

Bayou and Marsh

No. 30

News from the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

March 2016

Raffle!

The March 26 meeting will feature a new wrinkle, a raffle of recent, registered Louisiana iris cultivars. We have always given out irises through a drawing, and these good giveaway irises will continue to flow. But the purpose of the raffle will be to both raise funds for the club and make some of the newest irises, which typically sell for \$35 to \$50, available to lucky members for a few dollars.

Raffle tickets will cost only \$5. Based on member reaction, we will plan future raffles periodically.

DUES

Annual membership renewals run for the calendar year beginning in January. It's not too late to renew or join for the year. Dues have increased to \$10 per year, still a great deal to support our work and the information we provide. Please send your check to:

Fred Noggerath, Treasurer
4537 Ithaca St. Metairie, LA
70006

PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING IRIS SHOW AND RAINBOW FESTIVAL WILL HIGHLIGHT MARCH 26 MEETING

A raffle of recent iris cultivars will
also be featured

Spring meetings are always packed full of information and anticipation. When we gather in the **Playhouse at Longue Vue at 9 AM on Saturday, March 26**, there should already be early bloom to see.

The focus of the meeting will be preparation for major spring iris events. The Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival is scheduled for Sunday, April 10, and as part of this celebration GNOIS will stage an AIS accredited iris show in the Sculpture Garden in City Park.

Several tents will be set up for the show entries, information and iris sales. At the March 26 meeting, in the 9AM - 10AM period, several members will demonstrate their particular techniques for transporting irises from their gardens to a show. It's not a difficult process, but a few



**4-6 PM
MARCH 31**

Join Longue Vue House and Gardens as we celebrate the annual Louisiana Iris Day. Explore the magnificent collection of irises in the Wild Garden. Mingle with iris enthusiasts while enjoying refreshments, music from Sarah Quintana and live plein air painting with Peg Thuer.

This free program is sponsored by
The Greater New Orleans Iris Society.

RSVP online
www.longuevue.com

 **LOUISIANA IRIS DAY CELEBRATION**
Sponsored by The Greater New Orleans Iris Society
Contact Edna Laniert at 504.293.4723 or elaneri@longuevue.com for more information.

precautions have to be taken to prevent the bloom stalks and blossoms from being damaged. There are a few favored techniques that members use which can be easily adopted or adapted.

After a brief business meeting, Joe Musacchia, an accredited American Iris Society judge, will give a demonstration on how to enter the irises brought to the Sculpture Garden for the Iris Show. There will be an entry tag to complete, but the principal task will be the “grooming” of individual stalks for judging. Grooming techniques are simple, and often are the difference between a blue ribbon entry and one that receives a lesser or no award.

The grooming of the entries also assures the most beautiful display possible for those who just visit the show hoping to see nice Louisiana irises. AIS judges will be making the award decisions, but everyone appreciates a beautiful iris.

If all this sounds like a bit of work, it is. But it is a fun kind of work shared by other members with the same objectives, and there will be plenty of help for the inexperienced. Even if you only bring a few bloom stalks, we hope you will try your hand at entering irises to share with the public.

Raffle

The iris raffle and the distribution of some older cultivars from the island planting will conclude the meeting. The expansion of our members’ iris plantings is one of the major objectives of GNOIS.

