



Twin City Iris Society

News and Views

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Can you imagine a colorful Persian carpet of real flowers? Such is the effect of two 1968 introductions by Riverdale Iris Gardens, 'Sun Sparkle' and 'Garnet Gleam'. They are 4-5" tall, bloom in early May and are the developments of 'dwarfs' hybridizer, Dave Sindt. 'Sun Sparkle' is the answer to bright yellow for early spring color. Whether used for potting, borders, rock gardens, landscaping or just planted in the garden, nothing could be more beautiful at this time of year. 'Garnet Gleam' is the real carpet maker. It is reddish violet with a light beard. It blooms for a shorter period of time than 'Sun Sparkle' but the effect is more intense.

The Executive Board of the Twin City Iris Society met on May 5 at the home of Mrs. Dallas Messer. Bill Bledsoe, president of the American Iris Society was awarded an honorary membership at this meeting. It will be my honor to make this award personally, in your name, at the American Iris Society Convention in New York.

The Board voted a special appropriation of \$50.00 to support the Regional activities of Region 8 or the American Iris Society. The Wisconsin Society had already contributed a similar sum.

The Auction Committee will meet in early June. The Show Committee for the June Show requests the help of all members Friday night June 5th at Southdale to help set up, 4PM for draping the tables, 6PM for the rest; and again on Sunday night to help take down the show. All are encouraged to enter as many entries as you can. The irises look better this year than they have in many years and barring any major climatic disaster we should be able to make this a very successful show.

The publications committee has sent to 358 Garden Clubs in Minn. two sheets: The Twin City Iris Society Information for Garden Clubs and What the Twin City Iris Society offers you. A sheet of publicity prepared by Southdale was also included in this mailing.

Outstate organization is moving ahead. A slide program and syllabus including 30 slides is ready for use and a second one is in preparation. In the meantime the 157th membership card has been used so far this year. Several honorary memberships were voted by the Board and will be announced in due time. The Board also approved a reduction in membership dues to \$1.00 for new individual members and \$1.25 for new family members who join the society after June 1. The memberships terminate with the year - to facilitate bookkeeping.

I have appointed a nominating committee at the recommendation of members of the Board. It will be chaired by Warren Johnson, Dorothy Rudser and Walter Carlock are members.

- Julius Wadekamper

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JUNE 6 and 7 - THE ANNUAL IRIS SHOW.

Entries may be placed from 6AM to 10AM. Enter through the Donaldson Lane, Camel parking lot. BRING WHATEVER YOU CAN.

SPECIAL DINNER MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 - 6:30 p.m.

Swiss Chalet Buffet, 5201 Excelsior Boulevard

SPEAKER: DR. CLARKE COSGROVE, San Gabriel, California
Second Vice President, American Iris Society, and Chairman,
Exhibitions Committee

"The Care and Feeding of Flower Children" is the title Dr. Cosgrove has selected to discuss at the meeting of the Twin City Iris Society on the evening of June 10. Dr. Cosgrove was the banquet speaker at the national convention of the American Iris Society in Milwaukee last year, and members of our society who heard him found him both authoritative and entertaining. We are indeed fortunate that he was willing to make the twin cities a stop on his return trip to his California home from the Golden Anniversary meeting of the AIS in New York.

All members and friends of the Twin City Iris Society, those outside the metropolitan area as well as those inside, are urged to attend this dinner meeting. The cost for the dinner will be \$3.25 and reservations are needed by June 4. Please call Mrs. W.G. Sindt (436-7901) or drop a card to her: Route 4, Box 276, Stillwater, Minn. 55082. Since such reservations will be honored, please also cancel in advance if necessary.

- Charlotte

THE EARLY IRIS SHOW OF THE TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY --

Over 250 entries by more than 20 exhibitors in all classes assured the Early Iris Show a place of merit among such events. The Miniature Dwarf Bearded section (unbranched irises that bloom early and are up to 10" tall) had some exceptional entries. The section champion was 'Little Joe', a dark violet self with a lighter beard and an outstanding little specimen on the show table. In the standard Dwarf Bearded section (irises 10 to 15" tall) 'Cherry Garden' (B. Jones) was Section Champion. It is deep red with good clean color and excellent form. 'Dark Spark' (Sindt) proved to be a good variety for arranging as well as for the horticulture display.

