



Fleur de Lis

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR LOUISIANA IRISES

SUMMER/FALL 2023

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'Paper Parasol' by Robert Treadway

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From The President

Mark Schexnayder

Welcome!

We did it again, and Lafayette was once more the perfect host for SLI's spring bloom activities. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette rolled out the red carpet for our motley Krewe of Louisiana Iris admirers. Honestly, I had my doubts, but not after watching how Board members and some of our "show-seasoned" Acadiana members turned a challenge into a massive win. Hundreds of garden enthusiasts were again taught about Louisiana irises at the Festival des Fleurs. And because of the plant sale, hundreds of rhizomes are now in Lafayette area gardens to show themselves next spring.

The setting of our Annual Meeting, UL-Lafayette's Cypress Lake, is a timeless treasure, and words cannot do it justice. President Joseph Savoie joined us for an evening of celebration and discussion about the red diamond of Southwest Louisiana, the Abbeville Red, *Iris nelsonii*, as did the University Sustainability Director, Gretchen Vanicor. Land conservation biologists from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Land Trust for Louisiana, and several local landowners within the *Iris nelsonii* habitat zone also attended. It was a historic night to remember!

Of great interest to the future health of this iris, the Land Trust for Louisiana has applied for funding from a new state program: Louisiana Outdoors Forever. If successful, funding will be available to pay farmers to maintain critically important habitats along the bayous and waterways that traverse their property. Conservation goals can still be achieved while owners continue to farm, hunt, and enjoy traditional uses of the property. SLI and other "Friends of Louisiana Irises" strongly support such actions.

On the other hand, with continued neglect and future "improvements" such as the proposed dredging of the Vermilion River, the remaining *Iris nelsonii* habitat will fall below critical mass, and *I. nelsonii* in the wild will only be read about in history books, along with passenger pigeons and Carolina parakeets. Both are extinct species that once thrived in Louisiana.

Conservation is hard, and boy, am I getting that! But our tent is large and welcoming. SLI isn't the same organization as in the 30s and 40s when roads and subdivisions were systematically replacing the great rainbow-colored iris fields. Even then, folks rallied around, gathering and preserving what they could

for posterity and working to create plants that could survive in gardens.

Today's "Louisiana Iris Society," is a confederation of diverse interests. Most of our members are in it for the amazing cultivars hybridizers have conjured up. The hybridizers have gone to places that W. B. MacMillan never dreamed of. A walk through the GNOIS beds of Louisiana irises during bloom season is to see approaching one hundred years of change. But the new hybrids rest on the species and natural hybrids discovered in the wild. And the latest creations are traceable back through surprisingly few iterations to the wildflowers that we still must honor and protect.

With this issue, our beloved SLI Journal, the *Fleur de Lis* will experience a "Changing of the Guard" as Patrick O'Connor will turn over the duties of editor to Brian Shamblyn. Patrick will continue to be active in SLI and the Greater New Orleans Iris Society, of which he is the current president. With thanks to Patrick, we welcome Brian and look forward to his stewardship of the *Fleur*.



PHOTO BY AVA SCHEXNAYDER

Brian is an active Louisiana iris hybridizer and an SLI Board member who has been growing Louisianas for about 20 years. He has recently registered his first Louisiana irises. Brian lives in Athens, GA, where he is a research scientist studying conservation genetics. He has a strong interest in the species and is a steward in the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project. You may recall his outstanding article on *I. hexagona* from a few issues back.

It will soon be reprinted in the publication of the Species Iris Group of North America.

We wish Brian every success, but it will depend as much on our members. We increasingly need more members to contribute material to the editor. We cannot maintain the *Fleur* without your help.

-Mark

Donations

In Memory of Paul Gossett
In Honor of Robert Treadway

Tom Dillard Malvern AR

A Louisiana Iris Garden on Arkansas' Grand Prairie

By Robert Treadway

A garden between the town of Carlisle and the unincorporated community of Hickory Plains isn't exactly in the middle of nowhere, but it sometimes seems close to it. It's very doubtful that many readers could pinpoint either place on a map. Little Rock, Arkansas' most prominent and best-known city, is 31.5 miles to the west and slightly south. Carlisle is adjacent to Interstate 40, the major thoroughfare between Little Rock and Memphis, but the garden sits on the side of a rural highway ten miles out of town. Hickory Plains is another five miles up the road.

This area doesn't fit neatly into any category. Technically it's in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, the upper edge of the Delta, classified as Central or East Central Arkansas, and part of the Arkansas Grand Prairie. However, the land here isn't flat like much of the Grand Prairie, but it does share a nearly impermeable clay base that absorbs water very slowly.

As a point of reference for those living in the deep south, Lafayette, Louisiana, is around 300 miles due south of Carlisle as the crow flies, give or take 20 or so miles. The Louisiana Purchase monument is less than 40 miles to the south-



Seedling 16-34-19C



'Morgan's Dixie' (R. Morgan by Jerry and Melody Wilhoit, 2019)

east. *I. fulva* and *I. brevicaulis* are both native to the State but not found in the immediate area.

Lafayette is in USDA hardiness zone 9a with a low of 20 to 25 F. Carlisle is in zone 8a with a low of 10 to 15 F. Carlisle reaches those projected lows much more often and surpasses them more frequently than Lafayette or any of the Gulf Coast.

The irises that start growing here in the fall will stop growing as soon as the weather gets too cold. Each progressive cold front nibbles at the foliage. The degree of cold, its duration, and the frequency of freezes will affect the final condition of the plants. After bad winters, some of the irises will have to start growing from scratch beneath a pile of ruined leaves. In an exceptionally warm winter, only the tips may die back. However, that doesn't happen very often.

In 2022, temperatures dropped to -5 degrees on multiple mornings, with below-freezing temperatures for 20 days. The Louisiana irises were very, very unhappy, some to the point of death. Since winter comes to Carlisle earlier than in the deep south, grow-

ing seedlings indoors is almost a necessity. The seedling pots remain outside until late November or early December but are then racked under grow lights until the following spring. The indoor growth is phenomenal and gains at least a year from seed to bloom compared to seedlings left to winter outdoors.

Arkansas is a fairly hostile environment in which to grow Louisiana irises. Summers here are often scorchers with clear skies and blazing sun with few if any clouds to help shield the plants. Additional water and fertilizer keep the plants from going dormant, but they turn yellow and sulk unless grown in filtered shade. The plants will barely recover in the fall when the onslaught of winter hits and the foliage suffers again.

Evolution

This garden has undergone many transformations since the first row of Louisiana iris cultivars was planted in 1998. When the garden was on tour during the second Little Rock SLI Convention in 2002, irises were scattered around the house and in a large area nestled between the house and tall oak trees.

The present-day garden began its current transformation in 2014 when the first plants were moved into an adjoining field south of the original garden. Six years later, the maze of beds around the house was removed, and the last of the Louisiana irises growing in them were eliminated. All of the Louisiana cultivars are now in a wide-open field filled with sunshine, insects, and an overabundance of weeds and weed seeds. The layout resembles a commercial operation with rectangular, lined beds built out of concrete blocks and tubs placed in double rows with wide paths between them.



