



August 18, 2020

Contributed by Janet Mackey

A RAINBOW OF IRIS!

The Talbot County Garden Club has received a gift of a collection of iris that we will plant in The Historical Society Garden in memory of Les Roslund who passed away at the end of July. Les was beloved by many Talbot County residents, and his passing leaves an emptiness we hope the flowers will help fill.

Les was known widely for his love and knowledge of birds which he shared enthusiastically during weekly outings of the Talbot County Bird Club. Les' warm personality and wonderful storytelling ability drew people in. Our garden club members may remember Les' presentation to our club a few years back about attracting birds to our back yards.

Les' love of birds spilled over into a love of nature and a great appreciation of plants in general with a soft spot for iris. He and his wife, Carolyn, have created a haven for wildlife on their property – with beds of iris for Les. This past spring, Les ordered a selection of iris from Good Life Gardens, an iris farm in Preston, to add to his beds. When Les passed away before receiving the plants, Carolyn asked that they be donated. Since Les was an avid birder, Pat McNeal of Good Life Gardens, contacted the Talbot Bird Club about donating the iris to the bird club and to Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Both the bird club and Pickering Creek were very happy to have the iris planted in The Historical Society Garden where they could be tended by our garden club and provide enjoyment to the public. We thank all who were involved with this gift.

We received two plants each of five multi-color varieties of bearded iris in shades of purple and blue, peach, apricot-yellow, and rust-red. In Greek mythology, Iris is the Goddess of the Rainbow, and our new iris will be a rainbow of beauty. The bloom times cover the early, mid, and late seasons, which for iris is May to June. We will plant them behind the new redbuds in The Historical Society Garden, in the sunny area near the Herb Garden at the lower end of the garden.

It is sad to say “good bye” to a friend. The new iris bed will serve as a nice remembrance of Les.

A Rainbow of Iris

2020 Donation to the Historical Society Garden of Bearded Iris to Honor Les Roslund.



Batik



Doodads



Peach Royale



Strange Brew



Rush Creek

Photos courtesy of Pat McNeal of Good Life Gardens.