



The American Iris Society

News & Notes January 25 2021



AIS 2021 Winter Webinar Series

For February we have two webinars by Professor Carol Wilson of the University of California, Berkley. Join us the first two Wednesdays of February at **5:30 p.m. Pacific**. Topics are:

February 3rd - **The Philosophy and Methods of Discovering and Naming New Species:an Example From the Irises of**



MIS Miniconvention Still On and Other MIS News

Happy 2021 to you all! I am excited to know we can start getting vaccinated against this horrible virus. It may take some time and much patience, but I hope you all continue to wear your masks and stay as safe as possible. Get that vaccine as soon as you can. I was in the hospital for a week with COVID, and it was a horrible disease.

I am happy to tell you that we have a new Seed Exchange Chair- Dr. Kimberly Rieniets, who is reorganizing our seed sale & donation

China.

February 10th - **Our Desire for Order: Historical Taxonomic Understanding of Iris and Current Hypotheses of Evolutionary Relationships (phylogenies).**

An announcement with registration details for each webinar will be sent the Friday before the webinar. Complete details can be found [here](#).

program, and is now in the process of collecting seeds for sharing. You can get all the information about how to donate and how to purchase on our webpage at http://www.medianiris.com/mis_seedsale.html

We also have a volunteer to be 1st VP. They will be up for approval by the Executive Board soon. I am so thankful for volunteers like you!

MIS still needs a fundraising chair. The job involves coming up with ideas to raise money for the general maintenance fund of the MIS. 2021 is already taken care of thanks to the MIS Convention and I already have an idea for 2022 thanks to Paul Black. Our new chair would work closely with him and organize the fundraiser. One the perks of being the fundraising chair is getting to work with awesome median iris hybridizers. It is such a rewarding experience. Please someone out there step up and help us out. It really is a fun job, and takes someone with spark, creativity, and organizational skills. I can't wait to hear from you!

From the MIS Convention Committee from Oklahoma City Iris Society:

Rerun in 2021: Median Iris Convention, April 22-24, 2021 in Oklahoma City is still going to happen. The gardens are all looking great and we expect to have wonderful bloom. Please keep us on your calendar and send in your registration before March 21, 2021. We will follow all COVID regulations mandated by the state of Oklahoma. We hope you will all be able to get your vaccinations. Stay safe and dream of Median Iris blooming everywhere! Come Join Us! Go to this [link to register](#).

I hope to hear from some of you with ideas for articles to put in the Medianite and to announce good median iris news from across the country. Please contact me with any information you want to share, or if you are interested in being our MIS fundraising chair. My phone number is 432-352-5483 and my email is debbie@loveirises.com.



Invitation - The 2nd Photographic Contest of "The Iris World"

You are invited to enter [The 2nd Photographic Contest of "The Iris World"](#). Hosted by Circolo Fotografico "Citta de Thiene" and Ana Montegrappa S.Giorgio di Perlana, the deadline for entries is March 28, 2021. This [entry form](#) has complete details (English PDF).

The above photo of '[Alpha Project](#)' was one of last year's winners. Two others can be found [here](#).



Foster Irises National Collection

A great-great-granddaughter of [Sir Michael Foster](#) has created a National Collection of his irises. Lucy Skellorn's work is featured in this [Gardens Illustrated article](#).



New Book Coming from Kevin Vaughn

[Hybridizer Kenin Vaughn's](#) Facebook posting:

Good news! I just sent my book "Dwarf and Median Irises: Jewels of the Iris World" to be published. It has ~200 pages of text and 200 images. It should come out in May. Schiffer will be publishing it and in a similar (but longer) format that they did my beardless iris book. It's been fun reading all the years of DIS Portfolios and MIS Medianites in



2021 Ackerman Essay

This year's theme is:

"Imagine that you have been asked to plan a special 100+1 AIS anniversary event for your hometown. How would you celebrate irises and AIS with your friends, family, and 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

preparation. What a great way to spend the pandemic! A very complete coverage of hybridizing too including genetics of medians and dwarfs.

