



# The American Iris Society

News & Notes

March 11 2018

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## Spring Meetings Start Soon



c. Aurora Borealis Iris Gdn.

'Start Of Something Big'

In addition to enjoying your own gardens, there are many ways to enjoy irises this time of year. We cover some of

**Welcome** to the 56th 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.

## CONVENTION TOURS ALMOST SOLD OUT

We're so very happy with the enthusiasm demonstrated by both AIS and SLI members as shown by their early registration for the [2018 Convention in New Orleans](#) -- we are thrilled beyond measure, but unfortunately we have -- almost -- reached a point that we're having to stop selling garden tour tickets.



'Word Of Warning'

Some of the garden tours have space limitations for the number of buses they can handle at a time, and some also have space limitations for the number of people that can be accommodated for lunch. We will start a **waiting list** once the garden tours have reached their limit, and will allow people to register for garden tours if cancellations are received by the registrar. Those affected will be notified immediately.

We are sorry for the inconvenience, but we had to limit the number of people that can attend each of the garden tours per the above reasons. We hope you understand, and that you will continue to make plans to attend the Convention; you won't want to miss many of the

these in other parts of News & Notes. See the [2018 New Orleans Convention notice](#), the [Iris Shows notice](#), and the [Board notice](#). Okay, for that last one, you are unlikely to see irises in the Board meeting; they will be in the area.

There is also a great lineup of Region Spring Meetings. It begins next weekend in **Salt Lake City, Utah (Region 12)** and continues through the first weekend in June when **Region 6 has its meeting in Lansing, Michigan**.

Several of the meetings are also combined with mini-Conventions:

- [Aril Trek April 6-7, 2018 Las Cruces, New Mexico](#) - you do need to **get your registration in soon!**
- [Region 13 Spring / TBIS Spring Meeting May 11-13, 2018 Salem, Oregon](#)
- [Region 4 is hosting the Silver Siberian and Species Convention May 25-26, 2018 Hunt Valley, Maryland](#)

All the meetings are [collected here with links to details or who to contact](#) for more information. If you know of others, please let us know ([wrmesser@gmail.com](mailto:wrmesser@gmail.com)).

## Quick Links

[AIS Website](#)

[AIS Facebook](#)

[AIS Blog](#)

[Iris Encyclopedia](#)

[News & Notes Archive](#)

[AISDiscuss Archives 2005-Nov 2017](#)

[Read AISDiscuss](#)

important scheduled events that are other-than garden tours.

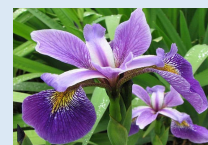
Also, New Orleans is a very beautiful city and is [celebrating its 300th Anniversary](#) this year; [there's lots to do in and around](#), and if you're in town, there will be many activities attached to this celebration that you may want to take part of.

Thank you,

**2018 Convention Committee**

## SIGNA Reminders

The annual **SIGNA (Species Iris Group of North America) Seed Sale** is underway. It's a great opportunity to acquire some new irises inexpensively. Learn more about [all the choices here](#). You can join or renew your SIGNA membership as you purchase the seeds. **They are accepting orders through April 1st.**



'Ruth Wilder'

SIGNA also has a number of **volunteer opportunities** including helping with the Seed Sale. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Will Plotner [gardens@molalla.net](mailto:gardens@molalla.net). **Thank you for your help.**

## Seeking Adventurous Geographically Challenged Clubs

**Adventurous geographically challenged guinea pigs might be a more accurate description!**

The distances, and associated expense, between clubs (and members) create many difficulties. Finding speakers and finding judges for judges training and judging are the most common problems I hear about distances.



'Olympic Challenge'

**How can we help you with this challenge?** I want to work with you to create some answers. My belief is the communication technologies available now are good enough for handling a remote presentation. We have seen remote participation both at the Board meetings at conventions and at our local club meetings. We should be able to turn that around, have the program speaker remotely presenting to your club.

**Presentation details:** The talk will be "**Using the Iris Encyclopedia**" with both PowerPoint slides and a live demonstration. Interested in the topic, the concept, and trying something new? Email me at [wrmesser@gmail.com](mailto:wrmesser@gmail.com). Comments and suggestions too, please.

