

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS AND VIEWS

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The next meeting of the Twin City Iris Society will be held on Thursday, October 23, 1958 at Farnham's, 6023 Nicollet Avenue South.

This is our annual dinner meeting at which the election of officers takes place so it is imperative that as many of our members as possible attend. The price of the dinner is \$2.25 and will be the specialty of the house, Butterd baked chicken. This is a most important meeting and we hope to see all of you there.

Please make your reservations now to one of the following either by a telephone call or a post card. The reservations must be made by Tuesday, October 21, at the very latest.

Mrs. Stover, 7014 4th Avenue So., Mpls. 23
(UN. 9-4763)

Mrs. Foss, 6045 St. Croix, Mpls. 22
(LI. 5-5107)

Mrs. Messer, 2940 Edgewood, Mpls. 26
(WE. 9-8920)

PLACE: Farham's - 6023 Nicollet Avenue

DATE: Thursday - October 23, 1958

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

Mark your calender now!!!!

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IRIS EVALUATION -- Alice Foss

Does it not seem, sometimes, that our national life is built of superlative advertising? That if anything should stop the flow of flowery words used in advertising, our whole economy would collapse! An example - cigarette advertising on TV - each variety outdoing the other in exaggerated claims! Advertising colors every walk of life and influences our shopping much more than we would believe.

The gardener dreams and plans in exaggerated dreaming. The nursery catalogs pictures the dreams come true. Unfortunately, the newest, the best, the biggest, are also, superlative in price; and oftentimes, the garden budget demands that we drop a project altogether unless willing to consider older and cheaper varieties, which have already proven their worth, without benefit of an advertising campaign.

Especially is this true of bearded Irises, which annually decrease in price as stock increases. There are many fine irises in commerce at reasonable prices, but unless the customer knows how to select them, he is

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to be disappointed, as I was in my first Iris venture. I planted about one hundred varieties with no knowledge of the qualities that make an iris great. Some of these are still considered indispensable, but many were discarded long ago. Such a disheartening waste of money can be avoided by consideration of some varieties proven good in quality and bloom.

I would like to list a few of the not too expensive varieties I have found very good and that should be considered by any one starting an Iris garden.

In the blues - Blue Rhythm, Danube Wave and Chivalry are fine medium blues, hardy and dependable. Sylvia Murray and Jane Phillips in the lighter tones, I consider very good.

In the pinks we now have a fine selection, not over \$1.00 to \$1.50. Twilight Sky, Heritage, Pink Formal and Pink Sensation are some of these.

Reds - I feel Solid Mahogany, Red Valor and Ranger still are tops. The slightly higher and newer Pacemaker is very good.

Whites - Winter Carnival, tried and true; Snow Flurry, lovely but sometimes sensitive; Tranquility and Sarah Lee Shields are wonderful and I would not be without the early and lovely Priscilla.

Plicates - Tiffany, Firecracker, Gay Border, Minnie Colquitt and Blue Shimmer.

In the browns - Bryce Canyon, Casa Morena, Argus Pheasant and the newer Midcontinent, all a dollar and under.

Yellows - Ola Kala still tops. Klondike Gold, Spun Gold, Cloth of Gold, Goldbeater under a dollar. Of course, for a little more, we now have the beautiful Golden Sunshine and Solid Gold.

In the Amogegas - it is still hard to find anything finer than old Wabash and Extravaganza. Summit, Pinnacle and Accent are newer but not too expensive.

We know our Court of Honor winners of this year and of past years, have proven some of our older inexpensive varieties are still on top. Note this year's winners: Vatican Purple - Queen; Minnie Colquitt - Princess; Midcontinent, Elmohr, Snow Carnival, Blue Rhythm, Summit, Thotmes III, Alpine Glow, Happy Birthday and Solid Gold, all Court of Honor Winners! Only three or four were over one dollar and the rest even less than that!

Any of the above mentioned will not dent your budget too much and will paint your garden with rainbow colors that will make your garden a thing of beauty; and you the envy of your neighbors!

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NEWS FROM OUR "JUNIORS" - Mrs. O. A. Bakke

1. "Messy Hybridizers" - Dick and Ralph our fine husky Juniors have 15 crosses for 1958.
2. Kenny, a new junior, had his garden all ready to plant - 10 iris which

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he set in kitchen closet in a bag until evening. Grandma thought - garbage. Missing 10 rhizomes, tears of course - Kenny got a new supply.

3. Virginia Stone reset her iris. They were too near the house so bloomed to early for the show. She has seeds from one cross 1958.
4. Susan Valine learned to exhibit early at the show then go to church later. She got a ribbon on her only bloom.
5. Storlies - 4 Juniors - David forgot to plant his seeds until February - only two came up. Cathy, age 8, got the ribbons in 1958 - excited? Yes! All their iris look good.
6. Delsarths - Vicky and Karen. Karen, age 6: At a garden show was asked if she had a garden, "Yes" she said "What do you grow?" - "Iris", said Karen.
7. Lund^{er}bage - 3 boys - new in Golden Valley. Daddy loves flowers so we expect good leadership here.
8. Phillip Formo - Look out growers - he can sell anything!!
9. Barbara Johnson - Age 6 - Determined - has her flowers fenced so baby brother can't get them.
10. Naomi and Karen Gjelten - Naomi, our artist has crosses growing well. Karen may "sell out" to her.
11. Ricky Anderson - won top prize at the show. We can expect more show flowers from him.

All the Juniors are active in Sunday School. Those children were ~~chosen~~ who showed interest, also, where parents will guide them.

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FROM MINNETONKA - Pat Wysocky

I wonder if other Iris growers have trouble raising "Dreamy". We've tried it for four years and never had a bloom. I understand it's beautiful but it's well named for us as we've so far only seen it in our dreams.

Our wandering Iris have been moved to new beds once again. This time for the last time. Our perennials have been installed in a new garden. Our 40 french lilacs now line the driveway and our peonies have taken up new residence after being divided and cleaned up. Next year perhaps we'll finally have time to launch a real attack upon the weeds who have come to think this garden is the safest place in the world for them to live and raise families. We'll surprise them next year.

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We've decided that Iris are commercially the nicest things to hybridize. Not that we intend to do any hybridizing but we learned this summer it takes 15 years from seed to market for peonies and 17 years to market new tulips. The lovely Queen Elizabeth rose was hybridized in 1948 and not market until 1955. It seems patience and more patience is necessary for hybridizing.

This month's American Peony Society Bulletin has kind words for two of our members: Earl Maffett and Gus Sindt came in for thank-yous for their fine work on The National Peony Show held here.

Every year our Iris foliage is a disgrace by the time August comes around. What does one do to keep the foliage nice and fresh and green in late summer? The poor foliage in Fall doesn't seem to hurt the Iris but it certainly is bad for the landscape.

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Which Are You?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home, and criticize and knock?

There's quite a program scheduled that we're sure you've
heard about,
And we'll appreciate it if you'll come and help us out.
So come to the meetings often and help with hand and
heart,
Do not be just another member, but take an active part.

Now think this over, iris-grower, you know the right
from wrong,
Are you an active member, or do you only "just belong"?

From: Minual Notes and News