

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

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There is still a chill in the air, but spring is definitely here and another gardening season is fast approaching. If you haven't removed the covering from your iris as yet, it should be taken off immediately. From the appearance of my own iris, and from reports from others it looks as if the winter was a kind one and there will be a minimum of winter damage. If this proves to be the case we can look forward to an excellent growing season and a beautiful show in June.

The April meeting of the Society will be held Thursday, April 21, 1966, 8:00 p.m. at the Guaranty State Bank of Robbinsdale, 3700 West Broadway. Mrs. Don Morton will show slides and talk about "Lilies of the Field."

Our primary interest is Iris but our gardens will be greatly enhanced by learning about and planting companion plants and flowers to take over when the iris season is past. Lilies are among the most beautiful and exotic garden subjects and in recent years have been greatly improved, not only in improvement of the flower itself but in hardiness and ease of culture. This will be a most interesting program so let's have a big turnout! !

REMINDER

Have you paid your 1966 Twin City Iris Society dues? If you have not will you please send them in immediately!

Due to high first class rates the 1966 yearbook was mailed to all members by "third" class." We hope everyone received his copy. If you have not, will you please let Greta Kessenich know.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi there!

Here we are well into April and after such a "mild" winter we are all ready to go to work in the garden, but winter's chill is still with us. So we wait impatiently for our first break in the weather.

We at the Schoene Plantation are in the midst of remodeling and enlarging our breezeway and building a small greenhouse. What a joy to have room to start the plants we want to raise.

During our annual snow storm the one bright spot in the garden was a cluster of crocus between two banks of snow and the birds that fought their way to the feeder. Too many neglect our feathered friends these days, the reward we get in watching them through the winter is well worth the time and effort. Be sure you put the feeder where you can watch it and never let it get empty.

And so back to work and happy gardening, but don't forget our next meeting night, April 21, 1966.

(over)

Mrs. Don Morton will introduce us to "Lilies of the Fields." Also after the regular meeting we will have a short meeting of the Executive Board to discuss the Test Garden.

See you all there.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Schoene,

ADVICE FOR HYBRIDIZERS
Submitted by Glenn Hanson

The following appeared in the Bulletin of the Southern Illinois Iris Society. You might not agree with all of it, but it was written by Mrs. Georgia Hinkle, a familiar name to all irisarians who have progressed past the three-clump stage.

A few "DON'TS":

DON'T expect to make a lot of money. The first ten years' expenses come out of your pocket. And it takes another ten years to break even, after you get started.

DON'T expect a Dykes winner in the first batch of seedlings (or any other time). It takes ten years to produce your first iris worthy of introduction.

DON'T expect any cross to turn out as you have planned it. They seldom do. IF they do, then it's a wonderful surprise.

DON'T set one or two pods on dozens of varieties; it's better to have ten pods on one plant than one seed pod on ten plants. Saves bookwork, tags, time and increases the possibility of producing something worthwhile. If the cross seems to be a good one, repeat it the next year.

DON'T think that you have to buy two or more of the latest introductions to get started. Many hybridizers sell seedlings from their plantings for a dollar or two each. Visit their patch, ask them to help you choose a plant that has possibilities as a parent, and use these with the new named varieties that you have at home (but PLEASE don't ask to buy the tagged varieties or be offended if they refuse to sell the one that is tagged).

HOW TO JUDGE YOUR SEEDLINGS? . . . The first thing I do when a seedling appears to be good is to give it the "eagle-eye" close up. Then back off a few feet and give it another once-over. If it has substance, good branching, clean foliage, wide hafts, I watch it for several days. If the flower lasts four or five days, doesn't fade or fold up and is DIFFERENT from anything I've seen anywhere, then I ask the big question: Would I pay twenty-five bucks for it? If the answer is "no" it is thrown on the compost pile then and there. If the answer is "yes" it is then moved to the back garden to be watched for another season or two.

In a few weeks the buds will be showing color, so dust off the old notebook, shine up the tweezers and give the bumble bees a run for their money.

FROM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
BY Gréta Kessenich

The iris has been one of the favorite flowers of the garden for centuries. Bearded iris were and still are found growing in the wilds from Central Europe to the

Holy Land. Many of the lilies spoken of in the Bible were thought to be iris.

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow"--Matt. 6:28

"I will be as the dew unto Israel he shall grow as the lily"--Hosea 14:5

The iris first appeared on the historical scene on the Egyptian tomb, bas-relief 1500 B.C. of the Great King Thatmus III, portraying the flower he loved. The form is known today as *Oncocyclus*, a native of Palestine.

The Biblical reeds and flags of the river Nile, where the infant Moses was said to have been hidden, were the yellow water iris, now called *Pseudacorus*. As time went on flower gardens flourished and became a part of our culture. Iris continued being grown from century to century.

