Twin City Dris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

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The Twin Cities and suburbs have just come through a shattering experience, the night of terror and destruction caused by the tornadoes. At this writing we have no idea of the total destruction or, which, if any, of our members are among the victims. Our hopes and prayers are to the effect that none have had to suffer personal injuries and that any property damage will be minor. We know that several of our members live near the affected areas but hope they were among the lucky ones whose homes escaped destruction. I am sure I speak for the whole society in offering to any who may have been affected, our heartfelt sympathy and promise of any help in the rebuilding of their gardens that we can give. Please let us know! !

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Our next regular meeting is Thursday May 20, 8:00 p.m. and will be held at our regular meeting place, the Guaranty State Bank of Robbinsdale, 3700 West Broadway. The program promises to be most informative and a must for those planning on showing in the show June 5th and 6th (see The President's Letter) so we hope to have a large turnout.

Right now the iris are looking healthy and husky so we hope that everyone will have a lot of prize winners to bring to the annual show. If each member brought his best blooms we could have a show to beat all shows. Come, participate, and know the thrill of winning some ribbons. Each of you can do it. You know, all it takes is one bloom stalk to win the Queen of the Show so whether you bring one or many we want your entry. Only you can make the show a success and we are depending on you! !

The Garden Court at Southdale is a most beautiful place to hold the show so let's make it the most beautiful show ever.

There is an old saying that one can hear the corn grow on hot summer nights. While I have listened intently, my imagination or hearing has afforded no satisfaction of such pleasure, but we can see the iris grow.

With the beautiful perfect weather of the last few days, cultivating, fertilizing, spraying, trimming, and general clean up, the iris has taken on a new shade of spring green, healthy and bold in appearance. If this continues we will see many stalks of Amandine on the show tables June 5th and 6th.

The iris show is to be held in the beautiful Court Yard of Southdale, 66th and

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France Avenue. For those transporting flowers to the show, use the lower level, going in the area from France Avenue via Dayton-Bachman outdoor garden store. The parking area is designated with the animals, Giraffe, Rooster and Bear. Proceed directly to the large glass doors for unloading. They will be open at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday June 5th. Once inside, the large room to the left will be used for setting up your display.

Show schedules have been sent out. A little study of the schedule in advance of the show will be helpful to you. For those that have difficulty in Color Classifications, making out tags, and entering your speciman stalk, Mr. Joe Withrow will give you assistance on Saturday morning. We are pleased to tell you that silver inis teaspoons will be given to winners on the Court of Honor. The Queen and best and entering silver award.

The meeting on May 20th will begin at eight o'clock. It will be most interesting as reports will be given on the National Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. Our regular program will be one of interest to all. Slides will be shown on the selection of iris for the show, also transporting of iris and show schedule evolained by Mr. Gus Sindt. We will have the pleasure of seeing the art of flower extrangements displayed by Charlotte Sindt.

to make a special effort to attend this meeting. Entry and name tags for the show will be available.

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Iris time is our busy time Show time our pleasure time Let's try for a big display of iris Every one take your best, Every one participate And we will have the number one show.

Greta M. Kessenich President

Last year we had the third largest show. Let's each bring a couple more stalks and make it second! With the annual show now approaching and the whole garden court at Southdale to be filled with irises, may I take this opportunity to ask for all the support you can manage. Many people are held back from showing by modesty, fear or laziness. Pleast don't let any of these prevent you from exhibiting this year.

In the past, many of the trophies have been won by those who have entered for the first time, after having seen the exhibits the previous year. With the show fresh in mind they have looked at their own irises and told themselves, "Surely these are is good as those that won at the show"? Come and prove your flowers are as good as anyone's, or if perhaps they are not so good as you hoped, resolve to study the winners, ask questions and try again next year.

This is the rest of the article by David Sindt which we could not squeeze in last month. The last part appeared in last month's bulletin--put the two together for the complete article. Sorry we had to divide it this way.

David Sindt, dwarf enthusiast, would like some help in finding some older varieties

of dward iris. He states that the editor of the Dwarf Iris Society Portfolio is seeking some of the older dwarf for historical collection. He had these at one ime and thought he might have sold some to our members. If anyone has them he hinks a trade can be worked out he has not already filled out the list. The varieties he was seeking were: Blue Flash, Blue Mascot, Cream Delight, Heather loom, Intrigue, Pam, Rose Blush, Beauty Spot, Ink Spot and Wee Admiral. If you ave any of these please call David or his father at 777-6429 for further informaion.

