

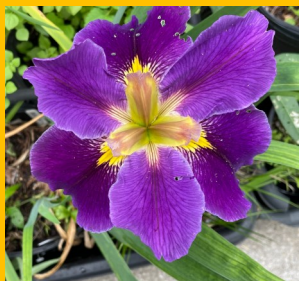
# Bayou and Marsh

No. 43

News from the Greater New Orleans Iris Society

March 28, 2023

**A lot to see,  
but be quick.**



Greater New Orleans Iris Society

**Bulletin! Special Edition!**

## The Coming Iris Week

**Our formal spring iris events will wind down in a couple of weeks, but the next one will be big with three great opportunities on tap.**

Take a look at the Calendar and the events in red. These iris opportunities will come and go before you know it. Plan to come out for one or two. Or all three! They're all free!

### Iris Calendar

Sat. Mar 25

#### **Spring Potted Louisiana Iris Sale**

History! And a great success. We were sold out of around 400 in a couple of hours. Next sale: Fall Rhizome Sale in October at Longue Vue.

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, New Orleans  
In the Wild Garden,  
4PM-7PM

Sat, Apr 8

#### **OPEN HOUSE ON THE ISLAND**

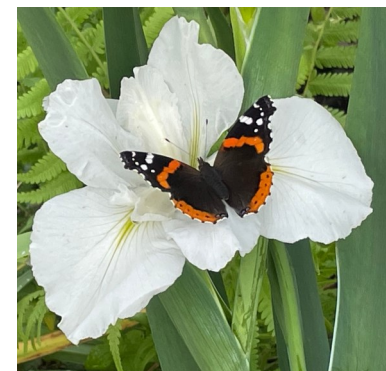
GNOIS Island Iris Nursery  
10AM-3PM

Fri-Sat, Apr 14  
– 15

**Society For Louisiana Irises  
in Lafayette**



*'Roll With It', a brand new one.*



*'Just Add Water', with a guest.*

## Rainbow Festival in the Besthoff Sculpture Garden

NOMA's Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden is the site of unique iris plantings and fantastic art. Admission is free, and it's a fabulous contribution to the community by the Besthoffs.

GNOIS donated most of the beautiful species and hybrid irises that line the lagoon banks and water's edge. In addition, we have kept a Display Garden of modern hybrids in the original section and donated several thousand *I. giganteaerulea*, the tall blue of the



Gulf Coast, to the expansion.

Because of the beautiful setting and the wide range of irises, the Sculpture Garden is the go-to destination for many looking for a place to see the irises in bloom. The Rainbow Festival is not so much for GNOIS members as for the community, and we serve as hosts, providing information, answering questions, and giving informal programs.

GNOIS will have an information tent in the original portion of the Garden staffed by our member volunteers. This year we will feature two activities:

- **An Iris Culture On Demand Demonstration.** We will be set up show the principal steps to establish and maintain a Louisiana iris garden. Any questions about getting started or improving iris plantings will find answers here.
- **What's a good iris? A bad iris?** Not all Louisiana irises are equally beautiful, vigorous, and desirable garden plants. So what should you look for in picking and evaluating Louisiana irises? At 2 PM, starting at the GNOIS tent,

we'll step in among the irises in the Display Garden for a close examination of good and bad characteristics based on the well-established judging standards developed by the American Iris Society.

The mood of the day will be relaxed, and definitely not a frantic Festival like many in Louisiana. There will be quiet music, but no big stage. Instead, the day is about irises and the Garden.

The Louisiana Iris Rainbow Festival is on **Sunday, April 2, from 10 AM to 4 PM**. Keep in mind that the Spring Garden Show will be ongoing in the Botanical Garden, so you could double your gardening fun this Sunday.

**Member help** for a couple of hours at the Festival will be greatly appreciated. We will need people in the GNOIS tent and to answer questions or direct the public to others for information. If you don't have all the answers, all the better. We will have a mix of people working, each with something to learn.

Please email Patrick O'Connor if you can help any time during the festival. [pfoconnor@cox.net](mailto:pfoconnor@cox.net) We need your help to make this event successful.

### Member Open Gardens Saturday, April 1, 2 till 6 PM

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 the irises and other plants.

Sue lives in old Jefferson, and entry to her garden is from the back at **217 St. George** where there is ample parking. It's a few blocks off Jefferson Highway toward the River.

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

Park along Newlands St. Most irises are in the 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 hardy and tropical ferns.

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

Light refreshments will be served in both gardens.





## Greater New Orleans Iris Society

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pfoconnor@cox.net

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## Organization

**Take me to the GNOIS  
website**



## Louisiana Iris Day at Longue Vue

Tuesday April 4, 4 to 7 PM

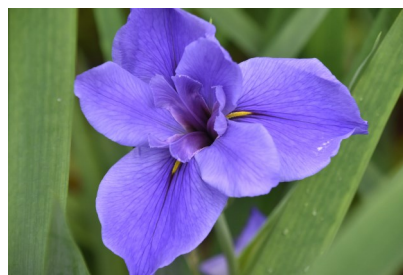
Longue Vue House and Gardens boasts the oldest collection of Louisiana irises in the area and other attractions that keep it on the list of prime places to visit in New Orleans. Each year, Longue Vue and GNOIS collaborate to offer a late afternoon and early evening opportunity to stroll through the irises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

event perfect for after work or the early evening on a week-day.

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 natives. 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.



**And don't forget the GNOIS Open House  
at the Island Nursery in City Park.  
You have to see this.**



**10 AM till 3 PM, Saturday. April 8**

[Click for directions](#)