



Fleur de Lis

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR LOUISIANA IRISES

FALL 2021

NUMBER 265

Wild Giganticaeruleas, LaPlace, LA

Photo by Richard Drouant

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Fleur de Lis Article Due Dates for Coming Year

Winter 2021 - Nov. 5th

Spring 2022 - Feb. 4th

Summer 2022 - May 6th

Fall 2022 - Aug 5th

Fleur de Lis: The Journal of the Society for Louisiana Irises is published quarterly by the Society for Louisiana Irises. Previous title: SLI Newsletter: A Quarterly Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises. ISSN 1559-9574

Publication office is located at 10329 Caddo Lake Rd., Mooringsport, LA 71060. Bulk postage paid at Mooringsport, LA. Website: <http://www.louisianas.org>

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Hello to everyone.

The times are still a bit unsettled but hopefully changing for the better. We turned the COVID corner and found the Delta variant waiting. We hope and expect that the path to normal iris activities is open, however, and we can get back to the things we all want to do.

We have not been standing still. Planning is well underway for a 2022 SLI Convention and Show in Lafayette, LA. Nothing could be more normal for the Society than a return to our ancestral home, and Lafayette certainly is that. Beginning soon after the organization was born in 1941, conventions were held annually in Lafayette for nearly sixty years. The 1999 Little Rock convention was the first time we took SLI on the road, but we have circled back through Lafayette every several years and expect to continue. There are exciting developments in the Heart of Acadiana that make the prospect more likely and more appealing.

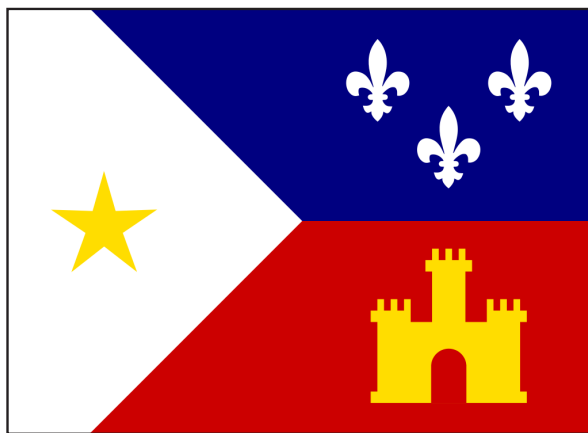
Our 2022 convention schedule will be altered slightly from the norm to take advantage of a prime opportunity to put our irises in front of the gardening public in Acadiana. We have locked in the dates of Wednesday – Friday, April 6 – 8, which moves us one day ahead of our regular Thursday-Saturday schedule. We are making this shift to coordinate with a significant regional garden show, the Festival des Fleurs, which will attract thousands of visitors and many garden vendors to Blackham Coliseum, at the same venue as our Iris Show. The festival will be held on Saturday, April 9.

The Coliseum is virtually next door to the Ira S. Nelson Horticulture Center at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette (ULL), often the home of SLI activities over many years and the site of some of our convention meetings this year. Happily, the director of the Nelson Horticulture Center is Billy Welsh, also a board member of SLI. Billy has helped engineer the timing of both the Festival

and our Convention so that attendees can conveniently benefit from both events.

Technically, the two events will not overlap. The SLI Convention and Show will run from Wed – Friday – with the Show on Friday – and the Festival is a one-day event on Saturday. However, our show will be staged in the same space – the Blackham Coliseum – and when the Show closes Friday evening, we will leave the displays in place so that the several thousand visitors to the Festival des Fleurs can see the magnificent array of irises we expect our members to enter.

The SLI Convention will feature one day of Garden Tours on Thursday. Stops will be at Jim Leonard's Louisiana Iris Farm, an expansive commercial garden, and Ron Betzer's beautiful home garden, where guest irises will be located. We hope to add one additional place, but plans are not yet confirmed.



The SLI Annual Convention is returning to Lafayette!

Expect extensive convention coverage in the next two issues of the *Fleur*. That will include hotel reservation and convention registration information. Material will also be sent via email to members. You can see a short summary of the schedule elsewhere in this issue. So, expect more information soon and save those dates: April 6 – 8, 2022.

Fleur Changes

The *Fleur de Lis* is experiencing a transition. Jaime Cloud, our long-time editor and layout artist has resigned. We thank her for many years of service in making and keeping the *Fleur* as good a publication of its type as any in the country. We wish Jaime all the best in the future, both in her graphic design work and with all the dogs she will help rescue.

The new graphic designer, effective with this issue, is Sonya Contino. Based in New Orleans, Sonya is a skilled designer with an impressive portfolio and a background in the printing business. She is the owner of Sonya Contino Graphic Design www.sonyacontino.com. We welcome Sonya, already an iris lover, and are excited at the prospect of working with her in the future.



SLI is restructuring the editorial process of the *Fleur* with greater responsibilities falling on volunteer staff. Patrick O'Connor will serve as Editor and Daphne

Sawyer as Associate Editor. Additional members are needed to assist with the *Fleur* in various capacities. Please contact Patrick or Daphne if you want to help.

Social Media Initiative

Board member Charles Perilloux of Baton Rouge has stepped up to fill a major new role for the Society. With the participation of the board, I have appointed Charles to lead a new initiative to develop ways to put "social media" to work for SLI. This effort incorporates various forms of electronic outreach that have become so prevalent today. The Society already has a website and a Facebook page, but it is a challenge to utilize these and other platforms to our advantage. It takes people willing to help. Elsewhere in this issue, Charles writes about this effort, and I hope you will give him the assistance he requests.

Most gardening organizations are experiencing a decline in membership as a result of societal changes. We must keep up with the times to thrive and to effectively continue our mission to promote Louisiana irises. I hope each of you will give some thought to ways you can uniquely help. If everyone would do a little, it would make a big difference for the organization.

Joe Musacchia

President

'Welcome' to our new Society for Louisiana Irises members:



Larry Dickerson *Kilm, MS*

Heather Bean *Woodbine, GA*

Anthony Allel *Abyside, NY*

Andrea Sprott *Charlotte, NC*

Laura Austin *Louisville, KY*

Doris Hendrickson *Nampa, ID*

Tim Carlton *Peachtree Corners, GA*

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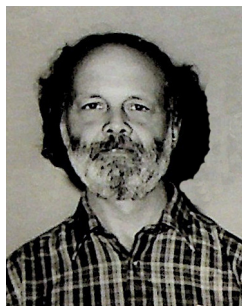
Virginia Webb

In Memoriam

We have learned of the passing of two significant figures in SLI, Charles Fritchie of Slidell, LA, and Wayland “Pete” Rudkin of Sacramento, CA. Charles was a past president of the organization, and Pete was an award-winning hybridizer.

Charles Fritchie, 1936 - 2016

Charles Fritchie passed away at age 80 in Baton Rouge, LA. A native of Slidell, he lived in New Orleans for many years, where he taught chemistry at Tulane University. Charles had graduated from Tulane with a degree in chemistry, and he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of Scotland in Cambridge. He attended Caltech upon return from Scotland and earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. Dr. Fritchie was employed with DuPont and then returned to Tulane to become a faculty member in the Chemistry Department.



Dr. Charles Fritchie

In New Orleans, he grew and promoted Louisiana irises for many years. However, he claimed that encroaching trees and shade at his Clara Street home increasingly reduced the bloom on his plants and made the pursuit of this hobby difficult. Charles was not a hybridizer, but he produced one cultivar, ‘Papa Bear’ (R. 1982). Although never introduced, it was admired as an attractive and novel blend of brown over a yellow ground.

Charles’ interest in Louisiana irises was strong, and he was highly knowledgeable about them. When the first edition of the SLI book on Louisiana irises was in preparation, Charles engaged with Joe Mertzweiller and others in a lively and detailed scientific discussion of the backgrounds of the Louisiana iris species that helped shape the treatment of the subject in the publication.

After his retirement, Charles moved to his hometown of Slidell, LA, and became involved in work on the area’s history.

His family had been early settlers of Slidell and St. Tammany Parish. He led an effort on behalf of the residents to form “Guardians of Slidell History” (GOSH), complete with exhibits and lectures to honor the people in St. Tammany Parish.

Charles also continued with his avocation as a sculptor, a hobby that he



‘Papa Bear’ FRITCHIE, 1983

began at Tulane. He continued sculpting during his retirement and created several exhibits that were highly recognized. His bronze statues are still sold in art circles.

While Charles’ involvement in SLI waned following his

retirement, he made significant contributions as president and preparation of the definitive book on Louisiana irises. The latter contributions were not widely known, but they are evident from reading correspondence in the SLI Archive in the Special Collections at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

Wayland “Pete” Rudkin, 1924 – 2020

Pete Rudkin was best known to SLI members as the hybridizer of the 2012 Mary Swords Debaillon Medal winner ‘Ginny’s Choice’ (2005), a beautiful, ruffled blue-purple iris. Pete had been an iris enthusiast for many years and began hybridizing bearded irises in 1989. However, he gravitated to Louisianas and promoted them through a small local nursery known as Rudkin’s Iris Patch. He mainly marketed his irises at local farmer’s markets, but he promoted Louisianas as adaptable to a wide range of conditions. For example, Pete advocated growing them in plastic containers or lined tubs to conserve water and mimic the irises’ wetland ancestry.



Wayland “Pete” Rudkin

He registered eight irises, four Tall Bearded and four Louisianas. Society members may be most familiar with Rudkin’s ‘Blue Splatter’ (2009), a ubiquitous, ruffled “purple-infused blue.” Its vigor and early bloom habit may keep this iris in front of the gardening public for many years. His heavily ruffled, deep red ‘Our Sassy’ (2006) was also a popular iris. In later years, Pete distributed several seedlings for evaluation as guests, but there is no record that more have been registered.

Pete was a WWII veteran and served in the Pacific. In New Guinea, he enjoyed native flowers, particularly the hibiscus. After the war, he earned an MBA degree from UC Sacramento and worked for years in retailing, aerospace, and the lumber business. He was known as a tinkerer with a scientific bent who would never purchase something he could build himself. Pete’s many hobbies included playing the French horn and photography, including developing pictures in his own darkroom. As a science student in high school, he had learned how to pollinate fruit trees, probably a precursor to his later iris experience.



‘GINNY’S CHOICE’ RUDKIN, 2005

Pete shared an interest in plants and gardening with his wife Virginia, who passed away before him. Both were presidents of the Sacramento Iris Society and members of AIS and SLI. Pete and Ginny were known as gardeners who loved to share knowledge with new gardening enthusiasts.

-Patrick O’Connor



***Back &
Better
than Ever***

By Christy Jones

Mercer Botanical Gardens, Houston, 1994

Photo by Earl Olsted

Louisiana Irises at Mercer Botanic Gardens in Houston

Louisiana irises have long captivated plant lovers with their unique, six-sided seed capsules and colorful blooms in stunning shades of red, copper, lemon yellow, and deep blue. Although they now appear in gardens across the country, collectors and horticulturists braved the swamps, bogs, and bayous of the lower Mississippi River Valley and the Gulf Coast plains to find them more than a century ago. But despite their beauty and easy growing habit, it took many years after their discovery for the showy ornamentals to enter commerce.

First classified by Thomas Walter in 1788, Louisiana irises (Iris series Hexagonae) include five iris species native to the southeastern United States: *Iris hexagona*, *I. giganticaerulea*, *I. brevicaulis*, *I. fulva*, and *I. nelsonii*. All but *I. hexagona*, an East Coast species, are native to Louisiana. *I. fulva* and *I. brevicaulis* grow as far northward as Illinois and Ohio, and *I. brevicaulis* and *I. giganticaerulea* occur in Texas.



Commemorative sign acknowledging the original iris donation and an imaginative display of irises in a chimney flue, an harbinger of the future.

PHOTO BY CRYSTAL SIMMONS



The Japanese Teahouse and Boardwalk at Storey Lake.

PHOTO BY CRYSTAL SIMMONS

Today, their native habitat has dwindled. Many boggy areas around southern Louisiana and elsewhere were developed for agriculture, industry, and housing, threatening many native irises. Nevertheless, wild populations remain.

