

Bayou *and* Marsh

Newsletter of the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

We're Back and Having a Show!

After a hiatus, GNOIS is cranking up. On April 10-11, the same weekend as the N. O. Botanical Garden's Spring Garden Show, we will join with the Acadiana Iris Society to sponsor a Louisiana Iris Show in the Sculpture Garden in City Park. This is not the usual "show" that Louisiana irises put on each spring, but a formal event in which the public can enter specimen irises to be judged by accredited judges of the American Iris Society.

GNOIS Meeting March 13

GNOIS will meet on Saturday morning, March 13 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM in the Garden Studies Center in the Botanical Garden in City Park. This will be an important meeting to finalize plans for the Louisiana Iris Show.

Rusty McSparrin of Chacahoula, LA and Bois d'Arc Gardens will present a program on preparing iris blooms to enter in a show.

Please plan to attend and to get involved, if you can, in our first show. If you can't attend but want to be involved, call Patrick O'Connor, 456-6060.

The meeting is the Saturday before Mardi Gras but there are no Mid-City parades until 4:30 PM.

The show will be a first for New Orleans, but the Lafayette area, where the Acadiana group is based, is no stranger to these events. Under the auspices of the Society for Louisiana Irises, iris shows have been held annually in Lafayette for over sixty years. In the past they were part of the annual convention of SLI, but since the convention began rotating to different cities (it will be in Dallas this year), the Acadiana group has continued to hold a show when SLI is on the road. A great tradition but all brand new stuff for New Orleans.

The Beauty of a Show

Louisiana irises are unsurpassed in a naturalistic setting, but an iris show adds another dimension. The range of iris cultivars entered is very wide and each entry is named. The particular stalks are judged against other entries of the same variety and ribbons are awarded. The show-goer has the opportunity to identify irises and to see what qualities the judges see as indicating a well grown and presented iris. If a blue ribbon was awarded, you will see what the iris looks like when living up to its full potential.

Some Louisiana iris enthusiasts like to compete for ribbons and some



Some of the seedlings entered in the Lafayette show in 2003.

just enjoy providing an opportunity for others to see the a wide array of flowers. Anyone, not just members, can enter an iris in the show and everyone can enjoy the display and the educational opportunities a show affords.

There will be information on Louisianas provided by the sponsoring organizations and by Louisiana iris nurseries in the state. Experienced growers will be around to answer questions.

Even More Irises

Visitors won't have far to go to see Louisianas in gardens as well as in the show itself. The irises in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, which bloomed beautifully last spring in the first season after planting will be well worth a stroll. These irises had to be temporarily relocated in the Fall while reconstruction work was done in the Sculpture Garden. The late winter replanting may result in shorter flowers this spring, but they still should be a beautiful sight.

The beautiful development of Big Lake, on the opposite side of the Museum of Art from the Sculpture Garden, features large new plantings of Louisiana irises. This will be the first year to enjoy them. And the Botanical Garden itself has a variety of Louisianas interspersed throughout. They can be enjoyed along with the Spring Garden Show which will be held at the same time as the Louisiana Iris Show.

Longue Vue

And don't forget about Longue Vue. The long walkway in the Wild Garden has been replanted with both modern hybrids and gorgeous species and collected native irises. Longue Vue is a must-see stop on any iris tour during bloom season.

Spring is the time to enjoy Louisiana irises and New Orleans is a great place to see them. We are on our way to reclaiming the title "Iris Center of the Universe."



Spring 2008 Louisiana iris bloom in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden in City Park. The Garden has undergone reconstruction since last year and the irises were replanted in late winter. It remains to be seen how well established they will be by this year's bloom season, but the Sculpture Garden will be a fantastic home for Louisianas for years to come. The Sculpture Garden is part of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

LOUISIANA IRIS SHOW SCHEDULE

LOCATION. The show will be set up in the Sculpture Garden in City Park. For the show, the back gate, immediately across from the main entrance to the Botanical Garden, will be open.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9	Show setup - 2:30 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 10	
7:30 - 10:30 AM	Entries accepted for show
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Show judging
12:30 AM - 1:00 PM	SLI members vote for best seedlings
1:00 PM - 5 PM	Show open to public
SUNDAY, APRIL 11	
10:00 AM - 4 PM	Show open to public
4:00 PM	Show breakdown

The public is invited to enter irises as well as view the show at no charge. See the Show Rules in this issue.

HELP!

The work involved in holding a Louisiana iris show is not overwhelming. Our partnership with the Acadiana society will bring us the experience of some old hands at staging a show. But there will be some jobs for GNOIS to handle. We will need the support of members and friends.

