

Report of Commercial Sellers inventory list for 2015 [ending early 2016]

The listing of Commercial sellers has been updated multiple times this past year. The number of irises listed has increased to 5381, although several hundred show no seller of them. These are listed to indicate they had been on a seller's list within the past couple of years. The sellers included have increased to 51 as well despite several dropping off the list for various reasons.

The listing shows those introduced 30 years ago or more plus there is a start of those introduced in 1987. As to those sellers included on the list they must meet a minimum of 12 historic ones in their inventory either for sale or growing for eventual sale. Any below that number would be kept under one of two conditions: the seller plans to increase the historic offerings OR the seller has listed one or more that they are the only seller of. Because of the size of the list this minimum number may be increased to 15 or more at some point. I have encouraged the vendors to list all they are growing and not limit the list to those in their current catalog. This improves the efficiency of annual updates. Not all vendors do this however and some do not send any list but force reliance on their current catalog, be it paper, email or internet.

Board action item: Currently most of those listed in the Commercial listing are also listed in the Spring ROOTS gratis. However to be listed in ROOTS in the future a small charge could be made as it is really "advertising." If that charge were only \$20 it potentially would bring in \$1000 to the treasury. Alternatively HIPS could continue to offer the listing for free as a method to encourage purchases from these vendors thus helping to keep them in business.

Respectfully submitted,

David Prichard

CULTIVAR PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

REPORT for the YEAR 2015

The year has been a busy one, with the public announcement of the Guardian Gardens program in ROOTS setting a tone for pro-active progress.

Gathering records of the holdings of the world's botanical institutions – a third leg, with the HIPS Gardens and Commercial Sources spreadsheets, of the tripod of determining where we stand with respect to iris preservation – has continued, until almost all of the major institutions worldwide have been inventoried.

The Cultivar Preservation Chairman, with regional directors, iris authorities, and the Guardian Gardens program, in 2015 assisted three historic properties, in Tennessee, Illinois, and Virginia, to establish, identify, and interpret period-appropriate gardens of irises for their visitors.

Garden “rescues” continue apace, most notably with the excavation of the Lankow Family garden in Seattle, a project headed by Charlie Carver that dispersed hundreds of rare irises – with strengths in species, early bearded varieties, and Pacific Northwest hybridizers – to the Guardian Gardens program and other HIPS members. Another project, to cull rarities of the 1960s to 1980s from a local North Carolina iris farm, affectionately termed the Thelma Project, saw its first annual installment take place under the leadership of Shaub Dunkley and Laetitia Munro. With Denise Stewart's retirement from the nursery trade in historicis, Guardian Gardeners teamed to acquire all varieties she had that fit their program's criteria for adoption. And one rescue, planned for the Doris Rebert collection, was called off only when her entire collection was acquired by a HIPS-friendly purchaser who will verify the identities of the irises and share them with HIPS in years to come.

The Guardian Gardens program more than doubled its membership, to twenty-five participants at year end. The number of iris varieties the program has adopted grew by more than 600 cultivars, to a total of more than 1650 irises. The program also named Phil Edinger and Catherine Adam as Research Curators, to assist the programs to find and verify irises in need of critical preservation efforts.

The year closed with efforts to connect to other sections of the American Iris Society and cooperating societies: the leaderships of the Society of Japanese Irises, the Society of Louisiana Irises, and the Aril Society International were contacted to re-establish that HIPS is a section that embraces historic varieties of all classes of iris.

W. Douglass Paschall

Cultivar Preservation Chair

2016 HIPS DISPLAY GARDEN REPORT

The number of HIPS Display Garden owners who 'stepped down' down from the program last year was equal to the number of garden owners who joined. As of April 30, 2016 there continues to be 34 HIPS Display Gardens.

This year interested garden owners were asked to write a review of their gardens for ROOTS. Many stepped forward with the first two articles being published in the Spring 2016 ROOTS.

Creating an on-line presence for HIPS Display Gardens through PINTEREST and the HIPS facebook page was offered to garden owners for 2016. Some already have websites and/or facebook pages. Others did not express an interest. Given the lack of potential participation, this offer was not put into action however the idea will be re-evaluated for 2017.

There are still HIPS Display Garden signs available through Judy Eckhoff. Last year three (3) signs were sold leaving seven (7) in our inventory.

Submitted by
Kate Brewitt
HIPS Display Garden Chair
May 10, 2016

HIPS: Editor's 2015 Year-End Report

This was my first year of editing *ROOTS*. Both issues came out on time; we are still adjusting the timing, but in both cases I met our chosen goal. We received many compliments on the proportion of text to photos. Readers seem to enjoy the varied content and types of articles and columns.