The first commercial Louisiana irises were sold by catalog in 1933 and quickly became popular worldwide because of their showy blooms and prolific nature. Primarily through hybridizing, over 2,700 Louisiana irises have been registered with the American Iris Society. Unfortunately, many old cultivars have been lost with time and the passing of the gardeners who grew them. Like the species, historic cultivars significant in the development of today's Louisiana irises face threats.

Preservation At Mercer

To help ensure the survival of species and cultivars, plant collectors and enthusiasts Marie Caillet, Josephine Shanks, and William "Dean" Lee arranged for land to be set aside for new Louisiana beds at Mercer Botanic Gardens during the mid-1980s. The trio sought donations and eventually secured Mercer's original Louisiana iris collections. Mercer

staff installed the plants around the Lily Pond (now Storey Lake) and in the Hickory Bog, the Ginger Garden (now the Tropical Garden), the Endangered Species Garden pond, and the Forest Floor Garden bog. By the late 1980s and early 1990s, the iris display was gorgeous.

Because of the severe damage from the Tax Day flood in 2016 and Hurricane Harvey in 2017, many of Mercer's Louisiana irises were lost. The Hickory Bog still has some Louisiana irises, although signage is gone. To prepare Storey Lake for construction during restoration, The Mercer Society dug up many irises in early 2020 and sold them at March Mart as unknown varieties.

Irises at Storey Lake

Like the irises, Mercer is resilient and continues its return from the destruction. As restoration work around Storey Lake concludes, Louisiana irises are coming home to Mercer. Thanks to Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Precinct 4 Parks Director Dennis Johnston, volunteers, and park staff, Mercer's collection of Louisiana irises has grown to include more than 75 different varieties.

Mercer's newest Louisiana iris,

'Empress Josephine' (Haymon, 1990), named in honor of Josephine Shanks, is a 32-inch stunner featuring ruffled, dark red-violet blooms with bright gold spears. Carol Price, the daughter of Shanks, recalled visiting Mercer's Storey Lake and other Louisiana iris gardens in Houston, Lafayette, LA, and other cities to learn about the flower. "My mother was very passionate about Louisiana irises and enjoyed sharing that lifelong passion with others," she said.



The rich red-purple cultivar 'Empress Josephine', named for Josephine Shanks of Houston.

Mercer's horticultural operations coordinator, Jeff Heilers, curated the new collection, choosing varieties based on height, color, cost, and bloom sequences to provide a longer display. "We have the greatest selection and the longest blooming season for our budget," he said. "Visitors can glimpse this display March through May."

different ways. Some are in large flower beds in boggy areas of the gardens. Most varieties will appear in chimney flues around Storey Lake, creating a beautiful backdrop of color and inspiration for the public.



A graphic overview of the Mercer Master Plan, completed in 2019. The plan lays out development through 2040.

Mercer's Louisiana iris collection showcases multiple shades of blue, lavender, mauve, red, yellow, orange-red, pink, and cream, with varying heights ranging between 25 and 42 inches.

The irises are to be displayed in

The flues themselves are a unique and attractive design element in the garden, and more are coming. Sixty large clay chimney flues were purchased about 15 years ago to display the iris collection in the shallow waters of Storey Lake. Fortunately, most of them survived the ravag-

About Mercer

Mercer Botanic Gardens lies along Cypress Creek on 398 acres in the cities of Humble, Spring, and Houston in the north of Harris County, TX. The long, linear park is operated by Harris County Precinct 4. Precincts are major local administrative units in Texas.

Like many public gardens, Mercer had private origins. Since its acquisition by Harris County, Mercer has been vastly expanded. The County has invested significantly in its development, particularly in reconstruction after devastating damage from 10-12 feet of water brought in by Harvey in 2017. Extensive reconstruction continues under a 2019 Master Plan.

Mercer contains many of the amenities of a public park, but it is notable for its diverse habitat and plant life. There are both upland and bog areas.

The property's original owners, Thelma and Charles Mercer, added non-native plants to the 14.5 acres purchased in 1949. They planted camellias, gingers, bamboo, herbs, ginkgos, and Philadelphus, for example. These and other plantings survive in more than ten maintained gardens.

Mercer is also committed to the native plants of the region, as reflected in its extensive natural areas. A section is dedicated to preserving endangered species.

Throughout the late 1980s and into 1990, SLI publications reported on the native irises that members had planted at Mercer. Although many did not withstand the devastation of weather events, the spirit of that donation has survived, and, along with Mercer, the irises are back.





Rescued terra-cotta chimney flues that soon will display Louisiana irises.

PHOTO BY CRYSTAL SIMMONS

es of Harvey and were collected, cleaned, and cut with a cement saw down to a more manageable 12-inch x 24-inch size.

These smaller flues will be displayed along the bank for easier access by staff and viewing for the public. Their earthy terra-cotta color blends in well with the pine straw, and the flues will hold the rhizomes in place while they grow and later are thinned. Historically, the irises have been thinned every three years, and the fans collected and sold during the highly anticipated annual March Mart plant fundraiser sale.

The restoration of the iris collection at Mercer Botanical Gardens is well advanced. “It will be nice to have the Louisiana irises back in the gardens after their removal following the Tax Day and Harvey floods,” said Mercer Director Chris Ludwig. “These new additions will more than double the size of the original collection.” There is more to come, however.

Mercer is in discussions with the Society for Louisiana Irises about participation as a “steward” in its

Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project. In July, Charles Perilloux, the project chair, and Louise Jamail, a Society board member, toured Mercer. Director Chris Ludwig led the group, which also included Horticultural Operations Coordinator Jeff Heilers and Education and Volunteer Coordinator Assistant Christy Jones. Impressed by the garden’s recovery and improvements since the Harvey flooding, Charles proposed that Mercer consider participation as a steward in the Species Preservation Project, which Chris Ludwig noted, coincided with Mercer’s continuing dedication to preservation of rare and endangered plant species. As a steward, Mercer would receive and propagate over 100 distinct clones of the five Louisiana iris species, representing many colors and forms.

Mercer is Growing!

In March, Mercer started a new \$4.98

million construction project based on a Master Plan to redesign the gardens, which will include strategies to help mitigate damage from future flooding events. The first phase, located on a newly purchased 40 acres, should be complete by October and includes building a large wet-bottom retention area and three new greenhouses elevated above the flood line of Harvey. The old greenhouses will be removed to create a grand lawn to be used as an event space.

Funding for this phase of the gardens was paid for through a community development block grant disaster recovery program. Funding for other construction phases has yet to be secured, and donations to The Mercer Society’s “Mercer Growth Fund,” are welcome and encouraged.

Plant collections are never complete. Mercer is committed to the objectives



A drone’s eye view of the Texas Native and Endangered Species Garden.

PHOTO BY HARRIS COUNTY P4 COMMUNICATIONS



The Japanese Teahouse and lagoon.

PHOTO BY CHARLES PERILLOUX



A look back at the original iris plantings from the 1990s.

PHOTO FROM SLI ARCHIVES.

of the original iris planting by Marie Caillet, Josephine Shanks, and Dean Lee. Preservation of Louisiana iris cultivars and species – especially forms native to Texas – will continue at Mercer, and a visit in the spring will get better every year.

About The Author: Christy (Miller) Jones is a native Houstonian and has fond childhood memories visiting her father's birthplace of Mamou in Evangeline Parish, LA. She found strong connections to nature and culture through time spent at Chicot State Park and learning about cooking and gardening from her great grandmother, who resided in Ville Platte and grew Louisiana irises. Christy works as Education and Volunteer Coordinator Assistant for Mercer Botanic Gardens, is married, and has three adult children.



Above left, Jeff Heilers, Horticultural Operations Coordinator, who curated the newly added cultivars. Right, Carol Price, Louise Jamail, and Christy Jones. Carol and Louise, members of SLI, visited Mercer with the Garden Club of Houston in April 2021. Author Christy Jones is identified at left.

PHOTOS BY JAMIE HARTWELL

Mercer Botanic Gardens Louisiana Iris Collection

January, 2021

Ada Morgan
Amanda Grainger
Aqua Vella
Bayou Fountain
Bayou Renegade
Blue Mountain Mist
Blue Splatter
Brazos Gold
Bubble Gum Ballerina
Bywater
Cajun Popcorn
Changing Shadows
Chief of Chiefs
Choctaw Sky
City of Ruins
Crushed Ice

Cyclamint
Dawn Aglow
Delta Star
Dixie Deb
Duck Lady
Empress Josephine
Eolian
Estelle Egan
Extra Dazzle
Frank Carroll
Friends Song
Full Eclipse
Geisha Eyes
Gentle Memories
Gertie Butler
Glowlight

Grace Duhon
Gris Gris
Hector Duhon
Highland Road
Honey Galore
Hush Money
Impassioned
Jeri
Jingleheimer
John Wood
Joy Flight
Katrina Rising
Kissie
Labrador Hollow
Late for the Party
Laura Louise

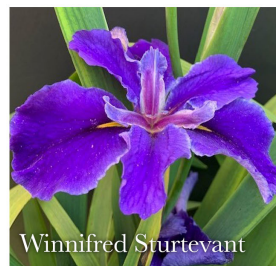
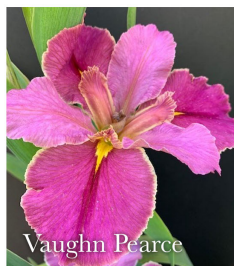
Laura Strawn
Lightning Quick
Little Rock Skies
Little Winnie
Malibu Magic
Mamacita
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Miss Gertie's Bonnet
Monkey Hill
My Jon Jon
Nancy Tichborne
New Orleans Lady
Night Thunder
Offshore Flow
Professor Barbara
Professor Ellis

Red Pepper
Ride for Dixie
Sea Knight
Shizuoka Sunrise
Trevor
Vermillion Treasure
Voodoo Music
Wake-Up Susie
When Pigs Fly
Who's Ya Mama
Willa Mae
Iris fulva 'Dwarf'
Iris nelsonii

2021

Introductions

LOUISIANA IRISES



* iris names subject to final approval from AIS

2021 introductions along with other Bearded and Louisiana irises are listed on our website. End of Season surprise packages are also available for individuals and clubs.

Commercial Garden location: 15076 CR 349, Terrell, TX 75161

To place an order for 2021, please visit us at: www.hillcrestiris.com

All 2021 Louisiana intros are \$45 each

Find us on facebook at [facebook.com/hillcrestiris/](https://www.facebook.com/hillcrestiris/)

A Short History of a Lifetime Iris Love Affair

By Daphne Sawyer

It was entirely appropriate that as I drove into Quail Hill Farm and Gardens, home to Everett Lineberger and four generations of the Lineberger family, that ‘Immortality’, that silvery white Tall Bearded Rebloomer was gleaming like a lantern against the green garden. It was mid-July and just goes to show those Rebloomers have not only substance but minds of their own. Much like the inhabitants of Quail Hill.

Everette Lineberger has grown and loved irises for most of his adult life, at least 66 years by his count. His mother grew traditional colored (purple, white, yellow, and blue) bearded iris in her North Carolina garden just west of Charlotte. Of German-speaking Swiss heritage by way of Pennsylvania, Everette entered the Lutheran Ministry in the 1950s and was a pastor in South Carolina for thirty years. When Everette pulled into Rock Hill, his first Lutheran parish in 1959, he was dazzled by three irises that grew there, TB ‘Indian Chief’ (Ayers, 1929), TB ‘Wabash’ (Williamson, R. 1938), and the spuria ‘White Heron’ (Milliken, 1948). The variety of color and form excited his interest, and that year he ordered nine named TB varieties to grow. In a few years, he’d relocated to Charleston to continue his ministry, and despite being warned off of irises by local gardeners, he planted and grew over 100 varieties of bearded iris near a drainage ditch where the soil was porous and well-drained. By 1964 Everette had moved back to the Upstate, to Spartanburg, SC, and relocated his entire iris garden to his new home.

