

The Rainbow Messenger

Lincoln Iris Society

Volume 23, Issue 1, January, 2021

★ January Meeting Online ★

A note from the President, Gary White

Dear iris friends,

I'm sure hoping that 2021 will be a much better year than last year, but of course it will all depend on the Coronavirus and how soon we can be vaccinated. With all good wishes for the coming year, we are in possibly the darkest time of this pandemic at this time. So, we are continuing to meet only by Zoom for the upcoming few months at least. And, we very well may again have to forego a Spring Show. As we've said in the past, we will consider in March whether we can hold a show this year or not. Other in-person activities are on hold. The Husker Lawn and Leisure Show is cancelled for this year, as we expected it would be. We don't know yet whether we will be able to hold an iris sale and auction or not, but I'm hoping that we will be able to do that in July or possibly in August.

Nationally, the annual AIS convention that was to be in Las Cruces, New Mexico has been postponed until April 2022, and moving the Dallas convention to 2023 and the Portland convention to 2024. Most of the other activities that can be done online will go on. The AIS is continuing to hold webinars, with a large number of webinars planned for the next several months. As in the past, you will be hearing about those webinars through the News & Notes newsletter online if you are an AIS member.

There will not be a new LIS membership booklet this year, so hang on to your 2020 copy for member's information. As noted in November, we have continued all your LIS memberships through December of 2021 with no membership renewal fees for this year. And, since we don't yet know much of anything about most of our activities this year, or even when we can once again meet in person, there was not much point in printing a new membership booklet for 2021.

We hope to see some of you at our January online meeting on January 25th.

Be safe and be well.

Quote of the Month:

Thinking of spring, and getting garden catalogs in the mail, what could be more inspiring than this iconic line written in 1819 near Florence, Italy...

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

— Percy Bysshe Shelley, Ode to the West Wind

LIS Member Spotlight

Name: Dottie Ladman

Resides in: Lincoln, NE

Working/Retired: Retired music teacher

Three iris you can't imagine your garden without: Pansy Patch, Age of Innocence (1952), and Dorothy Cook Clinefelter--all hybridized by my grandfather, Robert O. Clinefelter, and all in my garden for as long as I've had a garden. In regards to 'Age of Innocence,' It was named in 1952. Supposedly once an iris is named no one can use that name again, but something didn't work quite right somewhere along the line, and Mr. Kerr named one of his irises 'Age of Innocence' in 1994. It is one of the few instances of two irises with the same name.

The story goes that he wanted to work with hybrid tea roses, but they were too expensive, and iris were less costly. He lived and worked in Omaha from 1919 until his death in 1956 at the age of 60. Had he lived longer we might have had more iris hybridized by him. If I could add a 4th it would be Moonlit Sea. I've loved that one ever since I first saw it in grandpa's garden.

An iris that is new to your garden for 2021: None this year. I spent 2020 digging, dividing, and down-sizing. Oh wait! A neighbor gave me a couple rhizomes of Tahitian Pearl, a very dark purple iris that I had admired in his yard.

How long have you been an LIS member? Since 2006

Are there other plant societies or garden clubs you are a member of? No others.

How did you get into growing iris? My grandfather was an amateur hybridizer in Omaha. He and grandma always had a back yard full of iris. My dad showed me how to hybridize iris when I was a child, though I didn't do much with it back then. When I finally had a yard and house of my own, my grandmother called right away and told me to come dig iris. I did. Those first varieties survived in my yard for decades before I had time to really take a serious interest.

Do you prefer or grow one iris group more than others? I grow mostly historic bearded irises 1910 to 1960. I love their simple structure and wonderful fragrance.