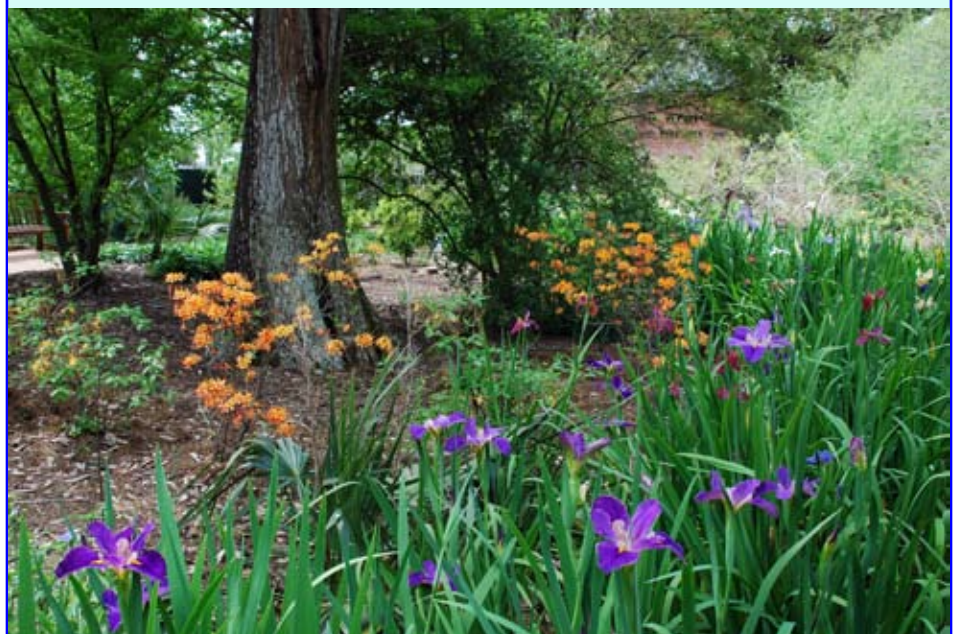
Check out the upcoming
2015 SLI Shreveport Convention
Great gardens, great time.
www.louisianairisgnois.com
Just click.

Louisiana Iris Day At Longue Vue March 31

***Late afternoon celebration to feature
irises, music, art, refreshments and
camaraderie***

Longue Vue’s annual iris celebration is always a huge hit among GNOIS members and the public. It is a relaxed event at which we just get to enjoy the flowers and all the work that went into maintaining the Wild Garden during the year.

This year the celebration will fall on a Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, a perfect time for a stop after work or before dinner. Longue Vue asks that you RSVP if you plan to attend so that they can best prepare. The details are on the previous page. The Louisiana Iris Day Celebration is free.



*Immediately above, the beautiful orange wild azalea species *R. austrinum*. Above that, the Louisiana iris species *I. nelsonii*, and to the right the cultivar ‘Gentilly’.*

Hints of Things To Come

Early bloom in Lafreniere Park and at home by Richard Drouant. New seedlings from Joe Musacchia. Late winter Sculpture Garden scenes by Calvin Lopes. Just the start!



Photo by Richard Drouant



Photos above by Joe Musacchia



Photo by Richard Drouant



Photos above and left by Calvin Lopes

The Memory of Edmond Riggs Honored in the Guerilla Garden in the Lower Ninth Ward

The Guerilla Garden is a project of the Backyard Gardeners Network, a vibrant community organization in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans. The Lower Nine was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and recovery was, and remains, a monumental undertaking. The Backyard Gardeners Network sponsors a variety of programs as well as operates two community gardens. Now there is a nice iris display!



Jenga Mwendo, the Founder and Director of the Backyard Gardeners Network, with Gary Salathe, who contributed irises and the plaque about Edmond Riggs. The Guerilla Garden is a project of BGN, which has a nice website. Click www.backyardgardenersnetwork.org



Edmond Riggs 1907- 1993

The Contemplation Garden *Dedicated to the memory of Edmond Riggs*

A self-taught African-American horticulturist, Edmond Riggs learned from his observations of plant life in the swamps of south-central Louisiana and from his voracious appetite for reading books. Racial segregation limited him to only having a grammar school education. Undeterred, he found work for 18 years as an assistant parish librarian which allowed him unlimited access to his beloved books.

His interest in the Louisiana iris developed when he started a business selling native plants that he grew in the swamps to white city people. In 1944 his local supporters, who recognized his expertise, supported his registration of over 22 unique Louisiana irises that he had cultivated. However, he was shut out by others from formal membership in a state-wide iris society because of his race. There is now a need to keep the memory of his accomplishments alive.

In 2003 Richard Sloan, a leading Louisiana iris hybridizer, wrote about Edmond Riggs that if he were still with us, "He might have known of our respect for his accomplishments, so much achieved during an era when skin color remained more important than content of character. My Louisiana iris introduction, 'Edmond Riggs', hopefully, does honor to his memory."