A seedling bed, above, and lines of 25-gallon pots below.



The standout iris in the foreground is 'Frederick Douglass', sharing the bed with 'Ardoyne', 'Mister Sandman', 'Earline Sudduth', 'Friends' Song', 'Patton Durio', and 'Godzilla'.



Culture

Louisiana irises can live a long time in lined beds without being replanted as long as they are watered and fertilized. But the perpetual problem of keeping cultivars from crawling into and often through their neighbors' allotted space remains. Because of their mobile nature, the lined beds are now reserved for seedlings and select seedlings that are not destined to stay in one place for long after blooming.



Soil or growing media has changed through the years. Commercial potting soil is used only to pot new acquisitions and for planting iris seeds. Everything else, including the lined beds, contain some concoction put together here based on what is available at the time. Native soil was abandoned early on in favor of something less like concrete, easier to work with and able to absorb and hold moisture better. Past mixtures have included sphagnum peat moss, rice hulls, both regular

and composted, commercial compost, pine bark mulch, oak leaf mold, sand (used only for weight), and composted horse bedding and manure.

Composted horse manure has been used by itself in the last several years, and the plants seem to do fine. Most of the 25-gallon tubs have no drainage holes, so a generous application of sand to the top helps keep the plants weighted down so they don't float like a cork. A brick or two will temporarily fix the floating problem, especially when bloom stalks are present.

Generous applications of organic fertilizers, including alfalfa pellets, cottonseed meal and chicken litter pellets keep most of the plants happy and growing well. Ideally, a 20-20-20 or 15-30-15 liquid fertilizer foliar spray could be applied to supplement the organic fertilizers twice yearly, but synthetic granular fertilizers are seldom, if ever, used.

Most Louisiana irises growing here fall into two cat-

egories: seedlings and registered hybrid cultivars with very few species. The seedlings and reselect seedlings occupy the lined beds, as mentioned, and hybrids cultivars are grown in large 25-gallon tubs. The cultivars in tubs represent many of the irises collected over the last 20-plus years.

There have been seedlings here since 1999, but I don't in any way consider myself a hybridizer. Only two irises were registered and introduced in the first 20 years, and that's a pitiful accomplishment by anyone's standards. Being overly picky and procrastination are to blame, or maybe there is a knack for choosing inferior parents. Trying to check all the boxes in what makes an iris a good iris is not an easy task. A general interest is in increasing bud count and stalks which allow the flowers to open fully.

Building the collection of irises has been a long process, and many lessons have been learned along the way. I'm thankful to have had some very good mentors who provided irises and information. What is less clear now is the end game that will eventually take place. I'm excited to see renewed interest in iris preservation and hope that opens up an avenue for at least a portion of these plants to exist in the future.



'Violet Vision' (2019) & 'Optical Illusion' (2020), Robert's first introductions.



Seedling 17-31-20B



Seedling 16-04-18A



Seedling 17-23-20B



Seedling 17-42-19A



Seedling 16-05-19A



'Be Of Good Cheer' (C. Dufrene, 2019)



Seedling 18-29-20G

Robert's garden is formal, organized and rectangular until you get lost in a sea of Louisiana irises.



Seedling 16-05-19A



Seedling 17-09-19D



'Rooster' (R. Betzer, 2019)



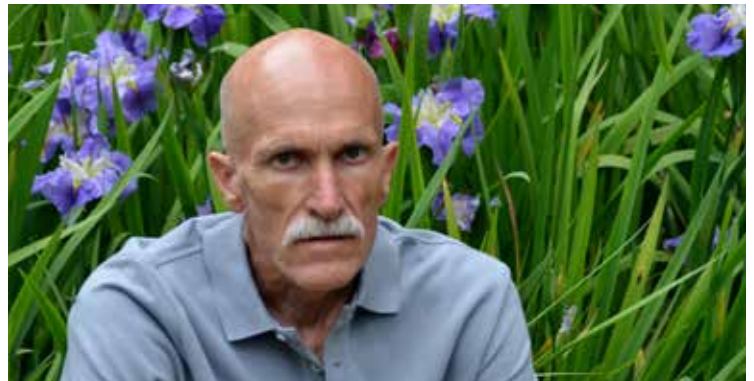
Seedling 16-34-19B



Seedling 13-58-17A



Robert lives and gardens in Arkansas, near the town of Carlisle. His interest in Louisiana iris began in the 1990s with the purchase of several varieties from a water-gardening mail-order company. That interest exploded after joining the Central Arkansas Iris Society and becoming friends with local Louisiana irisarians M.D. Faith, Richard Morgan, Tom Dillard, and Richard Butler. He joined the Society for Louisiana Irises in 1998. The minnow farmer and fledgling hybridizer has held several positions on the SLI Board and was President of SLI for two terms, President of Central Arkansas Iris Society, RVP of Region 22, and is an AIS Master Judge.



Back In Lafayette

And not for the last time!

The Society broke with tradition in 2023 by not holding an annual convention. Until COVID, conventions of three days or so were yearly occurrences, and while we did organize a convention in Lafayette in 2022, the pandemic seems to have broken our stride. Although not prepared for a full convention in 2023, we successfully innovated with a very successful get-together: A Rendezvous in Lafayette on Friday and Saturday, April 14-15.

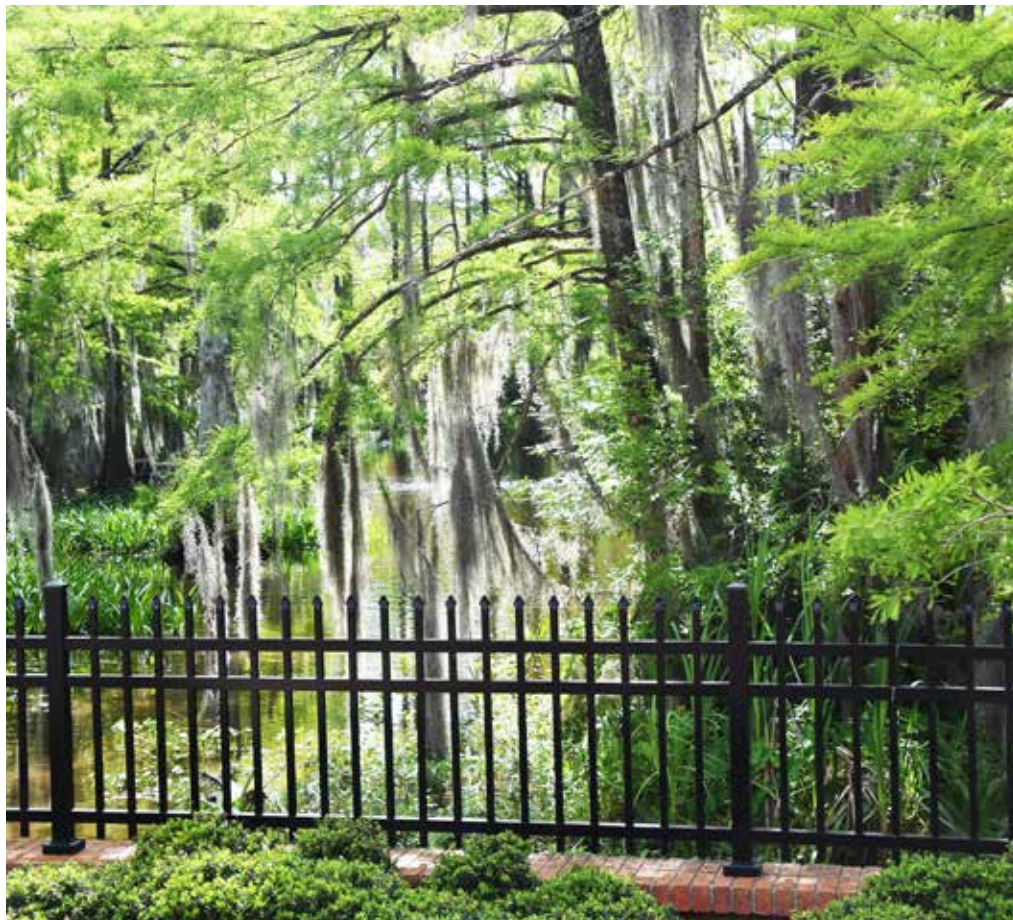
Perhaps we have hit upon an alternative model to a full-blown convention, an event that achieves many, if not all, of the objectives of the traditional conference. Time will tell. In 2024, we plan to hold a joint convention with the Spuria Iris Society – another new wrinkle – hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas. We are developing plans now. But beyond that? It requires local organization to host a traditional iris convention, and we will see what the future brings.

