

The Lincoln Iris Society's

Rainbow Messenger

A More or Less Monthly Publication for Anyone who Loves Irises!

Edited by David & Marjorie Lionberger

Lincoln, Nebraska

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President's Message

David Lionberger

As a rule I am not often at a loss for words, but the successful results of our annual sale on July 29th has rendered me almost speechless. The net income surpassed my expectations by far and I am sure that is true for all of our members. The great success we enjoyed was achieved only by the hard work and dedication of the Sale & Auction Committee plus our general membership. Many hours of digging iris in the heat, cleaning, labeling, and pricing, were logged by members who generously donated hundreds of rhizomes for the sale. On sale day we had many members working to keep things in order, directing customers to the iris they sought, answering questions, and providing advice. My observations were always impressive and positive in regard to courtesy and friendliness by our members to customers as well as to each other. The income is of course very important to our Society and should be celebrated. However, of greater importance to me is the cooperation and friendly attitude of the LIS membership that work so well together to exceed our loftiest goals. My thanks to all of you, and congratulations for an achievement that will be remembered for a long time in the history of LIS. I wish to express my personal gratitude and that of the LIS membership to Mark & Jenny Cich, co-Chairs of the 2017 Sale & Auction. Their leadership and dedication to the endeavor was a major factor in the success of the event. They lead by example in many ways, not only in planning, but in actual labor - hauling, carrying, lifting heavy boxes, etc. needed for the sale. This was their first experience in managing the Sale and Auction and I am comfortable with saying "You did real good!" A special 'Thank You' to Gary White and Linda Rader for going to Des Moines and digging auction iris. The auction was a great success by having such a huge selection available. Last, but not least, is the fact that we owe our longtime Sale & Auction manager, Dean Douglas, a huge 'Thank You' for his past service. Dean managed this annual event for years and his format and management talents provided successful outcomes during his tenure. Dean's basic procedures for the operation of our sale and auction are still implemented and the results speak for themselves. THANK YOU to "The Dean" of LIS for his dedicated service to LIS in many areas but especially our Sale & Auction!

President's Quote

"No, I don't want to hear your President's Message again...I'm busy getting dinner ready!"

Marjorie Lionberger, August 2017

Meeting

Date: Monday, August 28, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m. – Ice Cream Social

**Location: St. Andrews Lutheran Church
1015 Lancaster Lane Lincoln, NE**

**Program: Historic Irises
Presented by Gary White**

Hosts: Melinda Holcombe & Dottie Ladman

**Ice Cream Social reminder – bring your
favorite toppings, etc. Ice cream and drinks
will be provided**

Questions about Iris or LIS

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AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

David Lionberger

The rhizome auction has become a major portion of our annual sale. The auction is not only profitable but also entertaining and educational. Once again our auctioneer, Tom Bassett, did an excellent job selling iris and providing his sense of humor which brought many chuckles from the potential buyers. Gary White not only dug iris for the auction, but also made the colorful buyer's catalog with descriptions and a picture of each iris offered. A large screen picture was shown of each iris as it was brought to the block. Gary's knowledge and comments pertaining to many of the hybridizers and interesting background stories were appreciated. Mark Cich worked the bidders like an "ole pro", keeping track of bids and adding his comical comments that kept the action moving. A wide variety of hybridizers were represented this year as the rhizomes were dug from convention gardens in Des Moines, Iowa. David Toth, LIS member and hybridizer, donated 12 rhizomes and I donated two. Thanks to everyone involved in the auction. The clerks kept accurate account of sales which is not an easy job at times. Heidi Brase, Laura Schram, and John Moss served us well in that capacity. At the main entry to the sale room, customers were warmly greeted by our "LIS Bag Ladies" – Judy Dovenbarger, Anna Smith, and Marjorie Lionberger. I often heard the admonishment "when this bag is full, you can leave". The exit was covered by the "Tally Ladies" – Twila Sass and Eunice Cernohlavek – who after tallying each order passed it on to our Treasurer, Lois Linke, and her helper, B.J. Ohme. The business of collecting the funds could not have been assigned to anyone more capable than these two. 'Accuracy' should be Lois' middle name and there were no shoplifting attempts with B.J. present. I am sure one shopper will remember B.J.'s generosity when coming up a dollar short and B.J. fetched a buck from his pocket and covered the shortage. You can't top that for good PR. Thanks, B.J., I am sure your dollar bought much more than an iris purchase. It was a fun day and that is our goal for all our events!

