

Twin City Iris Society

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edited by edythe burns

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A standing room only crowd attended the January meeting to hear Mr. Ed Lehman discuss chrysanthemums and day lillies and to see his collection of really beautiful color slides. We especially liked the mum variety, Snow Spoon and the day-lily varieties Margaret Fuller, Ringlets, Little Flame, Evelyn Claar and Elegy. Something I did not know before is that day-lillies will naturally face toward the south and east and should be planted with that in mind.

A short business meeting preceded the program and our vice-president Bud Straub had his first chance to fill in for president Bud Foss who was unable to attend. We have slightly over \$ 300.00 in our treasury as of now.

The Anderson sisters, Ruth and Adah, did an excellent job of serving such a large group. Elsie Peterson, Esther Berger, Agnes Wright, Maud and Elizabeth McVoy, as well as the Andersons brought cakes. All together it was an evening well spent.

It was nice to see Mrs Nellie Lundberg, who has missed so very few meetings, and to meet Mrs R.J.Wysocky of Marshall, Minn., and her mother, Mrs J.A.Hanratty of Mound, Minn. for the first time. Mrs. Emil Foss brought Mr and Mrs A.R.Wilson as guests, we are happy to report that they joined the T.C.I.S. after the meeting. Mrs Elsie Peterson, regional vice-president of the American Iris Soc. was also there and enjoyed the meeting, as did many more nice people.

At a meeting of the board it was suggested we start a collection of color slides. Originals of good named varieties of iris and suitable garden pictures will be appreciated, however if you do not care to give the original slide, duplicates can be made from your original and the original returned with the least possible delay. These can be sent to either Russell Frey, 2214 Lyndale Ave. North, or Mrs Edythe Burns, 1707 77th Ave. No. or, if you wish, bring them to a meeting. A committee will be appointed to select those slides suitable to the needs of the society. We hope those who take color pictures this spring will snap an extra now and then for this collection.

Advance Program Schedule

February 25th, Pot-luck supper at Rutherfords.
March 25th, To be announced later.
April 22nd, Rutherfords.
May 20th, Rutherfords, Tips for the iris show, etc.
June Iris show Minneapolis Savings and Loan Assn., Minneapolis
The balance of the schedule for 1954 will be published at a later date.

A modicum of history on flower arrangements

Flower arrangements in this country are largely half way between the Japanese and the Flemish flower painting schools. The Flemish painters arranged great masses of flowers for color and effect rather than grace and symmetry of line. The Japanese work with living material emphasizing line rather than color and mass. The Japanese base the entire arrangement on Creation, the basic motif is Heaven, Man and Earth. Heaven, standing, is the tallest central branch curving upward with the tip directly over the base - this should be about one and a half times the height of the vase or the diameter of the bowl. Man, going, is half the length of Heaven and following the same curve. Earth, running, is half the length of Man and with a lateral curve opposite to that of Man. All other branches and flowers are of minor value and always of uneven length. The coloring of the container should also be suggestive of Earth.

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A minim of information for hybridizers

We have heard that in hybridizing, the strength, height and general robustness of a plant is inherited through the seed parent. Color and form are from the pollen parent. (I can hardly wait to try this out !!!) How about using such rambunctious iris as Ola Kala, Blue Rhythm, Sharkskin or White Wedgewood with pollen from Cherie Pretty Quadroon, Fantasy or Mellowglow. Ahhh !

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Absolutely useless information department

A doctor proposes the rehabilitation of convicts by coloring the cells in the prisons with the complimentary color of the prisoners favorite color. His theory is that murderers like green, so he would paint their cells red, red being the complimentary color to green - thieves prefer yellow, blue and violet; confidence men like violet and red; embezzlers like yellow and blue; violent prisoners have a weakness for blue. Personally I am rapidly developing a taste for such distinguished colors as; titmouse grey, mummy brown, puce and pink. (Since reading this, that is.)

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Pot-luck dinner meeting

On Thursday, Feb. 25th, at 6:30 PM. we will hold our annual pot-luck dinner meeting at Rutherfords Garden Store, 4995 Excelsior Blvd. Each lady will be asked to bring a hot dish or a dessert or whatever is needed, and the men will bring a dollar and everyone will bring a hearty appetite. All the money taken in at this meeting will be used by the hospitality committee for refreshments, supplies, etc. We were fortunate in being able to get Mr. Richard Stadtherr of the Extension Horticultural School of the University of Minnesota for our speaker

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With our weather swinging from extreme cold to summer-like periods overnight, plants alternately try to become dormant, and then to start into growth. Perhaps they become confused, frustrated and die of nervous exhaustion.

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You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.

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Concerning the Red Iris

The breeding of red iris has not kept pace with the breeding of iris in other color classes, and as a result some of our best red iris are still some of the older varieties. Some hybridizers feel that we will never attain a truly red color in iris. This of course is debatable since some of these same experts said we would never have a true pink iris, which of course, we have. The so-called red iris of today are usually either brown-red or purple-red and tend to be bi-tones rather than selfs. They also have a tendency to be small flowered, short of stature, and ~~are~~ to possess only fair substance. Regardless of their minor faults, they do make very desirable garden subjects.

- Christabel A brilliant large red iris , coppery in tone and very fragrant. Though an older variety, still very popular.
- Cardinals Robe A very intense purple-red, slightly ruffled and flaring. This has been highly recommended in other areas and performed well here last year.
- Campfire Glow A ruby self, overlaid copper and with a metallic sheen. This has no haft markings. Originated in Iowa.
- Garden Glory While this is possibly one of the most beautiful reds of pure deep wine coloring, it has not been one of the best doers. Blooming usually on a 30 inch stalk with few blossoms per stem
- Ranger Near crimson red. The blossoms are long with steepled standards. Fragrant and one of the top performers.
- Inspiration A large rose-red of unusual coloring. It lacks a trifle in substance but makes up for it in beauty.
- Queechee Garnet red, very flaring, of medium size and good growing qualities. This will be extremely popular because of its unusual shape. This is quite new and still expensive.
- The Mad Hatter A deep bright maroon , semi flaring form and possessing heavy substance. One of the few tall , large reds. This has tremendous possibilities both as a garden subject and a seed parent. The hybridizer lists its height as 42 inches.
- Technicolor Another midwestern iris with brown infusions. This is also on the short side but is one of the closest approaches to true red. It ranks very high in garden appeal.
- Redwynne This has an almost orange red standard and very rich red falls, medium in height and very early blooming. Most red iris bloom rather late.
- Solid Mahogany A mahogany red self, beautifully colored and smoothly finished. Will burn in extremely hot sun. Good pollen parent.
- Rangitikei A red purple that blooms quite early. This is an outstanding performer and is one of our all time favorites. The unusual name is an area in New Zealand, where this was originated.