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. Complete [details can be found here](#).

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.



No January Board Teleconference

I know you are all waiting eagerly for the next AIS Board Teleconference. Unfortunately, there is not one this January.

The next teleconference will be Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5 p.m. Pacific. We will have details in the February News & Notes and on the AIS website News page [here](#). As always, everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.



SIGNA Seed Sale and Volunteer Opportunities

[SIGNA](#) is on track to host our annual seed sale again in February. An email will go out announcing the opening of the sale on the SIGNA website. Anyone who wants to receive a printed copy of the list can contact us (see below). The list will also be available for download on the web site. We've had a donation of some other irids that have not been offered in some time.

Our current treasurer would like to retire so we are now in need of a new treasurer as well as an editor for the SIGNA Journal and a

vice-president. Please consider volunteering to help keep our organization viable. It's uncertain if there will be a winter issue of the Journal unless we can find an editor soon.

Finally, SIGNA has a couple of new email addresses. Signamemsec@gmail.com is the new address for membership and general SIGNA business. Membership renewal notices will come from that address. Signa.news43@gmail.com will be used to distribute the e-Journal. Please add these to the list of allowed addresses if your email system filters incoming mail. You can still contact the Rodney at his personal address, rbartontx@yahoo.com.



Membership Materials – Keeping Them Fresh

With new AIS membership choices in 2021, it's a good time to pitch outdated membership applications and recruitment materials.

Affiliates, Regions, Sections, and Membership Chairs are encouraged to update newsletters, websites (consider adding a [link to the AIS membership page](#)), and any other recruitment materials with the newest membership and payment options.

Updating the mailing address is particularly important since the USPS mail forwarding service is expiring soon.

2021 Iris Shows Are Being Planned and Approved

1. Even if you are uncertain whether or not you will be able to have a show, send the schedule in for approval. Then you won't be scrambling around at the last minute to get it done.
2. If you eventually need to cancel the show, all it takes is an e-mail notice to Lois Rose at lowy222@aol.com and Wayne Messer at wrmesser@gmail.com.
3. Even if you are "recycling" your show schedule from last year's canceled show, please submit it for approval with the change of date and any other necessary changes. Lois will assign a new show number, and she needs a copy of the schedule for her approval files.
4. If you saved your show materials--show certificates and EC ballots--from last year, let Lois know you have them. She won't need to send out a new approval packet.

5. In your "Invitation to Join AIS" don't forget to update the name and contact information for the new AIS Membership Secretary, Pam Messer. Contact information can be found in the the most recent issue of *Iris*, or at the AIS Website.

6. You can see the approved [list of shows by date of the show](#). Note that these are all subject to change this year, so check ahead before attending. Also, while virtual shows are not approved AIS shows, we will be glad to publicize them on the list and through News & Notes.



The Daily Iris Puzzle Continues

Thanks to your interest and support, the [Daily Iris Puzzle](#) continues to be published daily. Three more heroes have come forward with photos for puzzles. They are:

- Sally Fortino
- Jeanette Graham
- Lesia Lalonde

Thank you everyone for all the photos!

If you have photos or suggestions, please let me know - Wayne Messer
wrmesser@gmail.com



Photo Identification

- MIS Fundraising - 'Moneybags'
- Photo Contest - 'Alpha Project' 2020 Winner
- Foster Irises - 'Amas'
- Kevin Vaughn - 'Real Preppy' hybridized by Kevin Vaughn
- Ackerman - 'Contest'
- No Teleconference - 'Yippy Skippy'
- SIGNA Seed Sale - 'Turnipseed'
- Membership Materials - 'Material Girl'
- 2021 Show Approval - 'Stamp Of Approval'
- Daily Iris Puzzle - 'Superhero'
- Photo Identification - 'Mistaken Identity'