



Twin City Iris Society

News and Views

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hail and Farewell.

A student of history recalls actions of the past to relate what must come about in the future. Perhaps we reflect too much on what has been and neglect what should be. Not that the past isn't deserving of respect and honor, for it does provide a base of operations. This base must not become an anchor. To survive as a society we must grow as individuals and accept the needs of a total society, not merely our personal relationships.

With this meeting I become part of the past of the society, and with a great pride I thank you for the honor of serving as an officer this last three years. From each of you I have learned, and as you know, this is my great longing - to learn.

Here we can pause to establish a link between past and future by honoring the efforts of those who will guide the society in this coming eighteenth year. The base has been provided. Now we must prepare for what can be, what should be and what must be.

Those of you who live outstate and those of you who live near by can offer much besides your membership. You can let the editor know what you grow, what problems you face, how you are affected by what we print, correct our misconceptions and see your interest grow with one paragraph or a whole page.

We have today more beautiful and interesting Iris forms than ever before. The growers have more customers, and the popularity of these magnificent plants is rising as people return to the earth for satisfaction in life. There is no reason why you can't maintain your membership and add a friend. These bulletins communicate with all of us; more importantly, they bring those away from the city a means of sharing information and love of the Genus Iris.

In two years the society will reflect on its twentieth year of existence. At that time we should stand out as an example to every other organization in horticulture for providing our membership and the public with information, incentive and respect.

- Warren Johnson

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MEETING November 20 8:00 P.M.

Guaranty State Bank --- 3700 West Broadway

1. Installation of Officers
2. Soils - The presence and effects of fungi, bacteria, and nematodes.
Professor David MacDonald, Plant Pathologist,
University of Minnesota.
3. Annual Christmas Party.
 - 1- Christmas music will be played during the luncheon.
 - 2- Gift exchange. Bring a gardening gift (under \$1.00). Designate on the package whether for a man or woman.
 - 3- Bring some Christmas Goodies for refreshments.
Visitors are welcome.

INDIAN SUMMER

Serenity enfolds the farmer's day

As autumn wanes; time moves at slower pace

Before the season ends; a moment's grace

To savor now

The beauty of a tawny fall bouquet

A leafless bough,

Or scents from tree and vine by sun distilled;

A world at rest, its covenant fulfilled.

- Clarice A. Reynolds

Calendar of events -

Chrysanthemum Show.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board invites you to the 44th Annual Mum Show, NSP Lobby, 414 Nicollet Mall, November 14-26. (This year the flower show has a touch of the Orient, to remind us that the mum, after all, is an Oriental blossom.) Over 400,000 blooms on 4,000 plants.

Don't forget the Christmas Party on next Thursday, Nov. 20th. This is our final meeting for this year. Come and have a good time.

AROUND THE TWIN CITY IRIS GARDENS

By Greta Kessenich

Iris Season came early this year. I know a queen could be found in every garden. Mr. Sacco had five blossoms open at one time on a stalk of KNIGHTHOOD, also on ROYAL TAPESTRY. Mr. Ipsen had four flowers open at one time on SPRING NOCTURNE. Most unusual, as this is an oncobred, parentage (Sable x Capitola.) Stovers Gardens had a tremendous stalk of BLUE BARON with five flowers at one time. Also, SUN MIRACLE, with its strong stem and good branching, proudly displayed the vivid coloring of a glistening yellow luster of five flowers open at one time. A picture appeared in the Minneapolis Star of Mrs. Carl Johnson and her specimen iris stalk of five blossoms.

It was a good year for the irises and all plants did especially well. A clump of strong blue-green foliage was a picture in itself, especially when stalks of BLUE MOUNTAINS, a rich blue violet, came into bloom; the same for GRACIE PFOST, with huge flowers of a blend of rich rose and copper. Gorden Plough's SWEET ONE was equally beautiful, a medium flower of a shade of delicate pink. Moldovan's IRISH LULLABY is an extremely laced rich pink. A real beauty. But let us not overlook ESTHER FAY, a fresh pink color with a bright reddish beard. Could anyone ever pass by a big clump of Hall's SPRING FESTIVAL, a definite apple blossom pink, also his MAUVE MINK? I think not! Schmelzer's ANGEL LYRICS is a luminous pink. The bud with tips showing is a beauty in itself. BREATHLESS is a smooth, beautiful tailored pink, exceptionally attractive. It grows to perfection in the Ipsen garden. Noyd's FLUTED LIME most certainly is a light green - a fluted, flaring flower of great beauty. Fay's FLAMING DRAGON is a tailored flower of blended tones of apricot-orange. A very pretty iris.