The Lafayette Rendezvous was a special case, put together by a few of our Lafayette area members. Here are the highlights.

The Rendezvous

Members assembled outside the Student Union in a courtyard overlooking the magnificent Cypress Lake on the campus of UL-Lafayette. The Lake is small, two-acres, but with all the attributes of a Louisiana swamp, including alligators, irises, and hanging moss. There is nothing like it at any other school in the country.

It did not hurt that the weather was gorgeous. The event was both business and social, but mainly social. An excellent buffet was provided, SLI held its Annual Membership meeting (including the election of officers),



The setting for our Rendezvous could not have been more appropriate, except that the native irises in Cypress Lake had finished blooming. But what a location both for the irises and those who love them! We enjoyed a fine meal on the patio of the Student Union. Top Middle is Mark Hernandez, the Grounds Manager at Moncus Park. Bottom left is Paul Pastorek, who presented an excellent program on Iris nelsonii.



and Paul Pastorek gave an excellent presentation on the history of the Abbeville Reds, the famous *Iris nelsonii*, that is found not too many miles away in a swamp on the Vermilion River. Cypress Lake once held an extensive collection of *nelsoniis* and will again as donations arrive and plans are implemented. Preserving these irises in their native Abbeville Swamp habitat, however, is a significant concern.

Open Gardens

Many members spent the day Friday visiting open gardens. Jim Leonard graciously made Louisiana Iris Farms available for visitors at any time during the Rendezvous events. Quite a few took advantage of the opportunity to see the country's largest commercial planting of Louisiana irises.

Gordon Rabalais of Arnaudville opened his garden when he was not busy setting up an iris display for the Festival des Fleurs on Saturday. Gordon masses irises in compact containers using novel but extraordinarily successful culture: closed, ten-gallon buckets filled with pure compost. An innovation to be studied and emulated.

Moncus Park

The new Moncus Park, only open since the first of the year but long in development, boasted a beautiful setting and excellent iris bloom. SLI members spearheaded by Jim Leonard had donated masses of plants to Moncus over several years, and the evidence that it paid off was there to see. The 100-acre Park in the heart of Lafayette is already a significant Louisiana iris destination. It is beautiful and will only improve under the guidance of SLI member and Grounds Director Mark Hernandez. <https://moncuspark.org/>

Festival des Fleurs

The Festival des Fleurs de Louisiane is a major garden show that celebrated its thirtieth anniversary

in 2023. Several thousand people visited the booths of a wide range of horticultural vendors. The Society did not have an accredited iris show this year, but we did have a show-like display and iris rhizomes for sale. Thanks to generous donations by Patrick Fett, Gordon Rabalais, John Lewis, Diane Louw, and the Greater New Orleans Iris Society, SLI raised as much as typically brought in at convention auctions.

SLI Board member William Welsh, the Director of the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center at UL-Lafayette and also of the Festival des Fleurs, took the lead on arrangements for the Rendezvous, particularly coordination with UL-Lafayette and space in the Festival. Billy, Gordon Rabalais, Ron Betzer of Lafayette, and SLI President Mark Schexnayder of New Orleans put the Rendezvous together. University President Joseph Savoie supported the SLI activities on campus, continuing the strong historical support of the organization by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Moncus Park is the new gem in Lafayette, and it will be a major iris destination for years to come. Only open since the beginning of 2023, the iris collection was assembled over several years by Jim Leonard with contributions by several donors. Already extensive, we expect that the collection will expand over time.



The Festival des Fleurs in Lafayette is an outstanding garden expo at which SLI can reach out to several thousand gardeners. SLI is happy we have been able to renew this partnership.

Mary Swords Debaillon Medal



Dallas hybridizer Hooker Nichols receives the 2022 Mary Swords Debaillon Medal from American Iris Society President Andi Rivarola at the 2023 AIS Convention in Dallas in April. Hooker won for 'Watermelon Wizard', which also won the Charles Army, Jr. Award in the SLI Popularity Poll. See the picture of 'Watermelon Wizard' on page 19.

The Debaillon Medal is the highest special medal award restricted to Louisiana irises. It is voted annually by Accredited AIS judges.

Save The Dates!

2024 SLI Annual Convention Dallas, April 26-28

Plans are still under development, but we are working with the host Iris Society of Dallas and the Spuria Iris Society for a joint Louisiana-Spuria Convention. The Dallas area is a great place to see both classes of irises, and five tour gardens are anticipated over two days.

Joint planning is ongoing with the objective of developing an enjoyable and affordable event. Expect details in the coming months.

2024 Festival des Fleurs de Louisiane, Lafayette,

Saturday, April 6

In 2023, SLI sponsored a *Rendezvous in Lafayette* around the Festival des Fleurs. You can expect another local event in the Lafayette area next spring. Stay tuned.

Standards & Falls Iris



Standards And Falls Iris was formerly Cindy's Louisiana Iris. Under new owners, the garden moved to the Houston, TX area in 2022. We are committed to continuously providing high quality rhizomes.

Louis Jamail, Carol Price & Melinda Nickens

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Offered at

\$50



HELLO IN THERE
by Patrick O'Connor



VOO DUDE
by Patrick O'Connor



TRICKY
by Patrick O'Connor



ROLL WITH IT
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by Patrick O'Connor



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by Patrick O'Connor

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Briarwood's Louisiana Irises

Caroline Dormon's Bay Garden Needs Attention

The country's largest collection of historic Louisiana irises is threatened by delayed maintenance caused by extensive tornado damage in May 2019.