Special thanks to the Greater New Orleans Iris Society for donating the Louisiana irises found in this garden, including some of Richard Sloan's hybrid 'Edmond Riggs' irises.

For more information about Edmond Riggs, click www.louisianairisgnois.com/Riggs.pdf



Left: the iris 'Edmond Riggs'. Far left and below: scenes from the Guerilla Garden's Super Saturday spring event in March, when the plaque in honor of Edmond Riggs was unveiled in the Contemplation Garden.



Metairie Academy Fifth Grade Students Plant Irises in the Sculpture Garden

Last fall, fifth grade Metairie Academy students received a batch of irises from the GNOIS planting in City Park. They propagated and nurtured them through the winter, and in early March planted the new irises into the Besthoff Sculpture Garden. There probably won't be much bloom from these this spring, but in future years they will provide a gorgeous display along the edge of the lagoon near the Display Garden.

The students from Vicky Dimitry's class were delightful to work with. They were enthusiastic and did a great job of planting, fertilizing and then mulching the new irises with pine straw. When the planting was done, the students weeded other areas of the Garden.

Metairie Academy is a magnet school in the Jefferson Parish School System. Hopefully, the relationship with GNOIS can be a continuing project for our organization.



Bayou & Marsh

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREATER NEW ORLEANS IRIS SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Eileen Hollander, President

5436 South Claiborne

New Orleans, LA 70036

504-689-4233 eehollan@bellsouth.net

Joe Musacchia, Vice-President

509 Linda Ann Av. Gray, LA 70359

985-209-2917 1cajunjoe@att.com

Fred Noggerath, Treasurer

4537 Ithaca St. Metairie, LA 70006

504-889-0128 fnoggerath@yahoo.com

Lorri Brown, Secretary

6509 Schouest St. Metairie, LA 70003

504-442-1790

lorrie.brown4@gmail.com

BOARD

Tyrone Foreman New Orleans

Benny Trahan Slidell

Roland Guidry Hammond

Linda Trahan Covington

Gary Salathe Madisonville

NEWSLETTER

Patrick O'Connor

4628 Newlands St. Metairie, LA 70808

504-343-1399 pfoconnor@cox.net


A LOUISIANA POND

Gary and Leigh Anne Salathe have adopted a subdivision pond next to their Madisonville home to create a Louisiana iris refuge. With all five species represented along with many cultivars, the pond is sure to become a future tour stop. More plantings are planned.

You can even follow the pond on its own Facebook page! Log in to Facebook and search for “A Louisiana Pond.”

Gary is a new member of the GNOIS Board.





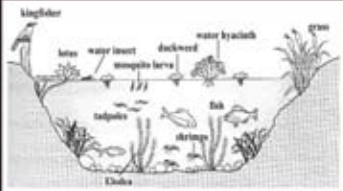
A Louisiana Pond

Louisiana is known for its abundance of freshwater swamps, lakes and ponds. These not only create habitat for a rich diversity of plant, animal and aquatic life, but they also offer us a quiet place to observe and reflect on the natural world around us. The small, humble pond that you see before you is actually home to many living things that are also found in the largest, most majestic swamps of Louisiana.

Each of the living things found in and around this pond are intricately linked by the presence of its water: from the bacteria that support the smallest plants and insects, which becomes food for the fish, turtles and shoreline birds, to the trees and bushes that share the water's edge with grasses and other plants, including the Louisiana iris.

The Louisiana Iris was first recognized as a distinct species with the naming in 1788 of *I. hexagona*. Over the next two hundred years only four others have joined this elite club: *I. brevicaulis*, *I. giganticaerulea*, *I. fulva* and *I. nelsonii*. Along the banks of this pond you will find a flower bed for each of these five species and many beds containing hundreds of hybrids created from them. Enjoy!

Special thanks to the Greater New Orleans Iris Society for donating the Louisiana irises and many of the trees and bushes found in this park.



