



# Iris Gleanings

## From the President

### Join us!

GOIS meets on the second Saturday of the month. (March, April, May, June, September, October, & November)

At

**The German American Society Hall**

3717 South 120th Street  
Omaha, NE

**Social at 11:00 AM**  
**Program begins at 11:30 PM**

### Executive Board

Linda Wilkie, President  
402-493-3808  
lrwilkie@gmail.com

TBD, Vice President

Donna Sobczyk, Secretary  
402-593-0512  
dsobczyk@cox.net

Karen Stiles, Treasurer  
402-598-2348  
karenstiles0704@gmail.com

Gary White,  
Co-Curator of Collections  
402-421-6394  
in2iris@yahoo.com

If you are like me you are glad to see the end of February, the increasing hours of daylight and signs of life in the garden. That can only mean one thing, it's Spring! Time to get our fingers in the soil and get back to meeting again.

We'll kick off the year with a Happy Spring potluck luncheon and share cultivation tips to get your garden off to a great start. Bring a dish to share and your favorite spring gardening tip. Like our fall potluck this will be held off-site at our home, see the map below for address

and directions.

The following week it's time to get to work at the display garden. Things look pretty good out at the park, some light cultivation and debris removal is all that will be required this year. Our hope is to get the pre-emergent down at the same time, and the more members that can make it, the easier it will be to meet that goal.

I'm anxiously awaiting the emergence of my *Iris reticulata* which often will bloom for our first meeting. If you haven't



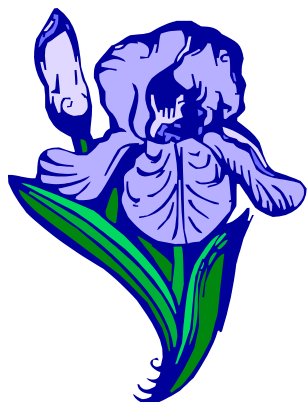
grown these little darlings you are missing out on a treat. The AIS webinar this week (March 8th) is on *reticulatas*, see inside for details.

Looking forward to seeing you this coming weekend!

Linda



## *From the AIS: upcoming webinars sure to please*



The first is Alan McMurtrie presenting “All About Reticulata Iris & Creating Amazing New Colors and Patterns”. Alan McMurtrie lives in Toronto Canada and is a hybridizer of bulbous irises, notably *Iris reticulata* hybrids. Alan’s hybridizing efforts began in the 1980s with named hybrids in the late 1990s. In the 2000s, he was seeing a range of colors, showing that orange is possible in

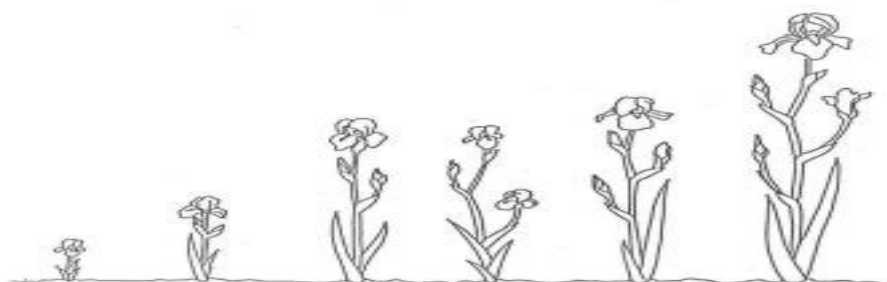
reticulatas. His first tetraploid hybrids appeared in 2015. The Webinar is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. Central time on Wednesday March 8.

Scheduled for Spring are webinars on Siberian and Japanese iris. Noted hybridizer Bob Hollingworth, winner of the American Dykes medal for Siberian ‘Swans in Flight’ will discuss his Michigan based breeding program and new

introductions. Chad Harris, owner of Mount Pleasant Iris gardens, will discuss cultivation of Japanese iris. Mr. Harris is a global authority on Japanese iris and has won many awards for his introductions including the Payne Medal (2022, 2021, 2021, and 2019).

