

# Bayou *and* Marsh

*Newsletter of the Greater New Orleans Iris Society*

## Big Spring Ahead

The Greater New Orleans Iris Society does not think small. Sometimes we wish we did, but we are out there in the community planning a pretty full slate of iris activities.

Undoubtedly, there is no city as blessed as New Orleans with as many great gardens suitable for Louisiana irises, and we are taking full advantage of them in our spring schedule. Here's the scoop. Mark your calendars.

### **GNOIS Meeting, Saturday, March 16, 10 AM**

See sidebar. Come help get us ready for spring.

### **Thursday, March 28, 4 -7 PM - Longue Vue: Caroline Dormon's Iris Legacy in Bloom**

Each year Longue Vue House and Gardens holds an event during iris bloom season to commemorate the contributions of the famous Louisiana naturalist and artist Caroline Dormon who assisted Edith Stern in the original planting of the Wild Garden in the 1930s. It's a great



*The cultivar 'Blue Splatter' by California hybridizer Wayland Rudkin, an early bloom this year in NOMA's Besthoff Sculpture Garden.*

## **GNOIS MEETING**

**10 AM Saturday March 16  
in the Coach House  
at Longue Vue**

GNOIS kicks off its spring activities with a meeting at Longue Vue. Since we are having an American Iris Society accredited iris show in April, a major focus of the meeting will be on what shows are all about. Our Vice President Joe Musacchia will talk about how shows are set up, how irises can be entered, and how they are judged.

We will also discuss other spring iris activities including the Caroline Dormon Day celebration at Longue Vue, the Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival in the Sculpture Garden in City Park, and the 2014 Society for Louisiana Irises National Convention, which GNOIS is hosting.

There may be a few irises already in bloom at Longue Vue when we meet on the 16th, but there will also be irises to take home as door prizes and raffle irises.

Please join us on March 16 you can. The meeting is in the Coach House at Longue Vue, which is immediately adjacent to the main house. Just drive in and look for the signs. There is always something to learn and opportunities to expand our gardens.

little event. Music, refreshments, and a stroll through the Wild Garden while the Louisiana irises are at peak. A perfect time to drop by after work or before dinner. *April 4 will be the rain date*, but there should be irises to see either time.

**Louisiana Iris Show, Saturday and Sunday April 6-7,  
N. O. Museum of Art Courtyard, Noon - 5PM Saturday,  
10 AM - 4 PM on Sunday**

The Greater New Orleans Iris Society held its first ever iris show in 2010 in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden. It was a huge hit. Many of those who attended the Spring Garden Show in the N.O. Botanical Garden walked

across the street to see Louisiana irises on display in a show as well as a natural setting.

The show was set up in tents in the Sculpture Garden with the iris cultivars displayed in bottles and with judging by accredited American Iris Society Judges. The banks of the lagoon in the Sculpture Garden, of course, are lined with thousand of Louisiana irises growing naturally with no judging other than the approval of those strolling by. This year GNOIS will again hold an accredited iris show, but in the courtyard in the New Orleans Museum of Art on the side nearest Big Lake.

Shows are a great place to see individual cultivars displayed by name. They also present an opportunity to see what judges think are the best grown irises. In fact, any member of the public is welcome to bring and enter a Louisiana iris in the show. The GNOIS meeting on March 16 will include a program about how to do that.

**Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival, Sunday, April 7,  
12 Noon - 4 PM in the Besthoff Sculpture Garden**

The Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival has become a new tradition in New Orleans. An oxymoron, perhaps, but this “new” tradition has roots back to the 1930s when the same area of the Park was designated a “Rainbow Memorial” and planted with massive numbers of Louisiana irises. The return of the irises was fate, or coincidence, take your pick. But they are there now and the display in the spring is gorgeous.

The remarkable sculptures are the real art in the Sculpture Garden. The landscaping and the topography provide a strong supporting cast, and the irises make a colorful contribution. The GNOIS Display Garden is there and provides an opportunity to see a wide variety of named Louisiana irises growing in a garden setting. At the Rainbow Festival, you can listen to some music, walk through the Garden, and talk to our members about Louisiana irises, if you want. And, the GNOIS Louisiana Iris Show will still be going on across the street at the Museum and the Spring Garden Show in the Botanical Garden will be in its final day.

**Spring Garden Show, N. O. Botanical Garden,  
April 6 -7**

This is not an iris event, but there are irises to see in the Botanical Garden, many newly planted last fall. Lots of vendors will be set up among the huge variety of plants in a beautiful setting.

Keep in mind that the Botanical Garden, the Museum of Art and the Sculpture Garden sit adjacent to one another. It is an easy matter to take in the Spring Garden Show, then walk up the street to the Iris Show in the Museum Court-



*A gorgeous iris in the Wild Garden at Longue Vue that bloomed last year.*

yard, or cross the street on Sunday for the Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival. You can also walk over to Big Lake and see the irises plantings on the water, or to Bayou Metairie to see a few blooming along the edge, Perhaps pick up a caffè latte at Morning Call on the way?

The weekend of April 6 -7 will be a time to enjoy the whole package in the Park. There are iris options in all directions.

**THE LOUISIANA IRIS SHOW  
SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, April 6**

7:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Show entries accepted

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Show judged

11 AM - 12 Noon

SLI member voting

12:00 Noon - 5 PM

Show open to public

**Sunday, April 7**

10 AM - 4 PM

Show open to public

4PM - 5 PM

Breakdown and clean-up

*Anyone can enter irises. Come hear the presentation at the March 16 meeting about how to prepare them.*

*Judging by accredited American Iris Society Judges. The public can vote for their favorite iris.*



## We Need A Little Help

The upcoming iris events do require a bit of people-power. The Louisiana Iris Show, particularly, involves a few jobs, and anyone who can spare a couple of hours over the weekend of April 6-7 would be most definitely appreciated.

Much of the work is advance preparation that is under control, but we need people to help out at an information table, distribute and collect favorite-iris ballots, and a few other things. Assistance with set-up on Friday or tear-down on Sunday at 4PM would be great.

More information on tasks will be available at the March 16 GNOIS meeting, or you can call the show chair, Patrick O'Connor, about possibilities: 504-343-1399. We will have some iris rhizomes for those who can help.

The Longue Vue event on March 28 and the Rainbow Festival on April 7 are not labor intensive for GNOIS. We would like members to be present for a while to answer iris questions or distribute information. Or just come enjoy the irises, the company, the music and some refreshments.



SCENES FROM THE 2010 SHOW

## TIME TO JOIN OR REJOIN GNOIS

2013 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.**

## AND DON'T FORGET THE SOCIETY FOR LOUISIANA IRISES

SLI is an international organization established in 1941 to promote Louisiana irises. Members receive its quarterly magazine *Fleur de Lis* and occasional special publications. Membership is \$13 annually for an individual or \$32 triennial. Family is \$16 and \$44 respectively.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: SLI, 10325 Caddo Lake Road,  
Mooringsport, LA 71060**