



The American Iris Society

News & Notes

January 14 2018

In This Issue

[Enjoy the Food, Fun, and Irises in New Orleans](#)

[Celebrating the 2016 Class of Irises](#)

[Affiliates Renewal and Resources](#)

[Cosgrove Nominations Deadline January 31st](#)

[Spring Events](#)

[Iris Exhibitions 2018](#)

[Youth Ackerman Essay Deadline February 15th](#)

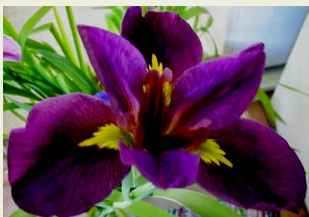
[Like To Have Some Fun?](#)

[Happy 50th Fresno Iris Society](#)

[Would this be Useful to you?](#)

[An Early Spring Jigsaw Puzzle](#)

Enjoy the Food, Fun, and Irises in New Orleans



'Duke Of Orleans'

Welcome to the 54th 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.

Note to Clubs: The note at the end of the featured article about the 2018 Convention reminded me; please feel free to use materials from any News & Notes in your newsletters. Copy and paste should work except the images may not.

Celebrating the 2016 Class of Irises

Every year the **American Iris Society** registers hundreds - make that **over a thousand - new irises** of all types. Short ones, tall ones, bearded, beardless, all kinds and colors.

To recognize those irises registered in 2016, **Bob Pries** has created something new; a list of all of them. You can find the list, with links to each of course, on the [Iris Encyclopedia](#). Follow the **What's New** at the top of the main page to see it. Just in case, [here is the direct link to it](#).



'Social Register'

On that page you will find links to image galleries (5 of them) which contain photos for all these irises which have them. The majority of these irises do have photos! The galleries and the lists of irises are divided by types to help you find what you are seeking.

New Orleans is known for food, fun, and Louisiana irises. This year you can enjoy all three at the [2018 AIS/SLI Convention](#).

The [Convention registration form](#) lists the dinners for you to select from. To really do them justice, see the [mouthwatering menus](#) for the meals. And then check out the Geek Dinner as well, a [separate registration](#) as always with fun, food, and an auction.

Note that the first deadline for registration is coming up rapidly. **The 1st deadline is January 31, 2018.**

The [schedule page](#) has information about the schedule and a link to this [detailed tentative schedule](#).

Fun Fact: 2018 is the New Orleans Tricentennial! Check all the links on the [Convention New Orleans page](#) for more fun choices.

Clubs: Would you like to include the New Orleans Convention and Geek Dinner in your newsletters? You are welcome to copy any of the above and include the links in your electronic version. Copy and paste should work fine.

Quick Links

[AIS Website](#)

[AIS Facebook](#)

[AIS Blog](#)

[Iris Encyclopedia](#)

[News & Notes Archive](#)

[AISDiscuss Archives
2005-Nov 2017](#)

[Read AISDiscuss](#)

[EMembers Login](#)

[Types of Irises](#)

Thank you to all the hybridizers for creating these irises!
And thank you Bob for bringing this to the Iris Encyclopedia.

Affiliates Renewal and Resources

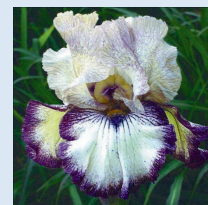
Every year the current clubs renew their affiliation with AIS.

While now is the time for local clubs to renew their AIS affiliation, new clubs can submit an application to join at any time. In each case the club president sends the [Affiliation Application Form \(Word\)](#) to their RVP. Clubs certify that all officers are AIS members and renewing clubs pay a small fee for their certification. Among other benefits, certification ensures that your shows are recognized by the AIS and that winners can be given AIS medals.

Your club president may already have been contacted by your RVP with the new application form. If you have, please get the form back to them as soon as possible. The complete renewal schedule may be found [here](#).

We are also assembling other resources that may be useful for your club. So far, [this page](#) has links to program resources, newsletter resources, and PR and Marketing resources in addition to the affiliation renewal forms (both [Word](#) and [PDF](#)). What else would be useful for you? What ones would you like to share?

