

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS AND VIEWS

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Vol. VI — No. 4

May, 1958

Next Meeting

May 22, 1958

The next meeting of the Twin City Iris Society will be May 22 at the regular meeting place, the East Lake Y.M.C.A., 1845 E. Lake. A most interesting program has been arranged and we are hoping everyone will be in attendance. Wouldn't it be wonderful if just once we could have 100% of our members there.

David Sindt, our authority on dwarf iris, will talk on his experience with dwarfs and, possibly, will have some specimens to show. Also Betty Van Buskirk will explain the arrangement schedule for the coming show and will interpret some of them by demonstrations. Also if anyone has questions about the show bring them along and we will find someone to answer them if we can.

The dates for the show are June 8 and 9 and we hope everyone will bring all the iris they can and make this the biggest and best show yet. Mr. Ipsen, as show chairman, and his committee are doing a bang-up job and deserve the whole-hearted support of all of us!!

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Judges at the Show - Gus Sindt

Last month Edythe Burns pointed out some of the things a judge considers when judging iris and some of the difficulties he runs into. I have been asked to act as chief judge for our 1958 show. That does not mean I know more about iris than others - far from it - but it does mean that I will be responsible for getting judges and assigning them to classes. To consider carefully each stalk of iris in one of our shows is a major task. To expedite

this a pair of judges works on each of our three classes - novice, amateur and open. The judges are assigned so that no one will be judging his own entries. For example Mr. Cable or Mrs. Foss will not judge in the open class because they will be exhibitors in that class.

The Court of Honor or best stalk in each color is selected from the single specimen blue ribbon winners in the open, amateur and novice classes. The Queen of the Show is then selected from those specimens which are on the Court of Honor by virtue of being a color champion. The Court of Honor and Queen of the Show selections will be made this year by Mrs. Howard Goodrick our regional vice president from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Princesses are selected from the two classes that did not have the Queen of the Show. The princesses may or may not come from the Court of Honor. Last year the best bloom in the novice class did not make the Court of Honor because there was a better stalk in the open class, but it did make a Princess.

(Continued)

All A.I.S. accredited judges rate the seedlings. If any are considered worthy they may be given a "Certificate of Commendation". At our show we also place the top seedling, selected by all the judges, on the Court of Honor. The Court of Honor is completed by the addition of the Grand Champion Arrangement from the arrangement section. For this, qualified arrangement judges are used.

The responsibility of judging a show is a large one, and since it is a matter of opinion and individual ideals, there may be cases in which you do not agree with the judging. That is your right but I believe that the judge is honest in his decisions; if he were otherwise, I should not ask him. It is also well to remember that the judge rates what he sees - not what it was a few hours ago or what it may be a few hours hence.

Bring in your best blooms and don't say after the judging, "I have a better one than that at home". I'm sure the judges will consider your entry as carefully as any other in the show.

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Minnetonka -- Pat Wysocky

We hope to save some of our new members much unnecessary labor by the following tales of our experience. In our early years of showing iris we tried to tie the buds with florists tape (as one does with roses) to hold them back. We found the iris are not docile as the roses are and when iris want to open they open - florists tape or not. They simply shove the tape down the stem or split the tape so it falls on the ground. We also heard that cutting bloom stalks very early and putting them in tight bud in a cool dark room would hold them until show time. We have a cold, dark, damp shower room under the boathouse that we used to load with iris bloom stalks. We hoped they would wait quietly in that room until time to take them to the show when they would obediently open. We found that iris bloom in a dark, damp shower room just as well as in a garden and at about the same time. They lose some of their color and some good form opening in such a room.

We have found that instead of cutting exhibition bloom stalks that are almost, but not quite, ready for show they open far better on the plants. We have tried "iris sitting" a bloom stalk the night before the show by putting it under artificial light to force it open. They open much more freely and have much better form when left outside. For some reason iris like the dark cool night in which to open. In other words the early, early birds are the ones who win the ribbons. The iris that open during the night before the judging are the freshest iris and have the best color and form. They are the ones that walk off with ribbons for the exhibitor.

