



IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN



NEWS FLYER

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Bulletin Editor L. Dragon

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Hello Folks

This month we will give you more information about the DYKES MEDAL and list the winners .



Word to the W I S E ...

OUR WISE OLD OWL SAYS:
 Irises are among the most disease and pest free of plants.

But there are some diseases and pests to be reckoned with . Iris diseases and pests damage or disfigure the leaves or flowers , reduce the number of leaves as well as flowers and sometimes kill the plant .

An aid to prevention of diseases and discouragement of pests is to maintain a clean garden area .

Give your plants plenty of space, sunlight and good drainage as well as proper balance of soil nutrients.

AMERICAN DYKES MEDAL WINNERS

- 1927 San Francisco (William Mohr)
blue /white plicata
- 1929 Dauntless (Clarence Connell)
red/brown bitone
- 1932 Rameses (Hans Sass)
russet,pink,yellow blend
- 1933 Coralie (Wylie Ayres)
pink red-toned self
- 1935 Sierra Blue (E. O. Essig)
medium blue
- 1936 Mary Geddes (T.Washington)
salmon
- 1937 Missouri (J. H. Grinter)
deep blue
- 1938 Copper Lustre (J. Kirkland)
coppery brown
- 1939 Rosy Wings (Merton Gage)
rose violet bitone
- 1940 Wabash (Mary Williamson)
blue & white amoena
- 1941 The Red Douglas (Jacob Sass)
red
- 1942 Great Lakes (L. W. Cousins)
light blue
- 1943 Prairie Sunset (Hans Sass)
peach apricot buff gold blend
- 1944 Spun Gold (H. Glutzbeck)
yellow

1945 Elmohr (D r. Phillip Loomis)
 mulberry purple arilbred
 1947 Chivalry (Jesse Wills)
 deep blue
 1948 Ola Kala (Jacob Sass)
 yellow
 1949 Helen McGregor (R . Graves)
 light blue
 1950 Blue Rhythm (Agnes Whiting)
 blue
 1951 Cherie (D . Hall) pink
 1952 Argus Pheasant (F.DeForest)
 golden brown
 1953 Truly Yours (Orville Fay)
 yellow and white
 1954 Mary Randall (Orville Fay)
 rose
 1955 Sable Night (Paul Cook)
 reddish - black
 1956 First Violet (Fred DeForest)
 violet
 1957 Violet Harmony (Edith Lowry)
 violet
 1958 Blue Sapphire (Schreiners)
 light blue
 1959 Swan Ballet (Tell Muhlestein)
 white
 1961 Eleanor's Pride (Ed . Watkins)
 powder blue
 1962 Whole Cloth (Paul Cook)
 white and blue
 1963 Amethyst Flame (Schreiners)
 lilac blue-lavender
 1964 Allegiance (Paul Cook) dk. blue
 1965 Pacific Panorama(Neva Sexton)
 sea blue
 1966 Rippling Waters (Orville Fay)
 pale blue orchid
 1967 Winter Olympics (Opal Brown)
 white
 1968 Stepping Out (Schreiners)
 white and dark violet plicata

1970 Skywatch (Clifford Benson)
 lavender
 1971 Debby Rairdon(Mrs.H. Kuntz)
 ivory yellow
 1972 Babbling Brook (Keith Keppel)
 light french blue
 1973 New Moon (Neva Sexton)
 yellow
 1974 Shipshape (Sanford Babson)
 sea blue
 1975 Pink Taffeta (N. Rudolph) pink
 1976 Kilt Lilt (James Gibson)
 maroon,gold & apricot plicata
 1977 Dream Lover (Ester Tams)
 blue and purple bicolor
 1978 Bride's Halo (Dr. H.C. Mohr)
 white with yellow edge
 1979 Mary Frances (Larry Gaulter)
 blue-orchid
 1980 Mystique (Joseph Ghio)
 blue & purple neglecta
 1981 Brown Lasso (Eugene Buckles)
 butterscotch and violet
 1982 Vanity (Ben Hager) pink
 1983 Ruffled Ballet (E. Roderick)
 blue bitone
 1984 Victoria Falls (Schreiners)
 blue
 1985 Beverly Sills (Melrose) pink
 1986 ? ?



These were and are the STARS of
 the Iris Kingdom . Some are still
 shining brightly while others are
 loosing some of their brilliance or
 getting dimmer . Some were iffy and
 others were fantastic . Some would
 and still do grow in just about any
 climate .While others are tempera -
 mental and demand a lot of extra
 tender loving care .

But never the less they were the lovelies of their time.

It might be fun to start a collection of Dykes Medal winners. It may offer a challenge to those who like one. Some are easy to find (in catalogs or elsewhere) others aren't so easy to come by. They are a part of Iris history and I think they merit a place in the garden.

W. R. DYKES

Sir Michael Foster was a Professor of Physiology at Cambridge University. His hobby was gardening and his special interest was irises. He collected and grew all the species of irises that he could. He sponsored plant-collecting expeditions and was responsible for the identification and introduction of a number of new species.