Caroline Dormon was one of the earliest Louisiana iris enthusiasts. Her interest in the irises dated from 1920, and they became a part of her expansive concern with the conservation of native plants. She was an early Louisiana iris collector and hybridizer and one of the few whose irises – at least some of them – survive today. That is primarily due to the unique character of Briarwood and the Bay Garden.

Briarwood, now 212 acres, was Caroline Dormon's home place. After her death in 1971, the property passed to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve. The Bay Garden is in a spring-fed seep in the hilly terrain, providing the wet habitat Louisiana irises love. It is also wet enough for pitcher plants, golden clubs, and ferns to thrive.

An exceptionally destructive tornado battered Briarwood in May 2019. While the Bay Garden escaped much direct damage, the indirect effects have resulted in a significant decline in the iris bloom and a threat to the rhizomes themselves. The tornado decimated the tree canopy, letting in more light and triggering massive weed growth. Because of the work to recover from significant damage to buildings and paths elsewhere at Briarwood, it has not been possible to address the needs of the Bay Garden sufficiently. In fact, it had to be virtually ignored for a time.

The major weed growth – imagine Joe Pye Weed standing five feet tall – has been removed, but the 29 rows of irises have not been fertilized and replanted since before the tornado. No mulching or removal of “normal” weeds has been possible. Bloom has declined to a couple of dozen stalks in 2023, and if the needs of the irises are not met soon, some varieties, including old, historical ones, will dwindle and be lost. Many of these varieties exist nowhere else.

Not all the irises at Briarwood date back to Caroline Dormon's work, but contemporary hybridizers of hers, such as Frank Chowning, Claude Davis, and Sidney Conger, are represented. Charles Arny irises from 1970s are in the collection, but other than a few Joe Mertzweiller tetraploids, the cultivars are a throwback to an earlier era. Overall, the planting is a unique window into our iris past, and if that window closes at Briarwood, the view may be lost forever.

The solution is simple. The Bay Garden needs an applica-

From the Curator *Greetings!*

When I began at Briarwood, I did not know much of anything about Louisiana irises. I have always been a “tree person.” Now, I am becoming slightly obsessed with Caroline Dormon's Bay Garden.

I often hear about how beautiful and special the Bay Garden once was. Now, I am scared for the future of the place. It would be horrible if we let the dedicated work of Caroline Dormon, past Curators Jessie and Richard Johnson, and Rick Johnson be lost. Without the means to return to a maintenance schedule that the irises in the Bay Garden require – and that they enjoyed before the 2019 tornado – I am afraid that could happen. We need a focused effort to **Restore the Bay Garden and Save the Irises.**



Bayli and Clovis

The Foundation for the Preservation of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve needs your help with this project. Whether it is advice, financial assistance, or labor – we need it all. I look forward to hearing from you. Please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

I want to thank those who have supported me since I began my journey as Curator here at Briarwood. Only with your help will I be able to do the work that Briarwood requires and deserves.

Sincerely,
Bayli Q. Brossette
Curator



tion of the same iris culture as in our home gardens. However, not many of us have 29 rows of cultivars to attend to, and not many have experienced enough tornado damage that we are several years behind with our upkeep.

Restore The Bay Garden – Save The Irises

Saving the irises at Briarwood is a project that will require labor and financial resources. One obstacle is that Briarwood is somewhat remote, located on the edge of the Kisatchie National Forest about 30 miles north of Natchitoches in central Louisiana. There are regular volunteers at Briarwood, but not in nearly sufficient numbers to tackle the entire Bay Garden in a single fall planting season. The Society will undertake a volunteer recruitment effort in the fall, but the scope of the work will likely require some local part-time labor in addition to volunteers.

Both labor and supplies require funds. Soil, fertilizer, and mulch are essential to replanting the irises and rejuvenating the beds. There will also be other incidental expenses in hosting multiple work days to do the job.

The Bay Garden covers an area of about 50 X 30 yards. The 29 rows of irises are densely packed with two-foot wide paths between them. The logistics of moving people and material around the garden will complicate the work and require that it be done in several phases over a month or two.

Briarwood has planned the process of reworking the entire garden and has phased contingency plans to save the irises. Success will largely depend on the volunteer and financial support received from those who see the true value of the unique iris collection that is part of Caroline Dormon's legacy.



Bayli and Clovis in the Bay Garden in February, 2023. The irises are hanging in, but the bloom in April was poor. Other pictures are from 2013 when the Garden was thriving and showing off some of the cultivars seldom or never seen elsewhere. Immediately above are 'Caroginia' (Conger, 1948) and the pale 'Louisiana Fascination' (Arny, 1969). Above right, a corner of the Garden with 'Full Eclipse' (Hager, 1967) and 'Sea Wisp' (Rowlan, 1983) in full bloom and, below, 'Flat Top' (Davis, 1953) and 'Noblesque' (Conger, 1956).

Restore The Bay Garden! **Save the Irises**

Yes, I'd like to help!

- Make a financial contribution of your choosing using the Donate button on the home page of the Briarwood website (PayPal and credit cards accepted): www.briarwoodnp.org
- Mail a financial contribution payable to: Briarwood Nature Preserve, 216 Caroline Dormon Road, Saline, LA 71070
- Join the mailing list for updates about volunteer days in the Bay Garden this fall to help replant the irises and about the progress of the Restoration work.

Send an email to Bayli Q. Brossette, Curator. Include your city and state.
briarwoodnp@gmail.com

Kickoff Workday September 2
Details to follow.

Thank You!



Bloom Stalks

Your Irises' Delivery System

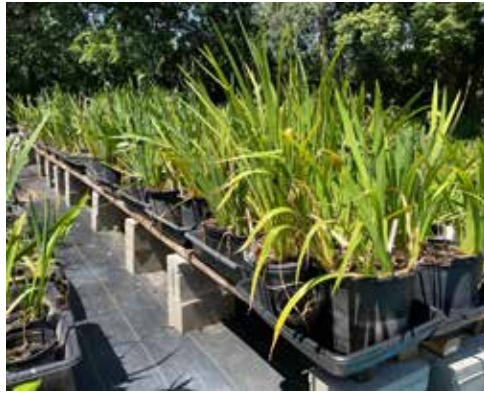
By Patrick O'Connor

Louisiana iris blossoms, beautiful and delicate things, do not float into your garden on a cloud and hover unobstructed for your viewing pleasure. No, the buds emerge from within leaves, sometimes fighting their way out, competing for space with other flowers, leaves, branches, and the stalks themselves. An ideal bloom stalk displays the flowers cleanly with grace and proportion, and the combination of blossoms and stalks are themselves things of beauty. Sometimes, however, the flowers' "delivery system" does not do them justice, even struggles against them, and detracts from both their beauty and the viewer's pleasure. In extreme cases, a bad stalk can create a wretched mess.