It is evident that garden puts most of us in a state of perpetual optimism. The recent freeze didn't freeze our enthusiasm at all in spite of the fact that it froze everything else. In plain sight of our limp daylilies, blackened rose foliage and wilted iris we went out to plant two peach trees, some blueberries, grapes, mulberries, in fact even a pow-pow. If that isn't optimistic I can think of only one other word for it, and I prefer to think of it as optimistic.

In past years we have had an occasional corn stalk raise its head in the rose garden. Our ground corn cobs are a wonderful mulch except for that. This year we doubt that even one kernel of corn will survive the onslaught of the multitudes of birds we've had in the rose garden since we put on the mulch last week. We were able to

get only 1/3 of our usual yearly order of ground corn cobs this year. The operator of the feed store explained that the corn was so wet the farmers didn't bring it in or shelling during the winter. Gardeners who hope to use corn cob mulch this year had better hurry to get what there is of it.

Iris catalogues from out of the state are beginning to arrive bringing their beautiful color pictures and fabulous prices. Some of these Iris we have never seen except in the color pictures and we wonder each year if they will appear at the Twin City Iris Society Show. They don't - perhaps the prices are just too fabulous or the color pictures just a bit of wishful thinking.

Our Lisa is standing up in her crib now. We hope that by auction time she'll be able to start bidding on rhizomes for her own iris garden.

At the last meeting we sat hopefully waiting for our names to be drawn for one of Franklin's wonderful Hybrid Peonies or for "Fan-Fare" a lovely new floribunda rose that Mother doesn't have. Mrs. Bakke's iris stakes would have helped so much with the strong winds off the lake that are all too prevailing in the summertime. We were hopefully waiting 'til the bitter end so now we will have to hope again at the next drawing. Congratulations to those lucky people who did get one of those fine prizes.

I'm off to Milwaukee next week and will see how their gardens are doing. I'll sure they can't beat the Twin City area this year because in spite of that miserable freeze things are recovering nicely. You see I am still an incurable optimist.

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South Side - L. V. Franklin

In this wonderful specially favored south side we were specially favored with a pretty hard freeze since last reporting. We find that there is some damage to the lilac bloom and the Iris seems to have been affected some. The weeks are growing very fine, thank you!

By the way -- that plant with the little white flower which Gus Sindt jokingly referred to in his sample two-minute talk last meeting is Shepherd's Purse. Don't ask me why. Bob Tischler calls it French weed. Ask him now come. Maybe because the flower is so petite. The petite flowered gem is no joke, however. It is there already to grow when the snow goes off and is flowering and seeding almost before the Iris and peonies are awake. If it gets seeded thickly it comes up in big clods when cultivated and will live and seed anyway. If you don't have any we can give you a start. There is a lot blooming around here right now.

You are all wondering no doubt about the Iris show date. Will they be at their height at the right time? Well, I am no weather prophet or the son of a weather prophet but some of the old times say that today, May 10 should be the beginning of corn planting time (sure hot, too -- 85 degrees). In a normal season the oak trees should have leaves the size of squirrel's ears. I haven't been able to catch a squirrel today to see just how big their ears are but the oak leaves are just about as big as a squirrel's ear should be, I think, so this must be a normal season on this date. The oak is a deep rooted tree and is not much affected by the sudden ups and downs in temperature and therefore one of the best indications of the progress of the season. Hope this helps you figure out when your Iris are going to bloom.

Mildred Stover is getting to be a TV celebrity. Her next appearance will be June 18 announcing the national peony show here in Minneapolis. With her winning smile and a gorgeous bouquet of peonies she is bound to make a hit.

Visited Ben Haeg's gardens. Everything looks wonderful. Not a weed in sight. Ben has been sorta' under the weather and still has a stiff neck. Very philosophical about it though -- old age he says. He has had time, though, to build a lilly pool, paved with patio blocks and created a setting with rocks and background plantings. Must see it later.

Did you notice Charlotte Sindt's picture with two other of the big wheels of the PEO in the Minneapolis Star? She has moved again! This time to 347 McKnight Road. Gus must have quite a time keeping up with her.

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Don't forget the next meeting -- Thursday, May 22, 1958

8:00 P.M.

PLEASE BE PROMPT !!

See you at the show and I hope everyone wins blue ribbons!!!!!!