



The American Iris Society

News & Notes

September 25 2017

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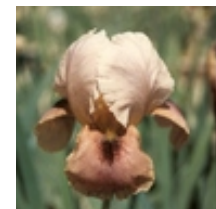
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2018 AIS/SLI NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION UPDATE

Welcome to the 51st 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.

2019 Bearded and Beardless Guest Irises Request

The 2019 AIS Convention is now **accepting both bearded and beardless** guest irises. They will accept them, and list them in the convention booklet, **until November 1st**. After the 1st, please contact Riley Probst before sending additional guest irises.



'Special Guest'

Ship guest plants to:

Riley Probst, Guest Iris Chairman
27 01 Fine Ave
Modesto, CA 95355

Other details, except for the dates, can be found [here](#). Remember, **seedlings are eligible to be competing to be named Centennial Irises!** Check the [Centennial details to learn more](#).

New Iris Merchandise Available in CafePress



Dear friends,

We're happy to announce that the 2018 Convention Committee has updated our website for the 2018 AIS/SLI New Orleans Conventions: www.2018irisconvention.org.

The website contains complete information on the Convention hotel, the registration form, the menus for the scheduled hotel dinners, the Convention Boutique, detailed information on the fantastic Southern Louisiana gardens that are part of the Convention tours (with pictures to inspire you), and much, much more. We will soon be adding information about the Geek Dinner, and the meeting schedule.

Please visit the website to register for the convention, and also to share its content with family and friends. We really appreciate it.

Plan on joining us in the beautiful and historic city of New Orleans, Louisiana in 2018. Hope to see you there.

Thank you,

2018 Convention Committee

Quick Links

[AIS Website](#)

[AIS Facebook](#)

[AIS Blog](#)

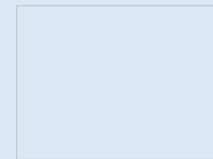
[Iris Encyclopedia](#)

[News & Notes Archive](#)

[Read AISDiscuss Archives](#)

[EMembers Login](#)

Order a variety of merchandise from our AIS Cafe Press Store featuring items with **2017 Dykes Medal winner 'Montmartre'**. All proceeds support the work of AIS: t-shirts, bags, jewelry, and lots more.



AIS has [several other iris design collections to choose](#) from. I hate to say this; but, it is not too early to start thinking about Christmas.

Recognizing the New Hybridizers Class of 2016

Every year there are hybridizers who register their first iris in the **Iris Register**. Thanks to Betsy Higgins we now have a page in the **Iris Encyclopedia** recognizing the new hybridizers from 2010 through 2016.



'Where Dreams Begin'

Quoting Betsy, "in 2016 there were 34 new hybridizers from 7 countries. We welcome you all and hope you will continue your hybridizing efforts." You can [see the 2016 and earlier new hybridizers here](#). And the list of hybridizers contains links to a hybridizer page for each hybridizer so you can see subsequent irises they registered.

Congratulations to all these hybridizers! Thank you for your irises and your inspiration. If your name was inadvertently omitted from any of the years included in the list, please notify Betsy Higgins at BHiggins881@bellsouth.net.

Thank you Betsy for creating this. It is a great example of how the Iris Encyclopedia (otherwise known as the Iris Wiki) can be expanded to provide new information.

Centennial Timeline Survey

As part of preparing for the **AIS 2020 Centennial**, Andi Rivarola has a quick survey asking **what are the most important events/achievements in the history of AIS**. You can [add your thoughts to the survey by following this link](#).

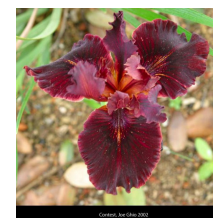


'Centennial Hall'

Thank you for participating in the survey! Watch for additional details on upcoming Centennial events.

Everyone Wins

A contest for one month where everyone wins - you, AIS, and the gardening public. **Create a single PowerPoint slide on a benefit of being an AIS member.** And if you don't PowerPoint, just draw us a slide, or describe how it would look and send that in.



'Contest'

Entries will not be judged! The

Types of Irises

Aril 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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winner will be chosen by a random drawing. All entries become available to everyone to incorporate in their presentations, publications, and general knowledge. [Details and legal mumbo jumbo here.](#)

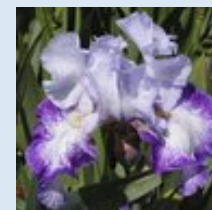
Enter through October 31st by email to wrmesser@gmail.com or by mail to Wayne Messer, PO Box 64 Huxley, IA 50124. Even verbally to 515-597-4240, we're easy.