A batch of recent irises ordered in 2021 by the Greater New Orleans Iris Society offered a chance to evaluate bloom stalks and make observations. At the request of members, the Society ordered over 40 newer introductions to update the collection in our iris planting in City Park. Several nurseries supplied Louisiana irises from a number of hybridizers.

We did not set up an experiment, but the irises were all grown under very similar conditions. Initially, they were planted in one location in three-gallon pots sitting in mortar tubs with no drain holes. They accumulated several inches of water supplied by an irrigation system that runs every night.

After the first year, most of the irises were removed from the pots and replanted into the six-inch deep mortar mixing tubs, which measure 16" X 24", but because of a shortage of the tubs, about a third were repotted in larger pots and placed two-each in the tubs. The tubs were elevated on concrete blocks to permit easier maintenance, as shown in the picture taken in May



Cultivars growing in large pots and mortar tubs in the nursery. Photo taken just after bloom ended.

after bloom. The soil used was a mix purchased by the yard, consisting of ground organic material and a little sand. It was supplemented with Black Kow manure. We fertilized the irises in fall and spring with 13-13-13 along with all the irises in the Society's nursery.

The setup duplicates the growing conditions in much of the GNOIS planting, which covers about three-quarters of an acre and displays several hundred cultivars and about 150 different species clones that are part of the Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project. Although not perfect, iris performance has been excellent under the same general conditions in which the new plants were grown. Although the new irises were not singled out for special attention or exceptional treatment, placement together in a long, linear row ensured that they were observed consistently and provided what we considered good care.

Foliage growth was excellent, even impressive. Although only about half of the new irises bloomed in the first year (2022), we expected all to show well in 2023, their second season. And just about all bloomed. Two did not, and one of those had produced an off-season bloom stalk in the fall. Lined up

in a row as the irises were, a direct comparison was easy, if not unavoidable.

The bloom this past season was a mixture of beautiful irises and some disappointments. We will not comment on particular cultivars based on performance in one year and will not generalize from one locale with a very different climate than most of the country. Iris growers can sort out the best irises for their gardens and area.

Instead, we will comment on attributes of the plants that iris enthusiasts ought to be alert for when assessing Louisiana irises, particularly given the understandable tendency among newer growers to wax poetic about an iris as soon as the first gorgeous blossom appears. We need a balanced assessment of an iris, including consideration of the standards outlined by AIS for Garden Judging, which can be downloaded free from the AIS website.

Observations

Seven plants in the group were judged to have the best bloom stalks in terms of shape, display of flowers, and number of bud positions (Group A – Excellent). Another seven were identified with problematic stalks that significantly interfered with some flowers (Group B – Problematic). Four were placed in Group C – Runts that bloomed at only about half their registered height and offered no horticultural value. Hopefully, those in this last group were just stunted aberrations of the season and will bloom normally next year.

Even the Excellent and Problematic groups bloomed shorter than their registered height, some significantly so. Overall, the irises in Group A bloomed twelve percent shorter than their registered height, and those in Group B measured 29 percent shorter.

Why was stalk height on the low



GROUP A
EXCELLENT

1
33/35

2
34/30

3
33/34

4
32/25

5
34/30

6
36/29

7
37/30



GROUP B
PROBLEMATIC

8
24/21

9
35/26

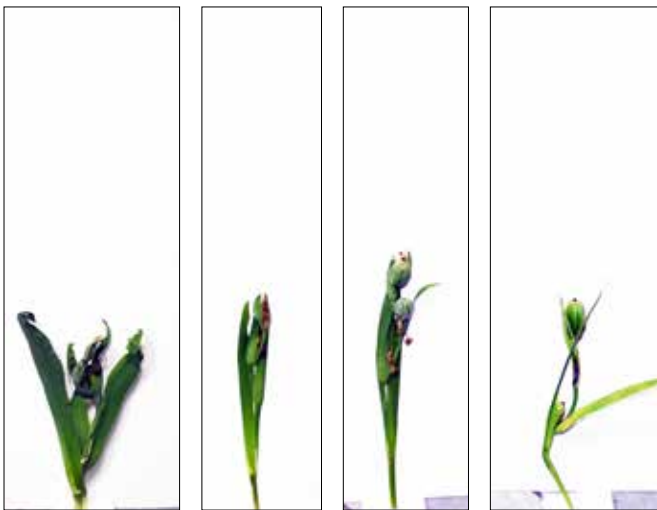
10
25/19

11
26/18

12
35/20

13
27/17

14
28/20



GROUP C
STUNTED

15
30/15

16
27/17

17
39/19

18
26/16

The numbers beneath the cultivar number represent: the registered height / measured height, in inches.

side? We can't be sure. Odd weather is one explanation. An unwelcome freeze and indecisive swings from warm to cold might have contributed to shorter bloom stalks. The freeze was not bad in New Orleans, although we are spoiled and prone to whine about cold weather: 24 degrees on the night of December 24. We did not see foliage damage (aside from on a few collected Florida species), but the new irises were elevated in trays, so they might have felt the cold more than those in containers sitting on the ground. We did not note glaring height deficiencies in the nursery generally, but we were not looking for them and did no systematic measurements.

Perhaps culture was involved. While we thought these irises were set up for success, they were not singled out for special attention and might have been treated a bit differently. Specifically, we cannot be sure that our automated watering system hit all containers equally. While we fertilized them along with all the irises in the nursery, we cannot vouch for the amount applied to these particular plants. Had we expected to offer such a close comparison of the new plants' performance, we would have structured their culture more carefully. Maybe the irises need another year in place to acclimate. But even with caveats, this group of plants offers the chance to learn a bit. After all, we are not singling out individual cultivars. Each will have the chance to redeem itself next season when we will be on alert to provide consistent, optimal culture.

What lessons can be learned from this experience? We hope our members will come to several conclusions.

One, bloom stalks do not have to be precisely the same shape to display flowers well. The slightly zig-zag stalks of Numbers 1 and 2 in the images are beautifully proportioned, but every stalk in the group did a fine job of displaying all their flowers. Even the very straight Number 5 did the job, probably because there was sufficient vertical distance between the positions to allow

the flowers to open well, and the angle between the leaf bract and the stalk was wide enough.

Two, the configuration of some stalks dooms their flowers. It is no surprise that Numbers 8 through 14 were judged problematic. Not only do the shorter stalks provide less vertical space to bloom unobstructed, but the angles between the leaf bracts and the stalk are so tight that some flowers don't have the horizontal space to open properly. Would better culture resulting in taller stalks increase spaces sufficiently to allow for a clean display of flowers? Perhaps so, but tight angles between the leaf bract and stalk may limit that improvement.

And the question is whether we can induce the irises to produce taller stalks. Their registration height was significantly greater, so they must have that potential. But under virtually the same conditions in which the irises in Group A grew well, those in Group B were deficient, and Group C was hopeless. Perhaps there is an unfortunate interaction between genetics and the growing conditions in New Orleans. Or maybe we simply need to do a better job growing the irises. We shall see what next year brings when we lavish these irises with our best cultural practices.

