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Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



NEXT MEETING: MAY 8

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN
2220 BARTON SPRINGS ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78746
POT LUCK
Program – 2018 AIS-SLI Convention

Events at Zilker:

- April 6 Application from Austin Woman's Federated Gardeners Association accepted and voted into Austin Area Garden Council Conservancy April 10
- April 21-22 Capital Area Judges Council Flower Show
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 26 Auction of Plants during the Garden Club of Austin evening meeting; all are invited.
- May 1 Austin Area Garden Council Conservancy dues are due; \$10 per person
- May 1 Dedication of Herb Garden at 9 A.M.
- May 8 Memorial Service for Ron Miller

FLEUR-DE-GRAS – THE 2018 AIS AND SLI CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS



This year the City of New Orleans (NOLA) is celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the founding of the city. Among the many, almost-daily festivities taking place was the 2018 American Iris Society and Society for Louisiana Irises joint National Convention April 8–14, held at the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel in nearby Kenner. In the initial planning stages of the joint convention, SLI and Greater New Orleans Iris Society (GNOIS) organizers felt that not many AIS members would attend a convention where the focus would be on Louisiana irises. They anticipated perhaps 150-200 people would come to New Orleans, but 260 iris enthusiasts from all over came, including four from Canada and one from New Zealand.

The convention hotel is located directly across the street from the airport and it is about sixteen miles to the French Quarter in downtown New Orleans, a thirty-minute drive with regular traffic. There are only two eating places (one a Subway) within a block or two of the hotel, but many convention attendees found excellent restaurants in Kenner via Uber and others enjoyed the city's exciting attractions in the French Quarter. ISA members Donna Little and Ellen Singleton and their families arrived before the Convention

NEW ARBOR AND BENCH TO BE INSTALLED ON GREEN LAWN

Lars Stanley, who created the front gate, will design and install on the green lawn outside the auditorium an arbor and bench in memory of Edie Musgrove. Her son donated \$25,000 for the project.

and spent several days downtown. Jaime Hadley, who attended Tulane for a year, arrived Sunday morning and since Jim and I had driven to New Orleans, Jaime gave us a detailed tour of the sites downtown that he was familiar with. We felt lucky because there were no optional tours of the city scheduled by the convention planners. Dara Smith and Tracey Rogers as well as Al Elliott also arrived on Sunday.

As is customary, the many different AIS affiliate societies had information tables set up in a long hallway adjoining the rooms where section meetings and programs were held on Tuesday. Among these were the Novelty IS, the Median IS, the Dwarf IS, the Reblooming IS, the Spuria IS, the Japanese IS, the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS), SIGNA, SLI, and the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris. Each table had brochures and handouts for attendees. Ken Fuchs and Jim Landers stayed busy at the Registration Table and Kathy Wade and Mary Ellen Reed successfully ran the Boutique.

Tuesday evening we all gathered for the AIS Welcome Dinner and attendees from all the regions were recognized. The highlight of the evening was a large cake celebrating Virginia Keyser's birthday. She was 100 years old on Monday, April 9, and this was her 53rd Convention to attend.

There were four buses (2 purple and 2 gold) and bus tours began on Wednesday, April 11. Robert Drouant, a retired NOLA police officer and GNOIS member, served as our local guide and gave us a running commentary on local sites and their histories. Most of us Texans all rode on Gold Bus #4. Our first stop was the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden and Botanical Garden in City Park. As we entered the garden, we were greeted by a large nude muscular male sculpture and then nearby a grotesquely-shaped nude female form. Overhead large bunches of Spanish moss hung from all of the tree limbs. We soon found the GNOIS Display Garden surrounding a large pond. There were many irises in



bloom, but we also saw a construction area where workers had dug up part of the garden a few weeks earlier. GNOIS members had replanted everything in an adjoining area, but these plants now had no blooms.

Our next stop was "the Island," a small peninsula near City Park where hybridizer Patrick O'Connor maintains most of the irises that are part of SLI's Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project. Many dozens of Louisiana irises in large containers were in full bloom and provided photographers with a myriad of colorful subjects. We drove on to Longue Vue House and Gardens, where we enjoyed a light boxed lunch in a large white tent. The elegant Longue Vue House was built in the early 1940s and has a large formal garden beside the house. The iris gardens are located in a wooded area close by. A winding pathway leads through the woods, where a wide variety of historical and new Louisiana irises were in bloom, giving everyone after lunch a pleasant opportunity to stroll and admire the irises.

Wednesday evening was our only scheduled "open" time for dinner on our own. Many of us chose to dine at the Harbor Seafood & Oyster Bar in Kenner. It was a very popular place and we waited for nearly an hour outside on the covered patio, but the wait was worth it. The food was excellent, and it was fun



watching everyone sample the large portion of crawfish and deep-fried alligator on the table. Kathy Wade was most venturesome and ordered (and consumed) the large Swamp Platter which had samples of all the restaurant's delicacies.