In 1966 Everette set out to his first iris



Everette Lineberger and granddaughter Stephanie Rice.

show in Great Falls, SC. He won Best in Show with the TB ‘Black Hills’ (Fay, 1951). South Carolina iris shows back then classified irises by color, and only one iris could win in a color category. He won Best in Show for a Design, again, first try, at the Gaffney, SC show in 1997.

Around this time, Everette discovered Louisiana and species iris through John Wood of Gaffney, SC. In 1982 Everette and John Wood organized the Piedmont Chapter Iris Society (PCIS) and became active members of Region 5. John Wood grew a lot of different irises, and per Everette, he was very much “on the cutting edge” for his time. John conducted a lengthy

discussion with Marie Caillet, Joe Mertzweiller, and others regarding a South Carolinian *Iris hexagona* he believed was a separate species from *I. giganteaerulea*, not a variant of as debated in that era. John Wood sent two examples of SC *I. hexagona* to Joe Mertzweiller for evaluation to prove his point. Patrick O’Connor tells me these iris are growing today as part of SLI’s Species Preservation Project and in Bill Jolly’s Pacolet, SC garden, possibly the only clones of the species from South Carolina to be preserved.

Never missing an opportunity to grow more iris, Everette started with two dozen named LA varieties planted around a pond visible from the drive into the Quail Hill Farm. One of these was Charles Arny’s 1975 DeBaillon winner ‘Charlie’s Michele’ (1969), a medium pink iris with sunny yellow styles. Unfortunately, ‘Charlie’s Michele’ did not survive its first year on the pond, but three seedlings appeared instead. No longer having ‘Charlie’s Michele’ to compare against, Everette observed his seedlings grow, bloom, and increase. One pink particularly caught his eye as unique and robust. He registered his first LA in 1988



Iris enthusiast Jillian Rice, representing the next generation at Quail Hill, and her namesake iris ‘Jillian’ (Lineberger, 2019)



Everette with one of his winning show irises.

as ‘Waverly Pink’ with the goal of showing this iris in the exhibition gardens at the 1992 AIS convention held at the Atlanta Waverly Hotel. Arriving in Atlanta full of anticipation, he discovered that the Waverly Hotel had embarked upon an expansion program, and the exhibition garden in which ‘Waverly Pink’ was planted had been dug up for construction. So much for that convention. Around this time, Everette became aware that ‘Waverly Pink’ was almost the spit-tin’ image of Charles Arny’s ‘Charlie’s Michele’. Horrified, he quickly removed this iris from the commercial market and apologized to Charles Arny. However, in time, it became apparent that Everette’s iris was different from ‘Char-

lie’s Michele’; ‘Waverly Pink’ is a robust grower, and ‘Charlie’s Michele’ was reputedly not. Everette put ‘Waverly Pink’ back into commercial production.

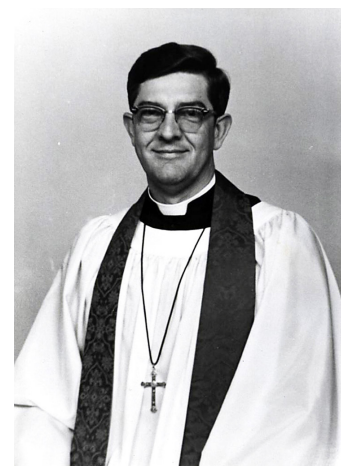
Another Lineberger registration, ‘John Wood’ (1998), is a spectacular species *versicolor* iris with profuse bright magenta blooms. This plant was hybridized or found, we’ll never know which, by its namesake and introduced by Everette in memorial to his mentor. This iris received the Randolph-Perry Medal in the species classification in 2006.

In 1990, Everette had retired from the Lutheran Ministry and was wondering what to do with his days and beautiful property facing the Blue Ridge Mountains. So, he started a commercial garden and published an annual catalog for Quail Hill Gardens until 2009. At its peak, Everette grew and sold 750 iris varieties, including LAs, Japanese, spuria, all bearded classes, 500 daylily varieties and 25 peonies. The local gardeners knew him as the “Iris King,” and if you Google his name today you will find several references to the beauty of his garden nursery and his affinity with irises. He had almost two acres of dedicated iris rows, the pond, and to many, including Bill Jolly, an LA enthusiast today inspired by Everette’s work, Quail Hill “... was fantastic, breathtaking, and majestic all rolled into one.”

In addition to local garden club and PCIS leadership, Everette served on the American Iris Society (AIS) Board and in many different leadership roles for many

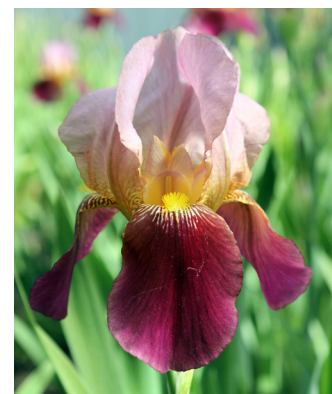
years. He was also a member of several sections, Louisianas included, and a familiar name to many. Everette has registered twelve Tall Bearded, two Louisianas, and one Standard Dwarf Bearded.

Stephanie Rice is Everette’s granddaughter. Some of her earliest memories of visiting her grandparents were the smell of Sharpie pens and the sound of an old-fashioned paper cutter used to



Reverend Everette L. Lineberger

trim iris. If visiting in the late summer, upon arrival, she would be deployed with a Sharpie to label plants for sale. Her grandmother, Ann; mother, Deborah; two brothers; and in fact, everyone would be put to work. Stephanie hated irises. But her grandparents’ energy, attitude, and accomplishments inspired her. Everette has a wall of his iris show ribbons that Stephanie marvels at: close to 300 blue ribbons, 12 Best Seedling, 11 Horticulture Sweepstakes, 26 Best Speci-



Three significant irises in Everette Lineberger’s iris career: His Louisiana hybrid ‘Waverly Pink’ (1989); the gorgeous *versicolor* ‘John Wood’ (Wood/Lineberger, 1998); and the TB ‘Indian Chief’ (Ayres, 1929), one of the three irises that captured his imagination in Rock Hill, SC at his first parish.

PHOTO OF ‘INDIAN CHIEF’ COURTESY OF OLD HOUSE GARDENS. [HTTPS://OLDHOUSEGARDENS.COM/](https://oldhousegardens.com/)

men of Show, and on and on. Everette says it wasn't the ribbons that motivated him to enter shows, but he certainly did bring some home!

Quail Hill has been Stephanie's happy childhood holiday place, and her family made time to visit frequently. In 2000 she and her family moved to nearby Spartanburg. She has maintained the Quail Hill property since 2018 and has worked with Everette on the remaining irises and in bringing back several beds to share with local iris lovers. Grandfather and granddaughter are close, and she knows what he wants and what to expect.

It is difficult to pinpoint that moment when you transition from thankless child labor to the adult labor of love, but Stephanie has fully transitioned. Thanks to Bill and Marcia Jolly, she's raising chickens (and fresh eggs); her husband is growing tomatoes and organic vegetables for the local farmers market; and she has the vision and Lineberger energy to bring the commercial garden back with a focus on LAs. Her two children, Jillian and Everette (Little E), are seemingly in agreement. I foolishly asked Jillian which was her favorite flower. She informed me (slow-witted adult that I am), it was the iris her great grandfather had named after her, a medium purple lilac Louisiana with red styles: 'Jillian' (Lineberger, 2019). Another bee pod introduction, Stephanie tells how they found this iris, blooming salad plate-sized flowers and thriving amongst other LA cultivars.

This spring, Everette and Stephanie put on a post-COVID iris celebration, with several beds busting at the seams with named varieties for purchase. Everette, at 92, now uses a roller walker for balance and convenient sitting, allowing him to be out chatting with old friends up and down his iris rows, inspecting his blooms and labels as I suspect he has been doing for 66 years. And with his very capable partner, Stephanie, we wish them together another 66 years of happy iris growing and hybridization.



At top, Quail Hill Gardens in its heyday. "A little bit of heaven on earth" according to a catalog that offered irises, daylilies, and peonies. Below left, a clump of 'Waverly Pink' in Bill Jolly's garden and, right, the Louisiana iris beds at Quail Hill in April 2021.



An impressive wall of mementos of iris shows over many years.

Briarwood Reflections

By Richard Johnson

This summer at Briarwood has been a real blessing for sure. We have received nice rains about once a week or better. One of the wettest summers I've ever experienced and definitely the wettest one we've had in many years. Really loving it. With the rain the good Lord has provided, I haven't had to do any supplemental watering. Of course, with the rain comes abundant growth and lots of mowing, clipping, and pruning to keep things in check.

Wildflowers

The flowers are putting on quite the show for us too. The wildflower meadow is awash in the bright yellow of the Sweet Yellow Coneflower, *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*. This mass of yellow is punctuated with purple



Rudbeckia subtomentosa



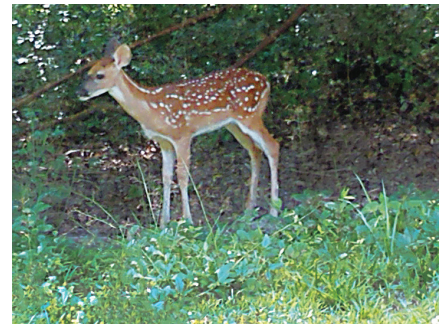
Liatris

streaks of the Prairie Blazing Star, *Liatris*, as well as the pale violet color of the Obedient Plant, *Physostegia virginiana*. The Goldenrods, *Solidago*, are now starting to add their yellow to the mix as well. Along the wood margins and in front of the visitor center, we are being treated to the purple color and dainty look of the Pinewoods Lily, *Alophia drummondii*, and the tall

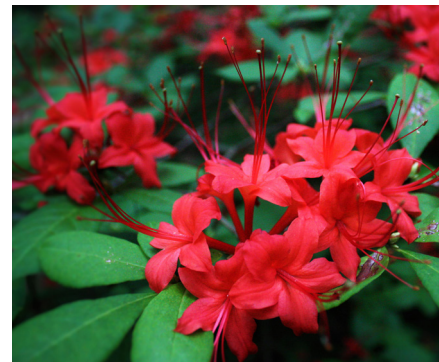
purple spires of the Ironweed, *Vernonia*. All these beautiful colors are bringing in droves of bees and other pollinators. The delicate pink *Rhexia* is hard to miss, and even harder is *Rhododendron prunifolium*, Plumleaf Azalea.

A Fawn

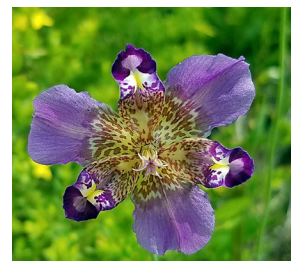
A couple of days ago, our resident doe came up behind the house again to drink from the birdbath. Beautiful creature for sure, and this time, she had her newborn fawn with her. The little one stood several feet behind her while she drank, then they both strolled off into the woods. I guess the water in the birdbath must be better tasting than that in the creek. We have heard the Barred Owls talking late evenings and into the night. Sounds like they're planning their night hunt!



Looking forward to seeing you here soon!



Rhododendron prunifolium



Rhexia mariana, above, and *Alophia drummondii*



2021 Calendar of Events

Fall Tom Sawyer Day – Saturday October 30th. Grab your gloves and come join us for a great day of fellowship, visiting and some work.

Annual Fall Plant Sale – Saturday, November 6th. Hopefully in-person but watch email, website and Facebook.

Briarwood is open for guided tours in March, April, May, October and November on Saturdays from 9 am until 5 pm and Sundays from 12 pm until 5 pm. Appointments for other times and for large groups are available by special request.

