

# 2013 Honorary Awards Recipients

BY JUDY KEISLING, HONORARY AWARDS CHAIR, MISSOURI

Each year at its fall meeting, the AIS Board considers candidates who have been nominated for one of the Society's honorary awards: Hybridizer Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Gold Medal, and Warburton Medal. There is no limit as to the number of annual recipients of these awards and none of these medals are required to be awarded every year.

At its recent board meeting in New Orleans, the Board voted to award the Hybridizer Medal to Bill Maryott and Distinguished Service Medals to John Jones, John Ludi, and Bob Pries. These recipients will receive their 2013 awards next April at the National Convention in Dallas. The Gold and Warburton medals were not awarded this year.

## Hybridizer Medal (Bill Maryott)

When Bill Maryott's 'That's All Folks' was introduced for him by Joe Ghio in 2005, Bill thought that this introduction was the end of his involvement in the iris world, as his hybridizing interests shifted to daylilies. Boy, was he wrong! 'That's All Folks' (an iris he wasn't really sure he wanted to introduce but was persuaded by Joe Ghio to let him introduce it for him) went on to receive an HM in 2007, an AM in 2009, the Wister Medal in 2011 and the prestigious Dykes Medal in 2013.

Bill hybridized irises for 25 years with his first introductions ('Afghanistan' AB OGB, 'Fingerprints' SDB, and 'Bengal Tiger' TB in 1981 through his last ('That's All Folks' TB) in 2005. His irises were awarded 49 Honorable Mentions (35%), 10 Awards of Merit, the Wister Medal, and just this year the Dykes Medal. What an impressive ratio of introduced to awarded!

## Distinguished Service Medal (John Jones, John Ludi and Bob Pries)

John Jones was instrumental in establishing the AIS website and bringing the Society into the twenty-first century electronically. He heads the Electronic Services Committee and has run the Geek Dinner and auction each year.

John has served as an AIS director, a judge, has been an Affiliate President in Region 14 and editor of their newsletter. He developed the Iris Register in electronic format so that members could keep track of iris reserved names online, and has maintained other "e-membership" benefits as well. He has assisted with the AIS Wiki, AIS Youth Website and has completed the task of scanning all past AIS Bulletins into a format for access electronically. Currently, he is serving as the AIS Registrar-Recorder, keeping track of all irises registered and introduced worldwide.

John Ludi has been in charge of the AIS Storefront with his wife Kay for over 10 years, making recommendations for not only the content in the Storefront, but the amounts and prices that the items offered should be. His guidance has been valuable in making the Storefront a profitable venue for AIS. He has gone above and beyond the "call of duty" by carting various Storefront items to every national convention so that attendees could have access to items needed by irisarians worldwide.

John has been an AIS Director, RVP for Region 13, served four terms as president of the Greater Portland Iris Society, is an Emeritus Judge, has been the AIS National Convention Chair for two previous conventions, and is the current Chair for the 2015 AIS National Convention.

Bob Pries initiated and continues to maintain the Iris Encyclopedia (also known as the Iris Wiki). He is has been an AIS Director and has served in leadership positions in several AIS sections.

Bob is Chairman of the AIS Public Relations and Marketing Committee. Under his leadership, members of this committee have initiated the AIS Facebook and Twitter pages, the blog, "World of Irises," and most recently, "News and Notes," an electronic newsletter emailed periodically to AIS members. He is also chair of the National Collections, Display and Test Gardens Committee as well as the 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee. 