After the Fall 2015 issue was published, I began looking for a different printing company. We experienced some difficulties in communication with AG Press and also their prices are high. We chose Sundance Press to print *ROOTS* in 2016 on an experimental basis.

My goals for future issues include:

- Continued emphasis on a good balance of text and photos.
- A mix of articles and columns that allows all readers to find something they wish to read; avoiding the overly folksy and the overly ponderous. From members' comments, I gather our readers vary widely in education level and taste. I firmly believe that even a conversational article can be thought-provoking and amusing to read, and even a scientific or historically accurate article can be lively and fascinating.
- I'd like to find someone to write about the science behind irises and their culture, in terms that ordinary gardeners can understand. I envision one- or two-page articles that would help iris gardeners understand more about soils, diseases, etc. While our focus is on history and preservation, it is best if our members also understand how to grow healthy historic irises. These articles could then go on our website, perhaps.
- Tall bearded irises are wonderful, but there are many other classes of irises. We will continue to publish at least one article about some non-TB class in every issue.
- It is important to help members understand that they, too, can participate in or even organize an iris rescue. I hope to feature at least one rescue or facilitated sale in each issue.
- Although society business, the vendor list, and the like are vital, they do not need to take up space in our color glossy bulletin. I will explore other options for the publication of those items.
- *ROOTS* is for and about members. HIPS is active and vibrant; in order to stay that way, members must hear about our projects.

PLEASE tell me what you think of each issue. While it's lovely to hear comments like "Nice issue!" a bit more detail would be helpful. Constructive criticism is welcome. Very few people comment at all.

Nancy McDonald

<nanmcd15@gmail.com>

HIPS: Ad Hoc Slide Preservation Committee – Janet Smith Chair

Report Spring 2016

The following list are slide collections received and scanned either by a flatbed scanner (4 at a time) or using a dedicated slide scanner (received last year) with a slide carrier (50) at a time.

These slides are then returned to whomever sent them if that is what they requested. If not, they are sent to the AIS Library Archives. I also send a CD or if too large a file I send a flash card to the person so sent the collection as well as the Librarian.

Included in this process is Terry Laurin who is adding photos to the Wiki who receives most of the digitized photos I have scanned.

Here is a list of what has been done so far:

Slide Collections Scanned Since 2011:

Bee Warburton	2,200
Paul Black	3,100
Rosalie Figge	2,100
John Weiler	2,800
Lloyd Zurbrigg	275
Barry Blyth	2,200
Leo. T. Clark	73
Herbert E. Kerr	102
<u>HIPS Archives</u>	<u>860</u>
TOTAL	13,710

The above has been shared with Cathy Egerer or Gary White.

Waiting to be scanned:

More HIPS Archives	2,000
John Wright	2,300
Smaller collections	900
Glen Corlew	7,000

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Smith, Chair

Committee Members:

Paul Gossett
Phil Edinger
Mike Unser

Annual Report
HIPS Public Relations Chair
May 8, 2016

The PR focus in 2015 was mainly on revamping and distributing our new HIPS membership brochures. By the end of May, 2015, I had distributed 4,790 of the 5,000 printed brochures. These were sent to 17 commercial iris vendors for inclusion in their shipments, three botanic gardens, and 15 individuals in the US, Canada, England, France, and the Czech Republic. These individuals requested small sets of brochures for use at iris shows and other events, and to hand out in their display gardens.

HIPS also participated in several projects involving historic iris collections. Dyna Hermann, of Schreiner's Iris Gardens, worked with me to locate a large number of "lost" Schreiner's irises from previous decades. With the help of HIPS members, several dozen rare Schreiner irises were shipped to their garden for planting in a new historic iris bed.

The National Collection of British Dykes Medal winners in England is missing a number of irises. James Hall, head gardener at Myddelton House where the collection is displayed, sent a list of 14 Dykes irises that had been lost. HIPS members have located all of them and they will be shipped to Myddelton House in June, 2016. We also contributed to historic iris garden projects in Colorado, West Virginia, and Arizona.

The administration of the HIPS Facebook page changed hands in Fall, 2015 and several HIPS members are now monitoring it and posting as administrators. Mike Unser, one of the administrators, continues to post iris photos on a weekly basis and the number of followers is now over 2,000.

My focus in 2016 will continue to be increasing membership, while seeking out new projects where historic irises are featured and HIPS members can contribute. Our new website makes it easy for someone to sign up, and our e-memberships are gaining popularity. If you have an idea or suggestion, please contact me at pr@historicism.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Egerer, PR Chair

2015 ID Committee Report

We currently have 5 parties who have agreed to serve on the TB ID Committee, 2 on SDB and 2 on Siberians. I have a lengthy list of people as candidates for various other classes and of course we have, via the collectors/collections list all of the board members contributed to this past winter, a whole lot of specific 'expertise' we can call on.

