

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

Congratulations to Gary White on becoming president of The American Iris Society. Gary has taken on quite a responsibility, but that is nothing new for him. The members of The Lincoln Iris Society join me I am sure in wishing Gary well and we extend our support in his new position.

A reminder in regard to our November meeting, this is one of our more important meetings of the year and I encourage everyone to attend. Our agenda will deal with officer elections, forming of goals for next year, determining programs for each monthly meeting and setting dates for all tours, shows or sales to be conducted in 2016.

A signup sheet for LIS standing committees for 2016 will be passed around at this meeting, so give some thought to all of the above. Our newer members are invited to sign up for committees and become involved in the activities that LIS offers.

The past success of LIS has always been attained by the interest and dedication of our members volunteering to serve and to have fun doing so. Look the signup over and do not hesitate to put your name down for a committee or two. You will find all of our members helpful and appreciative of your efforts.

Thanks to everyone for all the work that made 2015 a very successful year!

David Lionberger

President' Quote

If dandelions were hard to grow, they would be most welcome on any lawn.

Andrew Mason

Meeting

Date: Monday, November 30, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Program: Officer Elections and Planning for
2016 Meetings & Events

Hosts: Dottie Ladman
Stan & Twila Sass

Questions about Iris or LIS

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**Gary White—New President of The
American Iris Society**

Dean Douglas

Saturday, November 7th marked the day that our own LIS member, Gary White took over the reigns as President of The American Iris Society. What a great honor for Gary and Linda as for the next 3 years, he will guide this great organization.

In these pictures, Gary is shown receiving the AIS Gavel from outgoing AIS President, Jim Morris. This at the AIS Board of Directors fall meeting and banquet held at the Hyatt Hotel in Omaha.

Also shown is a photo of Ron Crampton of the Greater Omaha Iris Society, presenting Gary with a symbolic gold crown, signifying this great honor.

A large group attended this event which included the AIS Board of Directors, many other officers of the organization, many members of the Greater Omaha Iris Society, which hosted the event and Jenny Cich, Heidi Brase and Dean & Judy Douglas from the Lincoln Iris Society.

Congratulations to you Gary. All of us at LIS are very proud of you and wish you well in this new position.



*Incoming President Gary White accepts official
American Iris Society gavel from outgoing President,
Jim Morris*



Incoming President Gary White and Ron Crampton

Need Iris Photos!

Linda Rader

The new year is around the corner and soon we will be working on the 2016 LIS Membership Booklet. I know there are photography enthusiasts in our group, so I am putting out a call for photos to place on the cover of the booklet. We are looking for close-ups of the iris flower, whole clump shots or garden scenes where irises are a prominent component. Let us know the name of the iris or, if a garden shot, the location. We will choose photos that print well and fit nicely on the cover without much cropping. You will, of course receive credit as the photographer and incredible fame (alas, no fortune) for a year in LIS. So, look through your collection and send me your best shots. Preferred method is as an attachment sent to my email address: rizndough@yahoo.com. If you have prints, bring them to the November meeting and I will take them to scan. Can't wait to see what great photos are out there!

Editor's Note:

In accord with past custom there will be not be a newsletter in December. However we extend our best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

LIS Annual Dinner

All LIS members are invited to attend and enjoy an evening of socializing along with a very good meal. This year's dinner will again be at Beacon Hills Restaurant on Friday evening December 11, 2015. Happy Hour with cash bar will be at 6:00 pm and dinner served approximately 6:30-7:00 pm.

Beacon Hills is located at 5353 North 27th Street in Lincoln. Cost will be \$14.00 for each member with LIS paying approximately one-third of the regular buffet price of \$21.60. The fee for non-members will be the full price of \$21.60

We will need to know the number of people planning to attend the dinner at our November meeting. Please make your plans to attend and pay our Treasurer, Lois Linke. Please make checks payable to The Lincoln Iris Society.

Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your LIS dues before January 1st. Also please include any changes in postal, e-mail addresses or phone numbers. Those paying dues after January 1st. may not be included in our membership booklet, or receive the newsletter.

Dues for 2016 are \$6.00 for the first individual plus \$4.00 for each additional member of their family. You may pay your dues to our treasurer Lois Linke. Please make checks payable to The Lincoln Iris Society.

