

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

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With the cool weather we have been having, it is hard to realize that in less than a month we will be bringing our beautiful iris to the Iris Show. Every year we seem to go through this cold, damp period when it doesn't seem possible that the irises will be ready by showtime, but we must remember that when the weather turns warm, things really "pop". I have been going through some old issues of the "News & Views" and almost every spring we go through the same period of worry and doubt. The iris plants look very good and seem to have come through the winter with minimal damage, so we should be able to have a wonderful show this year. Now is the time to begin to plan to take all of your good irises to the show.

Our May meeting will be held at the regular meeting place, Guaranty State Bank of Robbinsdale, 3700 Broadway, May 19, 8:00 P.M. The program has been planned with the impending show in mind. As you know, there will be a table for peonies at the show this year and our expert on peonies, Pat Wysocky, will talk on peonies including some pointers on grooming and exhibiting them. There will also be members of the society who will give transporting and selection tips for iris showing. This is a meeting that those of you who are planning to show iris should definitely attend and is a must for you "first-time" exhibitors, so we hope this includes each of you and that we will have an "overflow" crowd.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Out There!

We have now come to the climax of preparation for our one big event of the year, and my how we have our eyes on the weather. As I write this, it doesn't seem possible that those Iris I see in my garden will have blooms to grace the show table in less than a month from now. (Hope! Hope!)

Now comes the final grooming, waiting, and watching, noting each day which flower comes into bloom; a stake here, a piece of walling there, checking to make sure the names are right, as no Iris ever won a ribbon under the wrong name (much to my embarrassment, I lost a ribbon my first year of exhibiting).

Greta will have all the necessary tags for you at our next meeting May 19th and along with our panel of experts, Mr. Gus Sindt, Mr. Urban Ipsen and Mr. Glen Hanson, will help you get started off on the right foot, so any questions you have, this is the time of answer.

Our Program of the evening will be conducted by Pat Wysocky on the subject of Peonies, which is very timely at this time of year.

Then, to add a little color and to really get in the mood, we invite each and every one of you to bring to this meeting your miniature and intermediate Irises in your own container. This is not for prizes - it is just a good time to bring and compare, named or not, those little gems that never get to the big Show.

Yes, May is the good Month! The promise of things to come and the awareness of hope eternal. We of the green thumb have only to watch the great awakening to know the beauty of Everlasting Life.

Your President "goofed" again - my apologies to Mrs. Pike. In the Yearbook, the Telephone Chairwoman should have read "Mrs. Hallin", but being sisters, they have graciously consented to cooperate in this capacity.

Our hearts are saddened by the illness of our members, Mr. Gable and Mrs. Tom Wright. Mrs. Hovey is still hobbling around and Mrs. Ehle had a bout with the flu as have so many. If there are others, please let me know so we can send them a note of cheer.

Now don't forget the date, May 19th -- come early, stay late, and don't forget to bring your Irises.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Schoene

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1966 IRIS SHOW - JUNE 4TH & 5TH

The Twin City Society Iris Show for 1966 will again be held in the beautiful courtyard at Southdale, 66th and France Avenue South. 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, as last year. They will be open at 6:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 4th. Tables will be set up in the hall for arranging your displays.

Show schedules have been sent to each member. A little study of the schedule in advance of the show will be helpful to you. We are pleased to tell you that silver teaspoons will again be given to Court of Honor winners, with special silver award for the Queen and Best Arrangement.

Did you realize that last year we had the second largest show in the whole country, and that we had only five stalks less than the one in first place? Just think - if each of you had brought just one more stalk, we would have far exceeded the top show. Let's keep this in mind this year and be No. 1 in both quantity and quality!! Remember the whole garden court of Southdale is to be filled with Irises, so please give us all the support you can manage. Many people are held back from showing by modesty, fear or laziness. Don't let any of these reasons 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 years. (Don't forget - there is a special class for those of you who have either never exhibited before or who have exhibited one year only.) With the show fresh in mind, these persons have looked at their own irises and told themselves, "Surely, these are as good as those that won at the show." Come and prove that your flowers are as good as anyone's. If perhaps they are not as good as you had hoped, resolve to study the winners, ask questions and try again next year!

And don't forget the new Section VIII in the show schedule.

Peonies -- we hope some of the new hybrids may be in bloom - bring them - we need them.

Entry and name tags for the show will be available at the next meeting.

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HYBRIDIZING NOTES

These are some pertinent notes on hybridizing which have been published before, at one time or another, but which bear repeating at this time of year:

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 judgment 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. (Many newer irises also belong on this list, but these will still be found in many blood lines.)

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!!!

It is not sufficient for a variety to be a good flower itself. To be a good parent, it must be capable of passing its good traits on to its offspring.

In general, we can expect the following results:

Two Blues:	almost all blue
Two Whites:	all whites if recessives, some blues also if dominant
Two Blends:	mostly blends
Two Blacks:	mostly blacks, maybe some purples & blues
Two Pinks:	T.B. pinks, apricots, raspberry pinks & occasionally a T.B. white or a lemon yellow.

