

Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society

Volume 5, Number 5

May 2012

President Zora Comments:

The regional meeting is now just about 2 months away. Everyone is busy getting ready for the meeting and I hope not getting too exhausted. Spring chores are sometimes overwhelming. Getting the garden ready is always lots of work but hosting a regional meeting is an extra-added dimension. It will all be worth the effort when it is over and we can look back and say 'What a great weekend that was!'

Financial success will be heavily dependent on registrations. A high turnout will translate into break-even or profit for the club. So, if you haven't already done it, tell your garden clubs about the regional meeting coming up. If you are a Master Gardener, ask your Extension Director or Coordinator to promote the regional as an educational opportunity. Send a news release to a local newspaper.

Club plant distribution is on Saturday, May 26. Selection starts at 10 AM so come early to take a look at the plants. Remember, even if you are not eligible for a club plant this year, there will be lots of wonderful plants going on auction. Yes, we can all fit just a few more plants in somewhere.

While you are looking around the garden, try to get an idea of how many double fans will be coming back in August from the 2010 club plants. Heather Harroun will be coordinating the silent auction. She will probably be interested in a preliminary count.

See you at the Fairgrounds.

Inside This Issue

- 1 President Zora Comments
Minutes from April 14 Meeting
- 2 Calendar of Events
Directions to Muscatine County Fairgrounds
Minutes from April 14 Meeting (cont.)
Update: Boutique and Raffle/Auction
- 3 Update: Boutique and Raffle/Auction (cont.)
Extend Your Iris Bloom Season with Median Iris
By Lynn Stoll
4. Extend Your Iris Bloom Season with Median Iris
(cont.)

Lynn Stoll, Newsletter Editor

Minutes from April 14 Meeting Donna Denly, Secretary

President Zora Ronan called the meeting to order around 1:15 pm. 55 members were in attendance.

Program: We viewed a clip with Margo Reed and Jim Murphy (our Regional speaker in July) and Suzanne Moffit and Jill Gardner showed a power point presentation on their trip to the National in Louisiana.

Business meeting: Zora recognized our new members (Diane Derganz, Sara Hankemeier, Catherine Hansen, and Ginger Pruess) and mentioned that Keith was available for taking snapshots for the club photo directory. Our minutes as corrected for the March meeting was approved (1st/2nd/ Gary Oster & Carole Appelquist). Correction: All of the CVIDS members want to recognize Robert Towler and Barb & Bob Papenhausen for all their work and dedication at the Quad City Botanical Center. Thank You!

A Treasurer's report was given.

Updates: Keith Riewerts reported he has the list of Club plants completed and will be ready to send soon. The plants are all available to see on the website. He met Charles & Heidi Douglas from Brown's Ferry at the Pollen Dabbers last month, and said it was good to meet people from where some of the plants are coming from.

Plant Distribution: The process was discussed in detail for a review and for new members to know more how the process happens. (The forthcoming handbook will spell it out more clearly at a later date).

Regional I: Zora showed the overview of the agenda for the Regional and discussion was held. The National will be in Ohio the week before our Regional. Slides were shown on the coverage in the AHS magazine and the Pioneer.

Discussion was held on the events and where the money from each one would go.

Registration: Sylvia reported that registration was coming, but slowly.

Tote bags: Nancy reported on the gift of 50 markers donated to the Regional as being in the first 40 registered and the other 10 be in the raffle. The bags are ordered and will be filled later on by a team of volunteers.