Judging Standards

We anticipated that the Garden Judging standards of the American Iris Society would provide an authoritative teaching tool to help us educate members on the evaluation of the stalks. The Scale of Points for judging an iris in the garden allocates 10 points for the stalk and provides guidance for awarding those points. However, the guidance does not seem to address the conditions causing a problematic display of flowers in Group B.

The judges handbook stipulates only a couple of desirable and unacceptable conditions for stalks:

- "Buds should be distributed proportionally over the upper two-thirds of the stalk to achieve a well-balanced appearance."
- With respect to branches (from

a lower position extending upward): "Branches that cause a clustered or bunched look are not desirable."

While the buds in the irises in Group B may occur in roughly the upper two-thirds of the stalk, some are so close together and so tightly held to the stalk that some flowers did not open well or at all. The judging standards do not address this problem explicitly, but they should.

The standards do fault a "clustered or bunched look" but only in the context of a side branch with a flower that jams against another one on the stalk. The stalks in Group B certainly have a "clustered and bunched look" even though only one had a branch.

The judging standards are intended to guide AIS judges in recommending a seedling for registration, so there is no "registration height" yet to use as a guide. A judge encountering stalks configured like Numbers 8 – 14 in a garden only knows what he or she sees, although a judge is expected to be cognizant of weather and other general conditions that may affect iris bloom.

The stalk is only allocated 10 points on the Scale of Points for garden judging, but it might be hard for a judge to award the 60 points for the "Flower" or the 25 for "Beauty and Distinctiveness" if unopened blossoms are jammed against a stalk like a used Kleenex.

Bloom stalks that interfere with the ability of flowers to open is a phenomenon one does not see in wild irises or older hybrids. As hybridization has transformed the flowers – larger, stiffer, ruffled, and less open – the bloom stalks have sometimes not evolved to accommodate them. With the passage of time and the operation of the iris marketplace, perhaps this problem will fade away.

We know these irises produce gorgeous flowers, and it is a shame when some that fail to open mar the display of other beauties. Hopefully, in a follow-up article next season, we will be able to report success in inducing a glorious display by all.



Popularity Poll

Watermelon Wizard Wins Army Award

By Dave Nitka

The Society established the Charles W. Army, Jr. Award in 1993 to recognize outstanding Louisiana iris introductions selected by our membership through the Popularity Poll. The award was named for Mr. Army to honor his pioneering work hybridizing Louisiana irises and his promotion of the worldwide distribution of the flower. An iris wins the Charles W. Army, Jr. award when the SLI membership gives it more votes than all other iris on the Popularity Poll ballot, including all the irises having previously won the award. If an iris repeats as the Poll's winner, no Army Award is given.

'Watermelon Wizard', hybridized by Hooker Nichols and introduced in 2011, received votes on 31 percent of returned 2022 Popularity Poll ballots. Runner-up 'Acadian Sky' (Joe Musacchia, 2017) got votes on 25 percent of returned ballots, and perennial favorite 'Black Widow' (W. B. MacMillan 1953) received votes on 24 percent of ballots.

'Watermelon Wizard' was awarded the Mary Swords DeBaillon Medal in 2022 by American Iris Society judges, and now SLI members add to the acclaim with their votes in our Popularity Poll. 'Watermelon Wizard' was admired at the 2018 "Fleur de Gras" AIS/SLI joint national convention in New Orleans, winning the AIS Franklin Cook Memorial Cup for best Out-of-Region iris in the convention gardens.

Charles Army's efforts to encourage worldwide distribution and worldwide hybridizing of Louisiana irises lie behind both parents of 'Watermelon Wizard'. The great Australian hybridizer of Louisiana irises, John C. Taylor, worked with introductions supplied by Charles Army to increase flower size, improve flower form, and expand the range of flower colors and color combinations during the 1980s and 1990s. Both parents of 'Watermelon Wizard' are John C. Taylor introductions from the mid-1990s involving his 'Margaret Lee', an iris that established a new level of ruffled flower form combined with large flower size.

In this year's Popularity Poll, 'Watermelon Wizard' received votes from SLI members in many areas of the United States outside Texas and Louisiana, including Oregon, New York, Maryland, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, and California.

'Watermelon Wizard' captures Charles W. Army Jr.'s emphasis on the distinctiveness of introduced Louisiana irises. The flower color is deep, unique, and eye-catching, involving standards, falls, and style arms, especially when the flower first opens.



As the bloom ages, the color fades, and an attractive vein pattern on both the standards and falls becomes more noticeable.

The SLI Popularity Poll mails out to members in winter. Members vote their favorites, whether they are newer, older, previous winners, "up-and-comers," or personal choices. Please vote next time, and perhaps SLI will be able to honor one of your favorite irises or favorite hybridizers with the Charles W. Army, Jr. award. Each SLI member can vote for any number of iris cultivars from 1 up to 20, including write-ins. Irises receiving votes on more than 18 percent of ballots, in order of votes received, were:

Watermelon Wizard (H. Nichols R. 2011)
Acadian Sky (J. Musacchia R. 2017)
Black Widow (W. B. Macmillan R. 1953)
Dark Dude (R. Betzer R. 2010)
Longue Vue (D. Haymon R. 1999)
Melody Wilhoit (H. Nichols R. 2012)
Rooster (R. Betzer R. 2013)
Splitter Splatter (D. Grieves R. 2004)
Hush Money (M. Dunn R. 1998)
Black Gamecock (F. Chowning R. 1978)
Peaches In Wine (H. Pryor R. 1997)
Garnet Storm Dancer (H. Pryor R. 1994)
Iko Iko (J. Musacchia R. 2018)
Night Thunder (R. Morgan R. 2000)
Dixie Deb (F. Chowning R. 1950)
Rougaroux (J. Musacchia R. 2015)
Gris Gris (P. O'Connor R. 2011)

Welcome John Lewis

The Society's Newest Board Member

The Society welcomes John Lewis of Morgan City, LA as our newest board member, elected in Lafayette in April. John may be new to the board but not to Louisiana irises or botany.

John graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) with a BS in botany/plant science. Five years ago, he retired after a 40-year teaching career that included four years teaching high school biology and 36 years of seventh-grade life science.

While still at SLU, he met Roland Guidry, who introduced him to Louisiana irises. Roland also connected John with Rusty McSparrin of Bois d'Arc Gardens. John entered a few bloom stalks in the 1969 show in Lafayette and met prominent SLI leaders, including Charles Arny, W. B. MacMillan, and Joseph Mertzweiller. His interest in the irises never ended, and he has always included Louisiana irises in his gardens.

After retiring five years ago, John decided to try his hand at hybridizing. He made his first crosses in 2019, and judging from pictures and noteworthy show entries in Lafayette in 2022, he is well on his way to an outstanding hybridizing career. John recently registered 'Creamsicle Delight', an orange out of 'Zydeco', and he is watching several more likely to be registered in the near future.

John is a welcome addition to the SLI board.



John's hybridizing program is off to a great start. 'Creamsicle Delight', his first registration, is at the lower left, and other pictures are of seedlings still under number. John has worked with such parents as 'Edna Claunch', 'Rooster', 'Jean Betzer', 'Maurepas', 'Zydeco', and 'Oriental Flight'.

