

Bayou *and* Marsh

Newsletter of the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

Success!

Our first ever Louisiana iris show in New Orleans gets rave reviews

In the end, the weather cooperated just enough. At the beginning of the week, it looked like we would be lucky to have thirty blooms to display, but we wound up with nearly a hundred and thirty. Great thanks are due to the nine members who made a special effort to enter irises and to a couple of days of long overdue warm weather.

Just about every aspect of the show worked as well as it could, especially for our first try. The weather was gorgeous, for starters. We were in four 20 x 20 foot tents provided by Sheriff Marlin Gusman and discovered that, even though they are white, it is hot and dark in there with the sides down. We were most fortunate that the weather was perfect and we were able to open up to the light.

The location in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden was also perfect. Not only is it a beautiful and unique setting, but our spot just inside the back gate put us a stone's throw from the entrance to the New Orleans Botanical Garden where the Spring Garden Show was being held. The crowd typically numbers in the thousands, and many crossed the street to walk through our Louisiana iris display. We had far in excess of

the number of visitors who normally attend an iris show, and without doubt we made a good impression. It is always interesting to encounter so many people who had been unaware that there was such a variety of colors and forms among Louisiana irises.

Thanks

Thanks are due to many people for pulling off a fine show. We are especially grateful to our American Iris Society judges who traveled a great distance and generously gave their time. Donna and Harry Wolford came from Palm Bay, Florida and Robert Treadway from Carlisle, Arkansas.



Greater New Orleans Iris Society
Acadiana Iris Society

Louisiana Iris Show



Free and Open to the Public
Saturday, April 10 - 1 PM to 5 PM
Sunday, April 11 - 10 AM to 4 PM

Sydney and Walda Besthoff
Sculpture Garden
City Park, New Orleans

Accredited by the American Iris Society

GNOIS Meeting Saturday, May 22 at Longue Vue

GNOIS will meet on **Saturday morning, May 22 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM** in the Whim Room at Longue Vue House and Garden. There will be a short business meeting to elect officers for the coming two years and to discuss future plans for GNOIS, including future shows, a permanent display garden, a fall Louisiana iris sale, and possible hosting of a future Society for Louisiana Irises convention.

Program. Several members will show slides and discuss their recent bloom season and trips to see native Louisiana species in the wild. Any member who wishes to participate is welcome to show pictures. A computer set up to show PowerPoint slides will be available. Contact Patrick O'Connor, 456-6060, if you need help in preparing pictures to show and please call if you wish to participate so time can be allocated.

Door Prize Irises. We will have some irises to give as door prizes. Be prepared to win.

Location. The Whim Room at Longue is located on the wing of the house nearest to the parking lot adjacent to the Wild Garden. Enter Longue Vue from Bamboo Road, drive to the courtyard, keep right past the gate house and circle around left to the parking lot. Look for signs directing you to the Whim Room. Call Patrick O'Connor at the number above if you need further directions.

There will be no charge at Longue Vue for those attending the meeting. See you there!

They are long time members of the Society for Louisiana Irises and made a special effort to support our first attempt at a New Orleans show.

Gordon Rabalais drove from Arnaudville, Louisiana to serve as Show Manager. Gordon has similarly served for many years as Show Manager for SLI when they meet in Lafayette, and he also is a Camellia judge. Few have or appreciate the skill and knowledge required to get iris entries organized to be judged and to tally votes for the rather complex set of awards. We could not have had a show without Gordon's help.

Pamela Buckman, the manager of the Sculpture Garden, was welcoming, helpful and enthusiastic. She went out of her way to accommodate the show within the Garden, and she provided critical logistical support. For several years, Pamela has made Louisiana irises at home in the Sculpture Garden, and we look forward to a continuing partnership.

There were many GNOIS members who helped plan and



Above: The tents for Louisiana Iris show nestled near the back entrance to the Sculpture Garden. **Below left:** The entries in the cultivar class of the show, consisting of irises registered with the American Iris Society. **Below right:** The species entries in the show, which were mainly forms of *I. fulva*, which is a relatively early bloomer. It was a fantastic assortment of species irises thanks to Benny Trahan, Buddy Manuel, Steve Shepard and Keith Pendergraft.





WINNERS

Top left: *The cultivar 'Crushed Ice', hybridized by Heather Pryor and entered by Eileen Hollander. This iris was winner of the GNOIS Rainbow Award, voted favorite iris by show visitors.* **Middle:** *The seedling winner voted by AIS judges, entered by Patrick O'Connor; and a variety of the ribbons of winners displayed on the Awards Table. Other show awards included:*

AIS Silver Medal (for most blue ribbons): Patrick O'Connor

AIS Bronze Medal (second most blue ribbons): Eileen Hollander

Marvin Granger Award (for best double iris): Joe Musacchia

W. B. MacMillan Award (for oldest registered iris): Patrick O'Connor for 'Edith Dupre'

Queen of Show (best cultivar entry voted by show judges): 'Night Thunder' entered



worked at the show. Benny Trahan of Slidell has to be singled out for making the show displays look first class. Benny made the wooden bases in which the bottles holding iris stalks were placed and he also made the wooden holders for the name tags for each cultivar. You can see them in the show pictures. Benny also found the bottles at a great price. All together, he created an asset that will serve GNOIS for many years.

The show was a partnership with the Acadiana Iris Society, and we appreciate the support of not only Gordon Rabalais, but also Rusty McSparrin and Joe Musacchia, both of whom are also members of GNOIS.

Thanks also to those who worked at the show, especially Buddy Manuel, Benny Trahan, Christy Dixon, Fred Noggerath, Tyrone Foreman, Eileen Hollander and Joe Musacchia. Amanda Hardesty and Caitlin Reilly, who works with Mark

Getting to Longue Vue

For those who have not been to Longue Vue, it is easy to find if you know the way. From I-10, exit at the City Park/Metairie Road exit and take Metairie Road (away from the Park). There will be a golf course on the left and Metairie Lawn Cemetery on the right. Within a half mile, as soon as it becomes residential, look for Bamboo Road on the left. It is a narrow little street that is easy to miss. If you come to the bridge over the canal, you've just missed it. Once on Bamboo Rd., Longue Vue is on the left after a block or so.

Schexnayder, served as show clerks helping Gordon Rabalais, and Caitlin and a crew from AmeriCorps helped with show setup. Thanks also are due to Mark for making this assistance available.

A special award should go to M.J. Urist of Tully, New York who came down and helped. M.J. loves Louisi-

ana and Louisiana irises, and we hope she will keep visiting. She is becoming a big time grower of Louisiana irises in a cold climate, which never ceases to amaze those of us who dread a night below freezing.

The show demonstrated that we not only grow beautiful flowers, but GNOIS has a good core of nice folks

willing to take up a challenge and achieve something widely recognized as a contribution to the community.

Someone Noticed ...
and posted pictures from our show on
Flicker:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rjhayphotography/sets/72157623726121373/>

TIME TO JOIN OR REJOIN

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

(This newsletter is distributed primarily by email, so please give an email address if possible)

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