"Looking at the pond, all I could think was that it is an incredible thing, how a whole world can rise from what seems like nothing at all."

Sarah Dressen, author



Mini Blinds

In the GNOIS plantings on the island in City Park, we are using mini blinds for plant labels. They work great to identify irises in pots since the name can be seen clearly when walking by and with no need to bend over hunt for a tag.

We are about out of these markers, however. If you have any old blinds, see them at yard or estate sale, or even on a pile of trash by the road, think of us!

The blinds we are using have wide, rigid slats made of plastic or some sort of composite material. The slats do not have to be wide, but they do need to be rigid enough to stand upright. Wood will not work.

If you have mini blinds to donate, bring them to a meeting or call Patrick O'Connor to arrange a pick-up. 504-343-1399



Lorrie Brown and Linda Trahan working with the potted and labeled irises on the island.

Frenchmen Street

From the “Iris Center of the Universe” to Space Exploration

BY JOSEPH K. MERTZWEILLER

Louisiana irises (series Hexagonae) are experiencing an increasing level of interest and acceptance. These irises are being grown and appreciated all over Louisiana, in many other parts of the country, and in many foreign countries - much more so today than at any time in the past. And all this is just in the nick of time! We will never really know how close Louisiana irises came “to the point of no return.”

The pattern of (1) growth in the wild, (2) discovery and appreciation, (3) depletion in the wild, and (4) transition and improvement under cultivation likely has been no

different for Louisiana irises than for most other plants. We hear more and more about “endangered species,” both plant and animal. Countless species have not made it through these four stages



Joseph K.
Mertzweiller

*Editor's Note: The late Joseph Mertzweiller was a prominent hybridizer and Louisiana iris activist in Baton Rouge and a native of New Orleans. This article is reprinted from the **SLI Newsletter**, September 1993, as a reminder of the natural iris heritage of the New Orleans area. It was also reprinted in the first issue of **Bayou and Marsh** in Fall 2001.*

and are now extinct. With adverse environmental factors which exist today it becomes more and more difficult for living species to “make it,” so to speak.

Fortunately, Louisiana irises have made it and are now well on their way to world-wide distribution and acceptance. Two important factors, which occurred more than 50 years ago, are primarily responsible: (1) the extensive work, explorations and writings of Dr. John K. Small and (2) immediate follow-up of Small's work by the founding of the Society for Louisiana Irises (1941) and its accomplishments over the past 50 years.

Prospects

Today, more than ever, Louisiana irises remain on the brink of extinction in the wild, but the outlook as cultivated plants is very promising. Although wild populations are now estimated at less than 10 percent of what they were in 1930, there are increasing numbers of growers who distribute species and hybrids worldwide. The irises are grown in countless private gardens, botanical gardens, arboretums, parks and public gardens. As knowledge of these irises and appreciation of their beauty grows, these efforts are bound to increase. There is also increasing publicity in plant publications, home and garden magazines and newspapers.

It would be a great tragedy were the irises to become extinct

in the wild. But this remains a distinct possibility. Unfortunately, conditions most responsible for decline in nature are not only still present, but are increasing. To have any chance of saving the remaining wild populations, we must be aware of the factors most responsible for decline and do everything possible to exert some control over these factors. This will be no easy task.

While there are many factors contributing to decline in the wild, one of the most important has been municipal and rural development.

Native Irises in New Orleans

Nowhere has this been more in evidence, and in a shorter period of time, than in and around the city of New Orleans. This was well-documented by Dr. Small, who was keenly aware of the destruction even as he was discovering, describing and writing about the “new” irises. Small estimated in 1930 that for areas surrounding New Orleans, 80 percent of the iris fields existing 50 years before (in 1880) had been destroyed. He attributed this to “urban growth and rural improvements,” and he makes reference to “remnants of the wreckage of the most wonderful natural iris field yet discovered.” This notation was made when only about 20 percent of the natural populations remained.

The remaining 20 percent did not survive for long, probably not more than 10 years or so. In the late 1930s

and during and after the second world war, industrial and residential developments complete obliterated the areas where Dr. Small did most of his studies. Today the area is wall-to-wall buildings, apartments and highways. The only Louisiana irises to be found exist in private gardens and a few public plantings.

