



The American Iris Society

News & Notes

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2017 Convention Happenings and Upcoming Deadline

Welcome to the 45th 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.

All Kinds of Reminders

There are so many things happening in AIS and iridom that it is difficult to include details for all of them. This is a short list of happenings this Spring. Especially note the deadline dates.



- [Society for Louisiana Irises](#) - April 20-22, Addison, TX - postmark by April 1st to avoid a late charge
- [Spuria Iris Convention](#) - May 5-6, Los Angeles, CA - registration rate increases after March 31st
- [MIS Mini Convention](#) - May 18-20, Lafayette, IN - registration rate increases after March 15th
- [Society for Japanese Irises](#) - June 23-25, Seattle, WA
- [SIGNA Seed Sale](#) continues through April 1st
- [2018 AIS Calendars](#) are available at a special price until May 1st
- [Approved Iris Shows](#) list which is regularly updated
- [Region Spring Meetings](#) list
- [Ackerman Essay Contest](#) for Youth members deadline March 21st
- [AIS Digital Programs](#)
- [Growing Irises from Seed](#) by Tom Waters, World of Irises blog

The list was longer than I realized! Be sure to look in the **Irises Bulletin** and follow the links for more details.



Part of the [AIS 2017 Convention in Des Moines, Iowa](#) is a Saturday Morning Symposium. Three great speakers including **Tony Hall** of Royal Botanical Garden, Kew. [Learn more here](#).

And a note about the pictures in [the previous link](#): if you click on one, it will display separately and you can click again to see a much larger version. Try it with the Iris cycloglossa! Amazing display!

The next deadline for registration is quickly approaching, **March 15th is the last date for registration at the regular price**. Here is the [registration form you need](#). Or find it along with hotel reservation information and Geek Dinner information [here](#).

Also check out the [things to know before you visit Des Moines](#), and [the schedule](#) to help plan your week.

You can help us prepare as well. See the [Silent Auction requests](#) elsewhere in this issue. Interested in volunteering in other ways - let Kelly Norris know kellydn@frontiernet.net

Thank you for your help! See you in Des Moines, Iowa May 23-27.

Quick Links

[AIS Website](#)

[AIS Facebook](#)

[AIS Blog](#)

Median Iris Convention - Next Registration Deadline March 15th

Don't wait another second. The Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana, Indiana Daylily and Iris Society, Region 6 and the Median Iris Society personally invite you to come. **The Median Iris Rules Supreme in 2017 Mini-Convention is May 18-20 in Lafayette Indiana**. Go to this [registration form](#), fill it out and send it in ASAP. Loads of iris and fun await you! Want to see more? Go [here](#) and [get all the details!](#) The gardens are calling your names.....



'Hills Of Lafayette'

Now for some new information. Our hybridizers have been very generous to the MIS convention activities. We received new or newer median donations from Winterberry Gardens- **Ginny Spoon**, Abbey Gardens- **Nancy Price**, Mid-America Garden- **Paul Black** and **Thomas Johnson**, **Stephanie and Lynn Markham**, **Jean Morris**, Sutton's Gardens- **Mike Sutton**, Miller's Manor Gardens- **Lynda Miller**, Lauer's Flowers- **Larry Lauer**, Across Iris Lanes- **Mel Cross** and Cape Iris- **Dave Niswonger**. We had forty 2014-2017 iris donated just for our games, fun, "[Maybe Get Lucky](#)" tickets and auction. Everyone who purchases a "Maybe Get Lucky" ticket will receive an iris...maybe even a 2017! If you love a good bottle of wine?? There will also be tickets sold and everyone will receive a bottle of wine- some more rare than others of course.

Don't forget you will be able to [bid at a fun auction](#). The auctioneer is the great John Coble! You will be able to bid on 25 "**Marvelous Median Bags**" that will have three 2013-2016 medians in them. There will be some 2017s to bid on, a signed copy of Robert Strohmman's mystery book, **Iris Red, Iris Dead**, and some other interesting items! Bring your checkbook!

So get registered ASAP. We can't wait to see you there.

Social Media Volunteers Needed

Coping with Social Media Demand

"Last year, brands were asked nearly 22 million questions on Facebook and Twitter combined. Audiences want to interact with brands, but how are they coping with such a large demand?"
~ socialbakers.com



'Social Circle'

We at The American Iris Society have quite a presence on social media, but still need help dealing with day to day interaction with an ever greater online audience. Are you able to help? If you have experience with social media and are able to volunteer some of your time please contact Andi Rivarola / AIS Social Media Manager at andinsky@gmail.com. (Posted February 12, 2017)

This is the most recent volunteer opportunity posted asking for your help. See [all the requests here](#).