On Thursday, April 12, our buses crossed the 24-mile long Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. Halfway across there was no land in sight, and we could just as well have been out at sea. Our destination was Gary and Anne Slathe's "A Louisiana Pond" in an upscale urban development a few miles from Madisonville. Gary had planted Louisiana irises all along the rim of the large pond and there were lots of blooms. Colorful ducks in the water added to the enjoyment of all

viewers.

After a genuine Cajun luncheon provided by members of GNOIS at the Hammond Research Center, we toured the iris gardens. They were located quite a long distance from the buses, and small carts were available for members who couldn't walk to the gardens, where in-garden Judges Training classes were held. There weren't a lot of blooms, but the grounds and overall gardens were beautiful with many pines and other trees. Thursday evening, attendees gathered in the hotel courtyard for a Mixer, featuring light snacks and lots of good fellowship.

On Friday, April 13, all four buses departed for the Burden Museum and Gardens in Baton Rouge, site of the LSU Rural Life Museum and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. After viewing a short film detailing the history of the Burden family and the museum, many of us accompanied Patrick O'Connor on a long walk to Black Swamp, where a wooden



boardwalk extends through a real swamp where large cypress, tupelo or black gum, and magnolia trees tower over the murky waters. We saw numerous clumps of wild, native irises in bloom among the trees. My only disappointment was that we did not see any alligators.

A tour of the museum grounds was very educational. We were greeted by two enormous Texas longhorns and then we saw authentic old houses, a blacksmith shop, a slave house, a jail, a school, the overseer's house, and a commissary filled with goods from the past. The displays inside the main building were extensive and gave a real representation of plantation and rural life in the 19th century.

Afterwards we feasted at a buffet luncheon with salad, rice, shrimp etouffee, green beans and dessert at a private club in Baton Rouge. Our final stop was the Baton Rouge Botanic Garden. The permanent Iris Garden was truly a visual feast where hundreds of irises were in full bloom. Again, cameras were busy everywhere, and the rainbow of colors presented

everyone with future precious memories. More good food and great conversations were enjoyed back at our hotel at the AIS Awards Dinner and Slide Show Friday evening. Shirley Trio-Probst gave an overview of next year's convention in Modesto, California and invited everyone to come.

Many AIS members opted to leave Saturday morning, and they missed the SLI/GNOIS Iris Show. We had had perfect weather with blue skies and pleasant temperatures all three days of the bus tours, but on Saturday, torrential rains bombarded New Orleans and caused a number of flight cancellations. As a result, several AIS attendees stayed over for the SLI Dinner Saturday evening. During the day a bus ran between the hotel and City Park so conventioners could visit the iris show, which was held in the ground floor hallway of the New Orleans Art Museum. While judging was going on (and SLI members participated in the judging), many of us toured the museum and stood in awe at paintings and art pieces by world-renowned artists like Monet, Picasso, Georgia O'Keefe, and Gilbert Stuart, whose image of George Washington is seen every day on our \$1 bills.

The iris show itself was somewhat contradictory. All of the irises to be judged were lined up on the



floor for good viewing, but the winning entries were all placed on a table so that everyone had to look up to see them. The best specimen of the show was 'Wizard of Aussie' (Heather Pryor 1997) entered by Cindy Dufrene. Following the show, several us SLI members attended the SLI meeting, where a vote was taken to officially change the name of the organization to SLII – Society for Louisiana Irises International. We then weathered the storm and went to the adjacent Sculpture Garden where we had beignets with café au lait in the Morning Call Coffee Stand.

The SLI Dinner that evening began with a shrimp salad and the food was very good. The highlight of the event was the presentation of a number of awards and

the Live Auction.

In all, the 2018 AIS-SLI National Convention was a rousing success, and all of the planners and local workers who put it all together really made New Orleans proud.



HORTICULTURE

Many of the bearded irises, Dutch irises, Spurias, and Louisiana irises have bloomed. It is time to cut the bloom stalks before they form seedpods since most gardeners will not be hybridizing these plants. Bees have also visited these flowers, the winds have passed through breaking down some stalks, and the cold weather returned in April after Easter, bringing snow to northern parts of the country.

Check name tags for your plants since the tornado type winds passed through your irises. It is also a good time to mark the irises that you want to dig for the September Sale.

ELLEN SINGLETON WINS AWARD OF MERIT

For the third year in a row, an Iris Society of Austin member won the Award of Merit in the spring Violet Crown flower show. This year's winner was Ellen Singleton for 'Grapenut,' a border bearded hybridized by Michael Sutton.



