a notice on the last sheet of this News & Views to be filled out. Either mail or bring to the November meeting.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The number one hobby, gardening, is about over for the year. Many chores are to be done before snow flies: Bulbs and roots to be dug and stored. Care for the roses, lay down the climbers and cover the canes. Bring in rooted plants. Old geraniums can be dug and stored in plastic bags. Be sure to tie at the top so moisture will be retained through the winter. Old Fuschia roots can also be kept in the same manner. Store in a warm room, the insecticides, fungicides and weed killer. Time to hang up the hoes, rakes and dusters. The sprayers, sprinklers and garden hose must have attention.

Make a chart of your iris garden. Secure the markers firmly. Iris plants are remarkably hardy and serious trouble usually can be avoided by providing good drainage. Clean the iris clumps so they are free of weeds, burn all old plant refuse this fall. DO COVER YOUR IRIS BEDS WITH LEAVES OR HAY. Where soil is not too heavy, it is added assurance to hill each rhizome or clump with the soil around your plant, which also takes care of the drainage problem. When all this is done and you are comfortably settled for the coming winter, think back how successful your gardening year.

We had little or no leaf spot this year. The iris borer was a problem in some gardens. The increase of the iris has been tremendous this summer and fall. The iris blossoms were beautiful. Some of the newer varieties had blossoms that were exceptionally large. Some had two and three buds in each socket, giving a longer blooming season. Individual flowers are lasting longer.

Georgia Hinkle's introduction "Helen Keller" is said to have non-fading flowers that last for five days in the sun. Knopf's "Dry Creek Belle" has many buds to the socket. English Dykes Medal Winner in '61--"Patterdale" has excellent branching. To have the iris season lengthened by having more buds and branching is surely the dream of every irisarian.

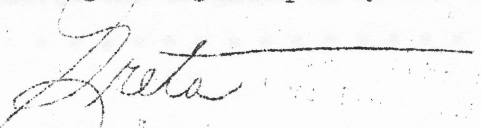
We can feel with satisfaction that 1964 has gone forward and has been successful. However, it was accomplished only by you, each and everyone working, giving of your time and effort. Entering in and supporting all programs--attending all the meetings. No one was ever too busy when asked to contribute. You made the meetings friendly and one could always feel confident that "failure" was no part of this enthusiastic Iris Society.

You--each member, make this organization. You--are needed, wanted and without you--there would be no Society.

The program for November 19th is one of interest to all. During the year, all are so involved with their own work, spraying, hoeing, cultivating and enjoying their own garden, that we do not see other gardens. I have thought of garden tours but when iris season is here there is the Iris Show and many added activities. Before we know it, the season is over. However, Mr. Bakke has given much of his time visiting many gardens, taking colored pictures of individual iris and many interesting activities of the Society, and will show his slides. Some of you may see yourselves at the Iris Auction. You will see the flower show again and so many things of interest in 1964. We thank Mr. Bakke for the effort and time given in securing these pictures, also for the work he has done in editing the slides, so we may have 1964 recalled for our enjoyment. This program is indeed a grand finale of a successful year.

Since there will be no issue of the News & Views in December, I want to thank each and everyone for your cooperation and understanding during the past year.

A Merry Christmas to You and Yours,

  
Greta M. Kessenich, President

The address given by Rev. Folkers at the October 15 meeting was so interesting and inspirational that a portion of it has been written for your enjoyment.

The forest colors, mountain streams, fields and gardens all yield exquisite beauty. The clematis, dahlias, carnations and petunias are lovely, then the rose! Did you ever see anything so beautiful as a rose, early in the morning with the petals full of dew? The glowing blends of soft peach, pink, yellow and white, the sunset coral and scarlet, the dark green foliage, setting off the luminous petals. No plant or flower equals it in literature. We read of it in the Bible: Isaiah 35:1 'The wilderness and dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom like a rose.' The poet said of Jesus: 'And like the fragrance of a rose He makes the whole world sweet.'

The fragrance, beauty, the nobility and purity of our lily, together with the symbolism have earned a place in our heart. They are the "Aristocrats" of the garden. Jesus said: 'Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin; I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these'--Matt. 6:28. The Madonna lily is the oldest cultivated garden plant in the world. To see a field of "Easter lilies" makes one pause in awe and wonderment, knowing full well that only 'He' could have created such beauty.

The loveliest flower I know (and in whose honor we meet) has charmed people from ancient times. In ancient mythology, Iris, symbolizing the rainbow, is often referred to as the "Goddess of the rainbow" Iris was the personal attendant and messenger of Juno, the wife of the great Zeus. The word "Iridescent" comes from the word Iris because of its "shimmering Changeability" under various lights and positions, the unusual coloring, shading and sparkling beauty. The Greek writer, Virgil, wrote: 'Iris of saffron wings displaying against the sun a robe of a thousand varying colors.'