An initial draft of an Identification checklist has been drafted as well as a "Protocol for submission to identification" which spells out the requirements for anyone submitting an iris to HIPS of identifying a NOID.

Charlie Carver

2015 HIPS Member Databank Report

The 2015 databank includes information about 88 respondents, who reported growing 3518 different cultivars. Of those, 1640 (47%) were reported by only one respondent. During 2015 the reporting of non-tall bearded iris varieties increased, although the large majority of cultivars continues to be from the tall bearded class. The most commonly reported iris continues to be Wabash, which is present in over half (47) of the respondents' gardens. Other "top ten" irises, in descending order are Indian Chief (40); Quaker Lady (39); Ola Kala (36); Immortality (35); Mme. Chereau (33); Loreley and Eleanor Roosevelt (32); and Vanity, Rosy Wings, and Dauntless (30).

Data continues to be delivered in a variety of ways (viz., on paper forms sent via post and in word processing or spreadsheet documents delivered electronically), and it continues to be compiled into an Excel spreadsheet. I believe that both of these methods will need to be altered for the databank to continue to grow while remaining manageable. The most beneficial change would be to move data collection to an online database. Doing this would make it feasible for a committee of several people to do the work of data entry, and if done properly it would allow the data about members' inventories to be combined with other data (e.g., the gallery photographs and the commercial source lists).

Upkeep is a major concern, since greater participation from HIPS members is absolutely crucial to the value of this project, but with greater participation the burden of data management requires more and more time. Not only must data from new respondents be recorded, but so must updates from past respondents. Furthermore, when past respondents do not, of their own volition, send an update for several seasons, I think it would be wise to contact them and encourage them individually. And in cases where past respondents either cannot be contacted or do not respond to the request, their data must be removed from the databank. Each of these tasks requires a significant amount of time, and an online data repository would make the sharing of tasks among a group of committee members much easier.

Respectfully submitted by
Brett Barney

23 June 2016

HIPS Northeast Director's Report for 2015

My activities as Northeastern HIPS Director have been moderate. I compiled a list of my historic irises and submitted them to the HIPS database maintained by Brett Barney. When it came time to dig for my local AIS affiliate's sale, I included historic irises among my donations; carefully labeling them as such, and attempted to communicate to sale patrons what the term 'historic' encompasses and what they should expect from an iris marked as such.

I took pleasure in nominating Anner M. Whitehead for the 2016 HIPS Distinguished Service Award, and compiled a partial supporting list of her many activities through the years in support of HIPS' goals. However, my activities are only a very small part of iris preservation activity taking place in the Northeast.

An important contribution is being made by AIS Region 2 member Terrance Laurin of Ontario, Canada. Throughout 2015, as AIS TWIKI Photo Manager, he has uploaded to the TWIKI a number of images of historic irises. Many of these images came from websites around the world. He has also been working with Janet Smith Coordinator of AIS Iris Resources-Digital Programs/Slides and HIPS Slide Preservation Coordinator. She has provided him with a number of collections owned by Leo T. Clarke, Barry Blyth, John Weiler, Bee Warburton, Lloyd Zurbrigg and Rosalie Figge, to name a few. His current project with Janet is uploading the current HIPS slide collection to the AIS TWIKI. These activities will continue through 2016.

I will continue to promote historic irises and their conservation and will seek an appropriate area to establish a small public planting during 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Stiefel,

NE HIPS Director

2015 Year End Report of the Southeast Regional Director
May 9, 2016

Wow, 2015 was a 'live wire' and whirlwind of change and progress. Great discussions, brainstorming sessions, coordinating on the fly real work we did but can't put a finger on it.

2015 was the second year of my three-year term as SE Director.

I served on the Budget Committee as we prepared the 2015 HIPS Annual Budget. The Committee has made progress towards orienting the BOD to a formal budget process with less need to consider and deliberate money matters on an *ad hoc* basis.

In 2015 there was considerable and positive change on the communications front: new ROOTS editor, new HIPS website and webmaster, the vacant Public Relations chair was filled. As the dust settles going forward I look forward to our exploring ideas for using these tools to increase information flow in both directions between BOD members and general members. For me, the website forum has always been the most active and spontaneous means of communicating with general members and I participate in it regularly to capitalize on the potential. However, there is a substantial sector of HIPS members that do not use the forum, and perhaps do not visit the website so I am on the lookout for other means to establish dialogues.

I continued to look for reports and evidence of bearded irises that grow well in the hotter and more humid sections of the Southeast. I've gathered a few reports of people successfully growing some in sections of Zone 8 and 9 where conventional wisdom says they should not do well. I will continue to look for means to gather more data. Judy Schneider is partnering with me since her director's region includes TX and LA, both of which have geographical areas of interest.

