

Elmohr Iris Society

President, Susan Driver
Vice President, Open
Secretary, Marilyn Schwartz
Treasurer, Sally Funk
Membership, Sharon Raichelson

NEWS U NEED TO KNOW

April 2010

President's Corner: We kicked off the new year with an outstanding presentation by our guest speaker, Steve Schreiner of Schreiner's Iris Gardens in Salem, Oregon. It was so good to see everyone after our short winter "hibernation," and I look forward to the months ahead, as we work and fellowship together. The beautiful weather earlier this week had me wandering around my back yard, excited to see those green tips popping up everywhere. I imagine all of you are experiencing similar joy in the re-awakening of your garden.

As you can see, the newsletter isn't quite what you're used to. Jackie did such a great job producing our newsletter, and I just don't have the experience to add all the special little touches. However, I hope that starting next month we will have a new editor for our monthly newsletter, who is very talented in this area (we have had a volunteer!) And speaking of volunteers, please make note of the upcoming events and consider how YOU can help your society and the region in promoting the love of growing iris.

I'll see you at our next meeting, **12:30 p.m. April 10, 2010 at the Rockrimmon Branch Library. Speaker: Bob Van Liere **Lunch will be served.**

It's that time of year...time to fertilize!!!

Fertilizing:

In order to bloom and grow well, irises require a moderate amount of fertilizer. Feed your irises in the Spring, as soon as the soil is workable and new growth begins. Use a general purpose flower or vegetable garden fertilizer containing "slow release nitrogen"*. Never apply more fertilizer than the manufacturer recommends, and keep the granules at least six inches away from the fans. When planting a new rhizome, work up a volume of soil about the size of a bushel basket and thoroughly mix in compost, a teaspoon of triple phosphate, and a tablespoon of fertilizer before planting.

*also called time release, continuous release, or extended release.

Cultivating:

Do it shallowly. Iris feeding roots are very near the surface. Keep your iris free of weeds and do not allow neighboring plants to encroach upon them. Remember, they need sunlight down to the rhizome. Keep grass, weeds, etc. away from the rhizomes. Brown leaves can be trimmed off at any time. Clean cultivation is the finest precaution for iris.

Elmohr Iris Society

2010 Calendar of Events

- March 13** **EIS Meeting - Refreshments will be served**
Time: 12:00 noon
Location: Penrose Library, 20 North Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO
Speaker: Steve Schreiner from Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, OR
- April 10** **EIS Luncheon Meeting**
Time: 12:30 noon
Location: Rockrimmon Branch Library, Vindicator and Rockrimmon Blvd., Colo. Springs
Speaker: Bob Van Liere
- May 8** **EIS Luncheon Meeting**
Time: 12:30 noon
Location: Rockrimmon Branch Library, Vindicator and Rockrimmon Blvd., Colo. Springs
Speaker: Various – “Getting Ready for the Show”
- June 5** **Elmohr Iris Society Show**
Time: 12:00 noon – 6:00 pm
Location: Citadel Mall, Academy and Galley, Colorado Springs
- July 10** **AIS Region 20 Meeting**
Time: 12:30 noon
Location: TBD
Speaker: Panel Discussion and Judges Training
- July 31 & August 1** **Elmohr Iris Society Rhizome Sale**
Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday
 11:00 am – 3:00 pm on Sunday
Location: Phelan Gardens
 4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs
- August 14** **EIS Annual Potluck**
Time: 12:00 noon
Location: TBD
Speaker: TBD
- September 11** **Elmohr Iris Society Annual Awards Banquet**
Time: 12:00 noon
Location: TBD

Note: Need Judge's training sometime during the year.

AIS AND REGION 20 EVENTS:

Saturday, April 10, 12:30 p.m. – Elmohr Iris Society Meeting

Rockrimmon Branch Library, Vindicator and Rockrimmon Blvd. Speaker: Bob Van Liere

Sunday, April 11, 4:00 p.m. – Loomis Iris Society Spring Meeting
Heritage Center in Crowley
Topic: Preparing for the Show

Sunday, May 16, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Loomis Iris Society Flower Show
Gobin Building in Depot Plaza on Main Street, Rocky Ford
Entries received starting at 6:30 a.m.; judging starts at 9:30 a.m.

May 31-June 5, 2010 – AIS Convention in Madison, Wisconsin

The theme for the show is “Mad About Iris.” For more information visit the Madison Area Iris Society’s website at <http://www.irises.org/2010convention.htm>

BUSINESS NEWS:

At the March meeting a vote was taken to send the newsletter via email to those with email, starting with the April newsletter. Those members without an email address, or who request snailmail will receive the newsletter via regular mail.

Elsie Funk needs a new co-chair for the show, as Beverly Bailey will not be able to fill this position this year. Elsie is working on the details and schedule for the show, and there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities to make it a success. Medals and certificates were finally received from last year’s show; congratulations to the following:

Lowell Baumunk – silver medal and certificates for two seedlings
Bob VanLiere – certificates for four seedlings
Shanna Holiday – bronze medal

After a discussion on changing the meeting time and serving finger foods instead of a full lunch, a vote was taken to change the meeting time to 12:30 and to keep the full lunch.

Our Membership Chair, Sharon Raichelson, has arranged for the design and production of new name badges for anyone who would like to replace their old paper one. They fasten with a strong magnet and feature an attractive iris cutout. The cost is \$10.74, and a sign up sheet will be provided at our next meeting.

Sally Funk is the new Test Garden Director, with Russ and Carol Eacker and Sharon Raichelson as committee members. **Next test garden meeting is Thursday, April 15, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at the East Library.** Prizes will be given, as well as two free irises from our rhizome sale for every two hours worked.

EIS Membership News

Dues...

Membership dues for 2010 are now due. Please contact Membership Chair, Sharon Raichelson at

AIS Membership News

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

Membership in the American Iris Society includes a subscription to the AIS Bulletin, which is published four times per year. You

594-9275 if you have any questions regarding your dues.

The 2010 EIS Yearbook will be distributed at the April meeting. For those who are unable to make it to the April meeting, your Yearbook will be mailed.

may also choose to participate in such events as local AIS sanctioned iris shows and the annual AIS Convention. Please visit <http://www.irises.org/> or talk to one of our EIS members to find out more about joining!

AIS Website: www.irises.org

Region 20 Website: www.coloradoiris.org

LUNCH RESERVATIONS

Don't forget to call in your reservations for lunch to
Sharon Raichelson 594-9275
Ellen McIntosh 591-7492

Elmohr Iris Society
4533 Fenton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80916