

# Bayou and Marsh

No. 42

News from the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

April 2023

## Take Note:

- This is the time to see the wild irises uniquely accessible in South Louisiana. The Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative has developed a unique online map showing good sites. You can find it by clicking: [Take Me To The LIC Map](#)
- The GNOIS website also has information on locations where the wild species can be found. Click: [Get Me To The Irises](#)

**Y**es, this **Saturday, March 4, (not much notice, we know)** members are invited to come to the Island Iris Nursery from around 9AM till Noon. We had reserved the library for a regular me

<http://www.louisianairisgnois.com/>



Greater New Orleans Iris Society

*You were warned!*

## It's Around the Corner

**We're talking Spring and Louisiana irises. There's a lot to see and do. Pick one or two things not to miss.**

This issue of *Bayou and Marsh* provides details about the activities planned for the spring. Look over the brief articles that add detail about the bare bones listing in the Calendar.

If anything changes (what could happen in Louisiana; certainly not bad weather), look to Facebook or our website for updates. The website is at [www.LouisianaIrisGNOIS.com](http://www.LouisianaIrisGNOIS.com)

## Iris Calendar

Sat. Mar 25 **Spring Potted Louisiana Iris Sale**  
New Canal Lighthouse, 8001 Lakeshore Dr.  
9AM-Noon

Sat., Apr 1 **Member Open Gardens**  
Drop by from 2 PM till 6 PM  
**Sue Anthony Garden**  
**Patrick and Julie O'Connor Garden**  
Directions and details in page 2.

Sun, Apr 2 **Annual Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival**  
Besthoff Sculpture Garden,  
10AM-4PM

Tue, Apr 4 **Louisiana Iris Day at Longue Vue**  
#7 Bamboo Road, Ntw Orleans  
In the Wild Garden,  
4PM-7PM

Sat, Apr 8 **OPEN HOUSE ON THE ISLAND**  
GNOIS Island Iris Nursery  
10AM-3PM

Fri-Sun, Apr 15-17 **Society For Louisiana Irises in Lafayette**



*'Flareout', an early bloom.*

## Thursday Volunteer Mornings Continue

Our Thursday morning volunteer sessions on the Island will continue through bloom season, and that is another opportunity for members to see the irises. We have light work to make it presentable for others. Help is greatly appreciated.

You can check the website's home page for a "flag" indicating whether the session is "on" or "off." Sometimes the weather or scheduling



**'Friends' Song' and  
'Flaming Hot'**

**Come see  
how  
members use  
the irises in  
their  
landscapes.**

## Potted Louisiana Iris Sale, Saturday

Every spring, GNOIS draws upon its extensive collection of irises for two sales to fund the activities of the organization. The rhizome sale is in the fall, the best time for planting bare root, and spring is devoted to potted irises, which can be planted at any time.

Member volunteers dig and pot the irises months in advance so they are well established, and we offer as wide a variety of plants as possible. Some vigorous and worthy irises are almost always in the

mix, but we make an effort to sell a different mix of irises every year.

Some of the irises are newer varieties and some are old, even historic, plants that have passed the test of time.

The sale is an opportunity to find some irises not offered elsewhere and certainly not locally. Aside from the GNOIS sale, the widest varieties are available from online specialty nurseries for fall delivery.

Our potted irises sell for \$10.

The sale this spring will be held at the Canal Street Light-house on Lakeshore Drive. For both parking and the availability of plants (some are in short supply) it is best to come early.

The sale runs from 9 AM till the plants are sold, or Noon, whichever comes first.

We need volunteers to work at the sale. Please contact Lorrie Brown, xxxxxxx, if you are available.

## Member Open Gardens on Saturday, April 1

Sue Anthony and Patrick and Julie O'Connor, are opening their gardens to other members on Saturday, April 1. Please feel free to drop by anytime between 2 PM and 6 PM to see irises and other plants.

Sue lives in old Jefferson, and entry to her garden is from the back at **xxxx St. George**, where there is ample parking. It's a few blocks off Jefferson

Highway toward the River.

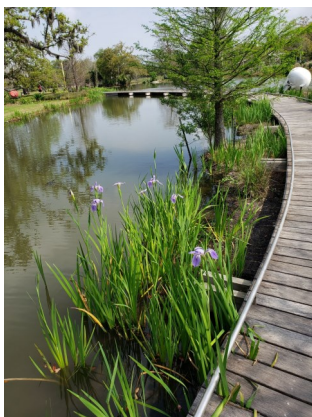
Patrick and Julie are at **4628 Newlands St. in Metairie**, not far from the corner of Clearview and Veterans. On Clearview past the intersection headed toward the Lake, turn, turn left onto the second street past Vets, and it is six houses on the left.

Park along Newlands St. Most irises are in back, so feel

free to look around the front, but go through the gate on the right side of the house to the back to see most irises and a wide variety of ferns hardy and tropical ferns.