The painting of the Adoration of the Holy Child by the great Flemish painter Hugo Van Der Goes about 1475 shows in the center foreground, a vase of two iris.

The iris followed the Moslems half way around the world--across Northern Africa into Spain and was carried by the Spanish into Mexico and the New World. The shores of the Mediterrean and the area east through Asia Minor into China have provided the ancestors of our modern iris.

1965 DWARF IRIS AWARDS AND SYMPOSIUM

The awards of the Dwarf Iris Society of America are announced each year on the basis of voting by a panel of about 50 judges chosen from a membership of 334 representing 38 states and 12 foreign countries on 5 different continents. Naturally, however, most of the judges live in the areas of intense concentration of dwarf iris interest and DIS membership -around the 4 official test gardens. In order of relative influence, these are: the Central Test Garden, formerly at Middlebury, Indiana, now at Indianapolis, with 100 members in Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio; the Northwest Test Garden at Seattle, with 51 members in Washington, California, and Oregon; the Midwest Test Garden at Omaha, with 40 members in Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas; and the Eastern Test Garden at Elmira, New York, with 20 members in New York State. You would be interested that despite the fact that the Twin City Iris Society has only two DIS members, one of them has served as a judge since 1961; we are thus well represented--or overrepresented--in voting on these awards.

This year 45 judges voted on the three major awards of the Society. These are
I. The Walter Welch Award: equivalent to the AIS Dykes Medal, one awarded each year to a variety that has previously won the Blue Ribbon Award and which gets at least 20 per cent of the total votes.

1965 Walter Welch Award -	<u>Black Top</u> (Welch, 1960)	10 votes
	(a very dark violet-black bitone, 7 inches)	
Runners-up -	<u>Knick Knack</u> (Greenlee, 1961)	7 votes
	<u>Golden Cupid</u> (A. Brown, 1962)	5 votes

II. The Blue Ribbon Award: equivalent to the AIS Award of Merit, up to five awarded each year (or six in case of tie) to varieties which have previously won the Award of Special Merit and which get at least 10 votes.

1965 Blue Ribbon Award -	<u>Bee Wings</u> (A. Brown, 1960)	22 votes
	(yellow with small brown spots on each side of beard, 7 inches)	
	<u>Already</u> (Warburton, 1962)	18 votes
	(deep purplish red, good form, 7 inches)	

<u>So Fair</u> (Welch, 1963), white with orchid-pink falls, edged white, 6 inches	18 votes
<u>Dream Stuff</u> (Mahood, 1964), lilac-pink, 5½ inches	13 votes
<u>Dirty Face</u> (Welch, 1955), smooth olive-green self, 6 inches . . .	10 votes
Runners-up - <u>Cradle Days</u> (A. Brown, 1960),	9 votes
<u>Garnette</u> (Robinson, 1955),	8 votes
<u>Irish Doll</u> (A. Brown, 1963),	8 votes
<u>Gay Flirt</u> (Roberts, 1963),	7 votes
<u>Hullabalu</u> (Welch, 1957),	6 votes
<u>Dream Child</u> (Welch, 1955),	5 votes
III. <u>The Award of Special Merit</u> : equivalent to the AIS Honorable Mention, for any number of varieties which have been introduced to commerce and get at least five votes.	

1965 Award of Special Merit - <u>Kip</u> (Salsman, 1964), red-violet of pure pumila parentage, 5 inches	11 votes
<u>Orchid Elf</u> (A. Brown, 1964), (rosy-orchid of pure pumila parentage, 4 inches)	9 votes
<u>Cherry Halo</u> (Mahood, 1964), (white with red halo pattern on falls, 5 inches)	9 votes
<u>Twinkling Star</u> (Welch, 1965), (white with dark green veins radiating from beard, 6 inches)	8 votes
<u>Cream Supreme</u> (Welch, 1964), (cream self, excellent form, 7 inches)	8 votes
<u>Jasper Gem</u> (Welch, 1964), (red from the brown side, 9 inches)	5 votes
<u>April Frost</u> (A. Brown, 1964), (pure white, good form, 5 inches)	5 votes

As you probably know, the dwarf iris we have been talking about here are the Miniature Dwarfs under 10 inches tall, which in addition do not typically bear side branches and bloom in the earliest part of the iris season.

The Dwarf Iris Symposium is only somewhat similar to the AIS Popularity Poll. It is alike in that all the members of the society vote on it; it is different in that rank is based mainly on quality ratings given by the members and only to a very small extent on how many times it was voted for. This second consideration, in fact, is new to the symposium this year, and was introduced mainly to prevent new varieties from jumping to the top of the poll with high quality ratings from only a few members. In addition, only 50 varieties are listed. In this listing, I have included with the description the highest award the variety has won from the DIS. The abbreviations are: W.W. is Walter Welch Award or its predecessor, the DIS Medal; B.R. is the Blue Ribbon Award; A.S.M. is the Award of Special Merit.

