No. 34

News from the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

January 2018

It's a little complicated, but not too much.

wo premier iris organiza-L tions are holding their mostly combined national conventions in New Orleans this April, hosted by GNOIS. AIS kicks off on Monday, April 9 with business and Section* meetings. Garden Tours begin on Wednesday for AIS, and on Thursday joint Garden Tours for both organizations are scheduled. Award dinners and auctions are held Friday and Saturday night, and SLI stages an Iris Show at NOMA on Saturday and Sunday.

This issue of *Bayou and Marsh* will lay out all the convention activities and identify opportunities for GNOIS members to participate and to **HELP.** GNOIS is the host organization, and there are small jobs to do to make the conventions a success. The major organizing work is done, but we need for members to step up even for an hour or so.

CONVENTION ISSUE

2018 National Conventions



American Iris Society Society for Louisiana Irises April 9 - 15

Garden Tours in New Orleans, Madisonville, Hammond and Baton Rouge.
An Iris Show in the New Orleans Museum of Art.
Programs on irises of all kinds.
Dinners and Iris Auctions.
An Iris Boutique.
Opportunities for GNOIS members and the public to participate a little or a lot.

The official Convention website. All the details are here. http://www.2018irisconvention.org/

^{*}Louisiana irises are a Section, as are Japanese irises, and so forth)

SPECIAL **MEETING** SATURDAY JANUARY 13

In the Sculpture Garden, 9:30 AM Near the "Love" Sculpture

- A special, informal, outdoor meeting in the Sculpture Garden
- Refreshments, gift irises (no
- Latest information on the Spring Show, convention, and preservation projects
- **Tour of the GNOIS planting** on "the Island" at 10:30 AM
- All "weather permitting" will email and post changes

Longue Vue is not available for a January meeting, so we will try something different – an informal, mainly social meeting and an opportunity to see the progress on "the Island', where we grow nearly an acre of Louisiana iris species and cultivars. A few members have volunteered on the Island, but everyone regularly hears about it.

The Island is a short drive from the Sculpture Garden and is located near the corner of Harrison and Marconi in the Park. We will lead the way.

TIME TO JOIN **FOR 2018**

GNOIS membership runs on a calendar year basis. Dues are \$10 per year for an individual or a family. Send to:

Calvin Lopes, Treasurer P. O. Box 872051

New Orleans, LA 70187-2051

A membership form is provided on the last page. Be sure to include an email address so you can be on the mailing list to receive this newsletter and other information.

In the Winter 2017 Fleur de Lis



The current issue of the Fleur de Lis, the magazine of the Society for Louisiana Irises, was published in December. SLI members receive the Fleur as one benefit of their membership.

The issue features a number of articles of interest to GNOIS members:

- 2018 SLI and AIS Convention Registration Forms and other information.
- A review, with lots of pictures, of the Convention Garden Tour sites outside New Orleans. They include Gary and Leigh Anne Salathe's "A Louisiana Pond" in Madisonville, the LSU Hammond Research Station, the Botanic Garden in the BREC Independence Park, and Burden Museum and Gardens in Baton Rouge (including Windrush Gardens, the Rural Life Museum, and the Black Swamp). The New Orleans tour gardens were reviewed in the previous issue.
- An update on the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project by Charles Perilloux.
- Robert Treadway on fertilizing Louisiana irises, "Beyond N-P-K".
- Also: A statement on the financial health of the Society for Louisiana Irises and the regular feature "Briarwood Reflections" from the folks at the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve in Saline, Louisiana.

GNOIS members are encouraged to join the Society for Louisiana Irises. A membership form can be found at the end of this issue of Bayou and Marsh.

The big picture. The two overlapping and combined conventions occupy the week of April 9 - 15. The conventions are an historic joining of forces of the American Iris Society and the Society for Louisiana Irises.

Many folks from out of town will sign up for everything and stay in the convention hotel, the Hilton at the New Orleans airport. Local GNOIS members can register for everything, too, but have the luxury of more easily being selective and picking from among many activities. Some events are free, and others will cost some money.

Since GNOIS is the host organization there are support jobs for which we are responsible. We hope our members will pitch in and help. Just a small commitment of time will be a great contribution. More on this below.



How the Conventions Will Work.....

AIS and SLI regularly have separate annual conventions. This year the organizations are combining as many activities as possible, especially joint Garden Tours on Thursday and Friday, and a joint dinner Friday night. Although some activities are organized by and are primarily for members of one organization or the other, all activities are open to the members of both organizations – and non-members as well.

