

Bayou *and* Marsh

Newsletter of the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

Looking Back And Ahead

The Greater New Orleans Iris Society had a good spring. The irises were beautiful, and the first year bloom in the GNOIS Display Garden in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture in City Park exceeded expectations. Especially since the irises were planted late, the bloom was especially rewarding.

The April mini-Festival in the Sculpture Garden was also successful. The event featured the debut of the Display Garden and a Judges Training session by Joe Musacchia. A few days later, a tour group from the Society for Louisiana Irises convention in Lafayette came through and enjoyed seeing the fruits of all the iris donations and labor over the last several years at Longue Vue and at the Sculpture Garden and Big Lake in City Park.

A number of our members attended the Society for Louisiana Irises Convention in Lafayette

TUESDAY WEEDING THIS WEEK

On Tuesday morning July 19, Eileen Hollander will lead a weeding session in the Display Garden in the Sculpture Garden. If you have an hour, or at the most two, come on by at around 9:30 AM. Just bring gloves.

in April. These conventions are always great fun, with gardens to tour and a Louisiana Iris Show.

This year the main attraction was a special tour down to the Abbeville area organized by Benny Trahan and Jeff Weeks to see the remaining places that *I. nelsonii* can be found in the wild. These are amazing irises. They are red like *fulva* but tall like *giganticaerulea*, and, sad to say, very threatened.

On The Horizon

GNOIS has committed to several upcoming activities.



Fall Louisiana Iris Sale.

Saturday afternoon, *October 22* has been reserved for our Fall Louisiana Iris Sale at Longue Vue. This is our principal fund raiser and makes many of our other activities possible. We did spend some money on our Display Garden and a few other things last year and definitely need to replenish the coffers. We need donated irises and help working the three hours of the sale. More later on this, but please put aside a few irises if you are dividing yours in the fall. Plan to attend and help if you can, but by all means mark the date on your calendar so you come buy a few new things for your garden.

LEFT: The cultivar "Rigolets" in the GNOIS Display Garden. Good yellow Louisiana irises are not to be confused with the infamous yellow flag, I. pseudacorus.

Display Garden Expansion. With the support of the Sculpture Garden Manager Pamela Buckman, the GNOIS Display Garden got off to a great start. Pamela made a beautiful space available to us. We began late in the season and did not plant irises until November, plus a few even later, but bloom was nonetheless good. A second year bloom is always better, so make a note not to miss a Spring visit.

Over five plants each of over sixty varieties were donated by Eileen Hollander, Benny Trahan, Ron Killingworth and Patrick O'Connor.

This year we would like to expand the planting. Take a look at the list of irises below that are now in the Display Garden. Our focus has been on both newer cultivars and those we know to be good garden irises, ones the public should know about.

Our Vice President Eileen Hollander has coordinated the Display Garden project and has done a great job. She has agreed to continue with the expansion. If you have suggestions for additional cultivars, and especially if you can contribute some, please email Eileen at eehollan@bellsouth.net. We will be asking several hybridizers and growers for contributions also, and we can buy a few new varieties if we need to.

All the irises in City Park are gorgeous, but the distinctive feature of the Display Garden is that each variety is named and labeled. People who see something they like have a chance to find it for their own garden.

September Meeting. We will have a general membership meeting on Saturday morning, September 24 in the Sculpture Garden. In case of bad weather, we will adjourn to the Parkview Grill (the Casino building) across the street) and sit at the tables. If the weather is good, we might plant a few irises and do a little weeding in the Display Garden (as a special treat!), but we mainly will discuss the upcoming plant sale and plans for the spring.

Master Gardener Iris Dividing/Demonstration. GNOIS has been asked to participate in an event originated by the Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans to be held on the afternoon of October 1 at Longue Vue. The Master Gardeners want to demonstrate the divid-



ing and replanting of Louisiana irises by helping with some beds that need to be reworked. These are beds that contain unknown or mixed cultivars, and room needs to be made for newer known and named varieties.

The general public will be invited and GNOIS members and Master Gardeners both will instruct and help. This will just last a couple of hours, from 1 - 3 PM, on a Saturday afternoon. More information will

ABOVE: Joe Musacchia conducting a judges training session at the GNOIS mini-festival the Sculpture Garden. BELOW: Irises line all the walkways in the Sculpture Garden. The GNOIS Display Garden is located in the back center of this picture, behind the cascade pool.



be sent as the day approaches.

Spring Louisiana Iris Show. In the Spring, we are considering another iris show such as we had in 2009. It was a huge success but we did not hold it again in 2010 because of a conflict with the Society for Louisiana Irises Convention and it's show in Lafayette. In 2011, the SLI convention will be held in Shreveport several weeks after our peak bloom, so we should be able to have a show with no conflict.

Some Dates To Put On Your Calendar

Tue, Jul 19	9:30-11:30 AM	Light weeding Sculpture Garden
Sat, Sep 24	9:30 - 11:30 AM	GNOIS Meeting, Sculpture Garden
Sat, Oct 1	1:00-3:00 PM	Digging/Dividing Demo, Longue Vue
Sat, Oct 22	1:30-3:30 PM	Iris Sale, Longue Vue

Organizing a show is significant work, but the event was extremely popular. We set up in a tent in the Sculpture Garden just across from the Botanical Garden where the Spring Garden Show was being

held. With thousands of interested gardeners in the area, the number of people who came through our show and saw the irises was far greater than most iris shows.

