



The American Iris Society

News & Notes December 22 2021

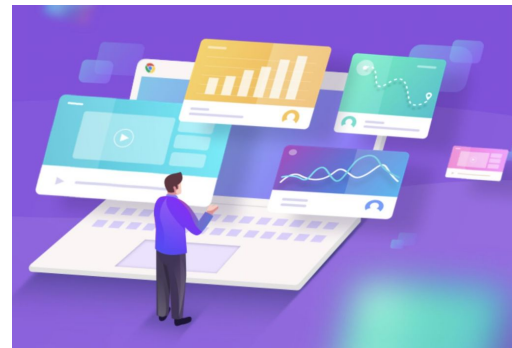


The next century of the AIS begins

Update on COVID-19 Protocols for the New Mexico Convention

With the emergence of the Omicron variant, we want to update you on the Covid-19 Protocols to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable convention.

The Mesilla Valley Iris Society will follow the rules issued by the New Mexico Department of Health. NMDOH holds a



CLASS: Upgrade Your Technology Efficiency & Knowledge - Deadline December 25th

This is your chance to learn about the benefits of using Google Drive, Google Gmail, Calendar, Keep, Tasks, and Adobe PDFs. Andi Rivarola is offering a class on the first 5 Fridays of 2022 to help you become more familiar with the productivity side of Google technology.

[Complete details](#) about the course are available. **Sign up by December 25th** using this form:
<https://forms.gle/2xR2xDyYr5tgGS99>

press conference on Wednesdays to update everyone on the status of COVID. As of today, there is a NMDOH indoor mask requirement that is effective through January 7. If current trends continue, we expect that it will be extended. At the current time, there is no restriction on group sizes. There is also no mandatory requirement for groups to require vaccinations or negative COVID tests, though NMDOH is suggesting that group organizers consider it. Dona Ana County, where Las Cruces is located, currently has a high vaccination rate.

The highlight of the convention will be the garden tours. If COVID is still active, keep in mind that outdoor activities are safer than indoor ones. In your swag bag, you will find three 3-ply masks. Please wear them each day on the garden tours and on the buses. You are also encouraged to bring additional higher quality masks with you to increase your protection. For the indoor meetings and banquets, we will promote social distancing and mask wearing, if necessary.

If anyone feels sick, the Foothills Medical Center, which is adjacent to the hotel, provides COVID-19 tests. If you need to get tested, we request you quarantine in your room until you get your test results.

The Mesilla Valley Iris Society loves the iris community and wants to provide a safe setting for AIS 2022 National Convention. We prefer everyone in attendance to be vaccinated and boosted. Remember, we are an older population and some of us are immunocompromised. Please respect one another.

The convention is still almost four months away. A lot can change by then. We will update you as the convention gets closer. In the meantime, please refer to the [COVID-19 page on the convention website](#) which will be updated regularly as necessary.

See you in Las Cruces!

Howie Dash/Scarlett Ayres
AIS 2022 Convention Co-Chairs

Convention website: [2022 National Convention – AISRegion 23](#)



Judges Notes

Handbook Changes Suggestions - [Submit yours through this form](#) by **December 31, 2021** and they will be considered in 2022. The current Handbook in pdf formats can be found [here](#).

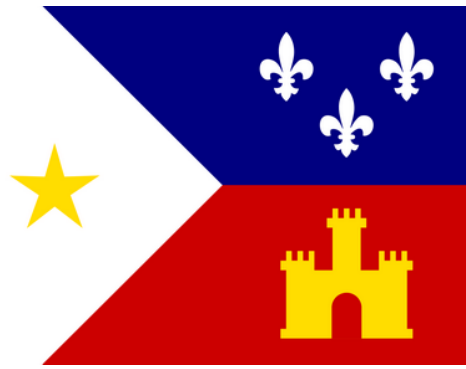
Online JT Credit Extended - You can now obtain [JT credit for these webinars](#) until **March 31, 2022**.

2022 Judges - The list of 2022 AIS Judges has been posted. It can be found on the [AIS website Archive](#) or use this [direct link to the pdf](#).

Thank you to all our AIS Judges for your service.



JT Handbook revisions



2022 Society for Louisiana Irises Annual Convention April 6-9

For two years, we have been rendered homeless by COVID, but not this time. So, come pass a good time at our **2022 Convention in Lafayette** in the heart of Acadiana!

This convention will be more compact, with **three great garden tours on Thursday** and the **Louisiana Iris Show on Friday** (and holding over through Saturday). The **Friday dinner will feature the Silent and Live Auctions**, always a highlight and critically important to financing SLI activities and publications. The traditional **Symposium will feature a panel and member discussion on the future of the Society**, a topic critical to all plant organizations in this day and age. Look for two dinners, a slide show, awards, and lots of socializing with new friends and old ones you have not seen in a few years.

[Learn more and registration form](#). See the [SLI website](#) and the [Greater New Orleans Iris Society website](#) for any changes.