Most or all of you know the general circumstances behind the project we now call the 'Thelma's Irises Project. Following leads, in spring 2015 I began making visits to the site of this private family collection in Winston-Salem, NC. The family sells surplus irises on-site. The collection of almost 2,000 cultivars includes a few hundred historic which have only one or no other HIPS documented sources. I began collection assessment work, which continues now. In August I helped facilitate a HIPS members group order. The project remains active for 2016.

I look forward to continuing work with the Board and the general membership and I welcome comments and suggestions from all.

Respectfully submitted;
Shaub Dunkley

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HIPS ANNUAL DIRECTOR REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

The second year of being on the HIPS Board has been much more productive for me now that I've gotten to "know my way around" with the various members and the duties expected of a director.

As the South Central director I tried to really promote HIPS and historic irises in general last year. I displayed HIPS membership brochures at club meetings, rhizome sales, the annual regional meeting and other pertinent garden events with the three DFW area iris clubs I belong to. They were well received and hopefully generated some new members.

I had my personal garden listed as a HIPS Display Garden and turned it into a commercial venture listing both new and historic irises for sale to the public. I've been using it for additional educational experiences to help people identify historic irises in their own gardens. It's been so nice seeing visitors arrive with blooms in jars, on stalks or stuck in Dixie cups to try to match or ask a question about the ID of what they are growing. I've responded to many inquiries about historic irises through my website and offered free rhizomes to test grow to several people to help with IDs.

I have been working with a neighboring iris collector to identify some historic NOIDs in both of our gardens. Many of these came from an elderly iris collector in our area but some have been existing in one or the other of our gardens for many years. Two heads are always better than one! I'm in the process of obtaining more rare historic irises from a couple of local gardens to grow and to add to the HIPS rhizome sale this year.

I've been promoting historic irises both in my garden and on Facebook with photos and comments. Many times the historic irises seem to be ignored when it comes to GOOD photos being taken and posted to online groups. I've tried to get good representative pictures of each iris that has bloomed here this year and have shared them online.

I also accepted the job of the Annual Rhizome Sale Chair and have attempted to revamp the format to make the sale a much better event for both HIPS and the buyers. With the help of Cathy and Nancy, we think we have a good plan in place to make the sale very successful this year.

I have been encouraged by the number of people that have shown an interest in adding to their collection of historic irises this year. With the added internet presence of the new HIPS website and active Facebook page, people are realizing they have their own little jewels that they took for granted before. I've really enjoyed working with the team of dynamic preservation minded people on the HIPS BOD and am looking forward to a great year in 2016!

Judy Schneider

Annual Report from Webmaster - 2016

This has been a great year for the HIPS website. We officially launched our site October 2015. The new site gives us many advantages over the old site. We have a more secure, more reliable host, Dreamhost who has lived up to our expectations of quality service and support. Our site is now using a true content management system (Wordpress), where we can easily add new information.

A few of the features that have been added to our website are as follows:

- Enhanced Gallery with search features. The gallery currently has all our old gallery listings and about 170 new ones. Donor information, provenance and vetting information are being added to each image. We are currently going through the alphabet and are more than half way completed. We will continue to add new pictures particularly from our HIPS members at a faster pace once I finish the vetting and provenance information. We invite HIPS members to submit their photos whenever they can.

In addition the gallery will allow searching on a single iris name (or part of a name), will also allow 'Advanced Search' capability (such as search for color or hybridizer), and provide a listing without photos if requested. The old gallery is also available, and will be for a while, but is not being updated with new entries. Eventually as it becomes outdated, it will be discontinued but not in the near future

- There are many other new sections on the site, including 'Iris Basics', the Guardian Gardens program, all of our official business notes, and much more.

- A Members Section has been set up where aside from the Forum, we have downloads of ROOTs for our e-members, our Master Commercial source listing, and our HIPS databank.

Members can now set their own passwords, add their own Avatars and update the membership database with their current information. New members can instantly become members via a Paypal payment.

Indeed, we have come a long way in the past year due to the hard work of a few of our members to make it happen.

This coming year we will continue to enhance the information provided on the site. We have several fun projects we are promoting through the website, including the ongoing PBF study, the new composite photographs project that we will link to the listings, and provide handy identification features of an individual iris.

We also plan a major upgrade of our Membership database to include all HIPS members. Having an online database, including emails, will allow notices and information to be sent via email rather than by snail mail, saving money and time for HIPS.

Expenses for the website for the past year are as follows:

15.00 per month hosting fees which would be 180.00 per year.

Transfer of our domain name for 10.00.

Laetitia Munro