Ath the increasing interest in dwarf iris as well as the other non-tall bearded types, it has occurred to me that many of you might be interested in the awards of the Dwarf Iris Society of America for what the AIS terms Miniature Dwarf Bearded. The DIS is not a section of the AIS but an independent society with its own awards system, though, of course, there is a great overlap in membership. The DIS awards the dot be a more accurate indication of quality than the AIS Honorable Mention and separne Award because the judges that vote on them are all dwarf iris specialists (logically enough!), though here again there is overlap between the varieties that win AIS and DIS awards.

The top award of the DIS is called the Walter Welch Award. Before 1961, it was called the DIS Medal, and either name may be found in the price list descriptions. One variety wins this award each year, and it is a real equivalent to the Dykes Medal for the tall bearded irises. Next in line, equivalent to the AIS Award of Merit, is the Blue Ribbon Award, limited to five varities each year. A variety must win this award to be eligible for the Walter Welch Award. And, equivalent to the AIS Honorable Mention, is the Award of Special Merit, awarded to all varieties that get five or more votes each year, or 10 per cent of the 50 accredited judges. A variety must win this award to be eligible for the Blue Ribbon Award.

Here, then, is a list of the ten varieties of dwarf irises that have won the Walter Welch Award, with a brief description of each.

- 1955 Path of Gold (Hodson 1941) 8"; a clear smooth medium yellow, very dependable, resistant to mosaic. (Caparne Award, 1957).
- 1956 Blazon (Welch 1957) 7"; a deep maroon self with a heavy gold beard, grows well. (Caparne Award, 1955).
- 1957 Sparkling Eyes (Welch 1954) 7"; an exquisite amoena with pure white standards, deep violet falls edged in white, temperamental grower in most places, but no more so in Minnesota than elsewhere, and well worth the extra trouble. (Caparne Award, 1956).
- 1958 Butterball (Zickler, 1954) 7"; a perky bright yellow arenaria hybrid with horizontal falls, prolific grower, a notable improvement on Keepsake, Tiny Treasure, and Ylo.
- 1959 Blue Frost (Doriot, 1957) 5"; an exquisite pale blue self of near perfect form, grows well. (Caparne Award, 1959).
- 1960 Cherry Spot (Welch 1956) 7"; another amoena, this time in white and bing-cherry red (or brownish red), good grower, no other iris in this color combination. (Caparne Award, 1960).
- 1961 Angel Eyes (B. Jones, 1958) 5"; an amoena on the lines of Sparkling Eyes, but the spot (which is the technical term for the pattern in the falls of a dwarf amoena, neglecta, variegata, or "Pinnacle" type) is described as blue rather than violet and it is a much better grower (I have not seen this variety in bloom yet). (Caparne Award, 1961).

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- 1962 Perky (Welch 1959) 7"; a rather different purple bi-tone described as petunia purple, very attractive and very vigorous.
- 1963 Orchid Flair (Mahood 1960) 6"; a deep orchid near self with a white beard, described as vigorous. (I do not have this in my garden yet.)
- 1964 Atomic Blue (Welch, 1960) $4\frac{1}{2}$ "; a pure pale blue of pure pumila parentage, thus blooming very early, of excellent form and vigor. (I also do not have this variety in my garden yet.)

Other Caparne Award winners, which have not won the Welch Award, are: 1950 - Sound Money (Sass 1935) yellow; 1951 - Primus (Welch 1951) variegata; 1952 - Atroviolacea (Todaro 1856) early purple; 1953 - Beauty Spot (Marx 1947) purple; 1954 - April Morn (Welch 1952) light blue pure pumila; 1958 - Veri Gay (Welch 1954) variegata; 1962 -Black Baby (Sass 1955) deep red-violet; 1963 - Bee Wings (A. Brown 1959) variegata; 1964 - Fashion Lady (Welch 1956) yellow. All of these Caparne Award winners since 1954 (including April Morn) have won the Blue Ribbon Award of the DIS with the exception of Bee Wings, which won an ASM in 1964. The older Caparne Award winners were really out-dated by the time the DIS Awards came into existence.

Another criteria of quality is the DIS annual symposium, which lists the top 50 varieties of dwarf iris as voted on by the entire membership of the DIS. It differs from the AIS Popularity Poll in that each member rates his 25 favorite varieties 25 A, B, C, D, or E quality (5 of each) and it is the cumulative quality rating rather than the popularity of each variety that is tabulated, on the basis of 100 per cent for A, 90 per cent for B, and so on to 60 per cent for E. However, a minimum of 10 votes is required for a variety to be included, eliminating the possibility of three or four people getting together to get a brand new variety way up at the top by all giving it an A. Ratings in 1964 ranged from 93 per cent for #1 to 68 per cent for #50.