Outstanding seedlings on the show table were: Dunbar 70-12, wine red SDB with a darker halo and a beautiful white beard; 'Dancing Eyes' (Sindt) SDB with cream colored standards and falls edged with light cream blending into a dark halo; 'Jelly Bean' (Dunbar) deep violet MDB with gold beard; 'Wild Blueberry' (Sindt) a MDB of light blue standards and falls edged blue turning to brown. The beard is yellow in the heart turning to cream as it crawls out on the falls. The species were also represented at the show with I. balkana, I. aphylla, I. reichenbachii, and I. barthii H 52-20. The potted plants make a fine section. It is a good way to exhibit things one may not be inclined to cut. It also shows the possibilities of using the smaller irises as potted plants. The section champion was 'Dark Spark' (Sindt), a very dark blue self with two fine blooms. 'Brownette' was a fine 5 flowered well proportioned entry. I also liked 'Little Blackfoot' (Rhinehardt) and 'Gingerbread Man' (B. Jones), a wonderful brown with a magnificent blue beard. The arilbred class had two entries.

Each class in the arrangement section was introduced with an appropriate spring quote: "And in green underwood and cover blossom by blossom the spring begins"- an arrangement of apple blossoms and white MDB's in a green triangular pool won as 'Best Arrangement'. Other blue ribbon winners were as follows: "Spring with her golden suns and silver rains, etc."- a small knarled piece of wood, (later ascertained to be jack pine) and three yellow green irises with *viola pubescens* and a jack pine twig; "Never yet was a springtime late, etc."- three white irises in a tall slender vase and a jackpine branch; "When birds do sing, etc."- four lilli yellow irises were cleverly set off by Vitus riparia (wild grape) and sensevaria mounted on a jack pine slab. Although some people thought the bird was a snake turned upside down, the arranger insisted that it was an illusive stork. Actually I thought it was a knarled jack pine branch; "But rather April, wet by kind, etc."- an impressive tower of blue dwarfs. Our thanks to Mrs. Clarence Borg,² the arrangements judge. - J. Wadekamper

COLOR -- COMPUTERIZED

by Edith Kimber

Cameras, lawn mowers, taxes, and irises have all become more complex, but here we will only tackle irises. To make a direct start, it would be helpful to consult the A.I.S. Bulletin of January 1970; the article on color classification begins on page 31. Now, you faint-of-heart, don't be intimidated by a few letters and numbers -- all are very logical symbols. Briefly, here is the code:

SATURATION	HUE	PATTERN
P - Pale	W - White	1 - Self
L - Light	R - Red	2 - Plicata
F - Full	O - Orange	3 - Bitone
D - Dark	Y - Yellow	4 - Bicolor
DD - Very Dark	G - Green	5 - Blend
	B - Blue	6 - Rim
	V - Violet	7 - Veining
	RV - Red-Violet	8 - Spot or Signal
	N - Black	9 - Base (standards) or Haft (falls)

L following color of plicatas indicates lightly marked; H, heavily marked. Lower case letter indicates color of styles (std) or color of beard (falls). Lower case letter preceding the dominant color symbol indicates subsidiary color for blends. The / mark separates the coding, standards/falls.

You will note that the letters representing saturation, or depth of a particular color, are self-explanatory. Equally relevant are the letters coding the individual colors (the N - Black is indicative of the Latin Niger, to avoid confusion with B - Blue). Also please note that starting with R - Red, these colors are listed with their related colors following and preceding, with the exceptions, of course, white and black. This is readily apparent to all you old paint mixers! In-between shades of blue-violet, orange-yellow, and other tertiary colors will fall into their proper order, although it may be up to you to decide whether it is blue-violet or violet-blue. In iris talk, it is the second color mentioned that is considered dominant. The color of the standards determines the general color class.

The numerical coding for patterns may be a little slower soaking in than are the color symbols. For most of us, 1 thru 5 are well established, but let's get this straight - Bitone (3) means two shades or intensities of the same basic color. Familiar 'Wine & Roses' would be thus coded PRV/FRV, Bicolor (4) is just exactly what the term implies - std/falls of two distinctly different colors. What we used to call amoenas and variegatas typify the bicolors, but the newer term is more expansive. Symbols 6 thru 9 are new, and will enable hybridizers to describe new registrations and introductions more accurately (aril veining, signal, pumila spot, shoulders, blazes, rims, beards). My own memory tickler in learning these is to think of the outside of the iris bloom, 6 - Rim, and to work inward to the std. base or falls, hafts, 9.

The trend in shows is toward classes listed by color symbols rather than by mere consecutive numbers - Y - Yellow, Y-2 Yellow ground plicatas, Y-5 Yellow Blends, and all the others. They can then be subdivided by show committees if entries warrant.

Now let's discuss these individual colors. In most shows, white selfs are sub-classes because of their abundance. The W1W, white-whites, (laugh a little) are those with no other prominent color - 'Henry Shaw', 'Tranquility'. Those with a yellow cast are sometimes called warm whites, the blue tint whites are referred to as cool whites, but this is an old generalization. Newest wrinkle here is to note the color of a definite cast or tint thus: W1G for 'Lime Shadows'; W1B, 'Celestial Snow'; W1Y 'Queen's Lace'. I am presently guesting a seedling, a pink cast white which may fall into W1O,

Con't - COLOR, COMPUTERIZED

or to further describe its light coral beard, OW/OWo. (Pronounce this one aloud and someone may throw you an old ham bone). A white ground plicata, 'Stepping Out' would be W2V; 'Rimfire', W2R. The V and the R describe the color of the stippling.