A Summer Update

SLI's Historic Iris Preservation Effort is Rolling Along

By Monica Martens

Greetings, SLI members. This spring, the Board discussed a general plan to document historic Louisiana iris cultivars and where they are being grown by individuals, public gardens, and commercial growers. We have completed enough work and planning to warrant a progress report and enlist the assistance of interested members moving forward.

We begin by recognizing that we cannot deal with every old Louisiana iris registered (regardless of how “old” is eventually defined in our program). So we have chosen to focus on several phases.

The first step is to create a list of irises that have won awards, been popular in polls, are being grown by commercial producers, or are in non-profit/public collections. Our thanks go out to those who have provided us with information already. This phase of the project will last through the summer months.

A second step is to understand who is tending “hybridizer collections” of any size. This important work often falls to family members or mentees of former hybridizers. And we are aware that some of our members are creating personal collections (large and small) of irises based on specific hybridizers. If you have been preserving the work of particular hybridizers, we ask that you share a list of the irises you have saved.

These lists that tell us what is still available in formal or organized collections and what has been regarded as popular or award-worthy will give us a starting point.



'Bayou Sunset' (W. B. MacMillan, 1947) a Mary Swords Debaillon Award winner in 1949, growing in Robert Treadway's Arkansas garden.

PHOTO BY ROBERT TREADWAY.

It will identify irises to preserve and share, and it will reveal some to search for.

As we work on this early data gathering and see the lists from the early phases, the program will establish a working “cut-off” date for what is regarded as a “historic” Louisiana iris. While a specific year may be somewhat arbitrary, it is necessary to be able to focus on a manageable group of plants. We might emulate the definitions of the AIS HIPS program, although the history of Louisiana irises may dictate different decisions. Our article in the Spring *Fleur* about the model programs developed by the Historic Iris Preservation Society explains how HIPS defines whether an iris is in danger of being lost, depending on how many individuals are growing it and how many commercial gardens are producing it. The SLI definition of “historic iris” is a work in progress.

A later step will be to ask our membership to provide lists of the irises they grow. This will flesh out our lists. Eventually, we hope to create a survey similar to HIPS' “Who Grows What” that we can send to SLI members annually to tell us what interesting historic Louisiana irises they are growing.

Once we know where older hybrids are growing, we can report general but preliminary numbers about the health of our historic iris heritage, e.g., the percentage of historic cultivars that are still being sold, or the percent considered “endangered” (once we refine how to measure that). We can also tell you if specific cultivars are now considered rare. This step-by-step process will help us to gradually gain information once we are ready to handle it; as you can imagine, this is a big undertaking.

What You Can Do Now

Participate in the Program. As we assemble information, varied tasks will be required, from manipulating lists (such as in Excel) to helping search for individual irises still being grown. Some may wish to be involved in coordinating the sharing and propagation of particular plants. Many possibilities can be tailored to your interests and available time. If any aspect of preserving Louisiana irises interests you, get on the list for more information about opportunities to participate as the work proceeds.

The key is to get on board. The SLI HIPS program is moving and will pick up steam. It should be a rewarding effort in which members can participate directly.

Hybridizer Collections. If you have irises from favorite



'Royal Velour' (Conger 1954) growing at Briarwood in North Louisiana this year.

hybridizers, especially older and inactive ones, please let us know.

You might be wondering:

- **If I share information about what I am growing, will this be made public?** No, it will not.
- **If I have something rare, am I obligated to share it?** No, you are not. Eventually, we want to establish a program to save rare Louisiana irises through sharing and trading, but that effort will be voluntary. At the least, we want to be able to confirm that what you have is considered rare.
- **Can I report what non-SLI members are growing?** Yes, if you and that person (e.g., a family member or close friend) are growing historic Louisiana irises together, that is helpful information.

The Society is not a local organization, and other than attending annual conventions, there are few chances for members to participate directly. As it develops, the SLI HIPS program will be the exception. It will offer many small opportunities to help preserve historic Louisiana irises, and it can enrich your own garden experience.

To volunteer to participate or to receive more information as the program develops, contact Monica Martens as indicated on page two.




Monica Martens, from League City, TX is an SLI Board member and the lead for our HIPS project. Look for her progress reports in future issues, and contact her for more information on the quest to preserve historic irises.

In Memoriam

Everette Lineberger

1929 - 2023

Everette Lewis Lineberger, 94, passed away on February 11, 2023, at home in Inman, SC. Everette's iris legacy extends to Louisiana irises, but he was best known in the bearded iris world. He will be remembered also for his local activity in South Carolina and for his work in the American Iris Society, including several terms on its board and as a Regional Vice-President. Everette entered many shows, was an iris judge, and generally an "iris educator."



PHOTO BY DAPHNE SAWYER

Everette hybridized and registered 22 irises, including two Louisianas, 'Waverly Pink' (1989) and 'Jillian' (2019), named for a great-granddaughter. For nearly twenty years, he operated Quail Hill Farm, a commercial nursery that sold irises of many kinds, including Louisianas. He attended at least one SLI convention in Lafayette.

Plants were Everette's second "career." He graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, SC, in 1954 and served 36 years as the pastor of several Lutheran congregations before retiring and developing Quail Hill Farm.

In recent years, Everette enjoyed a resurgence of iris interest and activity, which lasted until his death. His friend, Daphne Sawyer, said he didn't miss a farmer's market where he always had rhizomes for sale. His influence and the admiration he engendered was based on his personal qualities more than his iris resumé. Daphne said, "Everette loved irises, and he wanted you to love them too. And if you ever spent time with Everette, you did love irises; it was impossible not to catch his enthusiasm and joy in these flowers."



Everette's 'Waverly Pink'

What Do My Irises Need Now?

Think Ahead

Now is the time to think ahead to the beautiful bloom and the garden improvements you will enjoy next spring. Those images and those plans will help sustain you through the summer and fall when you must do most of the formative work for your next beautiful bloom season. The schedule varies around the country, but the summer part may be the most challenging due to the heat. If you are lucky and well-situated, you may be able to enjoy more favorable weather to prepare for the fall tasks.

Remove Spent Bloom Stalks

Depending on where you live, the iris bloom is probably well over and done, and the clean-up is either finished or underway. Unless you are a hybridizer or want to experiment by planting seeds, it is good practice to cut out spent bloom stalks. If you leave them, the seeds will drop, and rogue seedlings will appear among your irises. If you wish to maintain the identity of your plants, that can't be allowed to happen. The best advice to the average gardener is to cut out bloom stalks to within an inch or two from the ground as soon as the last flower blooms. That way, you remove the seed pods and the stalk on which they may now hang.

For most of us, that spent stalk is useless, and it will soon begin to yellow and look bad in the garden. The rhizome that produced it will never generate another bloom stalk. But if you cut the stalk out, the remaining energy in the rhizome will be available to create offsets or encourage the growth of those already present.



