



The American Iris Society

News & Notes

February 7 2017

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Coming to Des Moines Soon - Rhythm of the Prairie

Welcome to the 44th regular issue of the **AIS News & Notes**. Please let us know what you would like to see here. And if you have notes you would like to add, or you would like to become a reporter, please let us know! You can contact either [Bob Pries](#) or [Wayne Messer](#) with your comments or interest.

Silent Auction Requests

Silent Auction & Hybridizers

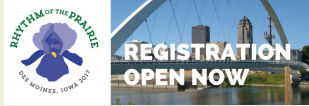
When you go to the great [2017 AIS Convention in Iowa](#), be sure to come to the **Silent Auction** room.

Shopping in our array of iris and garden items, books, shirts, bags and new iris rhizomes is always a fun part of the whole iris scene. But to make it even more fun we need your help! Silent Auction Chairs, Debbie and Nick would like to ask a favor of all of you. We need you to clean out those bulging closets and donate your lovely extras to us for our silent auction please! Sometimes we need to do our spring cleaning in the wintery months. So, to help us out please click [here](#) for more info.



'Basket Of Goodies'

The hybridizers are posting beautiful photos of their 2017 iris on Facebook and they have their catalogs on line and soon to be in the mail. The AIS Silent Auction is asking our hybridizers to donate to the Silent Auction. We would love to have a few of their new (or newer) iris to put out on the row with beautiful garden posters for our attendee bidders! This is one of the favorite places for them to bid on. Thank you hybridizers. See the last paragraph [here](#) for information.



It is still quiet in the host gardens and snow is arriving overnight. Which is just what our irises enjoy.

Behind the scenes volunteers are hard at work preparing another great **AIS Convention** for you. Right now they are processing the continuing flow of registrations. You can join the visitors and the fun; find the [registration form here](#). That page also contains the information needed for making hotel reservations and for signing up for the **Geek Dinner**.

All the happenings and schedules can be found on [this page](#). The schedule is updated as more information becomes available so check back often.

And to find all the information, start with the [2017 Convention homepage](#). There you will find the [host gardens' information](#) and [speakers](#) as they are announced.

You can help us prepare as well. See the [Silent Auction requests](#) elsewhere in this issue. Interested in volunteering in other ways - let Kelly Norris know kellydn@frontiernet.net

Thank you for your help! See you in Des Moines, Iowa May 23-27.

Quick Links

[AIS Website](#)

[AIS Facebook](#)

[AIS Blog](#)

[Iris Encyclopedia](#)

[News & Notes Archive](#)

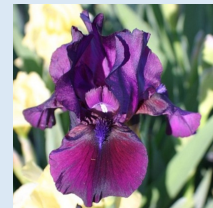
[Read AISDiscuss Archives](#)

Region Baskets

Hello Region Vice Presidents and all local iris societies! The fun Silent Auctions at the American Iris Society National Conventions always have an element that many of our attendees always look forward to. They are the Raisin' Region Baskets!! These are "baskets" that are put together by the different regions in the American Iris Society. This is coordinated by the RVP from each region, but the items come from the different local iris societies in their region. The members gather up, or purchase items that are unique to their area of the country and give them to the RVPs and they fill a basket or a bag, or a can, or an ice chest....and wrap it up pretty and donate it to the AIS Silent Auction. AIS appreciates everyone who participates and so do our bidders! For more info check [here](#).

MIS Convention Deadline February 15

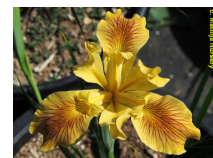
You don't want to miss this! The [Median Iris Society](#) invites you to attend the **Median Iris Rules Supreme** in Lafayette, Indiana on May 18-20 and we really want you there. It is going to be amazing in the gardens and fabulous at the hotel in-between. Check out [this article with all the details](#) and get those registration forms in fast. You can find the [updated registration form here](#), and note that it shows the early registration deadline was **extended to February 15th!**



'Cherry Supreme'

Advertising in the Irises Bulletin - Next Deadline February 15th

Having just received the [great Winter edition of the Irises Bulletin](#), I'm reminded that means deadlines for the next edition are close at hand. So note the **cutoff date for display ads in the Spring edition of IRISES is Feb 15**. If you plan to place a display ad in this edition, please send your ad to the editor and your check payable to AIS to Ron Killingsworth.