New Clubs: Find out more about [forming a new club here](#). All kinds of advice.



'Renewal'

Cosgrove Nominations Deadline January 31st

Nominations for the **Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement** are due by **January 31, 2018**. Any AIS member may nominate any AIS youth member.



'Nominate'

The details can be found in the *Irises Bulletin* Fall 2017 issue on page 36 and you can also see the guidelines for [nomination and award details here](#). Email as an attachment or mail them to Cheryl Deaton to be received by January 31st:

Cheryl Deaton, AIS Youth Chair
27218 Walnut Springs Avenue
Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314

Email: region15kids@hotmail.com

This is a great opportunity to honor our younger members. You can learn more about all the exciting AIS Youth Programs by starting with the [AIS Youth website home page](#). The website shows projects and programs that may be available to youth members in your area - or that you

[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](#)

∴

can help create - and there are various resources to help you get started. Also, check pages 36-37 of the *Irises Bulletin* Fall 2017 to see other Youth happenings.

Spring Events

It is time to start thinking about all the great iris events you will soon be able to enjoy.



'Springtime Fiesta'

For the first one, no need to leave your home, the **AIS Board teleconference** will be online. The next one is **Wednesday, January 24th**, 8 p.m. Eastern, 7 Central, 6 Mountain, 5 Pacific. [Details on using your computer to connect with Zoom are here.](#)

Did you know you can now see many of the Board members that are in the teleconference? Teleconferences are expected to be monthly until too close to the Convention. Final [contact details for each one will be posted on AIS Discuss](#) shortly before the teleconference.

Next up is probably the [Spring Regional Meetings](#). That list contains 7 meetings so far. You can add to the list or send them to wrmesser@gmail.com for inclusion. Note that the **Region 4 Spring Regional is also a Convention celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Siberian/Species Conventions!**

While these are going on is also peak season for iris shows. Soon you will be able to find a [list of the approved shows by date here](#). I expect the list to start appearing there before the next News & Notes.

Iris Exhibitions 2018

Approval

Remember to send your show schedules for approval to Lois Rose at least two months prior to your show date. Sooner is better. Don't wait to see if you are having an early or late spring to set your show date.



'Exhibitionist'

Set a tentative date based on your average peak bloom. If date (or venue) have to be changed later, that is easily done via e-mail to Lois and will not affect your approval. Lois prefers to receive schedules via e-mail at lowy222@aol.com.

Word or PDF documents work best; she cannot handle Publisher documents. If you submit your show schedule via e-mail, please include a cover note with your "snail mail" address as Lois must send the official approval and show certificates back to you via U.S. Postal Service.

Lois will be traveling **Feb. 2-11, so no show schedules will be processed during that time**. Keep that in mind and get your schedule to Lois for approval in plenty of time so it doesn't get caught in her backlog, which is processed in the order in which the schedules are received.

Supplies

NOTE: Exhibitions has a new supplies person this year! Nick Stewart, 2808 NW 21st Place, Lawton, OK

73505. Please use the 2018 Supplies Order form sent to you by Lois with your show approval. It contains Nick's contact information as well as a few price increases for 2018. To avoid having to pay a "Rush Order" fee of \$25, make sure to get your show supplies order to Nick no less than two weeks prior to show date. The fee is optional, but orders received less than two weeks prior to the show will not receive rush treatment unless the fee is paid. All orders must be submitted via US Postal Service, as we are not set up to accept electronic payment.

Show Reports

For 2018 final Show Reports once again go to Wayne Messer, PO Box 64, Huxley, IA 50124. Please use the electronic show report form (sent to you via e-mail by Lois Rose at the time your show is approved) if at all possible. **Also note that Wayne will accept reports via-e-mail, but they must be accompanied by an electronic version of your final show schedule.** If you have to fill out the report by hand, please print. It is extremely important that the information is correct and readable.

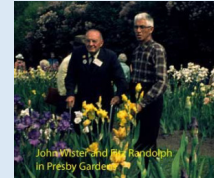
If a show is canceled, please notify Wayne Messer via e-mail at wrmesser@gmail.com so he will not keep watching for your show report.

Show Resources

Pointers to [various resources for show committees can be found here](#). Copies of forms will be there soon. What else would be useful for you?