We'll need help to do this.

Spring Review

Some Highlights Of An Active Iris Season



ABOVE: Tyrone Foreman at Longue Vue for the Society for Louisiana Irises Tour. Tyrone has worked part time at Longue Vue for several years and deserves great credit for the restoration of the Louisiana iris collection. The bloom at Longue Vue was fantastic in 2011.

*LEFT: Benny Trahan with Tara McKinney on the Society for Louisiana Irises tour to the Abbeville area to see the remaining habitat of *I. nelsonii*. *I. giganteaerulea* also grows in the area, and Benny pulled one from a swamp near the Vermilion River to illustrate the height it can attain in its natural habitat.*



ABOVE: I. nelsonii blooming on the SLI tour of the Abbeville area in April.



RIGHT, top: The Display Garden in the Besthoff Sculpture Garden in first year bloom. BELOW: The irises around Big Lake near the Museum of Art. RIGHT, middle: 'Gulf Moonglow', by Albert Faggard, blooming beautifully at Longue Vue.



ABOVE; 'Melon Cocktail', by Dr. John Betts of Australia. RIGHT: The path through the Wild Garden at Longue Vue, lined with irises for nearly a hundred yards.



GNOIS Display Garden 2010

Cultivar	Hybridizer Year	Predominant Color
Ann Chowning	(Chowning 1977)	deep red
Atchafalaya	(Campbell 1998)	red-violet
Aunt Shirley	(Mertzweiller 1992)	pink
Avelline	(Taylor, 1997-98)	pink
Barataria	(O'Connor 2002)	rose
Bayou Fountain	(O'Connor 1992)	purple
Bayou Mystique	(Dunn 1988)	light lavender
Bayou Tiger	(Strawn 1993)	red purple/orange
Better Believe It	(Taylor, 1998-99)	red
Bera	(Mertzweiller 1996)	purple
Brazos Gold	(Strawn 1993)	yellow-orange
Byron Bay	(Rabbe 1986-87)	blue purple
Bywater	(O'Connor 2005)	light blue
C'est Si Bon	(Taylor 1983-84)	purple
Charlie's Tress	(Army 1977)	lavender-purple
Cherry Cup	(Morgan 1989)	cherry red
Chuck	(Army 1958)	red
Clyde Redmond	(Clyde Redmond 1970)	cornflower blue
Creole Flame	(Wyatt 1973)	flame red
Creole Rhapsody	(Mertzweiller 1998)	bicolor red and white
Crushed Ice	(Pryor 1996)	white
Delta Star	(Granger 1966)	deep purple
Deja Voodoo	(O'Connor 2011)	purple
Dixie Deb	(Chowning 1951)	sulfur yellow
Early On	(O'Connor 2005)	orchid
Feliciana Hills	(O'Connor 1987)	pink
Freddie Boy	(Mertzweiller 1974)	red
Frederick Douglas	(Haymond 2004)	plum purple
Frenchmen Street	(O'Connor 2002)	light buff orange
German Coast	(O'Connor 2007)	purple
Glowlight	(Taylor 1986)	bitone
Grand Coteau	(O'Connor, 2009)	amber
Great White Hope	(Haymon 2000)	dark blue violet
Gris Gris	(O'Connor 2011)	red
Heather Pryor	(Taylor 1993)	cream
Ila Nunn	(Army 1969)	cream
Inn Keeper	(Taylor 1978-79)	blue purple
Irish Bayou	(O'Connor 2002)	rose
Jeri	(Bertinot 1985)	dark violet
King Creole	(Dunn 1980)	blue violet
Kristi G	(Mertzweiler 1985)	pale blue lavender
Lafitte Celebration	(O'Connor 2002)	coral pink
Lake Sylvia	(Morgan 1993)	cobalt blue
Laura Louise	(Mertzweiller-Ostheimer 1990)	yellow-orange
Lineage	(Sloan 2006)	stds cream maroon web
Longue Vue	(Haymond 2000)	white with olive veining
Mac's Blue Heaven	(MacMillan 1973)	blue, white styles
Mister Joe	(Mertzweiller 2008)	red
Monkey Hill	(O'Connor 2005)	red
My Friend Dick	(Butler 2000)	currant red

Continued next page

Display Garden, continued

New Basin Canal	(O'Connor 2009)	red-brown
News Brief	(Rowlan 1982)	red
Night Thunder	(Morgan 2000)	dark violet
Our Dorothy	(Pryor 1997)	pale lemon
Professor Neil	(Mertzweiler 1992)	wine red
Red Echo	(Rowlan 1984)	scarlet red
Rhett	(Dunn 1983)	mahogany red
Rigolets	(O'Connor 2004)	light yellow
Roberta Rowell	(Killingsworth 2000)	light yellow
Sea Knight	(Morgan 1986)	dark blue
Sinfonietta	(Raabe 1987)	baby blue, yellow signals
Southdowns	(O'Connor 1992)	light blue-purple
Storyville	(O'Connor 2005)	red
Sunshine Bridge	(O'Connor 2001)	rose
Suzy G	(Haymon 2007)	golden yellow
Victoria Inn	(O'Connor 2002)	light purple
Wheelhorse	(Dormon 1943)	rose bitone
Yummy	(Durio 1995)	yellow veined violet

TIME TO JOIN OR REJOIN

2011 Dues \$5 - Please make checks payable to Greater New Orleans Iris Society, or GNOIS.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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