'Garden Delight'

Let him know if he can help in any way.

Again, the CUTOFF is Feb 15th!

Thank you for supporting AIS with your advertising dollars.

Ron Killingsworth, Adv Editor, IRISES, 10329 Caddo Lake Rd, Mooringsport, LA 71060 retmiagt@gmail.com.

Attend Your First Board Teleconference

[EMembers Login](#)

[Types of Irises](#)

[Arl Society
International](#)

[Dwarf Iris Society](#)

[Median Iris Society](#)

[Tall Bearded Iris
Society](#)

[Society for Japanese
Irises](#)

[Society for Louisiana
Irises](#)

[Society for Pacific
Coast Native Iris](#)

[Society for Siberian
Irises](#)

[Species Iris Group of
North America](#)

[Spuria Iris Society](#)

Interests

[Historic Iris
Preservation Society](#)

[Reblooming Iris
Society](#)

[Novelty Iris Society](#)

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Something exciting the Board of Directors is doing. Their first teleconference will be open to everyone! As is true with their Board meetings at the Convention and in the Fall, **everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.**



'First Contact'

Gary White had this news in his **President's Message in the latest Irises Bulletin.** It will take place late February or early March. The details will be posted on [the AIS website news page](#). That page is always a good place to look for recent AIS news. So check it frequently to find the teleconference details and then join the teleconference.

Where to See Irises This Spring

In addition to the [2017 Convention](#), AIS offers many opportunities to see irises in gardens and shows this year. From the **Irises Bulletin Winter 2017 on page 27, Section Conventions:**



'Wonderful To See'

- [Society for Louisiana Irises](#) - April 20-22, Addison, TX
- [Spuria Iris Convention](#) - May 5-6, Los Angeles, CA
- [MIS Mini Convention](#) - May 18-20, Lafayette, IN
- [Society for Japanese Irises](#) - June 23-25, Seattle, WA

You can also find tours at some [Region Spring Meetings](#). And the [approved iris shows are listed here by date](#). Don't forget all the public gardens, display gardens, and local gardens. We do not have a complete list of these; however, one place to start is the [Iris Encyclopedia Gardens Web](#). Have we missed any? Please let us know wrmesser@gmail.com.

Enjoy all the irises!

Clubs New and Renew

While now is the time for local clubs to renew their AIS affiliation, **new clubs can submit an application to join at any time.**

In each case the club president sends the Affiliation Application Form **to their RVP**. Clubs certify that all officers are AIS members and renewing clubs pay a small fee for their certification. Certification ensures that your shows are recognized by the AIS and that winners can be given AIS medals.



'Renewal'

Your club president should already have been contacted by your RVP with the new application form. If you have, please get the form back to them as soon as possible. If you have not, please contact your RVP for the forms. It's important to complete this process by the middle of March to guarantee that your shows are fully sanctioned by the

AIS.

New Clubs: Find out more about [forming a new club here](#). All kinds of advice.

Note: The 2016 Affiliation Application Forms are available [online here](#) (PDF). As updated forms become available, the [link should be on this page](#).

Ackerman Essay Due March 21

The **Ackerman Essay Contest** is an annual contest for AIS Youth Members. This year's topic is "**Tell me about your 2017 iris introduction**". **The deadline is March 21st, 2017** with the winners announced at the AIS National Convention.



'Ack-Countable'

All the details are on **page 38 of the Winter 2016 Irises Bulletin** or you can see them [here](#). Entries can be emailed as attachments to draycott@qis.net or mailed to the address shown.