Briarwood Contact Information:

318-576-3379 • briarwoodnp@gmail.com • <https://www.facebook.com/cdormon>



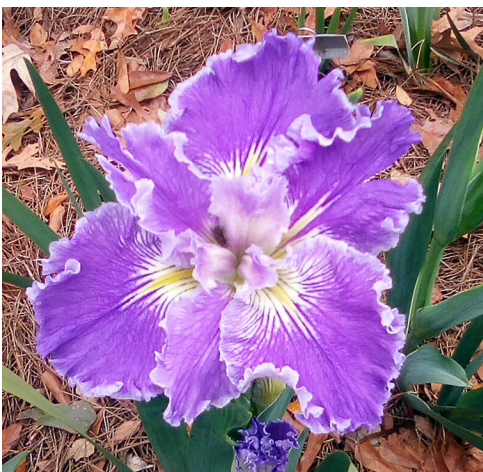
My Six Month Bloom Season

By Gary Babin

On November 11 of last year, as I was leaving the house to go to work, I was surprised to find a Louisiana iris blooming in one of my iris beds. I wasn't so much surprised that I had an early bloomer as I was that I had not noticed the emerging bloom stalk. Over the years, I have often had early bloomers, one or two hybrids that would honor me with a sneak peek at the bloom season to come. These blooms would usually occur in December or January. They would slowly bloom out because of cool temperatures, teasing me about what to expect when the regular bloom season would begin in March.

This past season was different. I had no idea that the iris blooming on November 11 was going to be followed by an amazing few months of early flowers. From November 11 through February 15, I had at least 40 different hybrids bloom.

At first, I was happy to have a few wonderful winter greetings from my iris beds. Six different hybrids bloomed in November, and that number more than doubled in December.



Peter Jackson's 'We Are Sailing' (2005) arrived on December 20.

As blooms kept coming, I began to feel a little disappointed. I had redone my Louisiana iris beds in August of 2019, converting seven small beds into two

large beds, each approximately 14' x 27' in size. I was looking forward to having a "sea of color" in the future, thinking it would be in the spring of 2021 that the new irises that I had planted would be well-established to provide what I was trying to achieve.



As more and more irises bloomed from November 2020 through February 2021, I began to feel that the sea of color that I had been looking forward to during the normal bloom season was not going to occur. Too many of my irises would have already finished. After a while, I resigned myself to enjoying the beauty of all the early-blooming irises.

When the deep freeze was headed our way in mid-February, I had ten stalks that were blooming and a lot not yet in flower. I cut the blooming stalks and brought them inside so that I could enjoy their beauty. I knew that the freeze



'Land Of Cotton' (Dunn/Ghio, 2000), 'Professor Neil' (Meritzweiller, 1992), and 'Morgan's Dixie' (Morgan/Wilhoit, 2009). The last two bloomed well before the usual season, and 'Morgan's Dixie' produced more blooms later.

'LAND OF COTTON' & 'MORGAN'S DIXIE' PHOTOS BY SAYLOR LITTELL. would kill them. I was certain that the visible stalks, left to face the freezing temperatures, would not survive.

Much to my surprise, the stalks that were in the flower beds during the deep freeze were not killed. In past years, any bloom stalks that were up during a freeze would turn yellow and fall over, then wither away. That did not happen with this severe freeze. Perhaps the ice that had covered the plants this time had insulated them and kept them from dying outright. I really don't know how they survived.

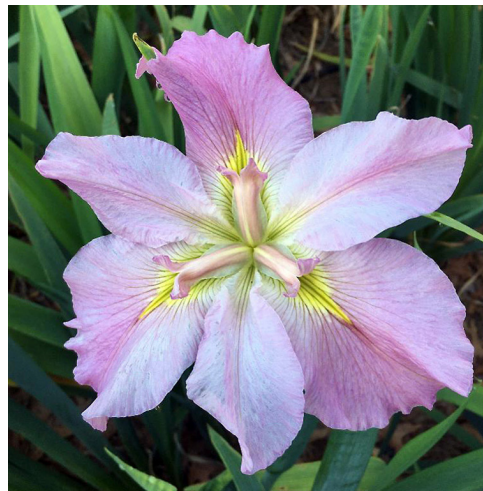
However, many of the stalks that had come through the freeze did not develop properly. Many had buds that never formed flowers, some set deformed buds, and several bloomed a few flowers that were unrecognizable. Stalks continued to emerge, though, and what I would consider my last early bloomer appeared on February 26. Amazingly, it was 'Great White Hope', an iris that I really like and have grown for years, but never until now had succeeded in getting it to bloom.

I can only speculate on why I had so many early bloomers this past season. I do know that my irises received more tender loving care in 2020 than in many past years. I found a young couple, Saylor and Daphne Littrel, who helped keep up the beds throughout the year. They did a great job weeding, feeding, and mulching the irises.

Also, two security lights come on at night, and these lights shine across both iris beds. I have searched for information

regarding security lighting on plant growth but have found very little.

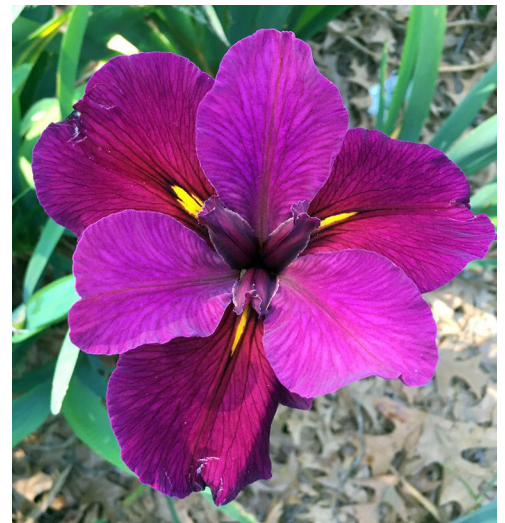
There is one other factor that may contribute to early blooming. Both of these beds are bordered by a thick concrete driveway and a concrete sidewalk leading up to the front steps of the house. Perhaps the concrete holds enough heat to keep the iris beds a little warmer when the weather turns cold.



The old and the new. 'Feliciana Hills' (O'Connor, 1992) and 'Mama Janice' (Musacchia, 2019)
'FELICIANA HILLS' PHOTO BY SAYLOR LITTEL.

Again, I really do not know if this is a factor.

Happily, both beds bloomed enough during the regular bloom season to give me enough of the "sea of color" that I was hoping to enjoy.



'Red Velvet Elvis' (Vaughn, 1997)
PHOTO BY SAYLOR LITTEL.



Gary Babin is a long-time member of SLI. He gardens in Baton Rouge, LA. Gary first encountered Louisiana irises as a kid in North Baton Rouge when he discovered *Iris brevicaulis* growing in a nearby wooded swamp and brought plants home. They thrived then and now in the garden of the house where he grew up. Gary started growing a few hybrids beginning in the late 70s, and got serious about modern Louisianas around 2001.

Gary is a chef, and many members will recall the wonderful food he provided on several iris convention tours at stops in Baton Rouge.



'Hush Money' (Dunn/Ghio, 1998) remains popular and is welcome anytime, early or late.
PHOTO BY SAYLOR LITTEL.



Mounting an SLI Social Media Initiative

By Charles Perilloux

Almost all gardening organizations have been facing the same problem of stagnant or declining membership. Both spouses in today's families typically work outside the home, and many activities compete for leisure. SLI has decided we need to get with the times on social media and our website if we expect to gain new members and keep those we have.

I volunteered to lead a social media initiative, despite limited experience with Facebook, Instagram, or website management. So I need a lot of help.

Ron Killingsworth has been very active in recruiting members in his area, using presentations to garden clubs and other groups. Astonishingly, the small city of Minden, LA (population 13,000) has more members at 11, thanks to Ron, than the entire city of Houston, TX, with only seven members despite a population of 2.3 million in the city and 7 million in the metro area. And the greater metro area of Shreveport, including Minden and Bossier City, has almost 10 percent of the entire membership of SLI. Of course, direct contact is the most effective way to gain members and volunteers, but not everyone has Ron's combination of humor, evangelistic zeal, and persuasion.

An effective strategy to promote SLI and Louisiana irises will require several approaches. We have been putting substantial effort and expense into producing the *Fleur de Lis*, one of the best full-color magazines in America for an organization as small as ours. But we are only reaching our 400 or so people who are already members. This does practically nothing to attract those gardeners who might be interested in Louisiana irises but have never heard about us. We must continue what we do well, but we also must diversify our efforts. Social

media is the most accessible means available, and it is proving effective for other organizations.

Social Media Posts

SLI needs several volunteers active on Facebook and Instagram to create posts, preferably weekly, based on content made available to them or that they supply. Images can show not just flowers, but people too, especially working in their gardens. Pictures of irises with children or grandchildren are especially good. Volunteers can also post short messages about our latest *Fleur de Lis*, perhaps with a photo or two and a brief description of an article. Reference to our website and information on membership would also be welcome.

SLI has extensive photographic files from which to draw images and short descriptions suitable for a once or twice a week posting. We can provide pictures to volunteers willing to use them on social media. And each of us probably has photographs of our own or other gardens that we can share without taking new photos frequently. We do not need to be professional photographers. Cell phone photos today are very sharp and more than adequate for online viewing. (Photographs to be printed in the *Fleur*

de Lis, on the other hand, require high resolution, and for this purpose, you should set your camera to its highest quality setting).

The American Iris Society and other iris organizations and local clubs find that today's public is eager for readily available news that is easily digested, frequently offered, and colorful. The Southern Garden History Society, to which my wife Kathleen and I belong, is another model of good media communication. SGHS is a non-profit with about 550 dues-paying members and an average membership age probably similar to SLI. This society publishes a quarterly magazine, *Magnolia*, that is usually about 20 or 24 pages. The paper edition is mailed out, and the electronic version becomes available to the public about a month or two later. All *Magnolia* articles since 1983 are indexed by author, title, and date. Each article can be directly pulled up without having to download the whole issue. Indexes and menus make photos accessible. The organization has an attractive Facebook page and a website at www.southerngardenhistory.org, which a member of their organization keeps current.

The SLI board has voted to post archi-





val copies of the *Fleur* to its website as soon as the mechanism can be developed. A committee is considering whether to post them as downloadable pdf files or put them in a magazine-like format that facilitates reading online. Each approach has advantages, and each will be tested. In addition, some individual articles may be broken out and posted separately according to their specific subject. Our back issues contain much good content, and if directed to it by social media, old issues, articles, and pictures could generate interest and attract new members. AIS does not make back issues of *IRISES* or its earlier *Bulletins* available to non-members, but the matter is under consideration.

Another Approach

Part of our outreach strategy should include raising public awareness of Louisiana irises by fostering contact with public gardens. Several in Houston are good examples, including Mercer Botanical Gardens, Rienzi House and Gardens, and water exhibits at the Houston Zoo. Shangri-La Gardens in Orange, TX is another. The greater Houston area is the fourth largest metro area in America and is ripe for adding new SLI members. We have to expand our outreach in Texas and throughout the country where Louisiana irises can be grown.

In New Orleans, the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden and Longue Vue House and Gardens have been instrumental in promoting Louisiana irises and providing an outlet for local iris organizations. In Savannah, the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens has developed a comprehensive display of Louisiana iris cultivars and species not exceeded in the country. There undoubtedly are many other public gardens that would both welcome and benefit from Louisiana iris plantings. Using social media, promotion of these gardens and their iris plantings could then serve as a catalyst for further public awareness and interest.

Help Needed

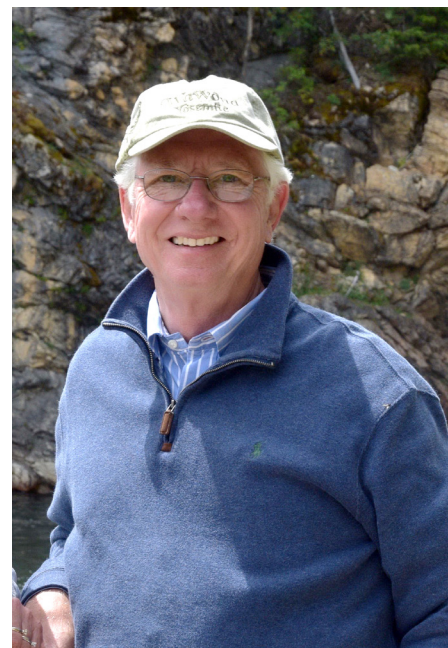
There is a lot of learning ahead for all of us to effectively tap existing resources. However, there is no doubt that social media can be instrumental in achieving the greatest effect in promoting Louisiana irises and improving the health of SLI. Based on the experience of other organizations, photographs of colorful Louisiana irises are a natural fit for short posts on the SLI Facebook and Instagram pages and our website. I am convinced this is the place to start.