There are a number of ways for GNOIS members to participate depending on time and interests.

THE GARDEN TOURS











Options for Participation

- Register for Convention (\$45) –
 Then pick events you wish to
 attend, some paid and some
 free
- 2. Don't Register Just attend the free events
- 3. Volunteer to help GNOIS with convention activities

Register for the Convention.

There is a single Registration Fee that covers both conventions. Pay the \$45 fee and select among various additional paid events (such as Garden Tours) that you want to attend. (After Jan. 31, the Registration Fee increases slightly). Plus, there are many free activities.

Regardless of your membership, or lack thereof, in any of the participating organizations, you are welcome as a full participant. Most of the convention overhead is paid for by the Registration Fee. See page II for the Registration Form.

Participate in free activities, but don't register. Many of our GNOIS members cannot commit to the full week of activities and perhaps can attend only a few events. They are welcome to participate in the free events (see boxes on the right) without registering for the convention.

To select any of the paid events (the Garden Tours and Dinners), you must also be registered and pay the Registration Fee. An exception is that if you are a volunteer helping at a Garden Tour, you can attend at no charge.

Volunteer! Hosting a convention requires a great deal of help. There are many small jobs that are critical to our success as gracious hosts to iris folks from all over the country. Please consider giving us a hand. Below, there is a general outline of tasks, and contact information for our Volunteer Coordinator, Lorrie Brown.

We will be discussing the convention at meetings between now and April. Come on out if you have questions.

For the complete schedule and other details:



http://www.2018irisconvention.org/

What's Free?

All the Saturday activities

- Symposium
- Judges Training
- Iris Show in NOMA
- · Sculpture Garden (always free)

Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival on Sunday

All meetings at the Hotel all week

Volunteers on Tours to Longue Vue, Hammond and Baton Rouge will not pay Tour Fee but bus transportation may not be available.

What's Not Free?

The Banquets

- Wednesday AIS Welcome Banquet
- Friday night SLI Hybridizers/AIS Awards Banquet
- Saturday night SLI Awards Banquet and Auctions

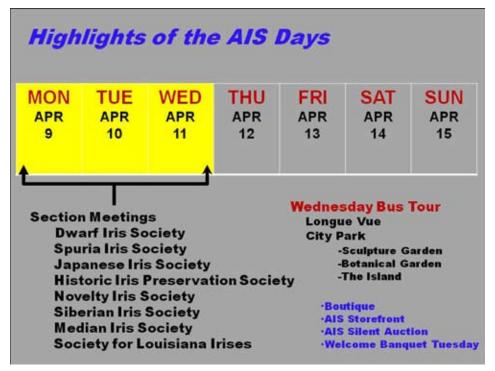
The Bus Tours and Lunches (except for volunteers on Tours)

The Shuttlebus from the Hotel to the Park on Saturday

All registration materials, including Convention Program book and ballots

The Registration Fee and the ala carte amount for the particular activity are required for any or all of the above.

A Few Details, Day By Day



AIS Conventions normally run longer than those of SLI, so the first three days are dominated by events organized by AIS. Each of its Sections will have a meeting and program. A Boutique and AIS Storefront will be open at the hotel. A Garden Tour to City Park and Longue Vue for, mainly, AIS folks will be held Wednesday, along with an AIS Welcome Banquet and Silent Auction Tuesday night.



On Thursday, the joint Garden Tours begin, with stops at the Salathes' "A Louisiana Pond" in Madisonville and the LSUAgCenter's Hammond Research Station. Lunch will be provided.

THE GARDEN TOURS













On Friday, the Garden Tours go to Baton Rouge. The day will begin at the LSU Burden Museum and Gardens, a 400+ acre site with multiple attractions. We will see the Rural Life Museum, Windrush Gardens, and the Black Swamp. The Black Swamp has a planting of I. giganticaerulea, I. nelsonii and I. fulva in a natural setting that can be viewed from a boardwalk.

The Rural Life Museum is considered one of the top specialty museums in the country. There is a large "village" of diverse structures from plantations and other rural settings and an indoor museum of artifacts. A fascinating place!

Lunch will be in the Burden Conference Center. Adjacent to it are large rose and ginger plantings.

After lunch, the Botanic Garden at Independence Park is on the agenda. It will be highlighted by many of the late Joseph Mertzweiller's cultivars and by Guest Irises for the Convention.

Joe Mertzweiller was instrumental in creating the original iris plantings at the new Botanic Garden. It is a relatively small garden but one set up with Louisiana irises in mind.