(continued on p. 2)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**** REGULAR CVIDS MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT 1:00 PM ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.**

MAY 26

CVIDS PLANT DISTRIBUTION

West Liberty Fairgrounds (Floral Hall)

9 AM – Donuts and coffee, plant review

10 AM – Plant distribution, followed by auction

JULY 11-14

AMERICAN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION

Columbus, OH

JULY 20-22

AMERICAN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY REGION

ONE MEETING: "DAZZLING DAYLILIES OF CEDAR VALLEY"

Cedar Rapids, IA

Guest Speaker: Margo Reed

AUGUST 25

FALL PLANT SALE 9-12, LUNCH 12-1, AUCTION 1-2

Riverside Gardens, Monticello

OCTOBER 13

CVIDS MEETING: HYBRIDIZERS' ROUNDUP

Coralville Public Library

NOVEMBER 10: Banquet (location TBA)

MINUTES FROM APR. 14 MTG. (CONT.)

Boutique/Auction items: Debbie set up pickup points and people to be in charge of the plants/items for both. Items are needed to be in place by Thursday, not dribbling in. Keith said he would be able to take items on May 26. He will have a form for anyone who wants one for tax purposes for their donations.

Auction Plants: Lynn has her list compiled to date but needs to know what plants members are going to contribute, so she can update her presentation. Plants in the \$25-\$100 range will be in the auction, and the ones of less value will be in the boutique. Jean Hecht will be the person actually collecting the plants.

Garden Breakfast: Susan Minger reported on the meals in the gardens and the bus protocol

Old Business: The iris tour has been cancelled due to the early spring, but Wanda Lunn's garden will be open April 28-29 for tours.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM. Door prize of Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears' was awarded to Jan Null.

DIRECTIONS TO MUSCATINE

COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS (West Liberty)

From I-80: Go to Exit 259 (West Liberty). Go south on X-40 to West Liberty (about 7 miles). Turn left at stop sign onto North Columbus St. Proceed to stoplight. Continue straight across RR tracks to East First Street. Turn right onto East First St. and proceed 3 blocks. Floral Hall is the first large building on the grounds.

From West via Hwy. 6: Take Hwy 6 from Iowa City east for about 17 miles. (Hwy 6 becomes North Columbus St.). Then proceed as above.

UPDATE: BOUTIQUE & RAFFLE/AUCTION

Hi CVIDS Members! The April Newsletter alerted members that the club needs daylilies and other garden related items for the Dazzling Daylilies Conference. Daylilies up to \$15 in value (per Eureka) are needed for the **Boutique** and daylilies \$15 to \$30 are needed for the **Raffle/Auction**. **Daylilies for the Boutique** will be sold for \$5, \$10 or \$15 (only).

To help us prepare for the conference, please email Nancy Rash (nrash2000@gmail.com) with your items for the **Boutique and Raffle/Auction**. Deb Hansen and Nancy Rash are organizing the items for sale in the **Boutique**. Keith Riewerts is organizing the **Raffle/Auction**.

Non-Plant Items for the Raffle/Auction can be brought to the May 26th Plant Distribution meeting at West Liberty for Keith Riewerts to collect and prepare for the Raffle/Auction. Raffle/Auction Daylilies should be brought to the Conference. Other Raffle/Auction items needed are:

1. Daylily or Iris "themed" items: towels, clothing, etc.
2. New or in excellent condition: tools, birdhouses, garden art, etc.
3. Iowa Wine
4. Gift Certificates

Please email a description of the items, number, etc. if non-daylily. **Thank you!**

Deb Hansen, dhansen1214@aol.com, 319-551-4470

Nancy Rash, nrash2000@gmail.com, 319-591-1419

Colleen Hansen, catsyjohn@yahoo.com, 563-299-6351

Keith Riewerts, rkrkrkr@netins.net, 563-285-8941

(Continued on p. 3)

UPDATE: BOUTIQUE & RAFFLE/AUCTION

Daylily Donations for Boutique & Raffle/Auction

For daylilies, please include the **Name** of the daylily, **Color** of the bloom, and the **Price** (\$5, \$10, or \$15).