YES SIR, DENVER MINT and SUNNY SPLENDOR are very special with their deep golden color and good strong growth habits. They bring sunshine to any garden. Schreiner's GAY LIGHTS is truly a spellbinder, with coppery brown standards and falls of yellow gold. GINGERSNAP - a spicy ginger brown. A real picture, planted beside one of the yellows just mentioned. The real beauty is GLOWING TIARA, a blend of copper, rose and carmine with an overtone of blue. One can never forget MAGIC CIRCLE - stately, tall, showy white with blue stitching. SUTTERS FALLS - that is my kind of flower. Large, strong, beautiful; a blend of golden brown with a blue blaze over all. Breathtaking! One more to be mentioned before I leave the Schreiner flowers, and it is CHRISTMAS TIME. Yes, CHRISTMAS TIME, a gorgeous white iris with a thick red beard. Believe me, it's beautiful!

Gaulter's new NORMANDIE gives one a feeling of freshness. Pretty light lavender lilac shading to white in the center of the falls. Lovely. Beautiful blues I saw were Cliff Benson's HELEN TRAUBEL, JEAN SIBELIUS, Moldovan's STERLING SILVER and Knockes' CROSS COUNTRY. DeForest's HIGH ABOVE is well named. It grew tall and the sky blue flowers were ruffled and flaring.

Recently I retrieved one of my 1947 catalogs which is marked as to fragrance. It stated that AMIGO, BLACK FOREST, BLUMOHR, MARY E. NICHOLLS and BLUE RHYTHM were fragrant. These old friends are still found in my garden, kept there for special reasons. Mary Duvall, our Editor, is in charge of the iris plantings at the FRAGRANCE GARDEN, a Civic Project being developed by her garden club at the Minnesota Organization of Blind, Inc. located at Como and Eustice in St. Paul. Fragrant irises as well as other flowers were planted during the past two years, in time for the National Convention of the blind which will be held in the Twin Cities in 1970. The garden is being included in the tour. Next blooming season take special note of the plicatas, as to fragrance; also try to detect the perfume of an individual flower. (Give the name to our Editor.) We know that in an early morning visit to the gardens the perfume of the irises is prevelent.

GARDEN CHORES---

If you have not already covered your iris plantings, it is time to do so now. Lay a cover of marsh hay at least 6" deep over the beds, extending well over the edges, to give good protection.

Do not let your irises go into winter dry. WATER WELL, if the soil is not moist.

Use Of DDT In Minnesota

With the considerable amount of publicity being given to DDT and its effects, it might be well to point out that this insecticide has only two recommended agricultural uses in Minnesota, as stated in "Summary of Insect Control Recommendations" by the University of Minnesota (1969). Both uses are listed as "questionable" and are: 1) for European corn borer (1 of 5 compounds listed); 2) for plant bugs in alfalfa and clover (1 of 2 compounds listed).

According to information presented at a recent legislative hearing, the whole value of DDT sold in Minnesota last year was \$17,000. Evidently much of it is used around buildings and for garden and orchard spraying. It is not used for control of mosquitoes by the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District - Abate being the only chemical larvicide applied.

Dr. John B. Moyle, Technical Services Section, MCD.
from the CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER, Sept-Oct. 1969

Iris versicolor - our own Native Blue Flag

When is the last time that you saw a large swamp of iris versicolor in bloom? Next spring pay particular attention to some of your native irises. *I. versicolor* is native to Minnesota. There are extensive patches in the swamps beyond Coon Rapids in Grow Township. Many of the marshes are being filled in, so they are slowly disappearing from the Twin City area, but the areas in Northern Minnesota are still relatively untouched.

I. versicolor has a chromosome count of 108 - the highest known chromosome count in an iris species. Evidence accumulated in the study of *I. versicolor* seems to indicate that the parentage involved *I. setosa* (count 38) and *I. shrevei* (count 70 - 72). A remnant of Alaskan specimens of *I. setosa*, those from the Upper Yukon, an area unglaciated even while coastal Alaska and virtually all of Canada lay under the great Polar Ice Cap of the Ice Ages, are of the type that is assumed to have covered this area, and combined with the *shrevei*, (which moved northward following glaciation), to give us the amphidiploid, vigorous *I. versicolor*, of such invasive nature that it has successfully spread to cover the post-glacial area, where it is now recognized as a major species.

References -

Signa - Species Iris Study Group. "The interesting origin of iris versicolor" by Roy Davidson. p 20-21. April, 1968 - No. 1

(This publication is available from our society library.)

The following paragraphs are taken from an article written for the Lily News by Julius Wadekamper, following his trip to the INTERNATIONAL LILY CONFERENCE in London, Edinburgh, and Amsterdam, July 13-27, 1969.--

Horticulture has real meaning in European countries, and especially in England. Plants are awarded great respect, so much so that it is against the law to cut down a tree in England - even on one's own property. They are the heritage of the country and the beautiful and massive oaks in the grain fields and pastures break any monotony that could be present by interminable fields with no trees. Every English home has a garden, usually flowers in front and vegetables in back. Those people who live in apartments have allotments outside the city where they can do their gardening. Many have small greenhouses, properly referred to as glass - and they raise many things "under glass". The Royal Horticultural Society holds a fortnight show, so large that it would put most of our county fairs to shame. Anyone can bring their fruits, flowers, vegetables and herbs and the care taken in grooming the vegetables for show is more than most of us take in arranging a vase of flowers. There are many varieties of currents, gooseberries, strawberries, and raspberries and the English know their fruits and vegetables by varietal names and most of their flowers by botanical names. England is truly a land dedicated to the careful cultivation of plants. As a result seed houses and nursery companies are plentiful.