AIS Awards and SLI Hybridizers' Banquet

Formal AIS Convention activities end Friday night with an Awards Banquet. The Friday banquet will double as the SLI Hybridizers banquet in which Louisiana iris hybridizers traditionally show slides of their latest seedlings and newly introduced cultivars.

THE GARDEN TOURS













Saturday is a big day for SLI and for AIS visitors who decide to stay a bit after their convention ends on Friday night. GNOIS stages the traditional **Louisiana Iris Show** that highlights SLI conventions. It will be held in a courtyard at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Irises are entered early in the morning, and the show opens at around Noon.

The Annual Louisiana Iris Show is a tradition of SLI Conventions going back to near the organization's founding in 1941. Usually held indoors in a hotel or elsewhere, GNOIS adapts to facilities generously made available by the New Orleans Museum of Art in City Park. We use an open courtyard tented in the event of inclement weather. A little windy sometimes, and not without risk, but this is Hurricane Country, so you take your chances. It is a unique and convenient setting with the very significant advantage of attracting a much more extensive public viewing than in most venues

In the late morning in the NOMA Auditorium, SLI will hold its annual **Symposium**. This year the Symposium will be devoted to Louisiana Iris culture around the country, as discussed by a panel with a matching breadth of experience. It may seem counterintuitive, but often one can gain real insight into growing irises at home by hearing the experiences of those who work under somewhat different conditions or even in a radically different climate.

On Saturday night, SLI holds its Convention finale, the SLI Awards Banquet, preceded by a Silent Auction and followed by our famous Live Auction. The Live Auction always elicits exuberant bidding. It is as much fun to watch as to win.

THE LOUISIANA IRIS SHOW









POTTED LOUISIANA
IRISES WILL BE
SOLD AT THE SHOW



Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden



he Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden has become a new tradition in New Orleans. It has roots back to the 1930s, however, when the section of the City Park lagoons which the Sculpture Garden now surrounds was the site of the first "Rainbow Memorial" created by the old Louisiana Iris Conservation Society to celebrate those recently "discovered" irises that filled the swamps and undeveloped areas of New Orleans and South Louisiana.

Today, the irises have returned to the same spot, a landmark that warrants a renewed celebration. The Rainbow Festival today is a simple, laid back event in which visitors can stroll through the Garden, enjoy the magnificent sculptures and beautiful irises, listen to some music, and learn about the plants from our members. It is in stark contrast to the 1932 Rainbow Memorial dedication, which was marked by pomp and ceremony, the designation of Louisiana Iris day by the mayor, the construction of a bandstand, music by the Alcee Fortier Boys High School Band, the Choral Union of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Milwaukee tenor K. F. Johnson. It also featured an honor guard consisting of sixteen young New Orleans girls by the name of "Iris." These days, we're taking it easy, by contrast!

This year, the Rainbow Festival falls the day after the end of our SLI national Conventions. A relaxed event will be a welcome end to the week. True, the Louisiana Iris Show will still be open until about 4PM in the Museum of Art next door, a big plus for visitors, but the Rainbow Festival itself is a low pressure event for GNOIS and always a pleasure.

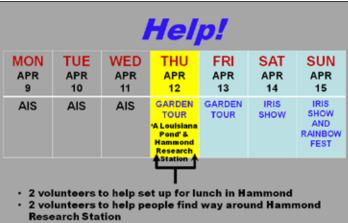
Do you get the idea we are looking for a little help?

Just a little. If a good number of our members will fill a slot or two, we will have it covered. And we can promise a good time. You will be rubbing elbows with fellow gardeners, and we will make sure you go home with new irises.

The charts below contain our best estimate of the tasks we need help with. Just browse through and be thinking about how you could give us a hand. In the coming months, we will be asking for folks to sign up, and we will be happy to work with your time constraints.









- 4 volunteers to assist Bus Captains
 1-2 volunteers to help at the Registration table at Hotel
- 4 volunteers to serve as Clerks for Iris Show (with training)
 1 volunteer for data entry on a PC for show irises (with training)

· 1-2 volunteers to ride Shuttle Bus, help keep on schedule

- · 3 volunteers to help sell potted irises
- · 1-2 volunteers at Information Table at the Iris Show in NOMA



What do my irises need now?

Winter is a time to take it easy and wait for Spring. Your irises do hope that you fertilized them in the fall, and if not, it should be done now. Louisiana irises are in their growing season, and they need nutrition.

The usual fertilizer schedule is late fall and again in very late winter or very early Spring. September or October for a first feeding and late January

to mid February for the second. If you missed fall, then feed now and again in early March.