W. R. Dykes became interested in gardening and irises through his friendship with Foster. Foster was working on a study of the whole genus *Iris* at the time of his death. Dykes more or less took up where Foster left off. He devoted the rest of his life to the study of Irises.

In 1913 he published "The Genus *Iris*". He described every species of iris in detail on the basis of actual observation of the living plant. This book was and still is the accepted standard botanical work on the genus *Iris*. He also wrote "A Handbook of Garden Irises".

After he completed his study of the genus *Iris* he turned to hybridizing. He produced a large number

of seedlings. His most famous was a true yellow large flowered self. His wife named it "W. R. Dykes" in his honor after his death in 1925. It created a world wide sensation (it was the first true yellow) and it was used for breeding for many years. "W. R. Dykes" can be found in the pedigree of many notable varieties of this color. His wife continued growing iris after his death and introduced some noteworthy irises.

Hope this will enlighten those who were not aware of this great Iris person. And serve to refresh the memory of those who are aware of W. R. Dykes.



A Winner ???

STEPPING OUT, Schreiner's violet and white plicata was introduced in 1964 and won the 1968 DYKES MEDAL. It has rated the top position in the annual poll 12 times, the #2 position 5 times and #3 position once during the 18 year period 1967 through 1984.

In 1968 it won the NELSON AWARD, this award is given annually to the iris chosen BEST IN SHOW at at the greatest number of A I S accredited shows during a given year. It was runner-up for this award in 1969, the winner again in 1971, 1972, and 1978, and tied for this award in 1973 and 1975. My THANKS to STANLEY COATES; BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY; APRIL 1985 issue, for this information about a definite winner.

IRIS TERMINOLOGY

ARIL IRISES (AR)

The ONCOCYCLUS and REGELIA irises of the Near East are grouped together under this name. They do have beards, but they are so different that they are not classed as BEARDED. The ARILS are difficult to grow in all but the warmest and driest regions of the U. S.

ARILBRED (AB)

These are a cross between ARILS and the more common BEARDED iris. They display the best of the two varieties. They are tall and have large blooms. They are usually very easy to grow.

BEARDED IRISES

The American Iris Society has divided these into 6 groups for show judging. These irises can be easily identified by thick, bushy "beards" on each of the falls (lower pedals) of the blooms.

Most of these were native to central and southern Europe.

BEARDLESS IRISES

LOUISIANAS (LA)

The blooms are usually wide petaled and open. They require soil that is on the acid side and soil that is wet in the spring.

They are native to the American Gulf Coast.

JAPANESE (JAP)

Blooms are usually huge, ruffled

and flat in form. They require soil that is slightly acid.

PACIFIC COAST NATIVES or CALIFORNICA (CA)

These are not widely grown as they are not tolerant of the climatic conditions of all but the far western area of the U. S.

SIBERIANS (SIB)

Blooms are mostly blue, violet or white with large falls and smaller standards. They thrive in moist soil and are frequently planted on stream or lake banks.

SPURIAS (SPU)

Are tall and elegant. They are best used as a background plant. They grow well in loamy soil that is well enriched with plenty of humus.

SEPTEMBER

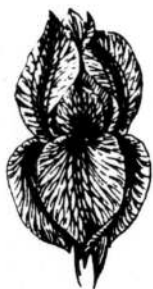
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	7:30A UNTIL
7	8	7:30P UNTIL	10	11	12	9:AM UNTIL
14	15	7:30P UNTIL	17	18	19	9:AM UNTIL

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT FORGET
THESE IMPORTANT "IRIS" DATES.

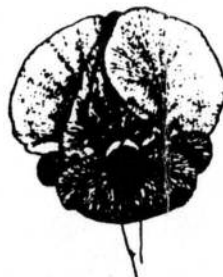
SEPT. 6 N B I S IRIS SALE - WFM
SEPT. 9 I S A MEETING - ZILKER
GARDEN CENTER
SEPT. 13 I S A IRIS (RUSTLE) DIG
SEPT. 13 N B I S IRIS SALE - N B
SEPT. 16 N B I S MEETING - N B
SEPT. 20 I S A IRIS SALE - Z G C



TALL BEARDED



REGELIA



ONCOCYCLUS



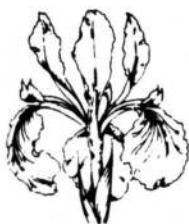
JUNO



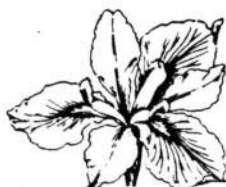
JAPANESE



ARILBRED



SPURIA



LOUISIANA



SIBERIAN



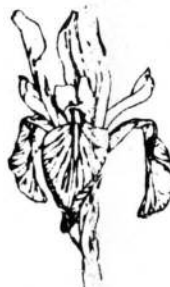
RETICULATA



CRESTED



CALIFORNICAE



EVANSIA



I. MISSOURIENSIS