



Bayou *and* Marsh

Newsletter of the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

Longue Vue Iris Festival, Jean Lafitte Celebration Highlight Spring Iris Weekend

The Greater New Orleans Iris Society and Longue Vue House and Garden are teaming up for a Louisiana iris “mini-festival” on Saturday morning, April 9. From 9:00 to 11:30 AM, the public is welcome to attend slide presentations, iris culture demonstrations and take a guided walk among the Louisiana irises in the Wild Garden at Longue Vue. There will be a \$3 general admission, but the festival is free for members of Longue Vue and GNOIS.

In the afternoon, three GNOIS member gardens will be open to the public from 1:30 until 4:30. And, with the annual Celebration of the Louisiana Iris in

Jean Lafitte on Sunday, the weekend could not offer a wider array of opportunities to see Louisiana irises in different settings.

Events

The schedule for the Longue Vue Festival will be compact. There will be two different slide presentations but the culture demonstration will occur at two times, as will the guided stroll along Longue Vue’s Louisiana Iris Walk. One of the slide presentations will emphasize the species and older irises and the other will show more of the modern hybrids available to gardeners.

Festival Schedule

Saturday, April 9 , 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

9:15 - 9:45	Garden Demonstration: Dividing, Planting, and Propagation (Wild Garden)
9:30 - 10:00	Slide Show and Talk (Whim House)
9:30 -10:00	Guided Walking Tours of Irises (Wild Garden)
10:15 -10:45	Garden Demonstration: Dividing, Planting, and Propagation (Wild Garden)
10:30-11:00	Slide Show and Talk (Whim House)
10:45-11:15	Guided Walking Tours of Irises (Wild Garden)

Louisiana Iris Celebration April 10 in Jean Lafitte

On Sunday, April 10 from 9:00 until 5:00, the Better Swamps and Garden Club will sponsor the 9th Annual Celebration of the Louisiana Iris in the communities of Lafitte, Barataria and Crown Point.

The Celebration offers garden tours, a nature walk, talks by Dan Gill and Eileen Hollander, and irises for sale. There are seven stops on the tour this year, including Victoria Inn and Gardens. The new Jean Lafitte Nature Park, featuring an elevated boardwalk through the marsh and among the irises, by itself would be worth the short 20 mile drive to Jean Lafitte.

The starting point for the self-guided tour is the Tourist Center in Jean Lafitte. Tickets are \$8. A bus tour starting at the Center also is available, and it includes lunch at Victoria Inn. Tickets for the

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The irises at Longue Vue are particularly varied, with representatives of the native species, collected hybrids and older cultivars growing alongside newer varieties. The Iris Walk curves for nearly a hundred yards through the Wild Garden. It is a beautiful sight when the Louisianas are in bloom, but with a wide variety of native plants, it is very nice year round.

The gardens at Longue Vue were designed by renowned landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman, and the Wild Garden was planted originally by Caroline Dorman, a conservationist and early collector and hybridizer of Louisi-



The brilliant red Louisiana iris cultivar 'Red Dazzler' (Hale, 1969) in the Wild Garden at Longue Vue, demonstrating that the older forms reminiscent of the species never go out of style.

GNOIS Garden Tour

Saturday, April 9,
1:30 - 4:30 PM

Three GNOIS member gardens will be open to the public as part of a self-guided tour. There is no charge.

Each garden grows a wide variety of Louisiana iris hybrids, typical of those sold at the annual GNOIS Fall Iris Sale.

The open gardens for 2005 are those of:

Eileen and Jack Hollander
5436 S. Claiborne St.
New Orleans

Near intersection of Claiborne and
Jefferson

Betty and Hubert Rena
4313 Lake Villa Dr.
Metairie

Just off West Esplanade a few
blocks east of East Jeff Hospital

Patrick and Julie O'Connor
4628 Newlands St.
Metairie

Near Vets and Clearview, two
blocks toward the Lake and one
block west of Clearview.

For directions, call 456-6060

ana irises.

The culture demonstration by members of GNOIS will cover planting, fertilizing, dividing and propagation, as well as various tips for easy maintenance and good growth. There will be an opportunity for questions.

The GNOIS garden tours present settings with a large number of recent Louisiana iris hybrids as well as other interesting plants. The O'Connor gar-

den is also the site of a hybridizing program. It contains both registered irises and a large number of seedlings under trial. A brief demonstration of techniques of cross-pollinating irises will be given in this garden for those interested.

GNOIS Officers

Patrick O'Connor, President
Fred Noggerath, Vice-President
Eileen Hollander, Treasurer
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Betty Rena
Tyrone Foreman
Christy Dixon
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Field Trips

GNOIS has two other iris opportunities set up for spring 2005.

Lafayette Show. On Saturday, April 2 the Acadiana Chapter of SLI holds its annual iris show. Several GNOIS members will meet at the show, attend the Festival de Fleurs, and return to N.O. via the Baton Rouge Botanical Garden.

Wild Iris Trip. On Saturday, April 16, providing bloom is still good, Benny Trahan will lead a group to several sites where native stands of irises remain.

Call Patrick O'Connor, 456-6060, if you would like more information.

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bus tour are \$25 and are available on a first-come, first-served basis by calling 689-4233.

The talks by Dan Gill and Eileen Hollander are scheduled for 10:45 and 11:15 AM and will be repeated at 2:15 and 2:45 PM. Dan will discuss a broad range of garden topics and Eileen will focus on Louisiana irises.

The Lafitte communities are unique, and a trip there at iris time is not to be missed. Native *I. giganteaerulea* should be in full bloom and are readily accessible in their native habitat. The tour gardens will have hybrid cultivars as well.

A favorite iris to look for at Victoria Inn is a natural hybrid collected on the Fleming Plantation nearby. It is probably a cross of *I. fulva* and *giganticaerulea* and is a brilliant fuchsia.



A view of Victoria Inn from across a pond lined with *I. giganteaerulea*.

GNOIS Fall Iris Sale

Plan ahead and mark your calendar for Sunday afternoon, October 23. The fall sale at Longue Vue will offer a wide variety of Louisiana irises.

Join the Greater New Orleans Iris Society - 2005

GNO  Greater New Orleans
Iris Society

To Join Complete the Following -- Annual Dues \$5

Please make checks payable to Greater New Orleans Iris Society, or GNOIS

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Mail to: Eileen Hollander, Treasurer, 5436 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125