1965 DWARF IRIS SYMPOSIUM

1. Fashion Lady (Welch, 1957) deep yellow, 8 inches, B.R. 1959
2. Blue Frost (Doriot, 1957) light blue, 5 inches, W.W. 1959
3. Heart's Content (Welch, 1959) white, blue-violet falls, 7 inches, B.R. 1961
4. Golden Cupid (A. Brown, 1962) deep yellow, 9 inches, B.R. 1964
5. Atomic Blue (Welch, 1961) light blue pumila, 4 inches, W.W. 1964
6. Angel Eyes (B. Jones, 1959) white, blue-violet falls, 5 inches, W.W. 1961
7. Knick Knack (Greenlee, 1961) first plicata, white and blue, 5 inches, B.R. 1964
8. Bright White (Welch, 1958) pure white, 8 inches, B.R. 1959
9. Already (Warburton, 1962) deep purplish red, 7 inches, B.R. 1965
10. Ablaze (Welch, 1956) bright variegata, 6 inches, B.R. 1957

11. Bee Wings (A. Brown, 1960) yellow small brown spots, 7 inches, B.R. 1965
12. Black Top (Welch, 1960) dark violet-black bitone, 7 inches, W.W. 1965
13. Cherry Spot (Welch, 1956) white, red falls, 7 inches, W.W. 1960
14. Blue Doll (Warburton, 1958) lavender-blue, 9 inches, B.R. 1963
15. White Mite (Welch, 1959) white pumila, 4 inches, B.R. 1960
16. Veri Gay (Welch, 1954) variegata, 5 inches, B.R. 1956
17. Little Joe (Welch, 1956) black, 5 inches, B.R. 1958
18. Orchid Flair (Mahood, 1961) rosy-orchid, 8 inches, W.W. 1963
19. Polka Dot (B. Jones, 1962) white, violet spot on falls, 5 inches, B.R. 1963
20. Butterball (Zickler, 1954) yellow arenaria hybrid, 9 inches, W.W. 1958
21. Fairy Dell (B. Jones, 1962) heliotrope, 5 inches, A.S.M. 1962
22. Black Baby (Sass, 1955) black-violet, 6 inches B.R. 1959
23. Claire (A. Brown, 1959) bright blue, 5 inches, B.R. 1961
24. Gay Lassie (Welch, 1956) white, yellow falls, 7 inches, B.R. 1958
25. Perky (Welch, 1959) petunia purple, 7 inches, W.W. 1962
26. Nancy Maria (A. Brown, 1960) light blue, 6 inches, A.S.M. 1961
27. Blue Whiskers (Welch, 1960) yellow, blue beard, 9 inches, B.R. 1961
28. Sparkling Eyes (Welch, 1954) white, violet falls, 6 inches, W.W. 1957
29. Butch (Welch, 1953) purple, white beard, 6 inches,
30. Rosy Carpet (Grapes, 1957) rosy pumila, 4 inches, B.R. 1963
31. Promise (Cook, 1953) pinkish arenaria hybrid, 6 inches, B.R. 1954
32. Cradle Days (A. Brown, 1960) white, brown falls, 6 inches, A.S.M. 1960
33. Cradle Blue (A. Brown, 1960) light blue, 6 inches, A.S.M. 1960
34. Blazon (Welch, 1951) purple, gold blaze, 7 inches, W.W. 1956
35. Brownette (Roberts, 1957) yellow, brown falls, 5 inches, B.R. 1964
36. Pastel Dawn (Welch, 1958) creamy blend, 8 inches, B.R. 1964
37. Orchid Sheen (Welch, 1962) orchid pink pumila, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, B.R. 1963
38. Wee Blue (Welch, 1959) deep blue pumila, 4 inches, B.R. 1960
39. Crispy (Welch, 1958) pure white, 7 inches,
40. Chicken Little (B. Jones, 1960) soft cream, 5 inches, B.R. 1962
41. Grandma's Hat (Mahood, 1957) lilac, purple falls, 6 inches, B.R. 1960
42. April Morn (Welch, 1951) light blue pumila, 4 inches, B.R. 1955
43. So Fair (Welch, 1963) white, orchid-pink, 6 inches, B.R. 1965
44. Dream Child (Welch, 1955) blue, yellow falls, 7 inches, A.S.M. 1956
45. White Elf (Doriot, 1958) creamy white, 7 inches, B.R. 1959
46. Hullabalu (Welch, 1957) blue, blended falls, 7 inches, A.S.M. 1957
47. Stylish (Welch, 1952) purple, 8 inches, B.R. 1955
48. Bright Spot (Welch, 1956) bright yellow, 6 inches, A.S.M. 1957
49. Burgundy Velvet (Simonson, 1958) wine red, 6 inches, B.R. 1963
50. Orange Glint (Welch, 1953) yellow-orange, 7 inches, B.R. 1955