Christmas is Upon Us

Hi everyone. It is nearly Christmas and

deadline is January 1, 2022.

Many hours were spent revising the *Handbook for Judges & Show Officials*. Each chapter was reviewed and in most cases, rewritten. Because of its digital format and unique pagination, future revisions of the *Handbook* should be easier and more expeditious. Yes, more expeditious as in an annual review!! We need to hear from the people who have been using the *Handbook*. **What changes, corrections and additions would you suggest?**

An online form has been created for submitting suggested changes, corrections, and additions to the *Handbook*. Spelling and grammatical errors are easy to submit. Suggested corrections or changes to plant and flower descriptions can also be submitted. This is the link to the online *Handbook* revision form: <https://forms.gle/PD9VjvmUAf2e9PwcA>

The deadline for submitting changes and corrections for the next revision cycle is **January 1, 2022**.

The Handbook Revision Team will review all the suggestions and present revisions of the *Handbook* to the AIS Board of Directors for approval no later than the May AIS Board Meeting. The goal is to have revised chapter(s) ready for release on July 1st of each year.

Hanukkah has been celebrated. School has ended for all the public and private school students. All the youth should have time to write to the prompt for the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest 2022! I hope every youth in the American Iris Society will write essay letters and make my job hard!

The deadline is **March 21, 2022**. You don't need to come up with a topic to write about because it is incorporated into the prompt. Just get a piece of paper and write your ideas down about why you love irises. Then describe your favorite irises and tell why the person you are writing to would like to grow their own iris. But don't be like most writers, don't wait until the last minute. Write your essay in letter format to someone you know, elaborate on everything. Get your Mom, Dad, Sister, Aunt, Teacher, or anyone to read it over after you write your first draft, and help you think about how to add to it or make it have more details. Here is the official theme:

Write a letter to a friend, family member, or teacher and explain to them why you love irises, describe some of your favorite irises, and tell them what you think they would like most about growing irises of their own.

Remember to get someone to check your grammar and spelling. Check out the other rules below and send it to me, Debbie Strauss at debbie@loveirises.com or mail it to me at 2213 Hereford Blvd, Midland TX 79707 by the deadline of March 21, 2022.

There are three age group competition categories, thus awarding three 1st, three 2nd, and three 3rd place prizes: one in each age group! The age groups are 9 and Under, 10-12, and 13 and Over. All three age groups will receive a \$100 Reward for First Place, \$50 Reward for Second Place, and \$25 Reward for Third Place (courtesy of The American Iris Society Foundation). Winners will also receive a new 2022 iris from one of our wonderful hybridizers. And of course, there are just a couple of other easy rules:

Essays should be written in 500 words or less. The deadline for getting the essay finished and submitted to me is March 21, 2022.

I am going to enjoy reading your letters and I am going to pretend you are writing them to me! Please get busy now while you don't have school lessons, tests, concerts, and sports events.

"It's not what's under the tree that matters, it's who's around it."

– Charlie Brown

"To me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle, every cubic inch of space is a miracle."

– Walt Whitman.



AIS YouTube Channel in World of Irises

The AIS [World of Irises](#) blog always has interesting topics.

Recently it included a two-part introduction to the **AIS YouTube Channel** by Heather Haley. [Part 1](#) covers the **2020 AIS Webinars** and, as a bonus, has the current lineup of AIS social media. [Part 2](#) focuses on the **2021 AIS Webinars**.

Current AIS Social Media

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/theamericanirissociety/>
- **Twitter:** https://twitter.com/tweeta_is
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheAmericanIrisSociety>
- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/theamericanirissociety/?hl=en>
- **World of Irises:** <https://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>

Thank you to Heather and all the contributors to the AIS social media.



An Invitation to the January AIS Board Zoom Meeting

The American Iris Society invites you to a scheduled AIS Board Zoom meeting January 26, 2022. All AIS members are encouraged to attend.

Details will be available [here](#) and in the January News & Notes.



Retiring the Daily Iris Puzzle

The [Daily Iris Puzzle](#) was created to provide a respite during a very challenging period. With the approach of a new equilibrium, it is time to move to a more relaxed puzzle publishing schedule.

Beginning January 1st, iris jigsaw puzzles will no longer be created daily. The current ones will continue to be available indefinitely. You can [see the complete list here](#) or go through the [Daily Iris Puzzle pictures beginning here](#) (67 and counting pages of photos).

We will still be creating [monthly puzzles](#). This is the same puzzle album used pre-Covid and contains those earlier puzzles.

Thank you to everyone for your help and pictures.

Wayne Messer - Daily Iris Puzzlarian
(retired)



Photo Identification

- Judges Notes - 'Fresh Notes'
- Handbook Revision - 'Hands On'
- Ackerman - 'Christmas Present'
- YouTube Channel - 'Channeling Loretta'
- Teleconference - 'Winter Fantasy'
- Puzzles - 'Green Pastures'
- Photo Id - 'Lucky Mistake'