Learn more about the AIS Youth Members programs and activities on the [AIS Youth website](#).

Winter Iris Gardening and Winter Iris

Tom Waters had a popular **World of Irises** post "[Winter Iris Gardening](#)" which we covered in a previous issue of News & Notes. Another source I've seen since then is **Schreiner's** [What to do this month in the iris garden](#), which reiterates some of Tom's suggestions for this time of year and includes other seasons as well.



One thing missing from both of these was the topic of winter iris, iris that bloom in the winter. **Bryce Williamson** has just filled this void with his **World of Irises** post "[The Winter Flowering Iris Unguicularis](#)". In addition to telling about and showing you I. unguicularis, he points to a couple of sources in the U.S. for plants! If you are starting from seed, **SIGNA** sometimes has I. unguicularis in its Seed Sale. It is underway now and, last I checked, there were [seeds still listed](#) (link is to the complete seed list).

As you might expect, the **Iris Encyclopedia** has additional information. You can [start here for an overview](#) (and more photos) or use this [search to find all with unguicularis](#) in the title.

Last minute update: A second Bryce Williamson post "[The Winter Flowering Iris, Part 2](#)" to learn more.

SIGNA Seed Exchange Is Open

It's that time of year again; time to

think about iris seeds. And the **Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA)** is helping you. Their annual Seed Exchange (Seed Sale) is underway.



While only members are eligible to purchase seeds, you can join as you make your purchase. Current members should have the list in their mailboxes and it is available online as well. The details about their seed exchange are [here](#). You are able to [order \(and join\) on this page](#). Note that they are accepting orders thru April 1st. Some seeds from previous years are still available, which anyone can order [here](#). Learn more about species of iris on the [SIGNA website](#).

'Jin Yu' - 2015
Founders of
SIGNA Medal

Who knows, you could be planting a future medal winner! That's how '[Jin Yu](#)' (shown above) came about. Seeds from SIGNA!

Lost In 2016?

One way of identifying irises that may be or may become extinct is from the **HIPS** (Historic Iris Preservation Society) Databank of what historic irises members have in their gardens. They found **about 80 irises disappeared off the Databank list in 2016**. We now have no idea if any members are growing these irises. Please take a look at the [list of "lost irises"](#) and if you have any of them, let Lori know! We know many of them are out there, we just don't know where. You'll find a link to the list on our [Member Databank page](#).



'Lost For Words'

Note: This topic was in the first **HIPS Newsletter** dated 1-23-2017. If you are a HIPS member and did not receive the email newsletter, please let them know. If you are not a HIPS member, this is another reason to consider joining, which you can [do here](#). [Learn more about HIPS](#) and all their great programs.

While looking for the iris to illustrate this item, I was reminded of something on the **Iris Encyclopedia** as well. There is a Lost and Found page where [you can let everyone know what irises you are looking for](#). Another resource for your iris quests.

A Medal Winning Iris Jigsaw

This contribution from Jacob Sass won the [American Dykes Medal](#) in 1948. It is '[Ola Kala](#)' (1942). You can learn more about "[The Curse of 'Ola Kala](#)" in the **World of Irises** posting by **Mike Unser**.



Enjoy finding 'Ola Kala' in the [standard difficulty jigsaw](#) and/or the [harder difficulty jigsaw](#).

Become an Emember

If you are already a member, you might consider adding an **American Iris Society** Emembership. This is a way for you to show additional support for AIS. For just \$15 a year, in addition to your regular membership charge, you have online access to **Irises**, including all the back issues of it and the **AIS Bulletin**, the **Registration & Introductions** database, and you help to support our online initiatives! Find out more [here](#). And you will qualify for the **AIS Voucher Program** described in earlier issues.



The Emembers Login link can now be found in the Quick Links in the left column. You will need your username and password which comes from the AIS Membership Secretary (aismemsec@irises.org).