We will never know the extent of this natural development. Areas explored and described by Small were not too extensive, probably not more than about 100 square miles between the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain and New Orleans city limits, extending east to the Mississippi River and some distance down river. This was the area of maximum iris development, to which Small applied the term “the iris center of the universe.”

Frenchmen Street

Since I was born and raised in New Orleans, I have a few hazy childhood recollections. My grandmother often talked about “Frenchman Street” in an area at that time far remote from the city, mainly swamps devoted to fishing and duck hunting. When I was about five years old in 1925 (and not yet interested in irises) I recall my father “cranking up” our vintage Studebaker and taking the family on a day-long expedition to Gentilly and Frenchman Street, in the middle of Small’s “iris center of the universe” en route to a picnic on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain. It was necessary to crank-start this car since it did not have an electric starter. The picture of Dr. Small’s “weed wagon” (see page 19 in the Society’s Fiftieth Anniversary Publication) is a later 1920s vintage auto.

My only recollection about Frenchman Street is that it was not a street at all, but a swamp with an



*Top: The 1908 Ellsworth Woodward painting of irises out Frenchmen Street toward the Lake. Below: An 1860's photograph of an unidentified location in New Orleans included in the book **New Orleans 1867: Photographs By Theodore Lilienthal**, by Gary Van Zante.*

expansion and barely-passable dirt road along side. There was much refuse and trash, which affirms what Small had to say about Frenchman Street (see page 37 of Publication). Another “adventure” was my mother seeing several snakes, and she would not let me out of the car even when we had to stop to make tire repairs - and that was not infrequent, snakes or no snakes. This makes me understand why Dr. Small traveled

with his personal mechanic. There are other pleasant memories. A favorite pastime of this five year-old was to predict how many flat we would have during the day, much to my father’s frustration. I recall my mother later telling me I predicted two that day. Bingo!

Woodward Painting

Return now to 1993. Late one afternoon a few weeks ago I picked up Helene at New Orleans

DR. JOHN K. SMALL

Although the first species of Louisiana iris, *I. hexagona*, was named in 1788, followed by the naming of the species *I. fulva* and *I. brevicaulis* a few decades thereafter, nothing significant in the way of formal recognition occurred until more than a century later.

In 1925 Dr. John K. Small, botanist, plant explorer and curator of The New York Botanical Garden, became acquainted with the vast colonies of native irises in south Louisiana. Small had been doing plant explorations east of the Mississippi, into the southeast and particularly in Florida as far back as the

early 1900s. It was in Florida that he first saw "vast fields of irises covering many acres." The story is told how Dr. Small was traveling on a train from Florida to west Texas, across Louisiana, when he first caught a glimpse of the extensive iris fields from the train window. This probably occurred near New Orleans. He realized that these south Louisiana fields probably rivaled if not exceeded what he had seen in Florida. The net result was that he explored these areas annually for the next six or seven years. Small documented his plant explorations in more than sixty articles in the *Journal of The New*

York Botanical Garden.

Most of the areas explored by Small in Louisiana, by his own descriptions, were in and around New Orleans. In the 1920s the area extending from city limits towards the north and east to Lake Pontchartrain was largely undeveloped, low, swampy and wild. This was the area where the trains passed to enter the city, and most likely where Small first saw the irises in Louisiana.

From "Introduction",
SLI 25th Anniversary Publication,
1991.



Dr. John K. Small and his Model T "Weed Wagon."

International. We decided to take a scenic route home, up I-55 along the east shore of Lake Pontchartrain, stopping for supper at Pass Manchac. This is about 40 airline miles from downtown New Orleans and still a rural fishing area. While waiting to be served, a picture on the wall caught my eye. It was a print of "Wild Irises" by Ellsworth Woodward, painted in 1908 and depicting the Frenchman Street iris fields at least 20 years before Dr. Small saw them. This

activity of Woodward (art professor at Newcomb College, now Tulane University) in taking his students to paint the wild irises is a part of Louisiana iris lore. A part of this picture is reproduced on the cover of Louisiana Iris Cultivars (1982 edition). The painting is far more impressive and depicts literally hundreds of acres of iris fields. This may be the only pictorial account and is reported to be in the collection of the New Orleans Museum of Art. Other Woodward

paintings are reported to be in private collections.

