

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS AND VIEWS

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Next Meeting

April 24, 1958

The next meeting of the Twin City Iris Society will be Thursday, April 24 at the East Lake Y.M.C.A. — 1845 East Lake Street at 8:00 P.M. Plans for our upcoming Iris Show will be discussed and an interesting program has been planned. Several large clumps of choice Franklin peonies will be given as prizes. This will be a very informative and interesting meeting (as well as profitable, for those lucky enough to win the peonies) so we hope we have a large turn-out. At the last meeting it was decided to continue meeting at the East Lake Y.M.C.A. on a permanent basis. Everyone seems to be very well pleased with the accommodations and we feel very fortunate in being able to use these rooms for our meetings.

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Judging Iris Shows: Edythe Burns

Many members have asked how iris are judged at our shows. They have also remarked (in a nice way of course) that we, the judges, must surely have holes in our heads, and also at one time or another, offered kind expressions of sympathy about the loss of eyesight and how we must have had to "bone up" to graduate out of kindergarten. So in self-defence, (and I hope I'm not disclosing any top secret information,) I'll pass along some rules and procedures for judging iris shows as outlined in an A.I.S. booklet and mailed to all judges.

In judging tall bearded specimens, the following scale of points should be used:

				Points
FLOWER	COLOR	10	Points	35
	SIZE	5	"	
	FORM	10	"	
	SUBSTANCE	10	"	
STALK	NO. OF OPEN FLOWERS	15	"	30
	BRANCH-BALANCE-BUD PLACEMENT	15	"	
CONDITION	GROOMING	15	"	35
	CULTURAL — PERFECTION	20	"	
TOTAL —				100

(Continued)

Judging Iris Shows: Edythe Burns (Continued)

Scale of points for collection (Tall Bearded) classes:

CULTURAL PERFECTION	35	Points
SPECTACLE VALUE	30	"
CONDITION	20	"
UNIFORMITY OF HEIGHT	<u>15</u>	"
TOTAL	-100	"

Scale of points for Specie Iris:

CULTURAL PERFECTION	25	Points
CONDITION	20	"
COLOR	20	"
RARITY	15	"
SIZE AND SUBSTANCE	10	"
STALK AND BRANCHING	<u>10</u>	"
TOTAL	-100	"

Of course there is a lot of leeway here, take color for instance. One judge may be more sensitive to color than another. I often wonder if colors look the exact same to people with blue eyes as they do to people with brown eyes. What is violet to me is often lavender to someone else and what seems to be lavender to me is described as blue by others.

Some judges feel that the most important point in judging is for the iris to have at least three or four flowers open at once, the more the merrier.

Now on branching. While it is a very strong point on tall bearded iris, it is rarely found in other types of iris. The siberians (iris) have very little branching and few open flowers at one time. Also such hybrids as Wm. Mohr seldom have more than one open flower and one bud and no branching at all, yet just getting it to bloom here in Minnesota is quite a feat and we have certainly seen some beautiful specimens of it at our shows. For cultural perfection, condition, size, color, substance and everything but branching it rates tops. Now according to the AIS rules, iris are supposed to be judged on what is typical of that particular variety, therefore, Wm. Mohr without branching is (or should be) ranked just as high as any tall bearded iris with excellent branching - all other points being equal of course. (Boy! Am I sticking my neck out)

About condition. Iris specimens with wilted or faded blossoms, should have them carefully removed before the judging. This can be done so that it does not detract from the specimen. At the last show we had, I remember, one iris which we judges would certainly have awarded a blue ribbon to except for one wilted, messy blossom that had been left on. We were mighty tempted to just pinch it off.

One of the saddest things that can and does happen to the judges is to have the clerk assigned them be an exhibitor in the class they are judging. We can lose more friends that way.

Yes, we live dangerously, we judges, and to make matters worse, I'll probably be disbarred or disenfranchised or whatever it is they do to judges, after this.

(Continued)

Minneapolis: G. B. Gable

Iris growers can be thankful for the mild winter almost void of snow and the most delightful spring in years. If the nice weather continues we can expect a very early bloom season which will cause our Twin City Iris show to be held close to Memorial Day.

