

good dinner and have fun, too. In this case it will not be necessary to call about what food to bring. Just bring a hot dish, salad or dessert and be sure to Come As An Iris. Let's have the best "turn-out" ever for this event!! Remember the date -- THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our February meeting was held as usual during a nice little touch of winter, but the brave who attended forgot the weather watching the slides assembled by Maybelle Wright. I'm sure that after seeing the great improvement in the dwarf, median, and intermediate Irises we should have them in our gardens. Thank you Maybelle for a most enjoyable evening.

The audit report made by Glen Hanson shows us to be in very good financial condition, so much so that Glen has filed tax exempt papers in our behalf. For all the time and effort that went into this report, Glen, Bless you and our heartfelt thanks.

There are also some Bylaws which have to be brought up-to-date, these you will find in this issue of News and Views, they were read at the February meeting and will be read again at the March meeting and voted on at the April meeting in accordance with our constitution.

Business we have, but the March meeting is for FUN. We all look forward to our "Come As An Iris" potluck dinner, Mr. Bakke will show some of the slides he has taken at different times, which so many of you have asked about, and then of course the judging of the costumes is the MOST. Those of you who win, be sure that you collect the prizes at the proper time.

If you plan to attend and haven't signed up for food please call Mary Duvall our Social chairman. She would also like volunteers for K.P. The men bless their hearts, still have to pay the usual fee.

SEE YOU ALL THEN.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Schoene
President

As mentioned in the President's letter above, it has become necessary to file "tax exempt" papers with the state government if we wish to avoid an income tax. Glen Hanson has volunteered to be our tax expert and has found that to enable us to claim tax exemption some changes must be made in our bylaws. The changes necessary were explained at the February meeting and are published here for your convenience:

TWIN CITY IRIS SOCIETY
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE VI (Funds)

Present wording:

The funds of the Society shall be derived from the payment of dues, gifts or from such other projects as may be authorized by the Board of Directors.

Proposed wording:

- Section 1. The funds of the Society shall be derived from the payment of dues, gifts or from such other projects as may be authorized by the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. None of the funds of the Society shall be expended or distributed in any manner, or for any purpose, which will inure to the benefit of any individual or any private interest. Provided, however, that the preceding sentence shall not preclude the purchase of services or property by the Society upon proper authorization by its officers, directors, or membership as hereinafter provided.
- Section 3. Disbursements of the funds of the Society shall be authorized as follows: Amounts up to and including twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) may be authorized by the president. Amounts in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and up to and including one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be authorized by the Board of Directors. Amounts in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be authorized by a majority vote of a quorum of the membership.
- Section 4. Upon any dissolution, liquidation, reorganization, or merger of the Society, none of its funds shall be distributed in any manner, or for any purpose which will inure to the benefit of any individual or any private interest.

ARTICLE VIII (Duties of Officers)Section 5. Present wording:

The Treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of all the funds belonging to the Twin City Iris Society, provide safe keeping of them by depositing same in a reputable bank in the name of the Society and Treasurer; pay all bills approved by presidential or vice-presidential authorization. The President or Vice President shall co-sign all disbursements with the Treasurer, turn over all books and records annually to an auditing committee appointed by the Board of Directors; this committee to make a full report at the annual convention.

Proposed wording:

The Treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of all the funds belonging to the Twin City Iris Society, and shall provide safe keeping of them by depositing same in a reputable bank and/or other financial institutions in the name of the Society. Withdrawals of the Society's funds from any such bank or financial institution shall be authorized by the signatures of any two of the following officers: the President, Treasurer, First Vice President, and Second Vice President. At least thirty days prior to the close of each calendar year the Board of Directors shall appoint an auditing committee. At the close of the calendar year the Treasurer shall turn over all books and records of the Society to the auditing committee, after which the committee shall examine such books and records and shall make a full report thereof at the next succeeding meeting of the Society, presenting a written copy of such report to the President and Board of Directors.

(over)

IRIS FANTASY 1966

In January Uncle Tell came from the great Utah Valley like a Brilliant Star extending Friendship as would a Gallant Knight of the Imperial Crown. By Request he told us of Adventure in hybridizing gave us a look through the Picture Window of the new Introductions. He gave us Inspiration and Hope Divine for a Sweet Tomorrow.

We pay him Tribute, as is our Tradition.

Many Night falls have gone in this North Country under Minnesota Skies and Listening Snow since we said "Bon Voyage."

Now at Long Last the Immortal Hour is at hand to Celebrate the Spring Festival. Anytime, now, the Music Maker and his Brass Band will come in with a Bang. Mountain Music may be heard in the Distance and strains of The Humoresque comes in over the Rippling Waters. After Dark, when the Wayward Wind blows and the Waxing Moon shines over the Black Forest then the Password will be given and the Main Event will begin.