It might be of interest to you first to note the ratings in 1964 of the Walter Welch Award and Caparne Award winners of the past 15 years. The number at the first is the symposium rank, the per cent is the rating.

1.	Blue Fre	ost -	93%	(Welch,	Caparne	
	Awards,	1959)	The second second	Aham alde	

- 5. Atomic Blue 87% (Welch Award 1964)
- 6. Angel Eyes 87% (Welch and Caparne Awards, 1961)
- 8. Fashion Lady 85% (Caparne Award 1964)
- 16. Orchid Flair 83% (Welch Award 1963)
- 17. Bee Wings 83% (Caparne Award, 1963)
- 20. Black Baby 82% (Caparne Award, 1962)
- Sparkling Eyes 80% (Welch, Caparne Awards, 1957 & 1956)
- 26. Perky 79% (Welch Award 1962)
- 28. Blazon 78% (Welch, Caparne Awards, 1956 & 1955)
- 29. Cherry Spot 78% (Welch and Caparne Awards, 1960)
- 33. Veri Gay 77% (Caparne Award 1958)
- 37. April Morn 75% (Caparne Award 1954)
- 44. Butterball 72% (Welch Award 1958)

Other award winners are no longer ranked, due either to lack of popularity in face of the competition of newer varieties or ratings too low to include in the list.

A full listing of the top 30 on this list of 50 varieties includes many Blue Ribbon Award winners and new varieties headed for top awards.

1. Blue Frost3. Dream Stuff 90% (orchid)2. Already 92% (copper red)4. Golden Cupid 88% (deep yellow)

- 5. Atomic Blue
- 6. Angel Eyes
- 7. Heart's Content 86% (white-violet amoena)
- 8. Fashion Lady
- 9. Polka Dot 85% (white-small violet dot on falls)
- 10. Nancy Maria 85% (light blue)
- 11. Bright White 84% (pure white)
- 12. Fairy Dell 84% (orchid)
- 13. White Mite 84% (white pure pumila)
- 14. Black Top 83% (violet black)
- 15. Orchid Sheen 83% (orchid pure pumila)
- 16. Orchid Flair 17. Boo Wings
- 17. Bee Wings
- 18. Cradle Blue 83% (light blue)
- 19. Ablaze 827 (variegata)

- 20. Black Baby
- 21. Claire 82% (bright blue)
- 22. Knick Knack 82% (blue--white plicata)
- 23. Blue Whiskers 81% (yellow, violet beard)
- 24. Cradle Days 81% (amoena, blended brown falls)
- 25. Sparkling Eyes
- 26. Perky
- 27. Blue Doll 79% (blue-lavender)
- 28. Blazon
- 29. Cherry Spot
- 30. Gay Lassie 78% (Pinnacle pattern)

The Dwarf Iris Society also publishes an annual color symposium, rated similarly to the general symposium, but listing varieties in 22 color groupings so that varieties in less popular colors that may not even be recognized on the general symposium can be ranked together and compared. On the list below, I have included the top-ranked variety in ach color plus any other varieties that I have mentioned earlier. You will notice that ratings (%) and order of rank often change when only varieties of a single color are compared. I am including in parentheses the general Treamon and an symposium rank and/or top award(s) won.

WHITE

1. White Mite 89% (13) 2. Bright White 88% (11) ORANGE 1. Orange Glint 90% (--) 2. Golden Cupid 89% (4) TAN--BUFF BLEND 1. Honey Bear 95% (49) 1. Buster Brown 96% (--) GREEN 1. Greenie 91% (--) BLUE 1. Atomic Blue 92% (5; Welch 1964) 2. Blue Frost 90% (1; Welch, Caparne 1959) 3. Nancy Maria 86% (10) 1. Claire 77% (21) 5. Cradle Blue 75% (19) VIOLET J. Violet Night 92% (--) PURPIE 1, Perky 91% (26; Welch 1962) 4. Blazon 79% (28; Welch 1956; Caparne 1952) 5. Atroviolacea 69% (--; Caparne 1952) . TOVET OF A OVE COPPER--BRONZE BLEND 1. Little Jewel 90% (--) 2. Already 88% (2)