LIS YOUTH SUPPORT OF SALE & AUCTION

David Lionberger

We can be very proud of our youth members' contributions to the Sale & Auction. Ava Toth, Evelyn Toth, and Katharina Brase, were busy that day helping with numerous chores. They were cheerful and willing to lend a hand where needed. They carried auction bags to the checkout table, kept the area clean of trash, and helped with the final clean up at the end of the day. Katharina offered to bring fresh drinking water to the ladies handing out shopping bags. Heidi told me Katharina helped her prepare rhizomes at home late into the night. I am sure Ava and Evelyn were doing the same at their home. Madeline and Eli could not attend the sale, but they helped dig, clean, and label rhizomes at our garden also. The effort these young members made to ensure the success of our sale is noteworthy and an outstanding example to our membership of the value of our youth. The experience of working together, contact and interaction with the public, and the sense of accomplishment are benefits derived from their involvement that will prove beneficial throughout their lifetime. The public obviously enjoyed the presence of our young members. Many smiles and pleasant greetings were directed to these young ladies. The courtesy extended to customers by the girls was observed and certainly was not damaging to our record sales. I am very proud of our youth members and I know our members are also and join me in expressing our pride and gratitude to them.

ARTICLE IN AIS BULLETIN BY DAVID TOTH

Be sure you read David Toth's interesting article beginning on page 50 of the 2017 Summer Issue with many colored pictures. Take my advice and plan to visit Indian Creek Iris Gardens next bloom season. You will be warmly welcomed and greatly impressed with David's work and also that of his daughters, Ava and Evelyn.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carol Bom
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Elizabeth (Betty) Szopo
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402-330-8385
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Paul Moss
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L to R – Judy Dovenbarger, Anna Smith, Marjorie Lionberger



David Lionberger and Mark Cich

2017 SHOW AWARDS

Show Committee

Every effort is being made to have the trophies, certificates, etc., ready to distribute at this month's meeting. Members who won awards need to be present to receive them.



L to R - Lois Linke, David Toth, Ava Toth, Evelyn Toth



Stan & Twila Sass



Jenny Cich and David Lionberger

Region 21 Fall Meeting

Jenny Cich

I was fortunate enough to fit a drive to Kearney into my schedule the weekend of August 11th and 12th. While it didn't work for me to attend the Friday evening tour and sessions I was able to assist with things throughout the day on Saturday. The meeting was held in a very nice, well equipped room on the second floor of the Kearney Public Library. The room had a built in projector/screen/computer system, tables and chairs on wheels, sinks for easy clean up and many other nice features. The facility was recently remodeled and is in excellent condition with an elevator to access the second floor and restrooms on the second floor as well.

Saturday had a lot of stuff going on. Jean Morris conducted Judges Training, there was a swap table, a pot luck, the business meeting and an auction!

Jean Morris is an excellent speaker. While I didn't take the training for credit, I learned a lot by being in the room and listening. The commitment being made by AIS Judges is one not taken lightly. This is not just a title, it is a dedication to continuous learning, to growing different types and varieties of iris, to visiting gardens, to voting the AIS Awards Ballot, to judging shows, and to remain a continual AIS member.

The swap table was an interesting way to promote the "iris love". Folks were welcome to bring anything to donate (as long as it was legal). Items included a wide variety of iris – both historic and new, iris related items, a potted plant and garden produce. Items were not priced. Folks picked up what they wanted and dropped a donation in the jar for the Kearney Public Library. It was a win-win-win situation.

The business meeting came after a pot luck. All members brought something to share and enjoyed this very picnic style pot luck lunch. There wasn't a crock pot to be found, but we all got our fill and were satisfied. The business meeting held a variety of topics. There are still some openings in the Region 21 Officer Slate to be filled. There were also discussions about the creation of an iris garden in an Iowa arboretum as well as the spring regional meeting. During this time I was a little busy helping to prepare for the auction so I didn't hear/remember a lot of details. Hopefully someone else can fill in the gaps at our meeting August 28th. I believe I do recall the suggestion that clubs consider doing garden tours in the spring and consider offering a judges training at some point, inviting other surrounding clubs, to further promote the Region's goal of getting more trained judges.

