The American Iris Society

News & Notes **August 25 2020**

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Welcome to the 82nd 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 Wayne Messer with your comments or interest.

Membership Survey

'Attention Please'

What irises do you prefer?
How long have you been growing irises?

These are some of the questions in our Membership Survey.
Please fill out the following survey so we can get to know you and serve you better.
We appreciate your cooperation.
Individual answers will be kept confidential.
https://forms.gle/xeT3gmDXe6WUfvDD7

Andi Rivarola
For the AIS Membership Development Committee

Summer Webinar Series Concludes September 2nd

2021 Convention Updates

The last of the 2020 AIS Summer Webinar Series will be Wednesday, September 2nd beginning at 5:30 p.m. Pacific time.

The speaker is **Jody Nolin and the subject is "Species Irises".** This is another opportunity for judges to receive official AIS training. Complete details, including a link to register will be shared with you in a separate announcement on Friday, August 28th.

Notes: Judges Training sessions is an AIS designation for presentations that can be taken as part of the requirements for becoming an accredited AIS judge or remaining a judge. They are also offered to everyone for education and enjoyment purposes. **Those needing judges training credit are required to take a test.** Everyone else is welcome to take the test for their own reasons.

Members of AIS, AIS Affiliates, and AIS Sections, are eligible to attend these webinars FREE of charge. For those who are not AIS members, please request an invite by writing to: AISwebinars@gmail.com. **Please share these notices with your groups**. You need to become an AIS member to become a judge with The American Iris Society.

Quick Links

AIS Website

Many of you have been inquiring about registration for the **2021 AIS Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico**. Because of the pandemic, registration details have not been finalized. You can check the latest updates on the 2021 Convention website.

Learn more about the 2021 Convention and its setting in this video.

Las Cruces
New Mexico
April 12-17

Guest Irises and Other Iris Opportunities

A reminder that guest irises for the **2023 Louisiana and Spuria Iris Joint Mini-Convention in Dallas, Texas** are now being accepted. Up to three rhizomes of each variety will be accepted between **September 1 and September 30, 2020**. Complete details can be found in the Winter 2020 *Irises Bulletin* on page 21.

'Opportunity'

The Summer 2020 *Irises Bulletin* has two iris submission invitations on page 21.

The first is for participation in the 2023 International Iris Competition in Florence (that is a link to the Italian version, see also the English version via Google Translate). The rules can be found in this English PDF. Applications should be received between September 1 and September 30.

There also is an invitation to send **TBs and SDBs for evaluation in Munich and Muencheberg, Germany**. While they are ready to receive entries from July to September, **August is the preferred time**.

2021 Ackerman Essay Contest

2021: IRIS PARTY TIME!

'Start The Party'

It was the 100th Anniversary of the American Iris Society in 2020! But we all know lots of events had to be canceled to keep us healthy, so let's look forward to 2021 and celebrating together then! The AIS Foundation sponsors the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest every year. All AIS youth can practice their writing skills by following the year's theme and writing a creative response to it. The 2021 theme challenges you to create a specific plan. Be sure to answer all of the parts of the prompt when you write. This year's theme is:

"It was the 100th Anniversary of the American Iris Society in 2020! But we all know lots of events had to be canceled to keep us healthy, so let's look forward to 2021 and celebrating together then! Imagine that you have been asked to plan a special 100+1 anniversary event for your hometown. How would you celebrate irises and AIS with your friends, family, and

AIS Facebook

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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

::

neighbors? What activities would you plan to share your love of irises with your community?"

This is a special opportunity for you to plan a once-in-a-lifetime iris party for your town. How many 101-year anniversary parties have you been to?! You will need to do some research and planning before you start writing, because this should be a really big elaborate celebration. Remember, the goal is to celebrate iris and the love we all have for them. As you write, paint us a picture of your celebration; make the reader feel like they are there! Remember you are planning these activities to show everyone in your community how much you love iris.

Essays should be written in 500 words or less. The deadline for getting the essay finished and submitted to me is **March 22, 2021**. Mail your essay to:

Debbie Strauss
2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland TX 79707

Or, you may send your essay as an email attachment to debbie@loveirises.com

Complete details can be found here.

If you have any questions, again, please feel free to email me or call me.

Sincerely,
Debbie

Debbie Strauss
AIS Ackerman Essay Contest Chair

Louisiana Iris Propagation Initiative

A new issue of ***Bayou and Marsh*** has been published by the Greater New Orleans Iris Society.

The major topic is the Propagation Initiative - a Conservation and Education Program. This is the next phase of their mission to"preserve the native forms of Louisiana iris" and to promote them through public plantings and other activities.

The complete issue is available to download and enjoy.

Anniversary Medals Now Available in the AIS Storefront

The replacement AIS 100th Anniversary Medals are now available for purchase from the AIS Storefront. Price $12.00 each.

DONATION NEWS FROM THE AIS FOUNDATION

'Foundation'

The Foundation is now accepting donations via PayPal, in addition to checks and credit card payments.

Attached is an updated form (pdf) for your donations. If you want to pay by PayPal, please include your email address on the form. I must have this to process your PayPal invoice.

Thanks,

Jill Bonino
AIS Foundation Secretary/Treasurer

Next Teleconference August 26th

'Hidden Agenda'

The next AIS Board teleconference is **Wednesday, August 26th beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern, 7 p.m. Central, 6 p.m. Mountain, 5 p.m. Pacific**. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. Details can be found here.

The agenda includes several exciting topics. You can find all the reports for this meeting and the minutes from the previous meeting here.

Hope to see you all at the teleconference!

REMEMBER BRENT & BECKY'S BULBS??

'Becky's Dream'

The AIS promoted a program a few years ago as a fundraiser for the Society if our members purchased plants and bulbs from Brent & Becky's Bulbs of Gloucester, VA.

Well, we are still doing it!

If you make a purchase from Brent & Becky's AND

..... include in the Comments section of the order that you want your purchase to benefit the American Iris Society,

.....THE AIS WILL RECEIVE A CHECK FOR 25% OF YOUR ORDER!!

Fall planting season is coming up soon...Check out their website at www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com .
I've ordered twice this year and they have most everything!!

Jill Bonino, Treasurer

The Daily Iris Puzzle Continues

Thank you everyone for your concern when the Daily Iris Puzzle unexpectedly paused for a few days. The derecho took out our power,phone, and internet; otherwise we did well.

You can continue to find the Daily Iris Puzzle on the Iris Encyclopedia with links to standard difficulty and harder difficulty puzzles. And on Saturdays find an additional Super Hard version of the garden picture - 300 pieces, the most they offer.

Thank you to everyone for your gardens and irises photos. Please keep them coming; send to Wayne Messer wrmesser@gmail.com .

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).