Sue has a large collection of named hybrids. Patrick also has cultivars, including many as yet unnamed seedlings that are a product of a hybridizing program going back many years.

## Rainbow Festival in the Besthoff Sculpture Garden



NOMA's Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden is the sight of unique iris plantings as well as wonderful art. The banks of the lagoon and the edges of the water are lined with Louisiana irises, both species and developed hybrids.

Since Hurricane Katrina, the Sculpture Garden has been a project of GNOIS and we have donated thousands of plants.

Rusty McSparrin of Shriever and the late Jeff Weeks of Denham Springs also made major donations of irises that now embellish the Garden in the spring.

GNOIS and the Garden have held a Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival annually for nearly ten years to mark the iris bloom season. Members are available to answer the questions of

visitors about the irises, to give demonstrations and short talks on the plants, and show.

This year's Festival is on Sunday, April 2 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Members available to help for a couple of hours will be greatly appreciated. We will have an tent with information to distribute. We will also be stationed among visitors to an-

## Louisiana Iris Day at Longue Vue, Tuesday April 4, 4 to 7 PM

Longue Vue House and Gardens boasts the oldest collection of Louisiana irises in the area and other attractions that keep it on the list of prime places to visit in New Orleans. Each year, Longue Vue and GNOIS collaborate to offer a late afternoon and early evening opportunity to stroll through the irises in the Wild Garden, enjoy light refreshments, and visit. It is a relaxed event perfect for after work or the early evening on a

weekday.

The irises at Longue Vue are displayed along a long, curving linear path. It's nearly a hundred yards long, so there is room for lots of irises. You'll find newer cultivars and species, but the original planting occurred in the 1950s, so it is not unusual to see a few older forms pop up.

The Wild Garden contains many other plants, mostly na-

tives. Red Buckeye may be in bloom, and if we are lucky the blazing orange Florida native azalea, *Rhododendron austrinum*.

When Edith Stern created the Wild Garden, the prominent naturalist, conservationist and early Louisiana iris enthusiast Caroline Dorman provided assistance. This could not have set Longue Vue off to a better start as a Louisiana iris destination.



## Open House at the GNOIS Island Iris Nursery, Saturday April 8

The GNOIS Iris Nursery in City Park is the major project of the organization, and it supports our iris donations, sales and freebie irises for members. It also is an amazing place to see in bloom, featuring a huge variety of hybrid cultivars and the largest collection species forms in the country.

We are grateful to members who help maintain the island

nursery during the off season, but no one should miss seeing it in bloom. The nursery is in City Park but in a work area not a public space. We open it only on a limited basis during bloom, so plan to drop by during our Open House. If you can't make it then, drop by during our regular Thursday morning volunteer sessions, or contact an officer about another time. We want our mem-

bers to have every opportunity to enjoy the place.

We made a [video](#) of the island nursery that shows what we do and how it looks in full bloom. If have not seen it, feel free to

check it out by clicking on the picture below



## Society for Louisiana Irises Rendezvous in Lafayette, April 14-15

The Society for Louisiana Irises will gather in Lafayette, for spring festivities. It is not the annual convention to which some may be accustomed, but we will have a dinner around Cypress Lake on the UL Lafayette campus and have a display and booth at the Festival des Fleurs Saturday in the Blackham Coliseum. During the day Friday, we'll coordinate some on-your own tours of some

great garden spots where Louisiana irises are more than plentiful.

The Friday night dinner will feature a panel presentation on the famous "Abbeville Reds,"

now named *I. nelsonii*. It is found only in a square miles of swamp southeast of Abbeville, and is a rare and endangered plant in the wild.

While not the usual convention, it is always worth coming to Lafayette for the irises. The details are in the current issue of *Fleur de Lis* magazine. As an electronic member of SLI, your PDF copy is waiting



for you online. [Fetch my Fleur de Lis](#)





## Greater New Orleans Iris Society

### OFFICERS

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## Organization

**Take me to the GNOIS  
website**

[www.LouisianaIrisGNOIS.com](http://www.LouisianaIrisGNOIS.com)



This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Primary Business Address

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4

## A Little Help, Please

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.

# Louisiana Iris Day

Sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

**Celebrating Caroline  
Dormon's Legacy in  
Bloom**

Join Longue Vue as we celebrate the incredible Louisiana Iris! Stroll in our Wild Garden and enjoy our blooming Louisiana Iris collection! With over 3,000 plants, the collection includes the five native species and 115 named varieties including the Longue Vue iris pictured here. Experts from the Greater New Orleans Iris Society will be on hand to answer all of your iris questions. Light refreshments will be served.



**TUESDAY,  
APRIL 4**

**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

**FREE ADMISSION**



**LONGUE VUE**  
YOUR HOUSE, YOUR GARDENS

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DETAILS & REGISTRATION [LONGUEVUE.COM](http://LONGUEVUE.COM)