Here are guidelines for preparing your daylilies and garden related items:

1. Daylilies are to be a named variety, clump of 2 fans, bare root, washed, leaves and flower scapes trimmed.
2. Provide a color photo or picture and a description of bloom color, size, height, bloom time, etc.
3. Bring in a shoe box with the photo and description attached.
4. Boutique prices are \$5, \$10 or \$15 only. Tags will be distributed on May 26. Format for tagging **BOUTIQUE Daylilies: \$5 YELLOW; \$10 TURQUOISE; \$15 PINK**
5. To be ready for Boutique sales promptly at 11 AM Friday, we are asking that **Boutique Daylilies** be delivered on **Thursday, July 19, 2012** to Deb and Scott Hansen 5-6:30 PM at the Kirkwood Hotel Parking Lot (north) **OR** Nancy Rash and Lyle Moen, 1506 N Marion Avenue, Washington **OR** Colleen Hansen at the Davenport Old KMart, West Kimberly Road, Parking Lot, after 5 PM. Deliver your daylilies ready for the sale. Daylilies not delivered on July 19th need to be at the Conference at 9 AM, tagged and ready. See contact list on p. 2.
6. **Raffle/Auction Daylilies** are to be brought to the Conference prepared per the above instructions.
7. View this web site for questions about dividing daylilies: <http://patriotdaylilyociety.org/dividingdaylilies.htm>

Members attending the April 14th meeting in Eldridge:

Carole Appelquist	Jack Jones	Barb Papenhausen
Dave Appelquist	Brenda Knipper	Bob Papenhausen
Sherri Baldonado	Roger Knipper	Joyce Parsons
Nancy Carlisle	Sherry McCarville	Steve Parsons
Clay Dawson	Barb McCreight	Diann Pavelka
Donna Denly	Rex McCreight	Joyce Petersen
Diane Derganz	Susan Minger	Jonathan Poulton
Jill Gardner	Lyle Moen	Ginger Pruess
Sara Hankemeier	Robert Moffit	Nancy Rash
Catherine Hansen	Suzanne Moffit	Keith Riewerts
Colleen Hansen	Lynn Moffit	Jan Rogers
Debra Hansen	Sherry Moffit	Zora Ronan
Heather Harroun	Mary Moore	Sylvia Seymour
Loren Hass	Verne Moore	Barry Stoll
Myrna Hass	Karmin Mullins	Lynn Stoll
Jean Hecht	Bob Null	Diana Strait
Kay Hill	Jan Null	Ted Strait
Caroline Jones	Gary Oster	Robert Towler
		Shirley Waters

EXTENDING YOUR IRIS BLOOM SEASON WITH MEDIAN IRIS

BY LYNN STOLL

A common complaint I hear about iris is, “Oh, they’re so lovely, but they only bloom for a week or two, and then they’re done.” As an iris grower, one of my main interests is in extending the bloom season. There are three ways to do this: with reblooming iris; with early and late-blooming tall bearded (TB) iris that themselves bloom over a two-week period or longer; and with the early-blooming median iris. With a little planning, iris lovers can have these flowers in bloom in their garden for at least six weeks in the spring (for me, from May 1 to June 15 and perhaps again in August and September). The first two of these strategies are only marginally successful in Iowa. As with reblooming daylilies, most iris advertised as rebloomers usually fail to do so in this climate. (Most reblooming iris are bred in Virginia and California). And the difference in bloom time between the earliest and latest blooming TBs is far less than that found with season-extending early and late daylilies. For these reasons, I prefer to focus on the use of median iris in extending the iris bloom season, and supplement these with Siberian iris (discussed in a previous article) for later bloom.

According to American Iris Society standards, there are five classes of median iris: the Miniature Dwarf Bearded, or MDB; the Standard Dwarf Bearded, or SDB; the Intermediate Bearded, or IB; the Border Bearded, or BB; and the Miniature Tall Bearded, or MTB. The MDB are the shortest and earliest to bloom; the flowers are 2 to 3 inches wide and may grow up to 8 inches tall to be included in this classification. Most begin to bloom about a month before the tall bearded iris. Although many are very attractive, with a wide range of colors and patterns, even established clumps are rather small, and tend to be lost in a large garden like ours.