CREAM, LEMON. 1. Pastel Dawn 92% (35) YELLOW 3 1. Fashion Lady 94% (8; Caparne 1964), 4. Butterball 76% (44; Welch 1958) 5. Path of Gold 75% (--; Welch 1955; Caparne 1957) BROWN BLUE--YELLOW BLEND 1. Blue Whiskers 94% (23) LAVENDER. 1. Blue Doll 92% (27) NEGIECTA 1. Grandma's Hat 89% (32) BLACK 1. Black Baby 87% (20) 6. Black Top 64% (14) ORCHID PINK 1. Dream Stuff 92% (3) 2. Orchid Flair 92% (16; Welch 1963) 3. Orchid Sheen 90% (15) ROSE TONES 1. Cup and Saucer 92% (--) RED 1. Red Gem 89% (--) overie deu (over)

VARIEGATA 1. Ablaze 89% (19) 2. Veri Gay 85% (33; Caparne 1958) 3. Bee Wings 78% (17; Caparne 1963) 6. Primus 72% (--; Caparne 1951) PINNACLE 1. Bright Spring 88% (--) 4. Gay Lassie 71% (30) PLICATA 1. Knick Knack 96% (22) AMPENA

- 1. Angle Eyes 91% (6; Welch, Caparne 1961)
- 2. Sparkling Eyes 85% (25; Welch 1957; Caparne 1956)
- 3. Heart's Content 82% (7)
- 4. Cherry Spot 78% (29; Welch Caparne 1960)
- 5. Polka Dot 77% (9)
- 6. Cradle Days 76% 924)

As you can see, the lists are not all perfectly consistent, showing perhaps mostly that people are not consistent. And while I would agree with the color symposiums ratings in preference to the general symposium on some colors, there are others in which I prefer the order at least of the general symposium (i.e., white, orange, copper-bronze blend, Pinnacle). And, of course, there are the inevitable miscategorizations of color, such as calling Already a copper-bronze blend instead of red, and Golden Cupid orange instead of yellow.

What we come down to, of course, is that familiar advice you've all heard so often, that you should see the variety in bloom before you buy it. But what that often leads to, unfortunately, is that you don't buy anything because you can't get to a garden during blooming season, or when you do get there, the right varieties are not in bloom. As the only DIS accredited judge in Minnesota, this is my problem. Of course, I have visited official DIS test gardens in both Omaha, Nebraska, and Middlebury, Indiana. But I cannot go every week to see everything; I have never seen, for instance, any of the pure pumilas in bloom outside of my own garden because they bloom so early in relation to the other varieties. But in looking over the lists this year, for instance, I feel that Atomic Blue looks like a rather safe investment, even at two dollars. Also, by studying these ratings, I get an idea of what to look for when I visit other gardens.

Don't use a detergent for a spreader-sticker. Do use a commercial spreader-sticker or make you own with Fels Naptha soap and hot water.

Don't use DDT alone in a spray solution for iris borer. Do mix in a miticide or Malathion to control red spider. A good fungicide such as Fermate or Pargate can be added to the mixture to control leaf spot and other diseases. DDL alone upsets the balance of nature and permits red spider to run rampant.

Don't fertilize iris or bulb plants with manure. Do use bone meal, super phosphate or a mineralized fertilizer containing not more that 5% nitrogen which should be kept at least six inches from the rhizomes or plants.

Don't apply hydrated lime to the iris bed. Do use crushed lime-stone if the soil is too acid. Powdered gypsum is beneficial. Keeps them healthy.

Don't say, "I cannot spray my iris for I don't have a sprayer." Do use a plastic squeeze bottle that Dreft or Ivory detergent comes in. Don't cut the tip with scissors but shave with a knife blade until a nodele can be forced through making a tiny hole. Serves the purpose of a sprayer if you have only a few iris. Can also be used to squirt DDT solution in between the iris leaves when opened with a knife blade. This will destroy the borers that escape the spray and get inside between the leaves.

G. B. Gable * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * GARDEN VISITING

This year let's mind our manners when visiting gardens! Every gardener loves to have you come to see the results of his efforts, but he shudders when you have a large dangling purse or a coat over your arm, which you nonchalantly drag through his blooms. . . If you MUST bring the small kiddies, be sure they are warned before-hand to stay out of the garden and see that they do. Older children who are really interested are more than welcome.

Most gardeners are happy to share pollen with you but please ask for it. Most of them prefer to gather it for you because it is so easy to damage the blossom, even when using tweezers. Also, it is considered unethical to ask for pollen of something that is being tested for possible introduction. Once it has been introduced, it is in the same class as other named varieties.