Questions or comments? Contact Wayne Messer wrmesser@gmail.com and I will make up an answer.

Enter early and often! No limit on the number of times you may enter.

Fall Meetings

There still are a number of **Fall Regional Meetings** ahead. Attend yours and then [select another few from this list](#). Always much iris wisdom to learn and share!



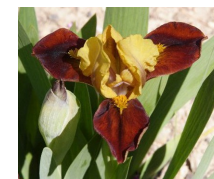
'Council Meeting'

The AIS Fall Board meeting is approaching. This year it is **November 3rd and 4th in Dallas, Texas**. Use this [registration form](#) for the meeting. The form also has contact information for the hotel for the special rate. Cut-off date for meeting registration and the special room rate is October 10th.

While waiting for the Board meeting, you can attend the **Board teleconference Wednesday, September 27th**. This will be the final monthly teleconference before Dallas. Details will be in [AIS Discuss September](#) and/or on the [AIS News page](#). The call-in information should be the same (except for the date) as [this one](#) for the August 30th teleconference. **All members are encouraged to attend and participate in both teleconferences and the Dallas meeting.**

Calling All Youth - Ackerman Essay

CALLING ALL YOUTH! As a member of The American Iris Society you are a very important group. You are a very impressive 459 strong! AIS and the AIS Foundation sponsor an exciting activity for you that even has awards. It is the *Youth Ackerman Essay* contest. This year you have the opportunity to consider what the first president of AIS thought about iris then put your spin on why his statement is true. I am announcing the 2018 theme and deadline for the Ackerman Essay Contest. It is:



'Gallant Youth'

The first president of the American iris Society, John C. Wister said, "The iris is the mainstay of the hardy garden". Write three examples of why you agree with him.

There are two age groups. One is 12 years and under and the other is 13-18 years old. And of course, there are some rules. Essays should be written in **500 words or less**. The deadline for getting the essay finished and sent in to me is **February 15, 2018**.

You can see [this and further details here](#).

Mail your essay to:

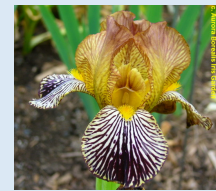
Debbie Strauss
2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland, TX 79707
Email: debbie@loveirises.com
432-352-5483

Or send as an attachment to me at debbie@loveirises.com. If you have any questions feel free to email or call me.

Sincerely,
Debbie

More on the 2017 Awards from World of Irises

The Blog of The American Iris Society, [World of Irises](#), continued its series focusing on each of the winners. Rather than list them individually, I'll point you to this [list of the most recent 100 posts from World of Irises](#). Right now most of the ones at the top of the list are to the winners. Note that the list is automatically updated when new posts are added so the award posts will slowly move down the list.



'Moose Tracks'

Congratulations to all the winners! And thank you Susanne Holland Spicker for this series.

2018 Calendars Reminder

Something I recently learned: [Clarence Mahan gave AIS calendars as Christmas gifts](#). You can follow this tradition! The **2018 AIS Calendars** are available through the [AIS Storefront](#).



See the calendars and other iris gifts for Christmas, or for yourself, [here](#).

The Search Is On for Don Shepard Irises!!

The [Prescott Area Iris Society](#) (PAIS) in Prescott, AZ is currently expanding the plantings in the [Sculpture Garden at Yavapai College](#) in Prescott, Arizona. The Garden areas are being expanded to honor Arizona Iris Hybridizers. We are **currently looking for Bearded Irises and Spurias hybridized by Don Shepard** at the old Shepard Iris Garden in Phoenix, AZ. PAIS is attempting to



'Arizona Citrus'

create a National Collection of these very elusive Irises. If you have any of these irises hybridized by Don Shepard please contact Dennis Luebkin, at 623-980-6627 or dluebkin@q.com.

See the link below for names of Don Shepard irises:
<http://wiki.irises.org/bin/view/Main/Bio/HybridizerShepardDL>

Thank you for your assistance

Dennis Luebkin
PAIS President

A Budding Guest Jigsaw Puzzle

The AIS 2017 Convention guest irises provided plenty of photos to create jigsaw puzzles. This month is one of them, although the photo was from a 2016 bloom. It is '[Bud To Blossom](#)' a TB by Lauer (2015).



Enjoy the [standard difficulty jigsaw](#). And/or play 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).