A visit to Kew was scheduled for Monday afternoon. Here is to be found one of the largest plant collections of the world including both live plants and herbarium specimens. I spent most of the afternoon in the herbarium working on erythronium propullans, Gray, a specimen that I contributed to Kew, their only other one being the type specimen contributed by Asa Gray in 1871.... Windsor Great Park, the Queen's summer residence goes back to prehistory. It is 4,500 acres of rolling land set amidst dense forsets and fields and pastures dotted with ancient oak trees. Windsor Palace, set on the highest elevation dominates the scene... Savill Gardens are in Windsor Great Park and are under the direction of Sir Eric Savill. He was on hand to show us the acreage and to personally point out all the many plants grown to perfection..Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants abound in the Seville Gardens and are truly beautiful. The Chinese dogwood on the slope going down to the pond that was edged with Japanese iris in full bloom made a most impressive picture. One could spend many days studying the plants of this garden and appreciating them...

Friday afternoon we visited the Royal Horticulture Societies gardens at Wisley. They are highlighted by whatever happens to be your interest in gardening. There are flower trial gardens, fruit trial gardens, berries and vegetables, greenhouses, alpine gardens, water gardens, rock gardens occupying the entire slope of a large hill; whatever your heart desires. This was my favorite garden, because here we found everything from the newest to the oldest and because of my special interest in trials of new varieties. One pink delphinium particularly impressed me. Grapes hang in tempting clusters from the rafters of the greenhouses, and an entire peach orchard - a small one - was grown under glass...On Wednesday we toured Lord Elphinstone's Drumkilbo home. The thing that impresses me here was the "kitchen garden". In fact, these kitchen gardens had been leaving me breathless all over England, but this one was without compare. Vegetables of every variety, all kinds of berries and fruits, both in the open and under glass were grown, all for use in the kitchen. The beds were edged by borders of trimmed grass and it looked like picking vegetables would have been a great deal of fun. There were no weeds in sight. In the afternoon we visited the already mentioned Keillour Castle. Here again was a magnificent kitchen garden, but the impressive thing was the large collection of very different and rare plants.....

WHY JOIN THE STATE SOCIETY?

By E. M. Hunt

Why should a group such as ours join (affiliate with) the Minnesota State Horticultural Society? Because doing so secures services and advantages that can be obtained in no other way.

First, the individual member receives certain direct benefits: the HORTICULTURIST magazine (8 issues per --up-to-date authoritative gardening information specifically for Minnesota); loan of library materials (600 volumes covering every phase of popular gardening); gardening questions answered by letter or telephone. These are provided to members of affiliate groups for the club rate of \$2.00 per member, per year instead of the \$2.50 fee charged non-group members.

As a group certain other advantages are secured: The monthly garden quiz and other occasional program helps and suggestions; loan slide sets and notes for presentation at meetings (for \$1.00 use fee); assistance in obtaining speakers or judges for special occasions; space in the HORTICULTURIST magazine for horticultural information or publicizing special projects or events.

Perhaps the greatest of all benefits are the "intangibles"--- things that get done, and opportunities that are developed because many persons and groups work together for the general "advancement of the art and science of horticulture" in Minnesota.

The State Society serves as a central, unifying organization coordinating the interests and volunteer efforts of members and member-groups throughout the state. Through combined effort and support many projects and institutions for the benefit of all were brought into being --such as: Testing programs and recommended variety lists, experimental stations and the Fruit Breeding Farm, the Landscape Arboretum, judges and exhibitor training schools and the certification of flower show judges, district and state garden information forums.

Thus, the member gets his money's worth in direct and indirect benefits. In addition he has the considerable satisfaction of knowing that through his member support he has helped make Minnesota a great Horticultural State.

From Your Editor:

I would like to thank those who have so willingly written articles for the "News and Views" this past year. Your contributions have made the work of publishing the newsletter so much easier for me.

Those of you who feel that certain areas have been neglected - write me your views. I am always in need of material, and am especially grateful to those who will take the time to write. The "News and Views" will be improved only if you add your contribution. "Don't let George do it!"

Gardeners are an independant lot; and as each one of us has a method that works best for us, we should have a number of differing viewpoints. We are interested in how YOU garden, what works best for you. Share your experiences.

Add a new dimension to your gardening this winter - Write about it...

PAY YOUR DUES NOW - FOR 1970.