Thank You

Robert O. Clinefelter, Hybridizer

by Dorothy Clinefelter Ladman

My grandfather, Robert Owen Clinefelter, was born in Coldwater, Michigan, on November 10, 1895. His mother was concerned that he was not a robust child, and he was persistently underweight. A doctor told her he just needed to get outside and dig in the dirt for awhile. She determined that if he was going to dig in the dirt he might as well make a garden, so that is what she set him to doing. When he enlisted in the Army during WWI, he was still underweight, but they took him anyway. He served in France with his brother, who was killed there. He was captured by the Germans and spent time as a POW. His parents had been informed that he was also killed and they were sent a death certificate. You may imagine their relief when it was discovered he was actually a prisoner of war in Germany. He got to read his own death certificate when he returned home.

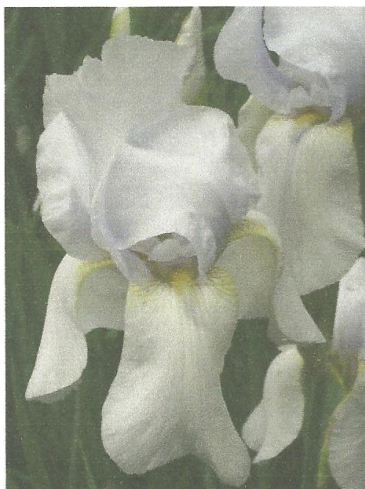


Grandpa hybridizing

Once back in the United States, Grandpa married Dorothy Ida Cook, my grandmother, in 1920, and they moved to Omaha and raised two children, my dad, Ken Clinefelter, and my aunt, Roberta Clinefelter Cole.

I don't know when Grandpa got into raising irises, but the family story is that he really wanted to raise hybrid tea roses, but that was too expensive for him. So he chose iris. He was in Omaha at the time of the Sass brothers, and my understanding is that he knew them well. I have a picture of Grandpa with some Iris Club or Garden Club members, none of whom I can name except Grandpa.

Grandpa hybridized irises in Omaha, and he had



'Age of Innocence' (Clinefelter, 1952)

two registered and introduced irises in 1952, **'Pansy Patch'** and **'Age of Innocence'** (and yes, that name was used again in 1994 by Mr. Kerr). Family legend has it that Grandpa was trying to name his new iris the spring of 1952 and he chose **'Age of Innocence'** while watching my younger cousin and myself, both of us under 2 years old, playing in his yard. I have the original registration certificates for **'Age of Innocence'** and **'Pansy Patch'**, as well as one of his seedling exhibition certificates.

Grandpa died on September 23, 1956, at the age of 60. I believe he would have named and registered more hybrids had he lived longer. My grandmother kept up his backyard iris beds until her death in 1982. When I married and moved to a house with a yard, Grandma called and said, "You have a yard now. Come get iris!" I did, and I came home with a dozen varieties that Grandma and I chose that day. They thrived on neglect during the years I taught school and raised two daughters. When my daughters moved out and had their own yards, they took Grandpa's iris with them, and have them planted in their own yards in Salt Lake City and Salina, Kansas. My siblings have also at various times planted the family iris in their yards in New York and Lincoln, Nebraska.

In the meantime, I have been more attentive to my irises since joining the Lincoln Iris Society. I have attempted to acquire the varieties I know Grandpa raised, using some of the AIS prize ribbons he received at various shows in the early 1950s to get that information. I have about 90 varieties now of the irises Grandpa had, including **'Age of Innocence'**, **'Pansy Patch'**, and a purple seedling he kept because Grandma liked it. I recall a yellow seedling, but I believe that one has been lost.


When I was a child, every



'Pansy Patch' (Clinefelter, 1952)



R. Clinefelter, back left. Who are the other iris people?

Memorial Day we used to go to Omaha, pick up Grandma, and take irises to decorate Grandpa's grave. Now I am the oldest living member of the family, and every May and every Memorial Day my memory returns to the iris, Grandma in the garden, and the wonderful blessing my grand-parents left me that is the love of irises. 



Grandpa's Purple Seedling



Grandpa & Dottie, 1952

Dottie Ladman has kindly supplied the Guardian Garden program with 'Age of Innocence' and hopes to be able to share 'Pansy Patch' with us soon. You may reach her at <dladman@inebraska.com>.

As Winter Approaches, a Few Beautiful Reminders of Spring



Decker, TB



Proud Tradition, TB



Madeline Ruth, TB

Photos from Lionberger Garden, Spring 2015