Keep Off



Keeno

The Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB) are slightly taller (8-15 inches) and larger (flowers up to 4 inches) than the MDB, and start to bloom about a week later. Although I have a few MDBs in my garden, for me the iris season really starts with the first SDBs, usually the last few days of April. These cheery little flowers come in a wide range of colors and patterns. Because they are related to

the *I. pumila* species, many have a distinctive spot pattern on their falls. Because of their close genetic relation to the species, and because they have not been as highly inbred as some of the tall bearded cultivars, most are quite vigorous and will form a dense, highly floriferous 12-inch clump in just a few years. Some varieties also rebloom in the fall. Most of all, they are *cute*, providing bright spots of color in the early spring perennial garden when little else is blooming.



Electrifying Big Blue Eyes Yahtzee Jennyanydots



It's Amazing Lab Pulsator



Bright Bluebeard's Ghost Cat's Eye Giddy

The Intermediate Bearded (IB) iris are sometimes thought of as the earliest "real" iris. They range in height from 16 to 27 inches, with 3½ to 5 inch blooms. IBs begin blooming about 10 days after the SDBs and about 10 days before the TBs; thus, they are "intermediate" in both size and bloom time. Their size makes them excellent cut flowers, and since they bloom well before the TBs, they make a dramatic garden effect as well. IBs are hybrids between SDBs and TBs and usually have great hybrid vigor; some retain the spot pattern on the falls from the *I. pumila* background of their SDB parent. This hybrid vigor makes them relatively disease-resistant compared to TBs, and their shorter stalks are quite wind-resistant. IBs have been somewhat neglected by hybridizers in the past, and the range of colors and patterns is not as extensive as in the SDBs and TBs. However, in recent years some of the country's most talented hybridizers, such as Paul Black and Tom Johnson of Oregon, have turned their attention to IBs, and rapid improvements in form and color range are taking place. Like other median iris, the IBs are relatively inexpensive; even the newest introductions from major hybridizers are usually priced at less than \$20, compared to \$50-65 for new TB introductions.)



Frisky Frolic Dazzling Blue Splash Revved Up



Star in the Night Cat in the Hat Action Adventure Intoxicating

The Border Bearded (BB) are the same size and height as the IBs (16-27 inches tall, 4-5" flowers); however, they bloom at the same time as do the TBs. In effect, they are simply short versions of tall bearded iris; they are interesting subjects for the front of the perennial garden, but they do not extend the bloom season. They lack the hybrid vigor of the IBs. There are some excellent individual cultivars, but many of the BBs have been described as "runty TBs." Two common faults are disproportionately large flowers, which give a bunched effect on the short stalks, and growing "out of class." Tall Bearded iris are classed as those 27" or over; BBs are supposed to be border iris, but because they are genetically identical to TBs, a little extra "tender loving care" frequently causes them to overgrow their border classification. Although I have grown a few BBs, in general I prefer to use the front part of the beds for the season extenders, the SDBs and IBs. Miniature Tall Bearded are similar in height to IBs and BBs, but grow on thin pencil-like stems; most MTBs bloom at the same time as the TBs, and are most valued for flower arrangements.



Ballerina Pink Wild What'sNewPussycat

I hope that all iris lovers and gardeners in general will consider adding some medians to their gardens, particularly SDBs and IBs. **All images are courtesy of Paul Black of Mid-America Garden.**

Source: Mid-America Garden
P. O. Box 9008
Brooks, OR 97305-0008
www.mid-america-garden.com

Mid-America Garden features the iris introductions of Paul Black and Tom Johnson. In addition to hundreds of TBs, the latest catalog includes 118 SDBs, 40 IBs, 8 MDBs, 11 BBs, and 6 MTBs, almost all with color pictures.