See the New Centennial Designs

[Iris Encyclopedia](#)

[News & Notes Archive](#)

[Read AISDiscuss Archives](#)

[EMembers Login](#)

[Types of Irises](#)

[Arl 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](#)

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Andi Rivarola has been busy! You can see some of the NEW design and items now available at **CafePress**. Please [visit our store](#) for more details, and thank you for supporting **The American Iris Society. Celebrating 100 Years!**



Silent Auction Updates from Debbie Strauss

Are you on your way to [Iowa to the 2017 AIS National Convention](#)? Did you know you will get to [visit Wayne and Pam Messer's beautiful gardens](#)? I can't wait. We sure do hope you are coming! Now on to my topic...Did you clean out your closets yet? I started on mine and have 15 items earmarked to donate to the AIS Silent Auction! And well....I only cleaned out one little corner of one of my 6 closets... Oh well, it's a start! I also heard from a great friend, the President of Hips, Cathy Egerer. She is donating some [beautiful canvas iris art work made from Mike Unser photo prints](#)! They are beautiful as you can see from the photo. She also had a great suggestion...people could donate gift certificates for the silent auction. It could be a group effort...say from a group of friends, or classmates, or club members. They could pick a theme...Like good places to eat and send gift cards from a few different places, or maybe a date night package- flowers, dinner and a movie gift certificates? They don't require much postage! Click [here to find out where to send your donations](#).



Hello to all of our amazing and generous American Iris Hybridizers! I have heard from 10 of you and I have 30 new or newer iris donations for the silent auction. I know some of you are still working it out or lost my postcard. But it is never too late. I still have time to whip out those gift certificates and make your posters! Let's [fill up that row of tables that host those beautiful posters behind your lovely iris donation certificates](#). Email debbie@loveirises.com please.

Now for all of you great local iris societies! Have you gathered up items that represent your area of the country? Have you delivered these items to your RVP? It's time to get those goodies all together for your "Region Raisin' Baskets". My Region 17 is well on the way trying to get back to being the biggest and best basket there! Last year, Region 23 bulldozed their way in and beat us (but hey they used our giant basket which one of their members won)! Congratulations! If you don't or can't get a bunch of stuff together or can't get it mailed, then feel free to round up iris donations from your local hybridizers, or get gift certificates from chain hardware stores that sell all types of gardening items. Get gift certificates from anywhere and make a "notebook basket" from your region. Get as creative as you want. Make it easy to mail. We appreciate anything and everything you donate! Check out [this link to get mailing details](#).

Club Happenings - PAIS Scholarship Program

The [Prescott Area Iris Society](#) (PAIS) has a number of outreach programs to their community. Most recently they have established two scholarships for horticulture students at **Yavapai College**. Learn more about the [scholarship program](#) and about their [other outreach programs](#).



'Scholar'

Congratulations to PAIS on creating these scholarships!

If your club has programs or news you would like to share, please let us know - wrmesser@gmail.com

Spring Flower Shows Time

Spring Flower Shows are beginning. An opportunity to see and learn more about flowers or to let others know about irises. Are you or your clubs involved in these? We would be glad to help you publicize your efforts. Learn more [here about how AIS might be able to help](#) with exhibits and in other ways.



This is also something to consider for next year. For many it is not too early to begin planning now. In addition to the above link, this [page on the AIS website has information on exhibits](#) that are available and suggestions for preparing your own.

Along these lines, a [report on the RHS Early Spring Plant Fair](#) that includes photos of three irises, *I. reticulata* and *I. histrioides*.

Recording Your Irises

Keeping track of all the great irises you have, and even more that you want, can be difficult. I know in my case, even putting together a list of the histories to submit to the HIPS databank has been problematic. So, of course, I turned to the **Iris Wiki** for help. Consider this a progress report.



'Broken Record'

HIPS has a [form \(PDF\)](#) that you can, but are not required to, use. Four columns: cultivar, hybridizer, year, verified?, that I reproduced as a table in [my list of histories in the wiki](#). (A couple of additional columns were added based on initial feedback.) It does not have all my histories; however, I have made more progress by adding one or a few at a time in the last week than ever before.

Which brings me to my next point: **You can do the same thing!** Go [here to see the template](#). It contains a [link for you to make a copy](#) (that last link goes directly to making a copy).

[HIPS](#) does some great things with [the databank](#). It is used to identify endangered cultivars for the [Guardian Gardens](#) program to save. More recently it has been used to identify [Irises Lost from the Databank in 2016](#). That list has recently been updated; so, if you checked it after the previous **News & Notes**, it is worth looking again.

Board Teleconference March 23rd

As promised, details about the **AIS Board of Directors teleconference** that everyone is invited to attend. It will be **March 23rd, 10 p.m. Eastern, 9 p.m. Central, 8 p.m. Mountain, and 7 p.m. Pacific**. Further details can be found in this [AISDiscuss post by Gary White](#) and are also posted on the [AIS website News page](#).



'Join In'

The agenda will be posted on AISDiscuss in about a week. Here is a [link to the March 2017 postings on AISDiscuss](#) so you can find the agenda when available. Remember you can find and follow all the AISDiscuss discussions by [starting here](#).

A "Noid" Jigsaw Puzzle

One of the guest irises for the [AIS 2017 Convention](#). It's not really a Noid, just one to me. When taking this picture in the [Jurik's garden](#) last year, I missed getting the label as well. Enjoy the puzzle now and then see the iris in the host gardens at the Convention!



Here are both the [standard difficulty puzzle](#) and the [harder difficulty puzzle](#) to challenge you.

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).