**One more question:** Have you done or are you aware of others in AIS doing this? Or in your other groups? Please let me know as well.

[EMembers Login](#)

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[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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## Happy Birthday World of Irises

The AIS blog [World of Irises](#) turns seven this year. **March 9th, 2011 was when we first saw it.** Here is [the very first post](#). And here is the (currently) most recent [New Color Combinations in Plicatas 2](#) by Keith Keppel.



It had and continues to have a great lineup of contributors! You can see the current members in the left hand column of the blog. And you can see how those stood on the [fifth anniversary in this short video](#).

There have been an amazing range and number of topics covered. No matter what your iris interests, you can expect to find it in the 574 (and counting) posts. This [list of the most recent 100 posts](#) gives some indication of what you will see.

**Thank you to all the outstanding contributors! We really enjoy and appreciate your contributions.**

## Iris Shows Galore

It's Spring! Well, almost. Which means it soon will be iris show season. And you can now begin to plan your visits to all of the shows.

To help you, we have a [list of the already approved shows arranged by date](#). It is regularly updated as new shows are added, so check back often.



'Honey Galore'

**Show Committees:** Please send your show schedules to Lois Rose ([lowy222@aol.com](mailto:lowy222@aol.com)) in plenty of time for approval. Learn more about the steps [here](#). Also, Nick Stewart will be traveling March 14-21 and April 9-14, so get your supplies order to Nick ASAP after receiving your approval from Lois so your order doesn't get delayed by Nick's travel.

This year we are also trying something new to help keep you informed during the process. You can see a [spreadsheet here that has a list of the approved shows](#). It is arranged by show number, which is assigned as Lois approves the show. After your show, it will include when the show report was received, when medals were shipped (if medals were requested), when ECs were sent, and possibly some other notes depending on how processing of each report occurs. Please check it out and let us know if it is helpful.

## Hear or See the Board of Directors Meetings

The next teleconference of the AIS Board is **Wednesday, March 28th, 8 pm Eastern, 7 pm Central, 6 pm Mountain, 5 pm Pacific**. As before, everyone is



invited to participate by phone or video. You can use Zoom on your computer or smart phone to see others or phone in to hear the meeting. General details for obtaining Zoom (free) and how to connect are [here](#). Specific instructions for each meeting are posted to [AIS Discuss](#) shortly before the meeting.



'Welcome Aboard'

Attend the Board meeting in **New Orleans Sunday evening and Monday** as well. You can [download the printable schedule from this page](#) to see the times.

**All members are encouraged to attend and participate in all Board meetings!**

## Clubs Survey - Reminder, Results, and Follow-up

Last month kicked off a survey asking "**How is your club doing?**" Thank you to everyone that has already answered! Your comments and suggestions are most thought provoking.



'Fresh Notes'

If you have not yet taken the survey, you can [go here to start](#). Or see the questions (5) and one of the answers beforehand by [going to this link](#).

Also, if you have not taken the survey yet, please do not read the next paragraph until after taking the survey... Just kidding; however, it does have some of the current answers.

Some of the answers have not been surprising; only the number of times we heard them was surprising. Programs, members, and volunteers were the big three. Some were suggestions for these and others were calls for more help.

**Finally, follow-up. What do we do next?** There are many great suggestions! Please keep them coming! We would like to experiment with as many of them as soon as possible. The first experiment is found in [this issue of News & Notes here](#). For others, we will need more volunteers and guinea pigs to help us flesh out the ideas and try them. You are encouraged to volunteer early to get the best seats! Email [wrmesser@gmail.com](mailto:wrmesser@gmail.com) to let us know of your interest.

We will have an initial report for the Board of Directors meeting in New Orleans. You should be able to see that shortly before then posted somewhere in AIS DOCS. Expect to see a [message in AIS Discuss](#) telling where to find all the reports as they are posted before the meeting.

**Thank you for your participation and your continued interest!**

## Post Convention Jigsaw Puzzle

One of the 2017 Convention guest irises which waited to bloom until after the Convention. Which is where this photo came from. ['Beverly Ann'](#) (R. J. Smith 2014) is a colorful border bearded.



Enjoy the [standard difficulty puzzle](#) and the [harder difficulty puzzle](#).

## 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](mailto:aismemsec@irises.org)).