The iris charms insects also, the average flower garden visitor pays little attention to the beard of the iris, but according to botanists, the "beard" is a signal guide to insects seeking nectar. It leads them to the store hidden deep in the heart of the flower. The insect not only finds nectar but spreads pollen. The Almighty has His own way of keeping His flower beds going and fuzzy bees, bugs and busy bodies around and inside the flower are His greatest propagators and pollenizers.

People still blindly (and I mean blindly) call iris, flags; because they are blind to good iris. No doubt all they have seen was the old "dusty yellows," "grey whites," "old purples," or "striped yellows." Now, this elegant stately flower has a wardrobe of such colors as clear, cool light blues, dark blues, and rich purples, luminous yellows, delicate and coral pinks, warm browns, deep maroons, bright colorful blends in tones of yellow, coppery red, tan, startling bi-colors and placatas. There is the exotic blend of the Onco. Some are tailored, lacy, flared, large in size and strong in stature. I am fascinated with the color of Edenite, as strong colors have always impressed me, but each iris has its own beauty.

What is my favorite iris? You might as well ask 'Which is your favorite child'? I have no favorites. They are all beautiful and planted together, the color schemes are always good. The substance is important,  
(over)



some wither if it is too hot, some fade if it is too bright, some fold up if it rains. We are getting rid of poor iris, however, some still cling to the old ones.

Iris, like people have enemies. It seems that the devil is always on the job. Iris have borers, people have bursitis. Rot of one kind or another effects both folks and fans. Some iris, like people topple over on anything, others are tough and strong. Flowers and folks are somewhat alike, they want to live.

Give iris good sunlight.---Old Sol has curative powers and vitality for all of us.

Give them good drainage.---Who wants to live in mud?

Keep out the dead leaves.---How would you like to go on with long cracked finger-nails, no hair cut or hair do, shabby clothes and a dirty face?

Clean out the weeds.---Your house must have some order. You cannot have chairs, beds, tin cans, limousine and lavatory, all in the same room.

Dust or spray once in a while.---No one wants fleas, bed bugs, termites or worms. Neither do iris like aphids, leaf spot, rot or borers.

Stir up the ground once in a while.---Your philosophy of life can become encrusted, your thinking can get stale. Give your iris as well as yourself a chance to breathe.

Reset them once in a while.---Being over-crowded or root bound is not good for any of us.

Cover them well, for winter.---Who wants to lie cold, half frozen, chilled? Neither do iris.

Look up and thank God for your flowers, especially for your iris. Our multi-colored works is but a garb of a wonderful Creator.

With the words of this beautiful hymn, I close:

This my Father's world, And to my list'ning ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--His hand the wonders  
wrought.

This is my Father's world, The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me  
ev'ry-where.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world, The battle is not done, Jesus who  
died shall be satisfied, And earth and heav'n be one.

Amen



# MEDIAN-DWARF IRIS TERMINOLOGY:

(An addition to the glossary in last months News & Views)

1. Spot--an area of color on the falls with a border the color of the standards; may be any size, from tiny at the tip of the beard, too large, covering the whole falls; depending on ground color and spot color, may give the effect of any of the TB bicolor patterns--variegata, amoena, etc.
2. Halo--a new color pattern showing up in standard dwarfs particularly, giving the effect of a halo of one color around the beard on falls of a contrasting color.
3. Pumila--properly, the species I. pumila, a tiny (3-4½ inches) stemless species that blooms very early, the "king of dwarfs"; some growers call any dwarf iris a pumila regardless of parentage (example: Sulina).
4. Chamaeiris--the common dwarf irises, later and larger than I. pumila (example: Sound Money).
5. Arenaria hybrid--a true hybrid between I. chamaeiris and I. arenaria, a tiny yellow species related to the arils; they are sterile and always show yellow in their color make-up (i.e., yellow, rosy-pink, brick-red, brown, etc.); they have flaring to horizontal falls, often have open standards, and are usually very free-blooming (example: Promise).
6. Aphylla--a very branched, dwarf-growing species (8-12 inches) that is difficult to classify because of its combination of many branches and short height; its offspring are equally problematic for classifiers (example of aphylla hybrid: Gracilis).
7. Lilliput--an iris resulting from a cross between tall bearded (TB) and I. pumila, very vigorous and floriferous, usually falling into the SDB (standard dwarf bearded) category; also many advanced generation hybrids with similar characteristics (example: Green Spot).
8. Miniature Dwarf (MDB)--Dwarf iris as we usually think of them, 10 inches or less in height; AIS classification (example: atrovioleacea).
9. Standard Dwarf (SDB)--Iris 10-15 inches in height, of which the most prominent are the lilliputs, AIS classification (example: Green Spot).
10. Intermediate (IB)--Iris 15-18 inches in height with medium sized flowers often from tall bearded and chamaeiris parentage--AIS classification (example: Autumn Queen).
11. Miniature tall (MTB)--Iris 15-28 inches in height with small flowers and slender stems; also called table iris; AIS classification (example: Pence).
12. Border (BB)--Iris 15-28 inches in height with large flowers, really just short tall bearded iris--AIS classification (example: Black Forest).
13. Median--any of the four classifications between Dwarf (miniature) and Tall bearded--i.e., any iris 10-28 inches tall.