I need your help. We will have an extensive set of photos and descriptions

available from which to draw images to post. These include photos and written descriptions of 150 different variants of the five Louisiana iris species in our Species Preservation Collection Archives. Cultivar pictures are available on the SLI Checklist CD ROM, and a little website work can make many more accessible for download. The best online source for cultivar images is the AIS Iris Encyclopedia. www.wiki.irises.org. Log on, click on the Louisiana iris section in the left column, and you can then search for particular Louisiana cultivars. Often there are multiple pictures of each.

I am impatient by nature, so I want to get this effort moving soon. We have the resources to begin immediately, and if you are willing to help, you will need concrete information about the steps you can take. So let me hear from you to discuss the project and details about how to we can start.

My contact information is on page two of every issue of the *Fleur de Lis*.



Charles Perilloux

Charles Perilloux is a member of the SLI Board and is chair and founder of the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project. He is a retired engineer and lives in Baton Rouge.

The Deep Freeze In Northwest Louisiana

By Ron Killingsworth

The week of February 13 through February 20 is marked on my calendar as “the worst week ever.” A horrible cold front came in from the north and brought us freezing weather and snow. We had about eight inches of snow in northwest Louisiana, and it stayed on the ground for about five days. The temperature remained below freezing for almost the whole week, and several days the high was 17 to 20 degrees. Then, on Thursday night, February 18, the temperature dropped to zero.

I have lived most of my life in the State of Louisiana and cannot recall having weather that cold nor a “cold spell” that lasted a week. We were fortunate to have electrical power the whole time and a wood stove to supplement the heat. We lost our water the first few days and were without it for most of the week. We had the “joy” of melting snow to flush the toilets and boil for drinking water.



With temperatures down to zero, the irises may have benefited from snow cover. But they weren't happy.

We were warned well in advance of the approaching weather. While I made sure to protect my water lines, I failed to cover some of our outdoor plants. I had some irises potted up and could have brought them into the house but simply failed to do so. They were all killed by the freezing weather.

Before the “deep freeze,” my irises were doing fine. The foliage was about three to four feet tall, and I was looking forward to a great bloom season. During a typical winter, we usually have four to eight nights of below-freezing weather. Back in the early 80s we had a prolonged cold

snap, and both the Red River and Caddo Lake froze over, but I do not recall the temperature falling much below the teens.

This year, many of Sue's flowers and bushes were killed completely by the freezing weather. Others were burned and looked dead but have started to recover. Unfortunately, everything that blooms was set back, and we had a very late iris blooming season. Even some large trees were damaged and are not recovering.

The first picture shows the iris beds by my house covered in snow. All the beds are raised. Most are made from 2' x 10' treated lumber, while some are from four layers of landscape timbers. All are lined with heavy plastic and filled



On February 23, with the snow melted, the irises showed the full extent of damage.

with a soil and compost mixture. This creates a bed that retains the water, sort of like a small pond full of dirt. The irises do well, although those with a lot of *Iris brevicaulis* in them find the beds a little too wet.

The second picture was taken on February 23, after the



By March 29, the irises were recovering nicely, although new foliage struggled through when damaged leaves had not been removed.

snow had finally melted. My beautiful four-foot foliage was now white and obviously dead. I cut back a lot of the dead foliage but did not remove all of it in every bed.

I noted by March 29 that the irises that had their dead foliage cut seemed to have recovered better. The ones with the dead foliage still attached had problems when the new leaves started to grow out of the rhizome. As the picture above shows, the new growth was often caught in the dead foliage and came out wrinkled and pleated.

Overall, by March 29, the foliage was recovering nicely and was almost back to its height before the freeze, as seen in the photo on the immediate right. Pay no attention to the weeds in the beds. The weeds were not damaged at all by the freeze!

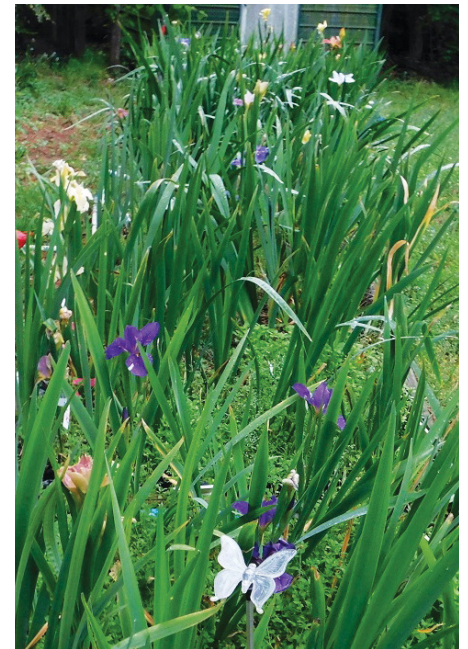
Normally, by the first or second week of April, we would start to see an occasional bloom stem growing up out of the rhizomes. Even the *Iris virginica* and Sue's tall bearded irises were very late, and most simply did not bloom. The *I. virginica* and the TBs are planted directly into the ground, and, in addition, the TBs are more protected on the side of our house.

The pictures below show the same beds on March 29 and April 30. The season ended during the first week of May with about 25 percent of my Louisiana irises blooming. All produced nice tall foliage, and some bloomed right next to others that did not bloom. The irises that did bloom appeared normal with the correct number of bud positions and double sockets.

Typically, by the end of April, the season is almost over. It was interesting to note that the Dutch irises, the *I. virginica*, the TBs, and the Louisiana irises all bloomed at the same time. And, all were delayed by the cold and produced little bloom. I did notice that the Louisiana irises planted directly into the soil, especially those by Stan and Bobbie's home by the lake and ponds, did much better.

What did I learn? I really should take any potted flowers into the house when a deep freeze is predicted. And planting irises in raised beds might not be the best choice in areas prone to long periods of freezing weather. However, I could have mulched the raised beds with leaves and pine straw. But, as they say, "hindsight is 20-20."

What makes all this even more disappointing? I had replanted most of these beds in 2019, and the bloom in 2020



By March 29 (left), the foliage appeared near normal, but a month later on April 30 (right), the sparse bloom told the true story of the extent of freeze damage.

was about 50 percent because of the "set back" from being transplanted in the late fall. Since many of the irises did not bloom in 2020, I expected 2021 to make up for it. Two seasons with a poor bloom percentage is very unusual, and it will be interesting to see how the irises respond in 2022.



Ron and Sue Killingsworth live in Mooringsport, LA, north of Shreveport on Caddo Lake. His sister Bobbie Hutchins, owner of the former Plantation Point Nursery, and husband Stan Schikowitz, live close by and even nearer to the edge of Caddo Lake. Ron has been the Treasurer of the Society for Louisiana Irises since 2010. Ron is retired from the U. S. Army and is a proud Vietnam veteran...

Our Favorite Fungus

By Patrick O'Connor

On occasion, almost all iris growers have been visited by our fungus friend, *Puccinia iridis*, or iris rust. At least knowingly, we never invite this guest, but it will quickly bring others of its kind and persist from season to season if accorded hospitable treatment. Once it has a foothold, iris rust will rarely leave on its own volition.

Rust disease on irises is not deadly, but it is ugly, and in severe infestations, it will damage foliage on some varieties enough to retard growth. Infected foliage may collapse and turn yellow prematurely. If you have rust in your garden, you will want to be rid of it, and control is possible with specific and usually manageable steps.

What Is Rust, Exactly?

Many species of rust exist. They are fungi that rely on other organisms for nutrients. Many, including *Puccinia iridis*, are **obligate parasites**, meaning that they require living plant tissue to grow, feed, and reproduce. Iris rust occurs on irises only. Other species of rust are specific to different plants. Daylily rust, for example, is a different species, *Puccinia hemerocallidis*, and it will not infect irises. And so on for innumerable other rusts and different hosts. Total rust species number on the order of 7,000.

In truth, there has not been a great deal of research on iris rust specifically. Rusts that infect valuable food crops, on the other hand, have been much studied. There also has been a significant amount of research on daylily rust, which is a more insidious problem than iris rust. Although rust species' characteristics and life cycle differ in many ways, iris growers attempting to control the problem have no current option but to assume similarities with other rust species in certain respects. That will be the case in this account.

How Does Rust Reproduce and Spread?

Crafting effective countermeasures requires understanding how rust lives, loves, works, and goes about its daily business. Rust spreads from spores that are distributed primarily by the wind. A single **pustule** – just one of the slightly raised, rust-colored dots on a leaf usually surrounded by a yellowed area – may contain 10,000 spores, to say the least, an intimidating number. These spores are called **urediniospores** and are one of five types of spores a rust species can produce. If the pustules are dark or black and appear later in the season, they are a different type called **teliospores**.

This difference is significant because there are two ways that many rust species, including iris rust, reproduce: **asexually** and by **sexual reproduction**. The early urediniospores are involved in asexual reproduction. They are essentially cloned, and the new ones are quickly dispersed to infect more leaves.

In theory, to control rust, we must disrupt both the asexual and sexual reproduction processes. However, it is likely that for most iris growers, the asexual process is by far the most significant. Practically speaking, it may be the only relevant one.

Asexual Reproduction. The rusty-brownish or orange pustules containing the urediniospores first appear in early spring. They erupt, and the wind spreads the spores to other living leaves. Direct leaf-to-leaf contact, insects, or gardeners and their tools may also distribute them. When the spores have arrived on an iris leaf, they are capable of “germinating” and forming a structure that grows into the leaf tissues. Inside, they form a network of rust strands or filaments called **mycelium**, which is the vegetative part of the fungus. The mycelia spread, living off the nutrients in the iris leaf. Under favorable conditions (such as moderate temperatures and ample moisture), mycelia eventually produce other pustules containing more urediniospores which emerge



Iris rust (Puccinia iridis) on Louisiana iris foliage

onto the leaf surface where they become visible. Additional spores are then released to be distributed by the wind and other means, continuing and increasing the outbreak of rust.

The mycelia are not visible. An iris leaf may contain rust mycelia and yet appear rust-free until the new pustules appear and erupt. Thus, a garden may have an infestation without the gardener knowing right away.

Sexual Reproduction.

In rust species, including *Puccinia iridis*, sexual reproduction is more complicated. It involves a cycle that includes an alternate host (a plant species other than an iris) and an additional, specialized type of spore produced later in the year. These dark or black **teliospores** do not appear until fall or winter – if infected foliage remains on the iris.

In irises, the alternate host plant is **nettle**, and in day-lilies, it is *Patrina* species. Common stinging nettle, *Urtica dioica*, is widespread in North America but probably not in urban areas. Rust cannot be spread to irises by sexual reproduction unless there is a nettle population in the vicinity, but if that is the case, nettle needs to be controlled. (Any gardener who insists on growing stinging nettle should at least locate it as far away from their irises as possible.)

How To Disrupt the Life Cycle of Iris Rust

Left alone and once established in a garden, there is a strong chance that iris rust will come back from year to year. That is not always the case because external conditions, such as winter cold and summer heat or the amount of rain, may naturally disrupt its life cycle. In truth, it is not always clear why iris rust comes and goes. It does not seem as resilient as daylily rust, and afflicted gardens can eliminate the problem, save occasional mild outbreaks. Daylily growers seem to struggle on and on.

There are several widely accepted steps to control rust.

Remove Infected Leaves

Once rust has been identified in the garden, promptly remove all infected foliage, including dead or yellowed leaves that may be around the irises. Destroy the leaves or discard them off site, such as in a landfill. Never compost infected foliage, and don't wait to get started.

Cutting and removing foliage with visible urediniospore pustules will undoubtedly cause some spores' release into the

air. However, the presumption is that far more are eliminated in the long run, and the overall result will be a reduction in the spread of infection compared to taking no action. As much care as practical should be taken while removing foliage, and some recommend using a fungicide after foliage removal to prevent or inhibit spore germination.