Now and then, you will encounter a husky stalk that produces a baby iris from a node near the base rather than from the rhizome itself. If you wish, you can plant that stalk section after cutting it out. That's lagniappe, however, and not routine.

Old SLI publications describe techniques for propagating a Louisiana iris variety by layering a spent bloom stalk in some medium, such as sand and vermiculite. If you do that, you probably will be the only living person using the method, but it might be an interesting experiment if you have not discarded your old stalks.

Seeds

If you want to try growing new irises from seeds, that's easy enough. Cut open the pods along the striations, but not going more than a quarter inch deep so you don't cut into the seeds themselves. A good tool is a serrated edge knife or a box cutter with the blade tip extended just a quarter inch. Pry open the scored pod, remove the seeds, and plant them immediately in pots under a three-quarters inch of soil. Put the pots in the shade and keep them moist (with the seeds constantly covered). They won't germinate until cool nights arrive, giving you plenty of time to read up on how to handle the seedlings and plan for space in your garden.

Water

So, guess what these water-loving plants need through the summer? Consistent moisture. Standing water is not required, but you must prevent the irises from drying out, and if you do, the foliage will continue to grow a bit through the summer and at least not head into dormancy. If they

get too dry, they will go into at least a semi-dormant state, and you will not get good growth again until the fall.

Mortar mixing tubs with no drain holes have become a popular way for some folks to grow the irises. The tubs make it easier to keep the soil wet, even mucky, and tree roots — the unappreciated bane of Louisiana iris beds — cannot penetrate the root zone. You can disguise the tubs by digging them in or lining them with bricks or the like.



Mulching helps, also. You must irrigate the tubs because, like a clay pot, they will dry out more quickly than the soil in a typical flower bed. But with regular watering, they resolve several challenges to growing Louisiana irises.

Fall Division

By the next *Fleur* issue, you should have done your fall replanting. Every few years, it pays to lift the rhizomes, thin the clumps, share the excess, and replant in renewed soil. It is work, but it allows you to remove weeds and add mulch, reducing upkeep in the long



The previous *Fleur* announced a **Photo Contest opening May 1, 2023**. The original announcement plus additional information is now available online at the link below. We hope members will make good use of their cameras during bloom season and then share!

FOR MORE INFO
<https://www.LouisianaIrisGNOIS.com/SLIPhotoContest/> (use caps)

run. And it will look great and reward you with better bloom next season. You can rotate through your irises and replant a portion every year. But don't wait and have to tackle everything all at once. Instead, plan on getting around to everything every three or four years.

Garden Clean-up

For beds that are not due to be re-worked, it is essential to clear out brown and yellowed foliage in the fall. Even with the best culture, a few leaves in a fan turn yellow from time to time. It is best not to leave those to decompose in the garden. Yellow foliage looks terrible, of course, but it also can harbor disease.



The fungus disease **Rust** can be a particular problem. Rust is endemic on irises, and you will not want to be afflicted by the unsightly yellow and brown discoloration. Definitely not a look to show visitors, display on the show bench, or brag about on Facebook.

There is a species of rust fungus that has evolved just on irises. You may not have it, but you probably will be visited by it at least a little at some point. However, with good garden hygiene, rust might be avoided or be a rare condition. If you do get an infestation, the most effective step is the same as the method to avoid it: get all the infected leaves, brown or yellowed foliage, out of the garden and into the garbage (not the compost).

You may need a fungicide treatment in very early spring, but the first line of defense is garden clean-up. Fungicides must be repeated and spread evenly on all leaf surfaces. First things first. Just get the infected foliage out of the garden.

Welcome New Members

Carolyn Ash

Lenexa, KS

Philip Cantrelle

Lake Arthur, LA

Zachary Deshotels

Ville Platte, LA

Susan McLeod Epstein

Charleston, SC

Christel Ertel

State College, PA

Susan Holmes

New Iberia, LA

H. Charles Martin

Argyle, TX

Edward Meiser

Deland, FL

Charles and Judy Nielson

Baton Rouge, LA

Frwed Parvin

Las Vegas, NV

Cathie Pauli

Bryan, TX

Charlotte A. Randolph

Youngsville, LA

Ronelle Remlinger

Denham Springs, LA

Danny Sansovich

Kenner, LA

Alexis Touchet

Abbeville, LA

Tonya Viator

Youngsville, LA

Jamie Webb

Abbeville, LA

Glad to have you!



The SLI Louisiana Iris Checklist on a Flash Drive. \$15 for delivery in the U.S.

The new SLI Checklist is illustrated with photos of many of the cultivars from the 1920s - 2021. It is searchable by cultivar attributes such as name, date of introduction, hybridizer, parentage and more. The Checklist contains descriptions of the irises provided at registration.

Although the SLI Checklist is in PC format only, the flash drive contains an additional file that enables free download of Filemaker Pro Go from the App Store, which allows use of the Checklist on an iPhone or iPad.

**Order from Ron Killingsworth,
10329 Caddo Lake Road, Mooringsport, LA 71060.**

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Has Your Address Changed?

Please notify the Membership Chair Louise Jamail. Address on page 2. The U. S. Postal Service will not forward your copy.

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 26.

Commercial Directory

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Irises for sale this fall will
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sales list.

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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: Jean Richter, Membership Secretary, 1226 High Street, Alameda, CA 94501 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 to Louise Jamail, Membership Chair, 1612 Haver Street, Houston, TX 77006. Make checks payable to the Society for Louisiana Irises. You may also join or renew online using PayPal. <https://www.louisianas.org/index.php/membership>

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: _____
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United States Subscribers Annual Dues:

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

International Subscribers Annual Dues:

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

Return Form & Payment To:
 Society for Louisiana Irises
 10329 Caddo Lake Road
 Mooringsport, LA 71060

Society for Louisiana Irises Storefront

***The Louisiana Iris: The Taming Of An American Wildflower* \$30.00**

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

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

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



***Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises - The History of Hybridizing (2007)* \$5.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping within U.S.**

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



***Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises honoring Marie Caillet (1915-2010)* \$10 plus \$3 shipping within US**

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



***Louisiana Iris Hybridizers 1985-2010* \$5 plus \$2 shipping within US**

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



***Special Publication of the Society for Louisiana Irises 1995* \$5 plus \$2 shipping within US**

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

The SLI Louisiana Iris Checklist on a Flash Drive. \$15 for delivery in the U.S.

The 2021 SLI Checklist is illustrated with photos of many of the cultivars. It permits searches by cultivar attributes such as name, date of introduction, hybridizer, parentage and much more. The Checklist contains names, descriptions, breeder/introducer and parentage of iris cultivars from the 1920's through the present.

Although the SLI Checklist is in PC format only, the flash drive contains an additional file that enables the free download of Filemaker Pro Go from the App Store, which in turn allows use of the Checklist on an iPhone or iPad.



Any of these products & other Iris materials can be ordered from Ron Killingsworth.

For pricing on shipments outside the US, please contact directly: Ron Killingsworth 10329 Caddo Lake Road, Mooringsport, LA 71060



Fleur de Lis is a Publication of the
SOCIETY FOR LOUISIANA IRISES

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