Progress

There is much more to the story of Frenchman Street. About 1940, the irises having departed for "iris heaven," a huge industrial plant was constructed in the general area to build airplane components and tanks for the war effort. It was called the "Michoud" plant, named after an old plantation. After the war the plant became idle. When President Kennedy announced manned

missions to the moon, the Michoud plant was chosen to build the huge first stage of the Saturn rocket, the so-called “moon rocket,” one for every mission.

The moon missions were resounding successes, and none would have been possible without the production of the Michoud plant. The story goes on. After the moon missions were finished in the early 1970s the plant was converted to produce the huge external fuel tanks for the space shuttle. These are the enormous, bullet-shaped tanks to which the shuttle is attached. Ironically, these tanks are painted rust-red, almost identical to the color of *I. fulva*, once known to have grown in the general area. The Michoud plant has produced one of these tanks for every shuttle mission and continues to do so. Plans exist that Michoud will produce parts of the space station, if and when that becomes a reality.

There are many interesting facets to this story. Louisiana irises are not to be found in the vicinity of the Michoud plant or anywhere close to it. The irises have been pushed south and east, across the Mississippi River and several miles beyond the towns of Houma and Thibodeaux to within a short distance from the Gulf of Mexico. Here the iris remnants of Frenchman Street continue to lead a precarious existence in the wild. This is all that remains of “the iris center of the universe.”

All is not lost! We cannot expect, nor should we, to hold back progress and science. I could write a volume, possibly volumes, --about the benefits to humankind resulting from “scientific fallout” from the space program. There is hardly a person whose life has not been touched for the better. Loss

of the irises of Frenchman Street, or the spotted owl, etc., may be a small price to pay. Things can be done about augmenting such losses. The irises have not really been lost; their genes continue to exist in the modern Louisiana hybrids. We can do much more than has already been done to promote growing our irises all over the world. This is a fitting tribute, and what a better place to start than in south Louisiana, near to where the “iris center of the universe” once was.

New Orleans is by no means the only example of devastation of wild

populations. There are countless others, particularly the areas around Lafayette. And there are other major causes in addition to urban growth. These include (1) drainage of swamps and wet areas, and (2) coastal erosion and intrusion of salt water. Since this article has gone too long, these other factors will be considered later.

The painting “Wild Irises” by Ellsworth Woodward is reproduced with the permission of the New Orleans Museum of Art: Bequest of Miss Lena Little.

Iris Events Ahead

Saturday, Mar 26, 9 AM - Noon	GNOIS Meeting	Longue Vue in the Playhouse
Thursday, March 31, 4 - 6 PM	Louisiana Iris Day	Longue Vue in the Wild Garden
Saturday, Apr 2 and Sunday, Apr 3	Spring Garden Show	N. O. Botanical Garden
Sunday, Apr 10, Noon - 4PM	Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival and Iris Show	Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden
Thursday, Apr 21 - Saturday Apr 23	Society for Louisiana Irises Annual Convention and Show	Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City
Saturday, Aug 6 9:00 AM - Noon	GNOIS Meeting	Longue Vue in the Playhouse

For details on the SLI convention, go to www.louisianas.org Additional information is on the GNOIS website www.louisianairisgnois.com, including pictures of two of the major tour gardens. Also check out the GNOIS page on Facebook.

GNOIS On The Web

www.louisianairisgnois.com

www.facebook.com/GreaterNewOrleansIrisSociety

www.zydecoirises.com

Just click above!

Fall GNOIS Activities

~Story by Eileen Hollander

Greater New Orleans Iris Society has been establishing Louisiana Iris gardens for public education and viewing to prepare for the American Iris Society/Society For Louisiana Iris Conventions and Shows that we will be hosting at the Hilton New Orleans Airport April 12-15, 2018. We hope you will plan on attending and touring.