It is desirable to disinfect one's hands and tools after cutting infected foliage. However, if you deal with an extensive

iris planting, such as in public gardens, or use volunteer labor, only so much care in removing infected foliage may be practical. A home gardener presumably could apply more refined and delicate techniques.

Elimination of infected foliage in the spring should prevent the formation of teliospores in the fall or winter. Thus a concern with sexual reproduction of iris rust, with or without nettle, can be rendered moot.

Thorough end-of-season clean-up of iris plantings is an essential step if rust is to be

controlled. The beginning of the iris growth cycle in the fall – when old foliage is shed and new growth begins – is an excellent time to remove unattractive yellow foliage and clean up any garden debris that may harbor rust spores. Even if infected foliage has been removed from the garden as it was found, spores may remain on or around the plants. It is unclear how long and under what conditions spores might survive and remain viable, so removing as much plant debris as possible in the fall is an excellent strategy to break the rust cycle before the following season. Some gardeners have reported that diligent garden clean-up has been sufficient to damp down an outbreak of rust without resorting to chemical treatments.

Prevent Germination Of Rust Spores

Moisture. Rust requires moisture for the “germination” of spores that have arrived on uninfected leaves. A daylily source indicates that if temperatures are ideal, around 72-75 degrees F., a host leaf must remain wet for at least four to six hours for germination to occur.¹ If that applies to iris rust, it explains why outbreaks are noticed most in the early spring. After summer heat arrives, additional infections are seldom seen.

There is no way to eliminate the rain, dew, and humidity that provide the moisture needed for spore germination in early spring. However, knowledgeable people cite overhead watering, especially at night, as a potentially avoidable con-



Iris rust marring a photo of the beautiful 'Fringed Gold' (Don Shepard, 1992)

tributing factor. In a garden situation where drip irrigation is feasible, it is preferable. Overhead watering in the daytime or in the early morning hours, when dew is likely to be present anyway, are other strategies that may minimize outbreaks of iris rust. Since Louisiana irises are water-loving plants, their moisture needs are paramount.

Fungicides. Many fungicides exist, and a few are both accessible and relatively inexpensive. Broadly, there are two types: systemic and contact. The plant absorbs systemic fungicides, and their effect may be both curative and preventive. If curative, the fungicide will attack and hopefully kill the fungus within the plant, and the production of additional spores will cease. On the other hand, a contact fungicide is simply preventive. It will kill spores that the wind has deposited on the leaves, halting germination and the spread of rust due to the particular spores that have arrived or may arrive while the fungicide remains sufficiently potent.

A mix of both systemic and contact products is recommended. Systemic, curative fungicides sound appealing, but they may not work well on established infestations. Systemics work best in the few days following infection. Fungicides are not one hundred percent effective, and it is important to follow product instructions, especially concerning the frequency of application.

The best way to integrate fungicides into a campaign against rust depends on the conditions in each garden. Consider the following:

If there has been a severe infestation in the previous year, spray with a systemic in very early spring before temperatures hit the optimal range for the spread of rust. A good time might be immediately as soon as rapid iris foliage growth begins as winter ends.

Following this, at the first sign of rust, spray with a contact fungicide to attack spreading spores and protect iris leaves from further germination. Then, spray as needed and according to the manufacturer's directions until temperatures rise in summer and conditions conducive to the spread of rust cease.

After fall garden clean-up, spray with a systemic or contact fungicide to inhibit germination of spores that may linger on remaining foliage.

Plan to rotate products over the season to prevent the build-up of resistance to any single fungicide. A few products are suggested below, but iris growers with rust issues should do a bit of research for more complete information. Search on the internet for articles on daylily rust, which has been studied far more than iris rust but seems similar in its behavior.

Other Steps To Control Rust

Grow Resistant Varieties.

If experience shows that a variety is highly susceptible to rust, consider eliminating it from the garden. On the other hand, if a rust-prone cultivar is important, special precautions – such as early use of fungicides – are advisable. The species *I. fulva* and *I. brevicaulis* seem afflicted by rust more than the others, and certainly, one may not want to eliminate those from the garden. The same may be true for some older cultivars that are especially enjoyed or valuable for historical reasons. Older cultivars, nearer to the species in their ancestry, may be more prone to rust. Over the years, rust resistance has probably been a factor in selecting new varieties to register and introduce, so modern cultivars as a group appear more rust-resistant.

Rust-prone irises might be potted and used as sentinel or indicator plants monitored carefully for the first signs of rust in a garden. If infected, relocate the pots away from other irises and consider a more aggressive fungicide regimen. In addition, one might use these susceptible varieties effectively in experiments to test various control techniques.

Plant Spacing. Plants growing vigorously in dense clumps facilitate the spread of spores by direct leaf-to-leaf contact. They will also be slower to dry out from dew, rain, or watering, creating conditions more conducive to spore germination. On the other hand, lush foliage generally means lots of bloom stalks, which we want. This is a balance that the gardener must strike.

Be Careful What You Bring Into The Garden.

Plants that you introduce into your garden may be infected with rust or harbor spores or mycelia, even if invisible. Commercial growers undoubtedly practice good iris hygiene, and the plants they ship will have been disinfected with a wash in a mild bleach solution or the like. That may be sufficient to kill any rogue spores. However, irises from unknown sources or, especially, the wild, should be viewed with caution.

Wild irises often are infected with rust since no one is available to insist on good cultural practices. It is not clear if spores may exist in the soil, but a proper wariness would suggest that bare-root planting is a good idea, so wash any existing soil from the roots. In addition, cut back old foliage to eliminate leaves that may be infected with invisible rust mycelia. Those steps should halt or greatly diminish the transmission of rust.

Limit Nitrogen. Avoiding excessive use of **nitrogen fer-**



A seedling looking good, except for rust.

tilizer is a standard recommendation to control rust, but there is no evidence that nitrogen directly affects the disease. Rust is a fungus without roots and leaves that respond to nitrogen as plants do. Rust obtains nourishment from the iris leaves in which the mycelia live. However, nitrogen might indirectly spread the disease if excessive nitrogen application causes plants to grow rapidly and thickly, creating dense clumps with reduced air circulation and greater direct leaf-on-leaf contact. The best advice is to apply nitrogen at a rate recommended for the good performance of Louisiana irises, and not more or less.

Apply Wood Ashes? A few growers have asserted that the application of wood ashes in containers and beds of irises acts to prevent or cure rust outbreaks. No available written information on rust mentions this treatment. Growers who use wood ashes report no harm when applied in moderation, although ashes are alkaline and might slightly change the soil's pH. Those who use the technique report beneficial results. If wood ashes help control rust, the mechanism by which it works is not known. Possibly ashes create conditions in which spores are less likely to survive in or on the soil over winter. It is also possible that a reduction seen in rust is due to another cause, and the application of ashes is coincidental. The use of wood ashes should be an easy and potentially valuable avenue for experimentation.

Avoid Manure? Manure as a cause of rust outbreaks has been suggested since the early days of SLI. In those times, gardeners used manures more extensively than today. Some early gardens, such as W. B. MacMillan's in Abbeville, LA, often had significant problems with rust. The speculation at the time was that his heavy use of manure was the culprit. However, many iris gardeners using manures have reported no rust outbreak. Possibly, rust spores can be brought into gardens along with manure and associated material, but there is no evidence, as with nitrogen, of a relationship between manure itself and rust. Many growers use commercial products such as Black Kow with no resulting rust problem.

Remaining Questions

Scientists who study fungi – mycologists and phytopathologists – may roll their eyes at this hobbyist's treatment of iris rust. Much more detail about the rust life cycle is known, but additional expert focus specifically on iris rust would be most welcome.

Popular articles on iris rust treatment consist mainly of descriptions of the characteristics of the fungus, the damage that it inflicts on irises, and lists of cultural practices thought to help. Experience shows that rust can be controlled significantly or eliminated if cultural recommendations are implemented.

To some extent, suggested practices may be a case of overkill. Control may be possible with the implementation of less

than the full set of recommendations. Will just meticulous removal of infected foliage do the trick without resorting to fungicides? We just don't know with certainty, and perfect clean-up is hard to achieve.

The wind-blown spread of rust from plant to plant is understood, but the mechanism of transmission from season to season is not entirely clear. Imagine yourself in your iris garden in late winter. That would be in January or early February in the Gulf South. You probably will not have seen rust since the previous year. During the entire growing season beginning in September or so, its ugly face has been absent, and foliage growth is crisp and clean. With the end of winter and the beginning of warmer nights, the spring burst of foliage growth begins. By early March, scapes are visible.

Then early signs of rust appear, starting in a few varieties. Where has it been? Why is it popping out now? Was the foliage already infected with the invisible mycelia from the previous season? Did moderating temperatures jumpstart its production of the rust lesions that erupt onto the leaf surface to become what we recognize as iris rust?

Or, were the plants rust-free at the end of winter, only to be infected by spores that had been lurking on yellowed or decaying plant material left over from the previous season? Or perhaps on the soil surface or even the mulch around the irises?

The exact mechanism of spread may be incompletely understood, but an arsenal of effective techniques to combat rust is available. It would be wise to emphasize good cultural practices so that if fungicides are needed, it is to the minimum extent possible.

Keep in mind that *Puccinia iridis* is endemic to irises and will pop up now and then. So even with your best efforts at control, expect to deal with it from time to time.



A Few Fungicides for Iris Rust

Systemic

BioAdvanced (formerly Bayer) Disease Control for Roses, Flowers and Shrubs. Contains Tebuconazole. Available at stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot.

Contact

Garden Tech Daconil. Contains Chlorothalonil. Available at Lowe's and Walmart.

Bonide Mancozeb. Available at Walmart.

¹ Scott Elliott on daylily rust: <https://tinyurl.com/44ae6h8r>

Thanks to Robert Treadway for several of the pictures of rust, each taken in gardens other than his own.

2021 Registrations & Introductions of Louisiana Irises

The following list was provided by John I. Jones and Joanne Prass-Jones, Registrar-Recorders of the American Iris Society. It is a subset of all Registrations and Introductions of irises submitted to AIS, and each eventually appears in an online database available to electronic members. The descriptions also are included in the SLI Louisiana Iris Checklist CD, which is available for sale as described in the Storefront that appears elsewhere in this issue, and in the American Iris Society's online Iris Encyclopedia, www.wiki.irises.org

**SEE END OF ARTICLE FOR KEY TO INTERPRETING THE ENTRIES*

***ADELAIDE SUNSET** (Peter Jackson, LA, R. 2016). Iris City Gardens 2020.

AFTER MATH (Keith Pendergraft, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17-B76-22. LA, 53" (134 cm), L. S. pale yellow, light grey veining; style arms yellow at crest fading to darker purple toward center; F. pale yellow, light purple veins turning darker toward center, darker yellow signal barely extends to end of style arms; musky fragrance. Eolian X Laura Louise.

ALL FALL DOWN (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 12-03. LA, 36" (91 cm), ML. S. very pale yellow, narrow dark khaki center line; style arms drab olive, dark khaki tips and ridges; F. pale goldenrod yellow, lighter toward edge, pubescent dark olive green line signal surrounded by narrow wash of dark gold, drab olive veining; pendant form; lightly ruffled. Beale Street X Nottoway.

ALPINE WAY (Peter Jackson, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17V-3. LA, 34" (87 cm), L. Warm white self; 6 gold signals with green line. Cute As X Blue Mountain Mist.

BAYOU METAIRIE (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 12-04. LA, 35" (89 cm), M. S. dark salmon on opening fading to rose-brown, yellow wash at base, narrow sienna center line; style arms edged dark khaki, tips rosy brown; F. dark salmon on opening fading to rose-brown, goldenrod spear signal narrowly edged sienna surrounded by sienna wash and veining, sienna line extending from tip to middle of petal. 06-35: (Victoria Inn x Metairie Ridge) X Avelline.