You can watch these live by registering or tune in to the [AIS YouTube](#) channel to watch at your leisure.

**‘Football Hero’**  
(Lynda Miller, 2015TB)  
**2023**  
**IRIS OF THE YEAR**



## *Mapping the Garden*

Spring is the time to put those new years resolutions into practice. You know the ones about keeping better records, making maps of your iris, and labelling those new introductions.

Now, before things really start to grow and the ground is beginning to thaw, is a great time to walk the garden and check your labels. Reset those

markers that have heaved out with the frost. Replace those that are cracked, faded, or just plain missing now. If you use temporary tags, consider moving to something more permanent, but be certain that your choice is UV resistant. Be aware that most permanent markers fade to illegibility in one season, no matter what their packaging claims.

Draw a map or at least make a list of your named varieties in the order that they are planted. Maps, no matter how crude, will help when a marker goes missing or is moved. If you want more ideas check out the ideas in the upcoming Spring issue of the AIS bulletin, *IRISES*.

We’ll be including labeling tips in the March GOIS program.

## Upcoming events

- March 8 (7:30 PM CST); AIS Webinar “All About Reticulata Iris & Creating Amazing New Colors and Patterns” by Alan McMurtrie. Registration is required but you do not have to be an AIS member to watch you can request a registration link from [AISwebinars@gmail.com](mailto:AISwebinars@gmail.com)
- **March 11**; GOIS Spring kick-off potluck. Note: Change location! Bring a dish to share, the club will provide a main dish salad, beverages, and tableware. This event will be hosted by the Wilkies at their residence: 15115 Grant Circle.
- March 18; Garden Clean-up at Mahoney display garden. Meet at 9:30 in the garden, weather permitting. Bring cultivators (hoes, rakes, diggers, etc.), clippers, bags, and gloves. Event will be postponed to March 25th if it is raining or snowing that day, watch your email for updates.
- April 8; GOIS meeting at Mahoney. Check the early progress at the display garden, lunch at Mahoney lodge.
- April 12-16; AIS Spring Convention, Dallas TX
- May 13; GOIS meeting, program TBA
- May 19-20, 2023; Region 21 Spring Iris Tour hosted by Lincoln Iris Society
- May 21, 2023; GOIS in the Garden. Members host an Open Garden event for the public
- August 4; GOIS Rhizome Sale.



*Hospitality*  
All members  
*March 11th*

## In the March Garden

It's time to :

- Check bearded iris for frost heave and dry rot.
- Check beardless iris such as Siberians, Spurias, Japanese, and Louisianas and give supplemental water if soil is dry. Leave winter mulch but check that it is not keeping the rhizomes too wet.
- Give bulbous iris a boost of bulb fertilizer after blooming
- Apply insecticide for borers after 3 successive days of above 70<sup>0</sup> F temps if treating.
- Gradually move potted iris out of protected areas, may need to move back into for cold snaps.
- Time to order iris from your favorite hybridizers.

# Greater Omaha Iris Society

*Greater Omaha Iris Society  
15115 Grant Circle  
Omaha, NE 68116*

---

We're on the web:

[www.greateromahairissociety.org](http://www.greateromahairissociety.org)

---

---

## *Stay Current and informed*

### GOIS Dues

- Single AIS Member \$3.00
- Single non-AIS Member \$10.00
- Family AIS Member \$5.00
- Family non-AIS Member \$15.00

Dues for 2023 are due at the November meeting. Pay Karen Stiles at a meeting or mail payment to Karen at:

9305 Valaretta Drive  
Gretna, NE 68028

And remember guests are always welcome at GOIS events. Bring a Friend!

### American Iris Society Dues

- Single Annual \$30.00
- Dual Annual \$35.00
- Triennial Single \$70.00
- Triennial Dual \$85.00
- Single e-Member \$15.00
- Single full Member \$45.00

Visit [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org) to learn more about the AIS and its affiliates.