Last year's winner was D. Boyle and the year before was Tracey Rogers. The award is given for all cut n o n - w o o d y specimens including vines.

The theme of the show was Celebrating Spring: Planting for Plenty. Other Iris Society members who participated in the artistic and horticultural divisions included Pat Freeman and

Tracey Rogers. Pat Freeman won the horticultural Governor's Choice Award for the fern 'Austral Gem' and the Petite Flower show award for her petite design in the Creepers and Crawler's category.

FROM TRACEY:

"Ellen and I are wondering if there is any interest in the club purchasing any **spurias**. We bought some in 2016 to put in the Zilker beds and ordered some extra for club members to buy. We would be willing to order some for club members if there is an interest.

"Also, we have found a deal on 'Bottled Sunshine.' We have completed the order for the fall sale, but if there is an interest in 'Bottled Sunshine,' let us know and we can place an order. We know it is very popular.

"Please contact either of us directly or let us know at the May meeting."

FROM PEGGY CATHEY / REGION 17

Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society

April 22

We had a great iris show yesterday. Thank you to all our members who helped make the show a success and to all our wonderful guests & visitors. The Best of Show winner was 'Lady of Lometa,' exhibited by Peggy & Dan Cathey. It also received recognition as Best Louisiana Iris, Best Violet, and Best Entry by a Texas (Region 17) Hybridizer [Jim Landers].



At our May 8 meeting we will install officers and vote on proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Please review these proposed changes.

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Iris Society of Austin

Presented at the meeting held March 13, 2018

SUMMARY

- Remove the position of Librarian, and make no formal requirement for the care of the books, but leave it to the care of the general membership
- Extend the maximum # of consecutive terms for ALL officers to 5 years
- Renumber sections following the removal of the section for the Librarian

Current verbiage with affected text highlighted	Final verbiage after changes
<p>ARTICLE V: ELECTED OFFICERS</p> <p>SECTION 1: Officers of The Corporation shall consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) President b) Vice President, Programs c) Vice President, Membership d) Secretary e) Treasurer f) Librarian g) Historian <p>SECTION 2: The term of office for elected officers shall be for one (1) year.</p> <p>SECTION 3: No person shall hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms, with the exception of the Treasurer, who shall not hold office more than five (5) consecutive terms.</p> <p>SECTION 4: The Executive Committee shall...</p> <p>SECTION 5: The President shall ...</p> <p>SECTION 6: The Vice President—Programs...</p> <p>SECTION 7: The Vice President--Membership shall...</p> <p>SECTION 8: The Secretary shall...</p> <p>SECTION 9: The Treasurer shall...</p> <p>SECTION 10: The Librarian shall be responsible for The Corporation's books and publications. The library will be available at regular meetings for check-out by members. There shall be a budget determined by the Executive Committee available to the Librarian.</p> <p>SECTION 11: The Historian shall have the responsibility for retention, compilation and storage of all permanent records, newsletters, photographs, articles and other items of interest to The Corporation.</p> <p>SECTION 12: Any vacancy occurring...</p>	<p>ARTICLE V: ELECTED OFFICERS</p> <p>SECTION 1: Officers of The Corporation shall consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) President b) Vice President, Programs c) Vice President, Membership d) Secretary e) Treasurer f) Historian <p>SECTION 2: The term of office for elected officers shall be for one (1) year.</p> <p>SECTION 3: No person shall hold the same office for more than five (5) consecutive terms.</p> <p>SECTION 4: The Executive Committee shall...</p> <p>SECTION 5: The President shall ...</p> <p>SECTION 6: The Vice President—Programs...</p> <p>SECTION 7: The Vice President--Membership shall...</p> <p>SECTION 8: The Secretary shall...</p> <p>SECTION 9: The Treasurer shall...</p> <p>SECTION 10: The Historian shall have the responsibility for retention, compilation and storage of all permanent records, newsletters, photographs, articles and other items of interest to The Corporation.</p> <p>SECTION 11: Any vacancy occurring...</p>

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Roland Guidry (GNOIS) creates table decorations for the Welcome Dinner.



Kathy Wade and Virginia Keyser in the Boutique, on Virginia's 100th birthday



Shirley Trio-Probst and Jim Landers at the Reblooming Iris Society table



ISA members get serious at the Welcome Dinner.



In the Sculpture Garden



Part of SLI's Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project



Entering Longue Vue House & Gardens



'Longue Vue' (Haymon 1999)



Local cuisine at the Harbor Seafood & Oyster Bar



A Louisiana Pond



In-Garden Judges Training at the Hammond Research Center



The Usual Suspects



Robert Strohmman (TN, author of the mystery novel *Iris Red*, *Iris Dead*) and Kathy Wade at the Burden Museum in Baton Rouge



More suspects judging the Iris Show at the New Orleans Art Museum in City Park