***BLESS YOUR LITTLE HEART** (Ron Killingsworth, LA, R. 2018). Plantation Point 2020.

***BRONWYN MARIA** (D. R. Grieves, LA, R. 2018). Iris City Gardens 2020.

BUCKTOWN (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 14-05. LA, 34" (86 cm), M. S. rose-tan, signal area consisting of 5-6 olive lines on light yellow background ending in narrow deeper yellow crown lightly edged sienna; style arms dark khaki, olive green wash toward base, peru orange center ridge; F. rose-tan, sienna center line, signal yellow-gold blotch with longer dark khaki pubescent center spear, edged sienna; lightly ruffled. Eileen Hollander X Avelline.

CARROLLTON (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 18-23. LA, 34" (86 cm), M. S. thistle lavender; style arms red-violet, plum ridge and edge, tips tan; F. thistle lavender, signal yellow pubescent center line becoming orange surrounded by yellow wash; lightly ruffled. Melody Wilhoit X Claire Fontenot.

***CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY** (Hooker Nichols, LA, R. 2019). HILLCREST 2020.

CHIMES STREET (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-o-05. LA, 26" (66 cm), L. S. light magenta, small yellow line signal; style arms pale yellow heavily washed magenta, pale yellow edges and midrib; F. magenta, deep red-purple veins, vivid yellow steeple signal, ruffled. Regal Ricochet X Kate Julia.

CLASSIC INTRIGUE (Hooker Nichols, R. 2020). Sdlg. LAB6. LA, 36" (91 cm), M-L. S. aureolin yellow, light china rose edging, lined china rose blush throughout; style arms pink-mauve, aureolin at edge and crest base; F. dark china rose, lighter transition toward edge, darker china rose lines throughout, huge signals with chartreuse centers and dark yellow edges; slight fragrance. Divorcee X Creole Rhapsody. Hillcrest 2020.

COVERT OPERATION (Hooker Nichols, R. 2020). Sdlg. HG327. LA, 36" (91 cm), M-L. S. light pink-mauve edged white, mauve lines throughout; style arms gold, center mauve; F. deeper pink-mauve, edged white, mauve lines throughout, signal sovereign gold edged black with black line extending downward from spear tip; slight fragrance. LAB13-119: (Acadian Debutante x Heather Pryor) X Chuck Begnaud. Hillcrest 2020.

DECATUR STREET (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 12-16. LA, 33" (84 cm), L. S. medium orchid; style arms salmon along midrib, dark plum tips and toward edge, fine tan edge on upper half, green ridge line in lower third; F. metallic plum-red, signal inconspicuous yellow lines with dark red-brown wash beyond tips. Tchoupitoulas X Cabildo.

DEEP IN THOUGHT (Peter Jackson, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17AB-1. LA, 37" (94 cm), L. S. blue-violet, creped appearance; style arms red-violet, blue-violet tips; F. purple-violet; 6 gold steeple signals; ruffled. Tasman Mariner X Signals From Space.

DESTINATION UNKNOWN (Keith Pendergraft, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17-B76-9. LA, 58" (147 cm), L. S. light purple, slightly darker veining; style arms yellow, light purple overlay, darker toward center; F. cream, light purple overlay, light brown-red veining fading toward outer edges, yellow signal narrows to end of petal; musky fragrance. Eolian X Laura Louise.

DOCTOR JOHN (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 18-01-A. LA, 32" (81 cm), M. S. pale violet-red; style arms blend of rose-brown over dark khaki, rose-brown tips; F. indian red, signal deep yellow blotch with slightly longer pubescent yellow center line; ruffled; all parts have distinct $\frac{1}{8}$ " tan rim. 14-06: (06-31: (0017: (Hurricane Colin x Tchoupitoulas) x unknown) x Andouille) X Cone of Uncertainty.

ESPLANADE RIDGE (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 16-07. LA, 29" (74 cm), ML. S. greyed yellow, heavily veined blue-purple; F. dark khaki-yellow, lightly veined sienna, narrow pubescent orange line signal. Dark Dude X Red Beans.

ETERNAL SON (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-0-04. LA, 25" (63 cm), M. S. medium purple-pink; style arms vivid purple-red; F. same, large brilliant yellow arrowhead signal, slightly ruffled. Regal Ricochet X Kate Julia.

ETHEL HUTSON (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 15-19. LA, 37" (94 cm), ML. S. thistle, narrow rose-brown center line; style arms dark khaki; F. rose-brown changing to irregular $\frac{1}{3}$ " wide band along edges, salmon veining, goldenrod blotch signal with deeper slightly longer pubescent goldenrod center line; flaring form; lightly ruffled and fluted. Eileen Hollander X Saint Charles Avenue.

EXTRA STYLE (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-B-06. LA, 20" (51 cm), ML. S. pale orange-yellow, moderate purple-red veins and slight blush at edge, occasional feathering at tips; style arms moderate purple-red, brilliant yellow midrib and edge; F. pale orange-yellow ground, moderate purple-red veins and blush darkening, brilliant green-yellow steeple signal, slightly recurved. Dashing Hero X Feather and Fan.

FLANNERY O'CONNOR (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17-01A. LA, 36" (91 cm), M. S. pale violet-red; style arms indian red, deep plum near tips, sandy brown along ridge and base; F. indian red, slightly deeper at edges, gold crown signal, lightly edged red-brown; moderately ruffled. 0944: (Gentilly x Gladiator's Gift) X Everything that Rises.

FREEDOM RINGS (Cynthia Dufrene, R. 2020). Sdlg. H6-25-16. LA, 31" (78 cm), M-L. S. medium red-purple, red veining; style arms light mauve, green midrib, green blush along edges; F. deep red-purple, red veining, green-gold cathedral signals; deeply ruffled; slight fragrance. Divorcee X Silver Tongue.

GARDEN OPAL (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-L-01. LA, 27" (68 cm), L. S. yellow-white ground, greyed red-orange veins, washed pale violet; style arms light green-yellow; F. same as standards; brilliant green-yellow steeple signals on standards and falls. Feather

and Fan X Simply Irresistible.

GINGER SPLASH (Cynthia Dufrene, R. 2020). Sdlg. CH4-6-18. LA, 31" (79 cm), E-M. S. coral-pink, slight yellow suffusion; style arms dark red-brown, yellow midrib and edges; F. dark red-brown, darker veining, yellow thumbprint signal; slight fragrance. Chacahoula Fire X unknown.

I CAN PIROUETTE (Peter Jackson, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17Y-2. LA, 35.5" (90 cm), L. S. orchid-magenta, fine white edge; style arms white, washed soft orchid-magenta; F. same as standards, gold star signal surrounded by cream; ruffled. Swirlygig X Let's Bee Happy.

***JACOB THOMAS** (Patrick O'Connor, LA, R. 2015). Cindy's 2020.

***KATELYN ANNE** (D. R. Grieves, LA, R. 2017). Iris City Gardens 2020.

LAFCADIO (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 12-14. LA, 34" (86 cm), ML. S. salmon, lighter toward tips, deeper center line and wash; style arms deep salmon, darker plum wash toward edges, goldenrod ridge in lower half; F. dark salmon, narrow yellow-orange steeple signal, narrowly edged red-brown with short red line at tip. 06-35: (Victoria Inn x Metairie Ridge) X Avelline.

***LAWSON'S LEGACY** (Patricia Bowen, LA, R. 2019). Iris By the Creek 2020.

LEVEE BREAK (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-I-07. LA, 33" (84 cm), EM. S. vivid red-purple; style arms light yellow, moderate purple-pink blush at tip; F. deep purple-red, distinct light yellow rim, signal brilliant yellow with raised vibrant yellow steeple. Our Dorothy X Gladiator's Gift.

***LIME AND SODA** (Peter Jackson, LA, R. 2010). Iris City Gardens 2020.

LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION (Steve Poole, R. 2020). Sdlg. MM-26-9. LA, 32" (81 cm), M-L. S. spectrum blue (closest RHS match 105C), darker violet veining; style arms yellow-green, washed violet on top, crests spectrum blue; F. spectrum blue, violet wash, light yellow-green signals bordered white. JJ-16-7: (I. brevicaulis x Charlene Strawn) X JJ-16-7 sib.

LOUISE NELSON EWIN (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 11-12. LA, 30" (76 cm), ML. S. dark salmon; style arms brown-red, narrow yellow edges, yellow along ridge near base; F. dark salmon, very large dark goldenrod yellow thumbprint signal with yellow wash extending on petal. Rigolets X 00-12: (Faubourg-Saint John x Zydeco).

***MAJESTIC VELVET** (Rodney Barton, LA, R. 2017). Hillcrest Garden 2019.

MARSHMALLOWS PLEASE (Peter Jackson, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17W-1. LA, 37" (94 cm), M. S. cream, washed and veined soft mauve;

style arms cream, flushed mauve; F. cream, overlaid and veined soft mauve; triangular gold signals, green center line. Blue Mountain Mist X Velvet Ensemble.

***MILFORD MIST** (Peter Jackson, LA, R. 2018). Iris City Gardens 2020.

***MINING FOR GOLD** (Ron Betzer, LA, R. 2019). Iris City Gardens 2020.

MOMMA BEAR (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 15-B-02. LA, 26" (66 cm), M. S. white, fine cyclamen edge; style arms buff, heavily washed cyclamen pink; F. buff ground, lightly blushed cyclamen pink, red-brown veins and cyclamen edge, lightly ruffled. Heather Pryor X Rooster.

***MULBERRY RIPPLE** (Peter Jackson, LA, R. 2008). Iris City Gardens 2020.

MY KAT KAT (Cynthia Dufrene, R. 2020). Sdlg. J11-04-13. LA, 31" (79 cm), M-L. S. rose-red, darker veining; style arms bright yellow, tips rose-red; F. dark red, darker veining, large yellow arrowhead signal; slight fragrance. Laura Louise X Aunt Shirley.

NEVERENDING RANT (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-M-03. LA, 25" (63 cm), M. S. brilliant yellow, strong red-orange veins; style arms brilliant yellow, red-orange central blush; F. brilliant yellow ground, strong red-orange veins becoming a blush toward edges, distinct brilliant yellow rim, lightly ruffled. Feather and Fan X Wizard of Aussie.

ONE GOOD TURN (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 15-05. LA, 34" (86 cm), M. S. thistle pink, pale goldenrod center lines in lower half; style arms wheat; F. thistle pink, gold pubescent center line signal surrounded by pale goldenrod blotch with dark khaki veins. Eileen Hollander X Saint Charles Avenue.

***OPTICAL ILLUSION** (Robert Treadway, LA, R. 2018). Iris City Gardens 2020.

PEACE BECKONS (Cynthia Dufrene, R. 2020). Sdlg. C3-15-15. LA, 33" (84 cm), M-L. S. light rose-pink, darker rose veining and center lines; style arms darker rose-pink, base green, yellow midrib, dark rose-pink tips; F. light rose-pink, light yellow suffusion at base, dark rose center lines, large yellow arrowhead signal; slight fragrance. Early On X unknown.

***PILBARA DREAMING** (D. R. Grieves, LA, R. 2010). Iris City Gardens 2020.

PIROGUE PRINCESS (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-D-11. LA, 24" (61 cm), E. S. vivid pink, dark purple-red veins; style arms pale purple-pink, pale yellow midrib; F. same as standards; yellow blotch with brilliant raised yellow steeple signal on standards and falls. Simply Irresistible X Kate Julia.

PUNK ROCKER (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-B-02. LA, 27" (68 cm), M. S. brilliant yellow ground, heavily veined vivid purple-

red, edged purple-red; style arms deep purple-red; F. strong orange-yellow ground, heavily veined vivid purple-red, purple-red edge, brilliant yellow blotch overlaid with brilliant green-yellow steeple signal, ruffled. Dashing Hero X Feather and Fan.

PURPLE VEIN (Yuling Liang, R. 2020). Sdlg. C60. LA, 30" (76 cm), L. S. blue-violet (RHS N88A), dark violet veins, red-purple at claws; style arms purple-violet (N87A), lighter towards edge, blue-violet crests; F. blue-violet, dark violet veins and halo around yellow (6B) signal; slight ruffling; slight sweet fragrance. Parentage unknown.