(over)

14. Caparne Award--AIS award to the one miniature dwarf H.M. winner each year with the most votes; equivalent to A.M.
15. Cook-Douglas Award--AIS award similar to Caparne Award but for standard dwarfs.
16. Sass Award--for intermediates--like Caparne Award.
17. Knowlton Award--for border bearded--like Caparne Award.
18. Dwarf Iris Society (DIS)--an independent society for those interested in miniature dwarfs, with independent standards and awards, though begun through AIS channels and for several years a section of the AIS; about 15 years old.
19. Median Iris Society--a section of the AIS for those interested in median iris, standards and awards are AIS awards; about 10 years old.
20. Test Garden Certificate (TGC)--award given to unintroducted iris or new seedlings by AIS at one of its four test gardens across the country by DIS judges--equivalent to AIS--H.C. award.
21. Award of Special Merit (ASM)--first DIS award for an introduced dwarf iris similar to AIS--H.M. award.
22. Blue Ribbon Award (BR)--five ASM winners each year get this award equivalent to AIS--A.M. award for dwarf iris.
23. Walter Welch Medal or DIS medal--One BR winner each year gets this award--equivalent to Dykes Medal for dwarf iris.

David Sindt, our dwarf enthusiast from Chicago, sent the preceding terminology pertaining to the median-dwarf classes. Thanks much, David, these are especially helpful because most of us are sadly lacking in knowledge along these lines!

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#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM MINNESOTA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

1. Does winter mulching greatly affect the soil temperature underneath the mulch?  
Answer: Yes. Temperature beneath the surface of the soil in well mulched areas seldom goes lower than 20 degrees. Good mulch covering also prevents rapid changes in temperature, an important factor in winter survival of plants.
2. Why do not outdoor plants freeze to death during winter?  
Answer: During the cool short days of fall the sap in the plant cells loses much water and becomes concentrated with sugars. Concentrated sap freezes only at an extremely low temperature. The ability of plant cells to "push" water out of the cells and thus avoid the formation of ice crystals within the cells determines to a large extent the winter hardiness of the plant.
3. Amaryllis is one of the finest of indoor bulb plants. When are the bulbs started?  
Answer: Bulbs are on the market in late fall. Planting usually is done in November, December, or January. Depending on the variety and method of growing, blooms may be produced anytime from December to May.

4. Which is the greater hazard to gardening and causes the greater loss of agricultural production in the United States--weeds, or plant diseases?  
Answer: Weeds. It is estimated that weeds annually cause a loss of four billion dollars; plant diseases three billion dollars.
5. When manure, compost, or similar organic matter is added to garden soil how long does it last?  
Answer: About a year. It will give some beneficial effect for two years or longer but it becomes decomposed and mostly used up in one year. Garden soil that is dense and heavy, or is light and sandy, needs yearly applications of organic matter.
6. Is winter covering of red raspberries recommended?  
Answer: Yes. Though varieties such as Latham are usually considered hardy, when unprotected they frequently are injured sufficiently to reduce the crop yield. In order to insure full yields every year, winter protecting by bending down the canes and covering the tips (or the whole canes) with soil is a procedure that is recommended by many experienced growers.
7. Two pruning jobs in the fruit garden should be done this fall. What are they?  
Answer: Old canes and excess new canes can be removed from raspberry planting anytime after mid-summer. Later in the fall grape vines should be severely pruned.

Minnesota State Horticultural Society

DUES NOTICE

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR IRIS DUES!

Please return this notice with your remittance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          |   |               |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Twin City Iris Society . . . . .                                | \$3.50        |
|                          | (with Minnesota State Horticultural Society subscription)       |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family membership as above . . . . .                            | 4.00          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Twin City Iris Society . . . . .                                | 1.50          |
|                          | (if you receive "The Hort" through another Society)             |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family membership as above . . . . .                            | 2.00          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | American Iris Society Membership . . . . .                      | 5.00 yearly   |
|                          |   | 3 years 12.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial Growers (State your name and list flowers available) |               |

Mail remittance to: Mrs. Stanley Rudser  
2548 Douglas Drive  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55422  
Or: Bring to November 19th meeting.