GNOIS holds five general membership meetings annually, with great guest speakers and demos. Our meetings are free and open to the public from 9-noon at Longue Vue. We lead volunteer work at numerous locations on Third Tuesdays, selected Fridays and Saturdays. An educational component accompanies each volunteer activity with LSU publication 1969 Louisiana Irises as the handout. Patrick O'Connor composes and distributes "Bayou and Marsh" to inform the membership. Check out the GNOIS website for the 2016 calendar and come on down! www.louisianairisgnois.com

Since A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words - Check Out Some Of Our Recent Projects Below!



In August, during a Day of Service inspired by the 10th anniversary of hurricane Katrina, GNOIS members assisted 50+ volunteers with weeding and installing confinement rings for Guest LA Irises at the LA Iris Display Garden located at the Sydney & Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden
~photo by Eileen Hollander



Louisiana Iris Garden "The Island" showing Benny Trahan's paddy culture
photo
~photo by Eileen Hollander



GNOIS Members, Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans, and other volunteers installed 30 black plastic mixing trays containing Louisiana Iris cultivars for the LA Iris exhibit at the New Orleans Botanical Garden.
~photo by Eileen Hollander



GNOIS donated over fifty new cultivars, which were planted by Claire Fontenot and her volunteers, at the Baton Rouge Botanic Garden near the Iris Pavilion.
~photo by Patrick O'Connor



Dr. Alan Owings, Patrick O'Connor, Joe Musacchia, and Roland Guidry are inspecting a site at the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station where GNOIS is planning a Guest Louisiana Iris bed for 2018 Convention.
~photo by Eileen Hollander



St. Paul's School in Covington - an air conditioning condensate retention pond behind their new gym will be a Louisiana Iris focal point on campus!
~photo by Linda Trahan



*GNOIS donated 200 Louisiana Iris rhizomes to the Press Street Garden, an urban farm and outdoor learning laboratory in Bywater. Members will be providing presentations and demos to Lusher and McMain students on hybridizing and Louisiana Iris culture in the future.
~photo by Eileen Hollander*



*Construction of Guerrilla Garden in Lower 9th Ward commemorating Louisiana Iris hybridizer Edmond Riggs with Jenga Mwendo and Gary Salathe.
~photo by Leigh Anne Salathe*



*GNOIS volunteers planted seven pots of Louisiana Iris cultivars at the Levee Exhibition Garden.
~photo by Eileen Hollander*



*Master Gardener Joan Gauthier planted over 100 Louisiana Irises donated by Eileen Hollander at Park Provence Assisted Living in Slidell, LA.
~photo by Eileen Hollander*



*Benny Trahan in the Black Swamp at Burden Museum and Gardens after the planting of over 200 irises that he donated. Species included: 110 *I. gigantiarulea*, 50 *I. fulva* and 40 *I. nelsonii*.
~photo by Patrick O'Connor*



*GNOIS Membership Meeting at the Longue Vue Wild Garden Louisiana Iris Collection
~photo by Eileen Hollander*



*GNOIS volunteers at the Louisiana Iris sale at Longue Vue held October 17th. Over 80 cultivars were available to the public, and they SOLD OUT of every single one!
~photo by Eileen Hollander*



*Sister Catherine Riggs, O. Carm., poses with Louisiana Irises generously donated by Eileen Hollander of GNOIS, to Our Lady Of Wisdom Healthcare Center in Algiers.
~photo by Linda Wegmann*

Society for Louisiana Irises Storefront

THE LOUISIANA IRIS: THE TAMING OF AN AMERICAN WILDFLOWER

Contributing Editors: Marie Caillet, J. Farron Campbell, Kevin C. Vaughn, and Dennis Vercher

Details: 254 pp, 111 color photos, 5 watercolors, 21 b/w photos, 14 line drawings, 11 tables, hardcover.