Many tasks have to be handled in advance, but it is the logistics of the show itself that are most labor intensive. Several people are needed to set up the show on Friday afternoon and break it down on Sunday at 4PM. Help is especially needed Saturday morning beginning at 7 AM to accept entries and place them on the show tables. All this will be directed by Show Manger Gordon Rabalais of Arnaudville who has done this job in Lafayette for years. He knows how to do it but needs helpers.

GNOIS will need to staff information tables throughout the show. We will have material to hand out, questions to answer or refer and, hopefully, new members to sign up. There also will be ballots to hand out to choose "favorite iris" and to register for door prizes.

If you can spare a couple of hours, or more, please volunteer. Come to the meeting on March 13, or call Patrick O'Connor at 504-456-6060.



Scenes from the 2003 Acadiana Show in Lafayette



Scenes from the 2003 show in Lafayette provides a beautiful, and representative, example of a Louisiana Iris Show. Above, Show Manager Gordon Rabalais and GNOIS member Eileen Hollander during the process of entering irises. Left, the winning seedling entry from Dorman Haymon of Duson, LA.



Above, Jeff Weeks of Denham Springs grooming a scape to be placed on the show tables. Above left, a clerk arranging the entries.



Above, two show irises. The deep purple is probably 'Jeri' or 'Full Eclipse'. The red was a seedling entry in the 2003 show and is now registered as 'Storyville'.





Winners

The winners table above with both seedling and cultivar ribbon winners.



Above, the cultivars 'Heavenly Glow', at top, and 'Chuck Begnaud'. Left, two of the seedling entries.

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS IRIS SOCIETY
ACADIANA IRIS SOCIETY**

Louisiana Iris Show

April 10-11, 2010

*Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden,
1 Collins Diboll Circle, City Park
New Orleans, Louisiana*

The Horticultural Division of this show is approved by the American Iris Society and conducted according to their regulations. AIS rules and regulations cannot be violated. Judging will be by accredited AIS judges, except that seedling awards given in accordance with Society for Louisiana Irises (SLI) rules will be voted on by SLI members. Every show visitor is eligible to vote for the Rainbow awards, as indicated below.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE SHOW

1. All entries must be made and checked in with the Entry Chairman between the hours of 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2010.
2. Exhibition privileges are open to all persons.
3. Only clerks and show committee members will place irises on the show bench. Only judges, clerks and show committee members may be in the show area during judging.
4. Educational and commercial exhibits are welcome. Contact Patrick O'Connor, 504-456-6060, at least two weeks in advance so space may be provided for you.
5. All entries must remain in the show until the show closes at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 11, 2010. Those exhibitors wishing to keep their entries must be at the show exactly at 4 p.m. when cleanup begins. Ribbons not picked up will be mailed to the exhibitor after the show.
6. All precautions will be exercised, but neither the Greater New Orleans Iris Society, the Acadiana Iris Society, nor the Show Committee will assume responsibility for loss or damage to personal property.
7. All entries in the Horticultural Division, except for those entered in Division II - Seedlings, must be grown, transported and entered by the person whose name appears on the entry tag.
8. No person judging the Horticultural sections will be allowed to judge a section in which he or a member of his family has entries.

RULES FOR SPECIMEN ENTRIES

Division I - Horticulture & Division II - Seedlings

1. A specimen is one stalk in one container. Only one stalk is to be entered in each container as a specimen.
2. Specimen bloom stalks in the seedling division must be cut within 3" of the rhizome .
3. All entry tags must be filled in. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to correctly identify his or her entries. Failure to comply with the above will disqualify the entry.
4. All entries in Division II (Seedlings, i.e., irises not introduced into commerce) must be entered in the name of the originator and given an identification name or number.
5. Containers for all cultivars will be furnished by the Show Committee.
6. Specimen stalks of irises other than Louisianas will be used for display purposes only and may not be entered for competition except where they are used as part of an educational display.

DIVISION I - HORTICULTURE

The Horticulture Division rules apply to bloom stalks of irises named and registered with the American Iris Society and introduced into commerce.

SECTION A - Specimen bloom stalks of individual registered and introduced Louisiana iris cultivars.

A class will be made for each registered and introduced cultivar. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per variety. The selection of winners will be by accredited AIS judges based upon the degree to which that particular cultivar exhibits cultural perfection for its variety.

SECTION B - Louisiana Iris Species

This section will consist of entries of specimens of any of the five recognized Louisiana iris species: *I. fulva*, *I. brevicaulis*, *I. giganteaerulea*, *I. hexagona*, and *I. nelsonii*. If registered and introduced, species irises should be entered in Section A.

SECTION C - Collections of Registered and Introduced Irises.