The next color listed, R - Red, boasts no spectrum shade in irises, but consider the progress. Some shows divide their reds: orange-brown side and purple side. Quite naturally, the let-down, or dilution, of red is pink. Few are considered true pink, but here again, hybridizers have made strides. Taking red in the other direction, the dark red selfs may be classes, 'Bang', DR; 'Edenite', DDR.

O - Orange starts what we have been calling flamingo pink; 'May Hall', 'Fleeta', and a whole army are comfortable here as PO, Pale Prange, we could add a 1, meaning self. More intensive shades are beefing up this color, say, 'Minnesota Glitters', LRO Light Red-Orange, and I'd better refrain from giving others any advertising in this class! Think dark and you will find yourself into the browns, (orange blends), 'Bronze Bell', DO5; and to give equal time, Lavone Ney's lovely 'Tomtebo', DO5 - here we could get fancy in describing the violet blaze, DO5/DOv8.

Y - Yellow selfs range from pale 'Cream Crest', PY; 'Riviera', LY; 'Ultrapoise', FY. Yellow ground plicatas are legion, 'Cayenne Capers', Y20. In the bitones (std. and f. different shades of yellow) 'Buttercup Bower', LY/PY, or the older way, Y3LP. (Let me editorialize here - I like the slash / dividing std/f, and the sooner iris people officially take this on, the better will be the descriptions of registrations and introductions. Now let's get the folks who write the catalogs to conform. We have too many terms like elusive, ethereal, umbrageous.) Meanwhile back to the yellows. In bicolors, the standards are various shades of yellow, falls a different color, as old, old 'Staten Island', Y/DR; 'Pretender', Y/V. The newer blended variegatas, 'Amigo's Guitar', Y5/V; and here comes another commercial, 'Riverdale', OR/RV. By now you must suspect that the yellow blends can cover the waterfront - delicate 'Glittering Amber', PY5; 'Olympic Torch', LY5, stunning 'Golden Mink', FY5; again we approach brown, but with yellow as the underlying color.

Don't expect the G - Greens to match a bunch of broccoli - yet. But if you are old enough, think of what we used to call pink. Scares you! I would list here, 'Fluted Lime', LYG. Progress has been especially good in the Medians. Many newer ones are chartreuse. 'Trend', introduced in 1969, is registered as a green bitone, LG/ Olive G.

B - Blues are so familiar I will not further bore you, in case you have read this far. The same rules apply to the V - Violets. Because so many blends with red have been developed, the A.I.S. has set up an in-between RV - Red-Violet. This should take care of 'Mary Randall' and her many grandchildren. The pale orchid pinks, 'Pink Clover', PRV check in here. A blend (5) is a basic color with one or more overlaying colors. The V and RV classes can claim many.

This takes us full circle to the N - Blacks, which are presently intensities of red, violet, or blue, with the designation DD__. As with other developments, the goal gets closer. Some show committees prefer to list these very dark irises on the program as Black, some bench them with the related basic color. I'll not opine.

Iris growers should thoroughly learn the coding for types of irises - Tall Bearded, T. B.; Standard Dwarf Bearded, S.D.B.; etc. This must be the first consideration in horticultural show entries, even before they are color classed.

Regardless of symbols and what the book says, color must be classed by eyeball on the exhibition bench. Soil and other conditions can vary the colors. Hybridizers use different charts for comparison (Wilson, R.H.S., etc); others who are less scientific, just guess. And a few might see colors that are not really there - the elusive guys!

(Edith Kimber is Editor of the WISCONSIN STANDARDS AND FALLS, and a member of our society.)

EXHIBITING IRISES

We have all had that perfect specimen bloom stalk either before or after the date of the Iris Show. How many times have we said, "If only the show was today. That ~~would~~ be the champion blue, or pink or white." If your iris garden reaches the peak of its bloom season on the date of the show you will be lucky.

My garden is well drained and protected from the north wind. The sandy loam soil warms up early in the spring so growth starts early and the peak of the bloom season comes about a week ahead of many of the suburban iris gardens. If the date of the show is ideal for me, then it is too early for those folks out at the edge of the cities. Then too, if they have clay or heavy black loam soil, they will have few bloom stalks with more than the terminal bloom open.

During the past several years the show has been late for my garden, making it difficult to find specimen stalks. Many years ago I planted early blooming varieties on the north side of my neighbor's house and late blooming varieties on the south side of my garage. I later had both early and late blooming varieties blooming during mid-season. In recent years I've been unable to exhibit any of the early blooming ones.