As a guest in someone's home, you wouldn't think of saying, "What do you want that old-fashioned lamp for? Throw it out and get something that is up-to-date." . . . Aren't you guilty of the same breach of etiquette when you ask your garden host, "What do you want those old iris for? Dig them out and get something new."? Maybe your friend LIKES his old iris or keeps them for sentimental reasons.

ABOVE ALL, remember, walking CROSSWAYS through the rows is the CARDINAL SIN of garden visiting.

All this may sound persnickety but, especially if your host is a hybridizer, breaking off a blossom or a pod may set his work back one full year. DO plan to visit more gardens this year but let's keep the Golden Rule in mind so we will be welcome next year! ! !

WHAT IS IT?

The standards set up by the AIS for the various classes of iris are worth knowing. As more breeders register and more growers list according to the standards, it becomes easier for gardeners to select plants and for hybridizers to identify useful material. However, controversy rears its head whenever standards are set, because there are always mavericks that don't fit. Occasionally, an injustice is suffered by a worthy variety whether the determining factor is inches, bloom, season, genetic background or what have you. This can be understood readily when you remember the difficulties that arise at snow time when exhibitors and the color classification book meet head on. The iris is muchtoo variable to be confined by arbitrary limits.

When is an iris an Aril? Is it because of a certain percentage of aril blood? That is the criterion but many irises that are aril award winners look and grow like tall beardeds. The aril standard does not consider height or season. Moonchild is an arilbred and looks it but it has won its awards as an intermediate. There are arils that fit the standards for dwarfs and borders too. But the system has achieved one result that would justify it even if it eventually proves a failure. It has helped greatly to accelerate the production and introduction of improved irises in all sizes and seasons. Iris specialists for too long enamored with the vistas open

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by tetrapl oid size and color, have concentrated their efforts on the big boys. The could blame them? The results looked great on the show table and they sold. The thirty year romance has given birth to wonders to the neglect of the range possible in the iris family.

It is a thankless task to produce a product for which there is little if any comand, so, although many felt the need of new types of plant material, hybridizing outside the talls remained a sort of backwater occupation--a trifle eccentric, in fact. Admired in a Paul Cook, it was considered something of a nut activity in those of less exhaulted reputation. Cook's experiments with exotic species became a matter of wide interest with the advent of whole cloth, melodrama, wide world and others. In a very methodical manner he brought completely new characteristics into all classes of garden irises.

With the establishment of class standards came the establishment of awards for these classes. When these awards were given a real value within the AIS awards system, they began to look as though they were worth taking seriously. After all, the Hans and Jacob Sass Award for intermediates was deemed the equivalent of an award of merit. Anyway you look at it, competition among intermediates does not begin to approach the heat at the TB level. A reputation could be made with a little knowledge, persistence, and luck.

But the inevitable happened almost before the ink was dry. Keep scouring the earth for rare species, keep mixing up the genes and chromosomes, and you just know that the results will be awkward for the established order.

Standard dwarfs are supposed to be primarily offspring of pumila and TB crosses and are supposed to bloom between the dwarf and intermediate seasons. But don't bet on it. I think it was Bea Warburton who wrote to the "Medianite" that she wondered if anyone would be interested in some pretty SDB seedlings of hers that bloomed during the tall season. She had to be kidding.

Maybelle Wright's porcelain-like blue border seedling is a real shorty, and it is a tetraploid! If it lacked a couple of more inches it could present a sticky classification problem.

Pewee is a miniature tall and should bloom with the talls. It is a trifle eager though and rushes the season quite a bit. Awkward for table breeders, since it has no pollen and is often through blooming when the rest of the group is getting started. That may account for all the dwarfs it has produced among its children.

I have a deploid dwarf that blooms with the talls and a miniature dwarf that prefers the late intermediate season.

All very upsetting if rational consistency gives you pleasure, but if you find the "wildering mazes" exciting and are grateful for any lovely flower by whatever name it is known, these are rewarding days for backyard experimenting. Let the purists worry about the standards. Have fun.

Carol Lankow

My favorite is the oldest iris in my garden. It has a marvelous odor and is violet in color with a scent like grape pop, and guess what? This winter I forgot her name--have called a dozen people and no one can remember--its that old! The next is Lady Bascawen--she likes it wherever I put her and holds her head high, with lots of blooms. She's elegant white and delightfully ruffled. The third is the baby and one of the newest, Frost and Flame. It is a wonderful thrill to look at her snow white flower and brilliant tangerine red beard. Now you know the Grandmother, the Lady, and the Baby in my Garden! Ethel Smith