The traditional fertilizer recommendation for Louisiana irises has

IRIS CLINIC

been 1 pound of 8-8-8 per 10 square feet of irises, or the equivalent. (Less if using something more concentrated, such as 13-13-13). Some people prefer less nitrogen (the first number) as the bloom season approaches. Some feel that we generally apply too much phosphorus (the second number), and a balanced fertilizer is not necessarily a good idea.

These are issues worthy of consideration, but if you want good bloom, do feed the irises with *something*. It is far better to take the small risk of feeding with a less than optimal mix of nutrients than to fail to fertilize the plants. Failure to fertilize Louisiana irises growing in garden conditions is one of the two biggest reasons for poor bloom.

The second reason for scant bloom is insufficient moisture. Take stock of whether your irises are staying constantly moist. If not, figure out a way to supplement the water they are receiving. You should consider how close the irises are growing to trees and whether the tree roots are out-competing the irises. Some types of trees (such as cypress) have a root JANUARY 2018

GNOIS 2018 Schedule

Beginning in February all regular GNOIS meetings will be held at the

East Bank Regional Library 4747 West Napoleon Metairie

Jan 13	See page 2
Feb 17	9:00 AM-N00N
Mar 17	9:00 AM-N00N
CONVENTION	Apr 9 - 15
Jun	ТВА
Aug	ТВА
Sep 15	9:00 AM-N00N
OCTOBER IRIS SALE	ТВА
Dec	ТВА

All regular meetings will be held on Saturday mornings, unless otherwise announced.

Directions

The East Bank Regional Library is easy to find and has ample parking.

From I-10, exit at Clearview Parkway and head South (toward the River). After less than a fifth of a mile, turn right onto West Napoleon. In a quarter mile, the library complex will be on the right, set back a ways from West Napoleon.

The meeting will be on the second floor.

system that extends much beyond their canopy, and it can be a shock to discover how dry the soil around the irises can become.

Food and water. Take care of those and you should have beautiful bloom in the spring.

BAYOU AND MARSH

Questions?

There are bound to be questions. We have tried to lay out Convention details as clearly as possible but this hybrid event is just somewhat confusing, and particularly so if you have never attended an iris convention.

The best two ways to get answers: **One,** come to a GNOIS meeting. We will be focusing on the convention through April. See the meeting schedule to the left.

Two, contact the Convention Chair, Joe Musacchia. Joe is GNOIS Vice-President and his contact information is below. He will help or direct you.

Our Secretary Lorrie Brown is Volunteer Coordinator, and her contact information is also below.

Bayou & Marsh

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS IRIS SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER Patrick O'Connor

4628 Newlands St. Metairie, LA 70808 504-343-1399 pfoconnor@cox.net

REGISTRATION FORM





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2018 AIS	-SLI Convention Registration Form		Price			
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The Convent	tion Registration Fee is Required. Please choose one.	Jan 31	Mar 17	The state of the s	-	
A1: Adult Both AIS and SLI (Sun-Sat)		-	\$55	\$65	-	
	A2: Youth (Sun-Sat)	\$120	\$140	\$160	=	
B. TOURS (V	Ned, Thurs & Fri Tours include lunch.)				10 A	
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	oked Turkey					
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	an Salad on Tour ("A Louisiana Pond," LSU Hammond Research Ctr.)		\$48		1-1	
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PECIAL DII	Gluten Free Lactose Intolerant Diabeti	ic _	Vegan			
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The Registration Form can be downloaded directly from this page:

http://www.2018irisconvention.org/registration.html

GNOIS On The Web

www.louisianairisgnois.com www.facebook.com/GreaterNewOrleansIrisSociety www.zydecoirises.com



GNOIS

JOIN OR Renew

2018 Dues \$10 per person or household for one year, or \$25 for three years. Please make checks payable to Greater New Orleans Iris Society, or GNOIS. Please provide the names of those in the household who will

NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE		
EMAIL(Please provide and email address to		and other information.

Mail to: GNOIS, P. O. Box 872051, New Orleans, LA 70187-2051



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 \$17 annually for an individual or \$45 triennial. Family is \$22 and \$60 respectively. *Mail to: SLI, 10325 Caddo Lake Road, Mooringsport, LA 71060*

NAME			
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
EMAIL	PHOI	NE	

PLEASE BE SURE TO PROVIDE AN EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE ONE.

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



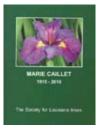
Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises - The History of Hybridizing (2007)

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