

Barbara-Jean Jackson
Director, North Central Region

Report to the HIPS Board of Directors for 2014

Most of this report is similar to past years.

Several enquiries from members of the public and HIPS members were received this year. As in the past, the majority of topics covered by the enquiries included:

- identification
- growing historic in cold climates
- sourcing historic in Canada
- historic designation, what it is and how an iris qualifies as an historic

Referrals were made to appropriate individuals, organizations and answers were provided. I was also able to assist a US member in sourcing several historic varieties from a grower in Canada and assisted in the shipping.

And finally, I continue to assist the Calgary Reader Rock Garden in Calgary, Alberta. I hope to visit Janet Washburn, the garden's horticulturist, there this summer. Now that they have received many of the varieties they had been looking for, I continue to provide cultural advice and to answer questions as needed.

I will be in Portland this year for the convention.

I would like to thank the HIPS Board of Directors for all of their advice and assistance over the last 6 years. Although I am leaving the Board this year, I will be continuing to serve HIPS in the role of Canadian liaison for the rhizome sale.

HIPS Public Relations Report for 2014
Submitted by Cathy Egerer, PR Chair

I was appointed PR Chair in March, 2014. Plans to update and reprint the membership brochure were put on hold while the members voted on implementing an e-membership category. That was approved in July. The Board of Directors then started discussions on revising the membership fee structure. New membership dues were approved in February, 2015 and our new brochures are now in the hands of many HIPS members, display garden owners, and commercial vendors, both in the US/Canada and abroad.

In 2014, I made contact with a number of gardens around the country where interesting iris projects are taking place. Some of those projects will be featured in upcoming issues of ROOTS in the PR column.

I also began discussions in the HIPS online member forum on iris activities to share with members - fundraising, promotion, local events, etc. A suggestion from a fellow HIPS member developed into a mini membership drive at a local iris sale - we offered a free HIPS membership to anyone who purchased 15 irises. We signed up 14 new members for HIPS from that sale, and have shared the idea with other groups.

2015 is shaping up to be a busy year for HIPS! My major goal as PR Chair will be increasing membership, as well as promoting HIPS in print and online media and establishing ties with public gardens. I also will encourage members to share their activities and ideas for outreach. Suggestions from members are welcome! You can reach me at pr@historiciris.org.

HIPS ANNUAL DIRECTOR REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(As this was my first year serving HIPS as a director for the South Central Region, I was unaware of many of my duties and responsibilities for the job, including filing an annual report, so I apologize to the BOD for its tardiness.)

I have had no inquiries from HIPS members or other irisarians during my term but am working to promote historic irises in the three local clubs I am a member of and our region in general. My contact information was apparently never posted on the HIPS website but that has now been corrected and I'm hoping I will receive some input from interested parties in the coming year.

Plans for 2015 include:

1. Encouraging Program Chairs of the local clubs to have club programs on historic irises.
2. Displaying the HIPS membership brochures at our meetings, rhizome sales, annual regional meeting and other pertinent garden events.
3. Continuing to work on the acquisition/identification of historic irises in the north Texas area and facilitate garden rescues in needed situations.
4. Getting my personal garden recognized as a HIPS Display Garden and using it for additional educational experiences.
5. Working with Shaub D. to explore the distribution of irises in the far south zones of Texas.
6. Exploring the possibility of installing a historic iris bed in a local park, landmark or similar location.

I am hoping to see a renewed interest in the historic irises in my part of the country from these efforts. I look forward to working with the new and enthusiastic team on the HIPS BOD. Again, thank you all for your patience as I "get my feet wet" and get up to speed on my duties as a board member.

Judy Schneider