This authoritative treatment by The Society for Louisiana Irises is based on the first edition published by the Society in 1988, but it is considerably expanded. It covers every aspect of the history, botany, and development of these distinctive irises, with particular emphasis on the newest hybrids, hybridizing techniques, and cultural practices, and also includes suggestions for their use in the landscape and in floral arrangements. It should serve to introduce a wider gardening public to these colorful and versatile flowers. - \$30.00



Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises - The History of Hybridizing (2007)

This Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises is a 100-page summary of how the "ditch irises" of Louisiana have been tamed and introduced into American gardens. Contents include informative articles on such early pioneers as Mary Swords DeBallion, Caroline Dorman, and Percy Viosca; the Shreveport and Lake Charles groups, the California hybridizers, and a wide variety of other contributors to the development of the Louisiana iris. Includes 30 color photographs of outstanding cultivars. Paperbound. - \$5.00 plus \$2.00 shipping within U.S.



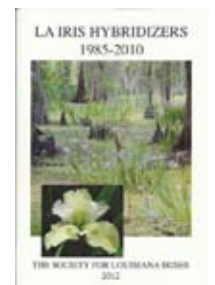
Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises honoring Marie Caillet (1915-2010)

This is a very high quality publication that pays tribute to Marie Caillet, a charter member of SLI, longtime editor of the SLI newsletter, and the "grandmother" of SLI for many of us. This is a 52 page 8.5 x 10 publication in full color with many pictures of Marie, species Louisiana irises, Marie Caillet Cup Winners with pictures, a listing of SLI Distinguished Merit Award winners from 1989 to 2010, and memories of Marie written by several members of SLI. - \$10 plus \$3 shipping within US



Louisiana Iris Hybridizers 1985-2010

This is a paper bound booklet consisting of 99 pages of color pictures, the Marie Caillet Cup Winners from 2001 to 2010 with color pictures, the Mary Swords DeBaillon Medal winners from 1986 to 2010 with color pictures and many articles written by the hybridizers during the period 1985 to 2010. This is a companion book for the Special Publication of 2007, which contains information on the hybridizers from the beginning to 1984. - \$5 plus \$2 shipping within US



Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises 1995

This paper bound special publication, edited by Marie Caillet and Joseph Mertzweiller, consist of 86 pages and contains "a half-century of progress", information on hybridizers, the development of the tetraploid LA irises, information on LA irises in Australia, culture of LA irises and many beautiful pictures of LA irises. There is a limited supply of of this publication remaining so get them while they last. - \$5 plus \$2 shipping within US

The SLI Louisiana Iris Checklist CD!

The CD checklist is illustrated with photos of many of the cultivars and it can be displayed in three formats. It has a powerful search feature that allows you to search the checklist by cultivar attributes such as name, date of introduction, hybridizer, parentage and much more. The checklist lists names, descriptions, breeder/introducer and parentage of iris cultivars from the 1920's through the present. The iris are grouped by year of registration and/or introduction. The CD will cost \$10 for delivery to the United States,



***Any of these products & other Iris materials can be ordered from the SLI Treasurer Ron Killingsworth.
For shipment outside US please contact Ron Killingsworth directly for pricing***

10329 Caddo Lake Road, Mooringsport, LA 71060 318-996-9969 retmiagt@gmail.com



Greater New Orleans Iris Society

TO JOIN OR REJOIN GNOIS

2016 Dues \$10 - 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.



Society for Louisiana Irises Membership Form



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

United States Subscribers Annual Dues:

- ☐ Youth-\$5.00
- ☐ 1 Year (Individual)-\$17.00
- ☐ 3 Year (Individual)-\$45.00
- ☐ 1 Year (Family)-\$22.00
- ☐ 3 Year (Family)-\$60.00
- ☐ Life-\$1,000.00

International Subscribers Annual Dues:

- ☐ 1 Year (Individual)-\$30.00
- ☐ 3 Year (Individual)-\$82.00
- ☐ 1 Year (Family)-\$33.00
- ☐ 3 Year (Family)-\$90.00
- ☐ Life-\$1,000.00

Return Form & Payment To:

Society for Louisiana Irises
10329 Caddo Lake Road
Mooringsport, LA 71060