



the
**Society for
Louisiana Irises**

The Society for Louisiana Irises is an independent international organization established in 1941 to promote Louisiana irises. An annual meeting, including garden tours, a flower show and educational programs, is held each year. An AIS Judges Training School on Louisiana irises is given most years during the meeting. SLI also provides a program during the annual Convention of the American Iris Society.

The Society publishes a quarterly journal as well as a special publication every 3-4 years...all in full color. SLI also maintains an active web site (www.louisianas.org) where those interested in the Society and the Louisiana iris can find colored pictures of many of the popular cultivars and can view colored pictures and articles featured in recent issues of the newsletter.

A new, updated edition of the SLI hard-back book, *The Louisiana Iris*, which contains 212 pages with black and white drawings and 40 pages of colored plates, was published in 2000.

The recently released *Electronic Check List* is also available. The CD contains registrations & introductions through 2003 as well as hundred of colored pictures of Louisiana irises and pictures from the 2004 Dallas Convention gardens.

Orders for any of the publications as well as requests for information on becoming a member of the Society for Louisiana Irises should be sent to:

Richard Sloan, Treasurer
Society for Louisiana Irises
118 E. Walnut
Alma, AR 72921



Return to

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join

the
**Society for
Louisiana
Irises**



A cooperating organization of the American Iris Society

LOUISIANA IRISES

Native American Wildflowers

Louisiana irises comprise a group of beardless irises native to Louisiana and the southeastern United States, occurring as far west as East Texas and as far north as Ohio. They occur nowhere else in the world. In contrast to most other irises, Louisianas, having originated in swamps and marshes, thrive under moist, soggy conditions. These irises, representing five species, have existed in the wild for an undetermined period, probably many thousands of years. Natural hybridizing between species has been more extensive than for any other type of iris. Controlled hybridizing that began about 1940 has produced a spectacular group of modern garden irises.

SPECIES

At this time, there are five recognized species of Louisiana irises: *Iris giganteaerulea*, *I. hexagona*, *I. fulva*, *I. brevicaulis* and *I. nelsonii*. While the number of recognized species was much larger at one time, taxonomist have concluded that many irises once considered species are actually natural hybrids.

MODERN HYBRIDS

Like most flowers in our garden, today's version of the Louisiana iris that we grow and love are man-made hybrids....although many gardeners still grow and admire the clean, graceful form of the species. At present in excess of 2,000 modern, named hybrids have been developed and registered with the American Iris Society and new flowers are presented each year. New varieties are produced by hybridization which is discussed in detail in the new book *The Louisiana Iris*.

VERSATILITY

As recently as the 1950's, the Louisiana iris was considered a "Southern iris" and was grown almost exclusively in the warm climates of the U.S. Today, however, we know that the iris is very adaptive and it can now be found growing in most Northern states and many foreign countries as well. A very impressive public display was planted in the **Highland Park, Rochester, N.Y.** in 2002 in conjunction with a large international horticulture exhibition in **Hamamatsu, Japan**. The planting shows great promise for success despite the very cold climate of Rochester. It appears that heavy mulch in the colder areas permits the Louisiana to survive and thrive. These irises also thrive in the Southern hemisphere, especially Australia where they are widely grown.

CULTURE

The key to successful Louisiana iris cultivation in all climates appears to be water. While the irises will grow among other flowers in raised beds, they should never be permitted to become completely dry. Ideally, they should be placed in beds that will hold moisture. They are wonderful flowers for that low spot in your garden and thrive in pond culture. Mulch is useful, especially in very hot or very cold conditions.

Louisianas are heavy feeders. Acidic fertilizers such as that used for azaleas and camellias are ideal as well as concentrated water-soluble products. Once bloom stalks emerge in the spring, the application of any fertilizer should cease until bloom is finished and old stalks removed. Otherwise, fertilizer can be applied frequently.



Society for Louisiana Irises Membership Form

Name: _____

DUES

US Currency Only

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

- 1 Year Single 1 Year Family Single Life
 3 Year Single 3 Year Family

	USA / International
Individual (yearly)	\$13 \$20
Individual (triennial)	\$32 \$52
Family (yearly)	\$16 \$23
Family (triennial)	\$44 \$52
Life	\$200 \$200

Amount enclosed: _____