This section consists of a collection of six (6) bloom stalks of Louisiana irises. (Each stalk must be of a different variety, i.e., cultivar). The name of the cultivars must appear on the back of the entry tag. The irises are to be exhibited in a container provided by the Show Committee. Selection of the winner will be by accredited judges.

AIS AWARDS

One first place ribbon, one second place ribbon, one third place ribbon, and as many honorable mention ribbons as merited may be awarded by judges for each cultivar/specimen category in the Horticulture sections, or for collections. Award ribbons are included in the tally for Silver/Bronze Medals/Certificates.

DIVISION II - Seedlings

Seedlings are specimen bloom stalks of **unintroduced** Louisiana irises; seedlings might be registered but not yet introduced into commerce, i.e., offered for sale.. For purposes of judging by members of the Society for Louisiana Irises (SLI) only, and separate from the vote of AIS judges, seedlings will be divided according to height as follows.

- A. **Short**, bloom stalk under 24 inches.
- B. **Medium**, bloom stalk over 24 inches but under 36 inches
- C. **Tall**, bloom stalk 36 inches and over.

SLI members will be eligible to vote for best seedling in each height category and best overall. A ribbon will be given to the winner in each category and overall. These awards will be separate from the “Best Seedling of the Show,” which the AIS judges will select.

Division III – Youth Horticultural

Exhibition privileges in the Youth Division are limited to persons under 19 years of age. These exhibitors may enter either the YOUTH Division or the regular Horticulture Division, but never in both at the same show. AIS Silver and Bronze medal/certificates may be awarded in the Youth Division only if there are at least two (2) exhibitors and at least ten (10) cultivars entered.

SPECIAL SHOW AWARDS

RAINBOW AWARD. All visitors to the Show may vote for their favorite iris among seedlings and among registered and introduced cultivars irrespective of AIS awards. A Rainbow Award ribbon will be given to the hybridizer of the winning iris in each category. This award will be determined after the Show and the ribbons will be mailed to the winners.

CORNAY AWARD. A ribbon will be awarded to the best seedling in each height category and overall as indicated by vote of members of the Society for Louisiana Irises.

MACMILLAN AWARD. A ribbon will be awarded to the exhibitor of the oldest registered blue ribbon winner from Division I, Section A.

GRANGER AWARD. A ribbon will be awarded to the best double Louisiana iris in Division I as designated by the AIS judges from among blue ribbon winners.

MERTZWEILLER AWARD. A ribbon will be awarded to the best tetraploid Louisiana iris in Division I as designated by AIS judges from among blue ribbon winners.

CAROLINE DORMON AWARD. A ribbon will be given for the best collection of irises as selected by the AIS judges. (Division I, Section C.).

The Cornay, MacMillan, Granger, Dormon and Mertzweiller awards are modeled after similar awards given by SLI.

AIS AWARDS

BEST SPECIMEN OF SHOW (Queen of Show). Shall be selected by the AIS judges responsible for judging of the show. Only those varieties in Division I, Sections A and B are eligible for Best of Show.

BEST SEEDLING OF SHOW. Shall be selected by all AIS judges responsible for judging the show from the entries in Division II, Section A. The definition of “seedling” is “a cultivar or collected species not formally introduced.”

AIS SILVER MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE. To the winner of the most blue ribbons placed by AIS judges.

AIS BRONZE MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE. To the winner of the second largest number of blue ribbons placed by AIS judges.

EDUCATION EXHIBIT CERTIFICATE. For any outstanding educational exhibit pertaining to irises. Judged by AIS judges.

PURPLE ROSETTE and EXHIBITION CERTIFICATE (EC). To the Best Seedling of Show. Additionally, any other seedling entered in the show may be awarded the Exhibition Certificate, if five (5) or more AIS judges viewing the show vote it as worthy of special recognition, as evidenced by ballots turned in at the Show to the Chairman and mailed by him or her to the Chairman of the Exhibition Committee of AIS.

Show Manager

Gordon Rabalais,
Arnaudville, LA 337-754-8023

Show Committee Chair

Patrick O'Connor
4628 Newlands St.
Metairie, LA 70006 504-456-6060

You are invited to join the Society for Louisiana Irises and the American Iris Society. Visit the show hospitality table for information or follow the links on the next page.

TIME TO JOIN OR REJOIN GNOIS

2010 Dues \$5 - Please make checks payable to Greater New Orleans Iris Society, or GNOIS.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Mail to: Fred Noggerath, GNOIS Treasurer, 4537 Ithaca St., Metairie, LA 70006.

And check out

Society for Louisiana Irises

www.louisianas.org

American Iris Society

www.irises.org