

Twin City Iris Society

News and Views

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April, 1961

Such a spring! Warm then cold and snow yet — now the predictions are for warm again. Part of my garden was clear of hay cover before the snow hit, part of it wasn't but I'm sure it didn't stay cold long enough to do very much damage. Mr. Gable reports that he has never seen the iris come through the winter looking better — sounds as though winter damage may be slight — let's hope so — for all iris gardeners need a few years now of good growing and little winter damage.

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The April meeting will be held at the Minneapolis Y.W.C.A., 12th and Nicollet, Thursday, April 27th at 8:00 P.M. We hope to have a very good turn-out for this meeting; it sounds most interesting and informative. I'll let our program chairman tell you about it:

April is the month when gardeners stop thinking and talking and start doing. By the time this appears in print our lawns will be raked and fertilized, some of our early spring bulbs will be in bloom, the winter covering will be removed from our gardens, and another wonderful growing year will be under way.

Our April 27th program fits right into this pattern of activity, with a practical slant to it. We're going to have a panel discussion of iris culture by four of our members who know whereof they speak. They are Mrs. Pat Wysocky, Mrs. Tom Wright, Mr. W. G. Sindt, and Mr. G. B. Gable. The floor will be wide open for any and all questions, so the subjects they cover will depend upon what the members want them to cover. Among other things, we expect to hear something about spraying, fertilizing, favorable and unfavorable soils and locations, winter protection, and possibly companion plantings. Then we can wander off into such subjects as watering, insects and diseases, hybridizing, division and replanting, and anything else that happens to come before the house.

Some of this material will appeal particularly to beginners, so our members are urged to bring their friends who may just be getting their feet wet in our fascinating hobby, and who might be prospective future members.

G. F. Hanson
Program Chairman

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(Report from Hostess Chairman)

The annual pot luck supper in April was a huge success if success is measured by amount of food brought or its quality.

As social chairman, I should like to thank Adah Anderson, Mrs. Bakke, and Mrs. Taylor, who did the telephoning. Mrs. VanBuskirk graciously accepted the responsibility for decorating the tables, and they were surely most attractive. There was a crew in the kitchen that certainly had no peer. It included Mrs. Bates, Mrs. Gable, Mrs. Folkers, and Ethel Smith. To all of the above I express my sincere gratitude. And then to all the members who brought such delicious food, to the men who contributed their dollars, and to all who attended I say thank you. It is only with cooperation such as was evidenced that evening that the pot luck could be successful.

May I add one word regarding North Como Presbyterian Church, where the dinner was held? The secretary, the custodian, and the minister were all most cordial and did everything to make our evening pleasant. To them we should also express our thanks.

Charlotte Sindt

Report from Membership Chairman, Mary Haertzen...

Mrs. Schoene is the only one this month to bring us a new member. She had no competition whatsoever! Come on, the rest of you, let's have a little action!!!

The new member is: Mrs. Esther Peterson
 5105 Vera Cruz Ave. No.
 Minneapolis 22, Minn.

We wish to welcome her into the Society and hope she gains much from the association.

NOTES ON HYBRIDIZING :

Our members have indicated an interest in hybridizing and it is hoped that all will participate. It has been ten years since I grew a seedling but this year I expect to try it again, this time with some knowledge of proven parents, what to work for, and expect.

Immediate results in hybridizing can best be obtained by crossing the best available irises without resorting to wide color crosses. Blue and white may be crossed with success or flamingo pink and yellow. Good judgement should be used in selecting parents for seedlings.

Snow Flurry stands at the top of the pinnacle as the greatest parent of all time. This iris is the parent of ten Award of Merit winners. Palomino A M '54 is the pollen parent of four A.M. Winners; Golden Garland '59, Glittering Amber '59, Enchanted Violet '60 and Valimar '60. Jane Phillips also is the parent of four A.M. winners, while Black Forest, Cahokia, Chivalry, Mexico and Ola Kala each are parents of three A.M. winners.

NOTES ON HYBRIDIZING, cont'd

Those who are interested in hybridizing should study the parentage of the Award of Merit winners, the new introductions by our famous hybridizers, the new varieties on the 1960 Popularity Poll and the poll of the Judges Choice for 1960. See the October issue of the A.I.S. Bulletin for results of the polls. Note the number of new or late introductions where Mary Randall is a parent. And did you know that Seminole is the oldest A.M. winner? It received the award in 1920.

. . . . G. B. Gable

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A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT HYBRIDIZING

— Maybelle Wright

1. Crosses using blooms in same or similar color classes are more apt to give good results in the first generation of seedlings.
2. Make crosses early in the morning on newly opened blossoms.
3. Keep pollen dry. Attempt no crosses immediately before or after a rain.
4. Mark each cross immediately — you may forget !
5. Always mark, naming the pod parent first.
6. As soon as pod starts to develop, remove the spathes and all leaves from the stalk.
7. Fasten stalk to a stake to support weight of the fully developed pod.
8. Make as many crosses on one stalk as you desire. The more seed you have from any given cross the more chance you have of getting the right combination of genes to produce a winner.
9. Keep careful records of all crosses made — your failures as well as your takes. We can learn much from our records.
10. When your seedlings bloom — consider form, branching, texture, vigor as well as color. Do not discard a poorly colored seedling if it has other good attributes. Cross it again!!!

Happy Hybridizing !!!

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I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed articles to the News & Views. Keep them coming — if anyone has suggestions of things they would like to see covered in the News & Views, we would be glad to hear from you. This is for you, help to make it more interesting and informative with your suggestions and contributions.

SEE YOU AT THE APRIL MEETING - Thursday, APRIL 27 - 8:00 P.M.

. . . THE EDITOR

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