Many exhibitors cut their specimen bloom stalks the evening before the show. Some cut and store in florists coolers several days ahead of the show. It was so disappointing to find flowers folded the next morning on those perfect bloom stalks that I discontinued the practice. I've also cut stalks with nice big buds and brought them into the house and set them in the bath tub filled with warm water. I quit that too. It didn't work.

Now I get everything ready the night before the show. The milk bottles are filled with water, then I search the garden for those perfect stalks with fresh flowers or big fat fluffy buds soon to open and attach the label. In the back of the label I mark the symbol designating the class it will be entered in at the show so that I'll not have to use valuable time searching the next morning at the show. I start cutting bloom stalks when daylight comes.

If exhibitors will use bamboo stakes they can avoid crooked or curved stalks. Putting wads of paper in the axils to force the branch out wide so the flower will be away from the main stem does not work unless done while the stem is growing.

The perfect bloom stalk will be well proportioned with the branches wide so the flowers are away from the main stem. The first branch should be low so the stalk does not appear leggy or the flowers bunched at the top. I like as many flowers open as possible, preferably five, but never two flowers open at once at the terminal bud. That makes a crowded affect. I believe that bloomstalks with flowers bunched at the top are caused by the bloomstalk growing real fast on a hot day or days, followed by cool or cold days when the bloomstalk grows very slowly.

Next I look closely to be sure the flowers are fresh. This can be noticed by the absence of any withered edge of the petals. Water spots, torn or broken petals are looked for. Spray residue should be wiped off the stems. Standards should be closed and not caved in. The falls should not be pinched in at the sides or tucked under at the tips.

Tissue paper is wadded and packed in the neck of the milk bottle around the stem of the iris to keep it standing straight. Six bottles are staggered in the steel carrier designed to hold twelve milk bottles. This avoids crowding when being transported to the show. Petals get torn or broken when crowded.

For many years I removed the back seat in our car and with blocks of wood I leveled the floor so the steel carriers would stand level. Several trips were made when I cut as many as 126 bloom stalks. These past few years I've rented a small panel truck and taken seventy-two bloom stalks at one trip.

- Gabe

EACH PIECE OF LITTER COSTS THE TAXPAYER \$35.00

FEEDBACK ON "Use Of Chemicals".

"One year I dug up some old, very hardy diploid tall-bearded and literally threw them across the road into a weed patch. Was I surprised to find that they had taken root during the following winter and were growing! Just for fun, I left them alone and the following May they developed a few bloom stalks. Unfortunately, the weed patch was full of dandelions and the necessity to spray them before they blossomed and went to seed was a higher priority item than seeing those old irises bloom again. So we sprayed the patch down good with 2-4D. In several days, the bloom stalks were all twisted and snaky, a few blossoms came out (distorted), the newer leaves began twisting and by the end of that summer, it was almost impossible to find a trace of those irises.

Question: would 2-4D have the same effect on properly planted and cultivated iris plants? Conclusion: (cautious, but not very scientific) I'm going to let someone else find out --- we'll stick to digging weeds that are close to our plants..... "

- Jerry Rutledge

IRIS ARENARIA

Iris arenaria is listed as synonymous with I. flavissima by W. R. Dykes. This interesting 22 chromosome dwarf appears in many respects to be a transition plant between the regalia and oncocyclus iris and the pogoniris. The seeds possess a distinct aril, but not the large white raised aril of the regalias and oncocyclus. The plants are stoloniferous and the seed capsule dehisces below the apex.

Arenaria is native to Hungary and northeast Asia from the Altai region to Nongolia.

Yellow flowers are born 3" stems with 2 or 3 flowers per stem. The flowers last but a single day, withering in a twisted spiral.

Bryant Fitch has hybridized extensively with I. arenaria. Its recommendations for hybridizing are a quality of lightness and charm appropriate for a miniature, flowers in perfect proportion to the plant size and well formed flaring falls, a quality not always found in I. pumila. Its faults are difficulty in growing, fugative bloom, although the 2 to 3 buds per stem extend the bloom period for a few days, and the standards which tend to be formless. F1 seedlings are sterile and as far as I know no line has been carried beyond this point.

Difficulty in growing is another aril linkage. As with the arils this difficulty can perhaps be overcome by dry conditions after the bloom season. Its higher tolerance to summer moisture however would be a fine characteristic to breed into the arils.

To do well arenaria should be planted in well drained soil of rock garden conditions. It should be planted in at least two inches of washed gravel or coarse sand overlaying rich porous leaf mold. Moisture is required for spring growth but dry summers are recommended after the bloom season. For our climate success in growing arenaria does not seem to be a matter of hardiness as much as a matter of keeping the plants dry after the bloom season.

see the Conservation Volunteer-

- J. Wadekamper

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