PURPLE VELVET FIREWORKS (Yuling Liang, R. 2020). Sdlg. C59. LA, 27" (69 cm), L. S. blue-violet (RHS N89B), green-yellow (1B) in claws; style arms yellow-green (149C) and sanded violet (N88C), green-yellow midrib, white edges, blue-violet crests; F. blue-violet, dark violet veins, yellow-green halo around yellow (2A) signal; slight ruffling; velvety; slight sweet fragrance. Parentage unknown.

RASPBERRY FIZZ (Peter Jackson, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17A-1. LA, 36.5" (93 cm), L. S. raspberry pink, fine light pink edge; style arms lighter raspberry pink; F. same as standards; 6 gold steeple signals; ruffled; overlapping. Tarawera Flow X Tasman Mariner.

REENCOUNTER (Yuling Liang, R. 2020). LA, 56" (142 cm), M. S. purple (RHS N78A), darker veins and midrib; style arms dark purple (NN78B), white edge; F. purple, darker veins and halo around yellow (12A) signal; slight ruffling; slight sweet fragrance. Parentage unknown.

***REMARKABLE RENE** (D. R. Grieves, LA, R. 2004). Iris City Gardens 2020.

***RINGS OF ROMEO** (Ron Betzer, LA, R. 2018). Iris City Gardens 2020.

ROSE E. CHADBAND (Ron Betzer, R. 2020). Sdlg. 10-49-1. LA, 35" (89 cm), EML. S. orchid, occasional lighter interior; style arms dark orchid, thin white edge on sides and tips; F. orchid, yellow steeple signal with dark orchid extending past tip. Dark Dude X Cala.

RUBY VISION (Peter Jackson, R. 2020). Sdlg. 17H-1. LA, 38" (96 cm), M. S. velvety ruby red, fine mid pink line edge; style arms soft ruby red; F. same as standards; 6 yellow star signals, smaller on standards. Velvet Ensemble X Destination Robe.

RUDE WOMAN (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-P-02. LA, 24" (61 cm), EM. S. light yellow, medium pink blush at edge, strong purple-red center line, slight ruffling, feathering at tips; style arms green-yellow base, washed medium pink; F. strong orange-yellow, purple-red veining leading to a darker purple-red edge, secondary pale yellow edge washed medium pink, vivid yellow steeple signal. Feather and Fan X Our Dorothy.

***SANDRA GAYE** (D. R. Grieves, LA, R. 2004). Iris City Gardens 2020.

***SELENA ROSE** (D. R. Grieves, LA, R. 2017). Iris City Gardens 2020.

SHARING IS CARING (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-D-06. LA, 30" (76 cm), EM. S. moderate purple-red, deeper veins; style arms pale yellow, heavily washed moderate purple-red, pale yellow edges; F. deep purple-red, fine white edge, brilliant yellow steeple signal, slightly ruffled; slight fragrance. Simply Irresistible X Kate Julia.

***SHARON CONAWAY** (Cynthia Dufrene, LA, R. 2018). Cindy's 2020.

***SIGNALS FROM SPACE** (Peter Jackson, LA, R. 2016). Iris City Gardens 2020.

SOOKIE (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-A-03. LA, 20" (51 cm), ML. S. pale purple-pink ground, vivid purple-red veins; style arms vivid purple-red; F. moderate red darkening to deep red toward edges, deep red veins, brilliant green-yellow steeple signal. Red Velvet Elvis X Kate Julia.

***STUBBORN LOVE** (Ron Betzer, LA, R. 2018). Iris City Gardens 2020.

SUGAR PEEKS (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 14-D-03. LA, 37" (94 cm), E. S. pale yellow, strong purple-red edges; style arms strong purple-red central flush, pale yellow edges; F. pale yellow, lightly blushed deep purple-pink becoming deep purple-red at edge, lightly ruffled; 6 brilliant yellow-green blotched signals. Dashing Hero X Sugarplum Treat.

TAILORED GENT (Cynthia Dufrene, R. 2020). Sdlg. BB6-26-15. LA, 33" (84 cm), E-M. S. dark blue-purple, thin red-violet center line; style arms red-violet, blue-purple tips; F. dark blue-purple, darker purple veining and center line to tips, green lance signal; slight ruffling; slight fragrance. Bluebonnet Sue X unknown.

TOLD YA (Scott Lively, R. 2020). Sdlg. 13-S-02. LA, 27" (68 cm), M. S. yellow-white, moderate purple-pink center lines, moderate purple-pink edge, occasional feathering at tips; style arms yellow-

white, moderate purple-pink center blush; F. yellow-white ground, heavily blushed deep purple-pink, moderate red veins, distinct white rim dusted silver, signals light green-yellow with a strong green-yellow raised steeple, slightly ruffled. Feather and Fan X Kate Julia.

UNCLE BENNY (Benny Trahan, R. 2020). Sdlg. 16-BL/P-04. LA, 39" (99 cm), L. S. dark blue-violet (RHS N89A); style arms pink-violet (N77B), ends dark blue-violet (N88A); F. same as standards, orange-yellow (22A) lance signals; slight musky fragrance. Parentage unknown.

VICTORIAN JEWEL (Cynthia Dufrene, R. 2020). Sdlg. L3-27-14. LA, 29" (74 cm), M. S. medium red-purple, white halo; style arms dark red-purple; F. medium red-purple, tips darker, dark purple veining, white halo, yellow-gold sunburst signal; lightly ruffled; slight fragrance. Parentage unknown.

VONDA'S MUSIC (Patrick O'Connor, R. 2020). Sdlg. 16-10. LA, 35" (89 cm), E. S. dark slate blue, multiple pale yellow center lines in lower half; style arms ivory, pale blue-grey streaks; F. blue-grey, crinkled grey-white edge, yellow-orange blotch signal with olive veins, dark goldenrod pubescent center line. Faubourg Marigny X Birthday Suit.

WHITE OAK (Joseph Musacchia, R. 2020). Sdlg. 05-06-05. LA, 40" (101 cm), M. S. cream-white; style arms cream; F. cream-white, yellow line signals. Pure Water X unknown. Cindy's 2020.

ZI JIANG XIAN ZI (Yuling Liang, R. 2020). Sdlg. C50. LA, 43" (110 cm), E. S. blue-violet (RHS N88A), dark violet veins, red-purple in claws; style arms red-violet (N88B), light violet midrib, white edge, light violet crests; F. violet (82A), darker veins and midrib, green-yellow halo around yellow (7A) signal; ruffled; slight sweet fragrance. Parentage unknown.

ZI LU (Yuling Liang, R. 2020). LA, 45" (114 cm), E. S. violet (RHS N87A), dark purple veins toward claws; style arms red-purple, light purple toward edge, violet crests; F. violet, darker violet veins around yellow (9A) signal; slight ruffling; slight sweet fragrance. Parentage unknown.

*KEY

*Entries with descriptive details but no asterisk are new **Registrations** for 2020. Entries with an asterisk but no descriptive information were new **Introductions** in 2020 but were registered in an earlier year.*

Following the name of the iris, in parentheses, is the name of the hybridizer; "LA" - the abbreviation for a Louisiana iris; and "R" plus a year, which is the year of registration.

Next is the height of the bloom stalk in inches and centimeters. It is followed by the time of bloom: E - Early, M - Midseason, L - Late, or some combination.

*The description of the flower is divided between the Standards ("S") and the Falls, ("F"). A description is usually given of the **signal** and the **styles**.*

Finally, if the iris has been introduced into commerce, the name of the nursery and the year of introduction are shown.

Commercial Directory

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

Featuring Beardless and Bearded Irises

(360) 573-4472
aitken@flowerfantasy.net

flowerfantasy.net

608 NW 119th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685-3802

Bois d'Arc Gardens

Rusty McSparrin

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cindyslouisianairis.com

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Ron Betzer, Cindy Dufrene, Joe
Musacchia, Patrick O'Connor and
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P.O. Box 7136
Woodbridge, VA 22195

SLI 2022 Convention Tentative Schedule

Plan a trip to Lafayette, LA!

Wednesday, April 6, 2021	
Evening - Meet and Greet	Hotel
Thursday, April 7, 2021	
Early Morning - Mid Afternoon - Bus Tours	Leave From Hotel - lunch provided
Evening, Banquet - Hybridizers' Slide Show	Hotel
Friday, April 8	
7 AM - 10 AM Show Entry	Blackham Coliseum
10 AM - 11:30 AM Show Judging	
11 AM - 12:30 PM Award Voting by SLI Members	
12:30 PM - 2 PM Lunch On Your Own	
2 PM - 4 PM Show Judges Training	Blackham Coliseum
Evening - Awards Banquet	Hotel
Saturday, April 9	
8:30 AM - 10 AM SLI Board Meeting	Ira Nelson Horticulture Center
10 AM - 11 AM General Membership Meeting	
Festival des Fleurs Open All Day - Food, botanical vendors	Blackham Coliseum

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Has Your Address Changed?

Please notify the Treasurer, Ron Killingsworth. The U. S. Postal Service will not forward your copy. Address on page 2.

Is It Time To Renew Your Membership?

It is if you received a notice with your *Fleur* or a postcard later. The membership rates and instructions are on page 31.

Please rejoin. We need you, and we hope you want to continue receiving the *Fleur*.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

SLI has elected to participate as a Section within the American Iris Society. Sections generally deal with the other types of irises, Spurias, Siberian, Japanese, & so forth.

SLI members are not automatically members of AIS, and a relatively few choose to join that organization. AIS membership is well worth considering, however. The organization publishes a beautiful quarterly Bulletin, IRISES, that covers all types of irises. While a small percentage of the pages deal directly with Louisiana's, there is much to be learned by an appreciation of the Genus of which they are a part.

There are many benefits of AIS membership that you can discover by exploring their website: www.irises.org Membership information is there, including an electronic membership at a lower price, \$15. Regular individual AIS dues are: Single Annual, \$30; Dual Annual, \$35. Dues can be paid online via credit or debit card. Checks can be mailed to: Pam Messer, AIS Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 6, Huxley, IA 50124 USA. E-mail: aismemsec@irises.org



Membership Information

Society for Louisiana Irises

Founded 1941

MEMBERSHIP

To join or renew membership, send dues along with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if any) to Ron Killingsworth, SLI Treasurer, 10329 Caddo Lake Road, Mooringsport, LA 71060. Make checks payable to the Society for Louisiana Irises.

Membership begins the month your application is received. If you are renewing, the renewal will extend your membership by the number of years you chose to renew. If your current expiration date is 09/** and you renew for three years in July (07), your new membership will be 09/**+ three years. You do not lose any months by renewing your membership early. If you are late in renewing, the renewal will be applied to the month in which your membership expired.

RATES FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SUBSCRIBERS IN THE UNITED STATES:

Individual Memberships

- Yearly \$17 • Triennial \$45
- Life \$1,000 • Youth \$5

Family Memberships

- Yearly \$22 • Triennial \$60

INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIBERS:

Individual Memberships

- Yearly \$30 • Triennial \$82
- Life \$1,000

Family Memberships

- Yearly \$33 • Triennial \$90

Society for Louisiana Irises Membership Form



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

United States Subscribers Annual Dues:

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- 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

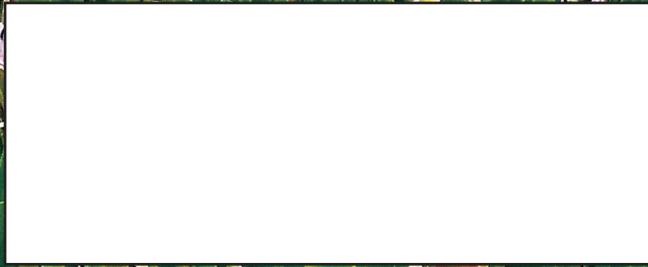
Return Form & Payment To:

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10329 Caddo Lake Road
Mooringsport, LA 71060

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Island Planting of the Greater New Orleans Iris Society