

Twin City Iris Society

NEWS & VIEWS

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The May meeting of the Twin City Iris Society will be held Thursday, May 28, at the East Lake Y.M.C.A. - 1845 E. Lake at 8:00 P.M. A program consisting of notes and hints from several members as to how to choose, care for and transport iris for a show and Miss Alice Barry speaking on flower arrangements has been planned. This promises to be both a most informative and enjoyable meeting and everyone, beginner as well as "oldtimer" should come away with many new ideas and helpful information.

Mrs. Alice Foss has just returned from Oklahoma where she attended the National Convention of the Iris Society. She will give a report of her trip and has interesting things to tell us.

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As you remember, last month we had a meeting to determine how damaging the winter had been to members' iris plantings in view of the feasibility of having an iris show this year. So that all of you might know of the results, the following is a report of that meeting:

The most wonderful spring of all is always Next Spring. That is when gardeners will have the plants and the varieties they've always wanted. That is when nature will see to it that everything has wintered, that everything sprouts and buds and comes into perfect bloom. Next Spring is when every gardener gets his Queen of the Show and Next Spring the gardener will have time to sit in his garden and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

At our April 30 meeting the members of the T.C.I.S. present voted to postpone the St. Paul show until 1960. Most of those present reported losses of from 20% to 95%. Both amateur and commercial growers suffered. Although a very few Iris lovers present reported little or no loss the majority (of about 90%) reported severe loss. It takes the commercial growers and the amateurs to put on a good show. It takes one or the other to put on a fair show, and with neither of them able to put on a show -- there is no show.

Losses were reported in every type of situation, in every variety, in new plantings and in established clumps: (My own opinion is that freezing dry is dangerous to all growing things - from sed to daisies to our own orchid-like beauties, but there are many honest differences of opinion).

It was decided to hold a private show at a June meeting of the Twin City Iris Society. The date is tentatively set for June 11.

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The private show, although we will award no trophies, will give all of us an opportunity to examine varieties at our leisure. It will give the novices an opportunity to have a "test run" on transporting Iris and in exhibiting specimens. I think we will all enjoy the change of pace, the chance to relax and enjoy a show.

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and gardeners are the most incurable optimists of all. So remember our St. Paul show hasn't been cancelled, only postponed until Spring 1960.

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I know the members of the Twin City Iris Society are sorry that Mrs. Sutton resigned as our social chairman. She has done an excellent job and will be difficult to replace. Thank you Mrs. Sutton.

Pat Wysocky

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It's nice to know that while the picture is predominately dark it isn't all black, and that a few members suffered little or no damage. The rest of us have had innumerable funerals over our iris beds. In spite of this if everyone will co-operate we should be able to have a nice little "society show" in accordance with the expressed wish of the membership at the last meeting.

The show will be held Thursday, June 11, 8:00 P.M. at our regular meeting place the East Lake Y.M.C.A. Mr. Urban Ipsen will be in charge.

Please, everyone, bring your best iris in your own containers, milk bottles, milk cartons, or whatever. Of course, there will be no judging and no awards. This is just to enable us to see some iris and show off our good bloom. (From the looks of some gardens these will be the only iris some will see!)

One of the accredited iris judges will be on hand to explain for those who are new at showing - and to refresh the memories of the rest of us - the points on which an iris is judged. This will be most valuable with actual bloom stalks with which to illustrate the various good and bad points. Now you'll know why that iris that was "prettier" than the blue ribbon winner had to take a back seat.

This should be a most informative as well as enjoyable evening, so we hope everyone will attend and bring the bloom he can.

Remember - one bloom stalk to a container - visitors will be welcome - June 11, 8:00 P.M., East Lake Y. See you there!!

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Don't forget regular monthly meeting - May 28, 8:00 P.M. - East Lake Y.M.C.A. Let's have an extra large attendance - coffee and refreshments as usual!!!