Kelly Norris was the auctioneer for the 50ish varieties on hand to be sold to the highest bidder. He did a good job and, like me, went home with more plants than intended. I assisted Kelly Norris at the front of the room and probably owe him an apology for my sassy sparkle that snuck out here and there. Our own Gary White and Linda Rader played an important role in this auction. They completed the power point and handouts for bidders to use during the process. They also hand delivered the iris to the event.

The day concluded with some slide presentations of Jim and Jean Morris's trip to Australia and New Zealand in 2014. It was very interesting to hear their memories and see the slides of the plants there. During that trip they spent time with Barry Blythe and had several images of his garden.

All in all I felt very fortunate that I was able to attend this Fall Regional meeting that was right in our own back yard. Those in attendance that are obvious regulars were very welcoming to this newbie and were kind with their actions and words. The meeting gave me a lot to think about on a personal, club and regional level. I encourage each of you to consider attending the Spring Regional when the date and location is announced and share your perspective with others.

WE DID GREAT! Our sale demonstrated to those in attendance that we are fun- loving, social group that works well together and we are all about sharing the love of Iris. Thank you to each and every one of you for all your donations of time, talent and iris that made our sale a huge success! Now for some fun and games- LIS 2017 Sale Trivia! Multiple guess- bring your guesses to the LIS August Ice Cream Social and find out if you were correct. If you can't make the meeting, the answers will be published in the September Rainbow Messenger edition. Once again, from the bottom of our iris loving hearts- Thank you!

Auction & Sale Chairs-Mark & Jenny Cich

1. Number of People on the Sale & Auction Committee
 - a. 15
 - b. 10
 - c. 2
2. Number of \$5 iris sold
 - a. 10
 - b. 24
 - c. 60
3. Number of \$3 iris sold
 - a. 985
 - b. 547
 - c. 1,112
4. Number of Bargain Bags sold
 - a. 5
 - b. 13
 - c. 35
5. Number of Auction Bidders
 - a. 15
 - b. 27
 - c. 31
6. Number of Daylilies sold
 - a. None
 - b. 20
 - c. 14
7. Number of bidders who actually purchased auction iris
 - a. 15
 - b. 28
 - c. 18
8. Auction Sales
 - a. \$2,497.50
 - b. \$3,112.00
 - c. \$1,892.50
9. Net Income
 - a. \$3,235.62
 - b. \$4,734.45
 - c. \$2,710.85
10. Expenses
 - a. \$1,854.32
 - b. \$1,222.80
 - c. \$2,017.65
11. Gross Sales
 - a. \$5,957.25
 - b. \$3,532.75
 - c. \$4,104.50
12. Highest individual iris price (at auction)
 - a. \$65
 - b. \$55.50
 - c. \$57.50
13. Average amount paid per auction lot
 - a. \$19
 - b. \$31
 - c. \$26
14. Total number of auction lots
 - a. 84
 - b. 73
 - c. 97
15. Total number of shoppers- this includes auction bidders
 - a. 210
 - b. 92
 - c. 135

LIS Iris Sale & Auction Report 2017

Income

24 irises 2008 and newer @\$5 each	\$	120.00
985 irises 2007 and older @\$3	\$	2,955.00
0 variagated irises @\$7		
0 spuria irises @\$4		
0 Siberian Irises @7		
13 bargain bags @\$8	\$	104.00
14 daylilies @\$7	\$	98.00
0 Other @		
99 markers	\$	123.75
Auction irises	\$	2,497.50
memberships	\$	12.00
Donation +misc.	\$	32.00
Unexplained extra cash (?? 1 lost tally sheet)	\$	15.00
<u>Total Income</u>	\$	5,957.25

Expenses

Auction irises	\$	350.00
The Voice Advertising	\$	38.00
Lee Enterprises Advertising	\$	305.92
Wahoo-Waverly-Ashland Newspapers	\$	-
Room rental	\$	100.00
Misc. supplies	\$	37.00
Auctioneer	\$	75.00
Printing (fliers, tally sheets, and catalogs)	\$	162.04
LIS cost of markers	\$	114.84
2 gift certificates awarded at Spring Affair	\$	40.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$	1,222.80

Net Income **\$ 4,734.45**

In 2013 the net income was \$3621.44

In 2014 the net income was \$3601.54

In 2015 the net income was \$3965.58

In 2016 the net income was \$3677.50

In 2017 the net income was \$4734.45