For the present, we have limited discussion of genetics to dominants and recessives. Very simply, these terms refer to various inherited characteristics such as color,

form, branching, etc., some of which are recessive and some are dominant. If a factor is dominant it will usually show in most of the first generation seedlings and about three-fourths of the second generation, while a recessive is usually not apparent in the first generation and will show in about one-fourth of the second generation. These figures are the expected results of diploid crosses involving true breeding varieties. Since we will be working almost exclusively with tetraploids, the ratio of dominants to recessives will be much greater, about sixteen to one in the second generation. A dominant is apt to show up often in the offspring, even if only one parent carries it, while a recessive factor must be present in both parents to appear in the offspring. However, this factor need not be visible but may be carried as a hidden recessive in both parents. Some of the common recessives are: the tangerine beard, the plicata pattern, the amoena pattern (except Paul Cook's blue amoenas) and the factor for variegatas. Any breeding program carried past the first generation will bring out hidden recessives and provide surprises. Intermediate appearance is usually due to incomplete dominance.

When we cross two quite different colors, or species, it is called a wide cross. If you are just beginning, we suggest you avoid these because both colors are apt to be ruined. Recessives will be hidden in the first generation or F₁, but will reappear unchanged in F₂ or F₃ if you have the patience to wait 4 to 6 years. One exception to this is the yellow by pink cross (not really very wide genetically). You can't expect pink in F₁, unless the yellow you use has a pink parent, and then only a small percentage, but you should get some good clear yellow.

We cannot hope to give our seedlings qualities which the parents varieties do not have in their makeup. Before using any name varieties as parents, I intend to evaluate them by the same method. I have a pocket-sized notebook (suggested by Mr. Fay) in which I use a page for each numbered seedling. Before blooming season starts, I write the following categories on each page with room for the number, parentage and location of plant:

Color	Form	Beard	Buds
Size	Stands	Fragrance	Proportion
Texture	Falls	Height	Stalk
Substance	Haft	Branching	Plant

As I number a seedling, I judge it on each point in words, then when the busy season is over, I go back over each one putting a rating in front of each category as follows:

+ Good to Excellent o Average — Poor

If I then compare ratings of two prospective parents, I can see at a glance whether or not I will emphasize faults by breeding two flowers together with the same ones. Also, if I want superior seedlings, one parent should have a + if the other has a — or only an o in the same category. It takes just as much space and just as many backaches to grow a batch of "dogs" as a batch of high average seedlings. Of course, when going after a recessive factor such as lace or the t.b. on another color, we sometimes have to cross two flowers that are not ideal, with the thought of breeding out the faults later, but on the whole, I think this system will keep me from making foolish crosses.

Color should be clear, with no muddiness and should look as if scrubbed clean. Substance is the thickness of petals and is important because it lengthens the life of the flower and gives it resistance to wind and rain.

Form refers to the general shape of the flower, which may be tailored, ruffled, or laced, drooping, semi-flared or horizontally flared. It is largely a matter of personal taste, however.

Standards are usually considered acceptable if they are domed, conic (as in Mary Randall) or cupped and open if they have a strong mid-rib so they do not become floppy.

Falls are bad if they are narrow & strappy, tucked under at the ends (except in onco-blooded things) or droopy. The probable ideal falls would be wide & round with at least some flare.

Hafts with heavy veining coarsen the appearance of the whole flower, but color that appears to have been brushed on the haft often improves the appearance of the bloom.

Branching is a vital quality for a seedling because it provides room for more buds, thus lengthening the blooming season and also improves the overall appearance of the stalk. High Branching is bad because it causes the flowers to bunch at the top of the stalk. Close Branching and turned in buds are bad because the flowers open up too close to the main stalk and are not displayed properly. Wide, well-spaced and balanced branching is ideal because each bloom is shown to its best advantage. I would not want to use a variety (or seedling) as a parent with less than three branches and the terminal, unless it were very special in some other way, such as a color break.

A good strong stalk is important to hold up the many blooms when it is windy or rainy and also adds much to the general appearance of the plant.

In discussing proportion, I think of three seedlings, all of which had good flowers. The first was a very large flower on a heavy 44" stalk and was pleasing to look at, the second was just the opposite, a small dainty pink on a short 26" stalk, but this was also pleasing to the eye. The third one had a medium-sized flower on a heavy 42" stalk and looked like a large man with a small head. The loveliest flower loses much of its charm if it is in poor proportion to the rest of the plant.

If we choose one or two colors or forms to work with, we will probably get good results more quickly, as well as having the personal satisfaction of reaching a goal after working toward it. We should not hesitate to build on the success of others. All good name varieties are the result of many years of hybridizing and selection.

SEEDLINGS

Oft when on my bed I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
My seedlings flash before my eye
Which is the bliss of solitude.

With substance thick and flare so gay,
With veinless haft and lacy edge,
With colors clear as skies in May
Their beauties flaunt beside the hedge.

Their branching is beyond compare
And blossoms of tremendous size
Have ruffles, ruffles everywhere
To add some lilt and glamorize.

Their standards closed and strong of rib,
Their beards so lush and bright of hue,
Each one more perfect than its sib,
Surely, to them is honor due!

Why is it that my "children" dear
With well-spaced buds so numerous
When viewed by judges, it is clear,
At once become quite humorous?

Oh well, once more I realize
These "children" I idealize
Are really "dogs", as all must know;
How could they have deceived me so?

--- MayBelle Wright