

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

It is nearly the middle of August as I write this and I find August is my favorite month of the year. No other month can promote fond memories of April and May or the anxious anticipation of the coming of September or October as does August. These feelings are greatly enhanced as I work in the iris garden with soaking wet clothes and sweat dripping off my nose. It is then I ponder how I took for granted the lovely cool freshness of spring or the clear blue skies of the fall months. How I enjoyed the garden work in the cool breeze without flies or mosquitos. A mid-morning break with a cup of hot coffee was a real pleasure which August denies the gardener. However, I must give credit for the cold drink and the opportunity to cool down for a spell. August also makes one truly appreciate a shower and the comfort of an air-conditioned home. My dad often told me that the discomfort and misery one relates to working in heat and humidity was all in one's head... "Just keep working and forget about it". The old man was a lot tougher than me and was raised without air conditioning and other comforts we now enjoy. The final benefit August provides is the knowledge that the iris borer is now busy laying her eggs in the iris garden. This greatly helps to induce sound and restful sleep for the gardener. So with all of this in mind, get out in your garden and enjoy the fleeting days of August.

PRESIDENT'S QUOTE

"Confidence is contagious. So is lack of confidence."

Vince Lombardi

Meeting

Date: Monday, August 26, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck

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

**Program: "Controlling Furry Garden Pests"
Presented by Dennis Ferraro, Conservation
Biologist and Herpetologist from UNL**

Hosts: Melinda Holcombe

POTLUCK REMINDER

Bring your favorite dish to share and your own table service (plate, flatware, etc.). Beverages are supplied.

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2019 SALE AND AUCTION

David Lionberger

Enclosed in this issue is the financial report by our Treasurer, Lois Linke. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and accurate treasurer. We extend our sincere appreciation to her for always doing such an excellent job on behalf of our society. The figures reveal the success of this year's sale and auction in regards to financial gain. There are other factors involved in this annual endeavor that the financial report cannot reveal. I speak of the teamwork and dedication of our members that so willingly donate their time and talents to ensure success. As Chairman of this year's sale, I have received several expressions of gratitude which I very much appreciate. However, my contributions were rather minor in comparison to most of our active members. I soon learned after becoming President several years ago that the path to success with this group is to keep that path unobstructed and stay out of their way. My sincere thanks to all members involved in this year's sale for all you accomplished!

THANK YOU

My personal thanks to Linda Rader for her help in publishing the July newsletter on time. As in the past, Linda stepped up to help and we greatly appreciate her effort. Gary also had a hand in preparing the newsletter and our thanks to him also!

Editor

GOOD NEWS FOR DAVID TOTH

David Lionberger

David recently was informed by the American Iris Society that his 2017 introduction, Tropical Smoothie was awarded an honorable mention in the border bearded class. This is David's first AIS award and he considered Tropical Smoothie to be his first successful result in his breeding program for Space Age Broken Color iris. This is a big step in the right direction for his long range goals.

The following is David's description of Tropical Smoothie, (D. Toth 2017) Border Bearded. This is a fun little spooned broken colored iris in a border bearded size. It is also one of the hardest to describe because it can vary in color depending on weather conditions. The base color of the spoons, standards and falls can range from ivory white to sometimes a light creamy yellow to even having a greenish cast. The spoons, standards and falls are streaked and splashed with shades of yellow, blue and purple. No two blooms look the same. Averages 20-22" tall with 6 buds.

This is an important award which keeps an iris in contention for higher awards and David is to be congratulated for such an achievement. The long hours of hard work, the study of genetics and long range planning has been acknowledged and is richly deserved.



Tropical Smoothie, BB