

Updated January 12, 2025

## Society for Louisiana Irises

### 2025 Convention Schedule and Information

We will be back in Lafayette with a schedule similar to our 2022 convention including an afternoon of judge's training, a tour, and dinner with our General Membership meeting. This convention offers a full day of activities on Friday, including a tour to Palmetto Island State Park, and an evening program by Bonnie Nichols, President of the American Iris Society.

**Update Hotels:** We have secured a hotel block with the Hilton Garden Inn Lafayette/Cajundome and have communicated this to members via emails or letters.

#### Preliminary Timeline - All Activities Subject to Change

##### Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 9:00am–5:00 pm **Visit open gardens** (private and public self-guided tours). Registrants will receive details by email (times/addresses for each location).
- 1:00–3:00 pm **“Judging Louisiana Iris in the Garden”** at the Betzer's garden. AIS trainers: Robert Treadway and Hooker Nichols. Training will be recorded by video. There is no transport for this event. Registrants will receive details by email.

##### Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 am–3:30 pm **Tour of Irises: Bus pickup** will occur at one hotel (TBD) and the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center. **Stop 1: Palmetto Island State Park** to see the *I. nelsonii*, the Abbeville Red, that is found native only across the Vermilion River in the Abbeville Swamp. Early lunch at 11 am provided on site. **Stop 2:** the Betzer's garden. **Stop 3:** Cypress Lake at the ULL campus. **Drop off** at approximately 3:30 pm at the hotel and Center.
- 5:30–9:00 pm **Banquet and General Membership Meeting:** Ira Nelson Horticulture Center (2206 Johnston Street, Lafayette, LA 70503). Social: 5:30 pm. Dinner: 6 pm. Speakers: Mark Schexnayder, SLI President, and Bonnie Nichols, American Iris Society President. Silent auction of rhizomes and other must-have items will follow. Plenty of parking on site.

##### Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 am–4:00 pm SLI will have a booth with rhizome sales and a flower display at the Festival des Fleurs, <https://www.festivaldesfleurs.org/>. To volunteer, provide rhizomes for sale, or display plants, please contact: Monica Martens, John Lewis, or Mary Carle (email addresses in your *Fleur* magazine), or email [societylouisianairises@gmail.com](mailto:societylouisianairises@gmail.com). Volunteers often meet for dinner afterwards (TBD, self-pay).

**Has your membership expired?** If your membership is expiring before April 2025, or has done so, please submit a separate check or payment for membership renewal. Rates are at the SLI website <https://louisianas.org/get-involved/>

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**2025 Society for Louisiana Irises Convention and Membership Meeting, April 3–5, 2025  
Lafayette, LA, Registration Form**

(Hotel reservations are separate from convention registration. Registrants book their own rooms.)

Name	E-mail
Address	Phone
City/State	Zip Code
Names of those registering with you (unless they are registering separately)	

Activity	# of persons		Price		Total
<b>Early Bird Rate (register by March 1)</b>					
Thursday AIS Judges Training		x	Included		\$0.00
Registration Fee and Friday bus tour (includes box lunch, refreshments)		x	\$65.00	=	
Friday dinner		x	\$25.00	=	
<b>If registering after March 1<sup>st</sup>.</b>		x	\$10.00	=	
Optional Donation: SLI General Operating Fund					
<b>Grand Total</b>					

**Do you have any dietary needs for lunch/dinner?**

**Two ways to pay:** Please list the names of attendees with your payment, on your registration form.

**Via PayPal:** "Society for Louisiana Iris International" \*On PayPal there is a spot where you can type "2025 Convention" and the names of the people you are paying for. Also, please do not use the old PayPal account for "Society for Louisiana Irises." We'll still receive your payment, but it causes fees for an extra transfer. Also, mail in the registration form (address for Diane Louw below).

**By check:** Include your registration form. Make your check out to: SLI. Check must be received by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mail your check to our Treasurer: Diane Louw, 18422 Lake Iris Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70817. For questions, email Diane at [slidianemlouw@yahoo.com](mailto:slidianemlouw@yahoo.com).

**Registrations will be acknowledged** by e-mail, if one is provided. **Questions:** SLI Board/Officer emails are listed in the *Fleur*. Our general email is: [societylouisianairises@gmail.com](mailto:societylouisianairises@gmail.com) and you can also contact us using the contact forms at <https://louisianas.org/>