Now that the hay and leaves used for winter protection have been removed, we find our iris, daylilies, phlox and other perennials in the best condition in years. From casual observation while cleaning up the garden there doesn't seem to be a single iris rhizome lost. The warm weather had caused some mildew to develop where the hay was wet in places and that problem was taken care of with a drenching of Carco-X solution.

Refer to last month's news and views for control of insects and disease and be sure to get started on the spray program.

Something to remember is that well cultivated soil, turned over often and exposed to the sun, destroys and prevents bacteria and fungus spores from developing into plant diseases. The more iris are cultivated the better chance you will have winning the blue ribbons.

If you want a beautiful lawn, get a Hozon Siphon and as easy as holding the hose and sprinkling the lawn you can apply soluble fertilizers such as ammonium sulphate. This is the easiest way to apply fertilizer that I have ever found.

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West: Pat Wysocky

The ice is out of Lake Minnetonka fully two weeks earlier than the average date of April 18. In fact the early Spring embarrassed the civic leaders of Spring Park who annually hold a "Dunk the Clunk" contest in which one is asked to guess the date and time an old car placed on the ice will sink. The contest was scheduled to close at midnight April 1st this year. Much to the astonishment of all, the clunk sank at 9:30 a.m. April 1st. In spite of the embarrassment of the contest officials, all of us are pleased to see blue water and rippling waves take the place of dirty gray ice.

To those who might be interested in showing either specimens or arrangements in the National Peony Show June 23-24 at the Northwestern Bank building: there is a complete show schedule together with an interesting article concerning the Twin City metropolitan area in the National Peony Society Bulletin. Anyone interested may obtain a copy of this bulletin on loan from Mrs. Stover or Mrs. Franklin or any other Minnesota Peony Society member. Mr. Earl Maffett, who is the very capable show superintendent, will be glad to give any other information desired.

It is a pleasure to tell that Mrs. Foss' address to the Mound Garden Club last month was the finest talk that we have heard at any garden club meeting. Her accompanying slides are beautiful. We were very proud of our President.

Do you know? an insect carrying pollen from one iris will, when entering a second iris, deposit the pollen on the upper or receptive side of the stigma, but when the insect is backing out of the flower the pollen which it bears will come in contact only with the non-receptive lower side of the stigma. Thus the iris pollen an insect carries will not be rubbed off on the stigma of the same flower.

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Southside: L. V. Franklin

All is quiet on the wester-oh-er south side front. The covering is all off the prize rhizomes now (or should be) and the only sound is the chirping of the song sparrows and the zing zing of the lawn brooms as our avid south side gardeners, drunk with the fever of spring, slash furiously through the grass and leaves cleaning up the winter debris.

Yes, the winter robe is off the iris gardens now and the long suspense is over. They have come through for the most part in wonderful shape (in the wonderful south side iris paradise, at least).

I looked at the long rows of greening clumps at Ben Haeg's gardens and his face lit up when I said, "They came through one hundred per cent, didn't they?" "Almost", was his reply. "What didn't should be on the compost heap anyway." When I quizzed Mildred Stover about her planting there was a broad pleased smile under that new blond coiffure. You could see she was looking forward to a successful season. Mr. Landey told me he planted a lot of those soft, overgrown west coast rhizomes last fall, same story, no less this time without a single straw of covering.

There seems to be a feeling of relief among the south side gardeners. Many of us wondered last season if we really knew anything about iris culture. Now we know we don't. Just why did they survive this bare, snowless winter and come out so badly the winter before. Will we find the answer? Wonder what the "experts" east, west, and north think about it?

We notice Mr. Landey (Landey's Nursery) is open for business at the new location, 65th and Penn Avenue South. He reports customers are starting to drop in. Also at Backman's nursery department this morning everything was activity. The rush is on. This must be spring!

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Golden Valley: Mrs. Foss

I received a letter from our Regional Vice President, Mrs. Goodrick, complimenting our society on the "very fine" News and Views which she received and hopes we will keep up the good work. She would like comments from members including those on any iris which were especially good as well as on those which did not do so well, also any noteworthy seedlings.

We feel much better upon viewing our Iris this spring than we did when we saw the devastating loss of a year ago. We are looking forward to a better spring and growing season than we have had for some years.

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Remember the next meeting -- Thursday, April 24, 1958

8:00 P.M.

PLEASE BE PROMPT