The Gracious and Glamorous Marie Phillips in her light wisteria violet, Velvet Robe will lead. Jan Elizabeth in a Pink Formal and Red Slippers with High Heels will be by her side but so Bashful. Lovely Letty, Lucy Lee, Melissa, Junes Sister and Pretty Carol in their Breathless Gingham Gowns are in a Rhythmic Mood. Now Fonda, is a Classy Lass, a Pin Up Girl, the beauty of a China Doll of Pink Dresden. She stands High Above, so Love-lee, like the Sweet Girl Graduate just waiting to dance the Swan Ballet with Sir Gordon. But the Wenatchee Kid, Martel and Mr. Wonderful are playing a Waiting Game.

The Jungle Fires will burn on the Brightside as His Excellency the Grand Ruter from Karachi will be Present in Full Dress. As well as Pink Papa in his Royal Regalia. Fire Chief with his Fire Magic Captain Gallant from the Latin Quarters Pechanga Chief carrying the Olympic Torch to the Top of the World.

A New Arrival may have One Desire to sit with their Next O'Kin and Speak Softly as the Fashion Show is Pretty Gay.

The Truth is, this is not an Easter Parade nor do we have Wine and Roses nor the Denver Mint. Rather it is the fun and Frolic night of "Come, dressed as an Iris"

Greta Kessenich

Since our Board of Directors has decided to include a table for showing of peonies at our annual Iris Show we thought you would be interested in some hints on peony culture. So we turned to our peony expert Pat Wsocky, many thanks, Pat.

SPRING CARE OF PEONIES

When tips on spring care start appearing can warm weather be far behind? In Minnesota warm weather is a fickle resource but in case it should come in the near future, there are a few things that should be done early to insure good gloom and disease-free foliage on your peonies.

As soon as it is possible remove all covering from the peonies and cut last year's stalks to ground level. Do this early--before this year's sprouts are one inch

tall as new sprouts are very brittle and will snap off when one works among them. If your soil has a tendency to a low PH sprinkle hydrated lime around the plants when the ground is clean. Peonies like a soil that is above a PH of 6. At this time a cupfull of dried sheep manure around the plants is also helpful. Neither the lime nor manure should be cultivated in because, hopefully, these are applied while the ground is still too wet to cultivate.

When most of the plants are showing about 2-4 inches of sprout spraying with Bordeaux Mixture, Zineb, Fermate or Phalton should be done. This spraying should be repeated in about two weeks to make sure that the later sprouting stems and varieties receive spray protection. Ideally a spray program should be continued throughout the season just as Irises and Roses are protected. The exception is when peonies are in large bud or in bloom as it is impossible to avoid spray damage to the bloom at these stages. If spraying is not continued through the season the two early applications should be enough to prevent most foliage and bud damage.

When the ground is dry enough to cultivate easily apply 1/4 cup (4 tbsp.) of mineralized Loma (8-8-8 with trace minerals, or 4-8-8 or 4-8-10) around each plant. Keep any fertilizer away from the crowns of peonies. The crowns have no feeding roots and the fertilizer will pack between the stems and burn if it is applied over the crowns. Cultivate well between and around the plants at this time being very careful not to damage eyes, stems or roots. Cultivate several times until June 1 when a mulch may be applied around the plants.

Peonies are very thirsty from the time they come up until the blooms open. If nature doesn't furnish quantities of rain use your garden soaker to provide the amount of water necessary to produce good bloom.

Peonies for show must be disbudded. This means removing all buds on a stem except the terminal bud. It is easy to do this as one walks in the garden and spies a side bud or buds. Simply take the side bud between the thumb and forefinger and gently roll it off removing bud and tiny stem at its junction with the main stem. Done when the side bud is no more than pea size it is very easily rolled off with no trace left on the stem.

Remember that a first year plant should not be allowed to bloom. The bloom won't be typical, may even be crippled looking, and will only disappoint you while taking needed strength from the root and stem. Roll off these buds as soon as they form.

Peony varieties do not all come up at the same time. Some are very late and some especially the hybrids, are very early. A first year plant is often particularly slow to appear and when it does show it is not unusual for it to have only one stem.

Ants and peonies does not have to be combined either on the plant or in a vase. Peonies do not need ants to open. In fact, if any disease is lurking the ants little feet will happily carry that disease from bloom to bloom and plant to plant. The use of 5% chloroform dust will prevent the ants from coming to get the sweet nectar on the buds. Just sprinkle the dust lightly on and around the plants. (When ants don't appear and peonies fail to open it is probably because the peonies are too dry to produce the nectar and open.)

When cutting peonies cut the stem no longer than 15" to 18" always being sure to leave at least one pair of leaves on that part of the stem remaining on the plant. Don't cut too many long stemmed blooms off one plant as it reduces the foliage area to a dangerous level.

One sometimes notices that a well established plant will produce many small stems as well as the usual strong, thick, vigorous stems. It is good to cut these weak stems off to ground level to promote good ventilation of that plant. The weak stems do nothing to help the plant and will not produce bloom.

Tying soft green garden twine around a plant at 2 or 3 different levels helps the stems support very heavy heads of bloom. This method prevents the stems from cracking against a metal peony guard.

More information will be coming later regarding specific instructions on "How to Show Peonies."

Pat Wysocky