

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

September, 1966

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* September 15, 1966 *
* 8:00 P.M. *
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* Guaranty State Bank of Robbinsdale *
* 3700 West Broadway *
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* "WHAT EVERY IRIS GROWER SHOULD KNOW" *
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* by Glen F. Hanson *
* Vice President, Region 8 *
* American Iris Society *
*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again!

The smell of fall is in the air, and I'm sure you have all been busy in the garden. Although the weather isn't very cooperative, I hope you have added at least a couple of the new varieties to your collections. There are so many, it is hard to choose between them.

Scorch has been on the rampage in most gardens, and each has his own way of treating for this blight. It will be of great interest to get the reports on how they turn out next spring, so please keep a record so we can compare notes.

Our next meeting will be held September 15th, with Glen Hanson in charge of the program. As there will be several things of importance to be discussed, we would like a better than average turnout. Remember, this is your society, and its policies concern each and every one of you.

Let's also give a thought when renewing our 1967 dues to add our membership to the Minnesota Hort. This organization does more than issue a magazine; its research is the heart of our state, and its conservation program affects us all. It needs our help to keep growing and healthy.

Our Iris Show fared much better than we dared hope for, and with the addition of the peony, made for much color. The report on the auction wasn't quite up to par, but we did make expenses for the year. A full report will be made at the September meeting.

See you all then,

Charlotte Schoene

1966 DIS CONVENTION

David Sindt, who now lives in Chicago, was thoughtful enough to send us news of his visit to the Dwarf Iris Society meeting at Indianapolis. His report follows:

Last spring I was able to attend the Central Area annual meeting of the Dwarf Iris Society on May 7 and 8 in Noblesville, Indiana. The timing of the meeting and blooming season was such that only the later dwarf iris and the standard dwarfs (lilliputs) were in full bloom, but then there is nothing wrong with that.

Of the dwarf iris (MDB) that I saw, only two were new to me that I considered very outstanding. One was Hula Doll (Alta Brown, 1964), a very attractive and bright variegata on display in Bruce McIntosh's garden in Carmel, Indiana. The other was Lemon Puff (Bonnie Dunbar, 1965), a lemon yellow with white falls, yellow hafts, and plenty of personality in a color that is not strongly represented in dwarfs. This was on display in the garden of its originator, Bonnie Dunbar, in Indianapolis.

Four gardens were included in the semi-official meeting tour. Of course, the DIS Central Area Test Garden in Noblesville was one, operated by Barney and Emma Hobbs. This has been the Central Area Test Garden only for the last two years, since Walter Welch passed on the operation of the Middlebury Test Garden to the Hobbs's. Much of the garden is newly planted so it was somewhat disappointing. I trust that it will be better in future years.

Bruce McIntosh's garden in Carmel concentrates on the collected species of dwarfs, and the later ones like I. balkana were blooming well. The setting is that of a rock garden with sunken walls, reminding one of the rock gardens at Kew in England, and the tiny species thus bloom at or near eye level and can be viewed and appreciated without getting on hands and knees. It was the most attractive setting for dwarfs of the four.

Bonnie Dunbar, president of the DIS, has a garden that takes almost every square inch of her Indianapolis yard. Besides dwarf irises, she grows many standard dwarfs and other types and there were many things to see.

Earl Roberts' official Median Iris Test Garden in south Indianapolis was the fourth garden I saw, and the largest by far of the group. Of course, the standard dwarfs were putting on a good show there, too.

A few comments about the standard dwarf seedlings and named varieties that I saw would be of interest to some of you I'm sure. Bonnie Dunbar was working on names for selections of Helen Doriot's SDB seedlings in the Nylon Series (an unattractive series name for a most outstanding group of irises in my opinion). The one that appealed to me most was an unusual blend numbered A-3-62; it will probably be named Nylon Calico. Among the seedlings in Earl Roberts' Median Iris Test Garden, several judges commented favorably on two of my seedlings that were blooming well. They were F-701 (Inca Chief X Sulina), a bold and brilliant variegata described as the brightest thing in the garden, and E-700 (Inca Chief X Sulina), a soft tan with a big plum-purple spot in the falls. The AIS Preliminary Awards report lists F-701 as winner of an H.C., my first award for any iris. Earl Roberts' own SDB flamingo pink series was very spectacular. It includes all shades and types of pinks in many flower styles--buff pinks, apricot pinks, rose pinks, bi-tones, you name it. One has so far been named, Lenna M.

Other outstanding named SDB's included: Plum Cute (Valette, 1963), a small aril-type flower in maroon color, with aril-type veins; Circlette (Goett, 1963), by far the best dwarf or median plicata I've seen, deep clear violet on pure white with excellent form, Moonblaze (Peterson, 1964), a very attractive smooth grey blend; Green Meteor (Motsch, 1963), a light blue with large green spot in the falls--an attractive color combination; and three of the yellow-blue beard group, each very different from the others: Arrangement (Goett, 1963), a brown blended bicolor with blue beard; Laughter (Stevens, 1965), clear true yellow with light blue beard; and Blueberry Muffins (Warburton, 1963) soft tan and gold with bright deep blue beard. One other outstanding variety was the intermediate (IB) of Earl Roberts in his Elfin Series, Elfin Antique (Roberts, 1964), an antique gold with heavy orange beard.

It was a most enjoyable trip, and the dogwoods and redbuds in full bloom between gardens made it that much more so. From a personal point of view, it confirmed my belief that some of my own seedlings are outstanding, and some may be named and introduced in the next few years. Further confirmation of this comes from the DIS Test Garden at Omaha, where the only seedling of mine that bloomed, dwarf seedling G-100 (Spring Joy X ?), a red-violet with light beard, was reported worthy of introduction.

EDITOR'S REQUEST

To keep our membership informed about iris lovers as well as the loved iris, please let me know of members who are hospitalized or ill beyond the usual colds, etc. Any other special news of members will be appreciated, too.

Deadline to reach me for printing is the first of the month. Just call Grace Carlock, 825-4697.

A GARDEN

A garden is a sunny room
Where peonies and pansies bloom,
A music hall where all day long
Birds fill the sheltered nooks with song.

A garden is a magic space
Where miracles are taking place,
And nature, out of leafy mold,
Produces phlox and marigold.

A garden is a gallery gay
With lovely pictures on display,
A church where stately lilies nod
And men draw very close to God.

--Edgar A. Guest