Youth Ackerman Essay Deadline February 15th

Hello to all Local Clubs who have Youth Members! If your Affiliate has youth members, you are very blessed. Your members must be very supportive and considerate.



Congratulations to you and thank you for taking the time to nurture the love of iris and the outdoors to our future. As members of The American Iris Society our youth are a very important group. The AIS membership numbers for youth are right around 460. The AIS and the AIS Foundation sponsor an exciting activity for our youth that your club and its members can help encourage all youth members to enter. It is the Youth Ackerman Essay contest. This year the theme offers an opportunity for the youth to learn about what the first president of AIS thought about iris and then put their ideas in writing on why his statement is true. The 2018 theme for the Ackerman Essay Contest is:

The first president of the American iris Society, John C. Wister said, "The iris is the mainstay of the hardy garden". Write three examples of why you agree with him.

There are two age groups. One is 12 years and under and the other is 13-18 years old. And of course, there are some rules. Essays should be written in 500 words or less. **The deadline for getting the essay finished and sent in to me is February 15, 2018.** Mail your essay or email as an attachment to:

Debbie Strauss
2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland, TX 79707
Email: debbie@loveiries.com
432-352-5483

The awards for the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest that is sponsored by the **AIS Foundation** are grand. This year Paul Black has graciously donated to our winners also. There will be two prizes of \$100 each (donated by the AIS Foundation) for the first-place winner, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place in each age group. The first through third place winners will also receive a coupon for a 2018 new introduction from Paul Black. **The second and third places are new part of the awards this year...there will be a second and a third-place essay winner picked in both age groups.**

Everyone that enters will receive a lovely participation certificate.

Editors note: Debbie's write-up was much better than I could render in the newsletter, more details and suggestions. You can see [her complete contribution here \(PDF\)](#).

Like To Have Some Fun?

How does becoming a director on the American Iris Society Board sound to you? The Nominating Committee is looking for members interested in becoming Board Directors. These positions are for 3-year terms beginning this fall.



'Flight Director'

Interested or want to know more?

Please e-mail your name and phone number to Dawn K. Boyer, at dawn.boyer@yahoo.com and someone from the Nominating Committee will contact you soon.

You can find a list of the current directors in each issue of the *Irises Bulletin* and on the [AIS website here](#).

Happy 50th Fresno Iris Society

2017 marked the **50th anniversary of the founding of the Fresno Iris Society!** November 7, 1967 was their first official meeting and [John Weiler](#) was chosen as their first president. Learn more about [the club and some of their milestones here](#). Congratulations to the club and to its members!



'Chief Sequoia'
by John Weiler

Thank you **Janet Smith** for letting me know about this.

Do you know of other anniversaries and achievements occurring in AIS for us to celebrate? Please let us know.

Would this be Useful to you?

Something just past the dreaming stage so you can actually see how it could look. **Would it be helpful to you to be able to find local AIS clubs?**



'Santa's Helper'

This is a [page with AIS clubs by state or province](#) with links to the clubs and regions. So far it only has two regions, Region 21 because I'm very familiar with it and Region 2. (In looking at Region 2's website, they have a very nice feature, a page for each of the clubs to list their calendar and other information! Follow the links on the [Who We Are page](#) on their website.)

Please let me know what you think! Would it be useful to you? To new AIS members? How might you use it? How would you improve it or change it? Actually for that last question, you can change and improve it! It is on the Iris Wiki so you can edit it as well. Comments, suggestions, and brickbats please to wrmesser@gmail.com or add to the comment box at the bottom of [the page](#).

An Early Spring Jigsaw Puzzle

Time to start thinking ahead to the next iris season, at least here in the snow. Last year the first of the Convention guest iris blooms in our garden was this little species iris.



['Wild Whispers'](#) (Carol Coleman, 2012)

is an *I. pumila* which was in bloom April 9th and received an honorable mention this year. Interesting note, this iris came from SIGNA seed. (The next [SIGNA seed sale](#) begins shortly.)

Enjoy the [standard jigsaw puzzle](#) and/or the the [harder puzzle](#) with twice as many pieces.

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).