

Historic Iris Preservation Society

Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 13, 2022

I. Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Scott at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time via Zoom.

II. Roll call by Nina Morris, Secretary.

- A. Present: Wendy Scott, Suzanne Butler, Nina Morris, Judy Keisling, Cathy Egerer, Justin Fortunascio, Jessica Kelley, Mike Unser, Randy Smith, Marc Hanes, Lori Vandette, Nancy McDonald, Laetitia Munro, Tim Vanover and Donita McDonald.
- B. Absent: Allyson Whalley, Cynthe Brush, Susan Flow, Gary White, Tammy Skahan, and Janet Smith.
- C. It was determined that a quorum was present and Nancy McDonald was appointed timekeeper for the meeting.

III. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Change to Agenda: Item A. under President's Report was changed to 2022 Iris Sales Report, rather than 2021 Iris Sales Report.

IV. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Acknowledgement of Approval

V. Treasurer's Report

- A. Written Financial Report for the 1/1/22 through 9/30/22 was submitted prior to meeting via email to board.
- B. Verbal report by Judy Kiesling: Year to Date Income of \$21,623.57 and Year to Date Expenses of \$14,916.34 for a Year to Date Profit of \$6,707.23. Combined with Total Assets at end of 2021, it brings Total Assets as of September 30, 2022, to \$66,261.77.
- C. Major expenses so far this year were website maintenance and fixes, insurance premium and one ROOTS publication; major sources of income were dues, along with sales and donations.

VI. President's Report

- A. President Wendy Scott reported total sales for the Rhizome Sale of \$8,355.00, with expenses of \$1,979.66, for a net profit of \$6,375.34. She thanked Cathy Egerer for resending irises to Canada so that Canadian members could participate in the sale this year.
- B. She also stressed that a nominating committee is desperately needed to find replacements for several major officers who will term out, as well as for Judy Keisling. It was reported that only the president and directors are term-limited and Cathy asked that other officers consider stepping into the presidency. Cathy and Justin will serve on the nominating committee.
- C. Tim Vanover reported on his pilot databank template, wondering if anybody had played with it yet. It was designed so that a person could paste cultivars from their iris list and all the other fields would automatically populate. He said it would work in Google Sheets and is compatible with Excel. His goal is conformity in reporting, with Iris Wiki as the authority in cultivar names.

VII. Old Business

- A. Committee/Chair Updates

1. Lori Vandette gave her membership update. She reported that HIPS is getting new members but that many old members are not renewing. Some discussion was held on whether we could offer a corporate membership or a new pricing category.
 2. She also reported that many of the display gardens on our website did not appear to be HIPS members and wondered if that should continue. Subsequent discussion revealed that some of the gardens might be members personally, rather than organizationally. It was suggested that BOD members might check out the display garden list to see if they were familiar with a person responsible for a garden. Then that individual could be checked against the HIPS membership rolls before Lori investigated further.
 3. Nancy McDonald reported on the Policies and Procedures Committee. They will try to meet sometime this winter and she asked for volunteers to assist.
 4. Susan Flow, who was unable to be present for the meeting, reported via email concerning the HIPS Shop. She reported that HIPS had obtained some of the last available copies of the Bliss iris books from Anne Milner. She also reported that several 1930's iris catalogs not available on the Iris Wiki site had been gifted to HIPS; she will scan them and offer them on our website.
 5. Nancy gave an update on Guardian Gardens. She and Jessica Kelley have purged non-participants and now have 140 active members. There are around 3000 irises in the program and Phil Edinger is assisting with identification. GG will hold its first Zoom meeting on Tuesday.
Daphne Sawyer of the Society for Louisiana Irises has also made an appeal to HIPS to allow participation in the Guardian Garden and Breeder Garden programs for Louisiana irises which are disappearing quickly, even though they do not qualify as historic. President Scott will allow that due to the need.
 6. Tim Vanover reported poor response from vendors for the Retail Iris program. Discussion was held on whether response from vendors could be improved by offering some free advertising in ROOTS. General consensus was the idea would be difficult to implement due to the added cost of advertising space in ROOTS, but might be possible somewhere else, like e-publications, the website or social media. Other ideas on the cause of non-participation included low volume, no need for extra business and the extra work of reporting their holdings.
- B. Databank reporting incentives were discussed. Ideas for incentives should be emailed to Mark. Budget amendments do not appear necessary at this time, but will be revisited at the budget meeting in January. A rough estimate of the budget amount that might be required would be around \$5.00 per participant.

VIII. New Business / Action Items

- A. Mike Unser and Phil Edinger and several other iris experts have been working on the HIPS Distinguished Legacy Award. After discussion, the name of the award was changed to the HIPS Legacy Iris Award to clarify it was for an iris, rather than a person. The idea originated in 2008 or 2009 when AIS requested that HIPS come up with an award for a historically under-recognized iris. The idea was brought forth again last year.

The selection committee came up with the following criteria for the under-recognized iris. It was determined that the iris had to have a legacy of: 1. Progeny, 2. Survivability, 3. Artistic Value, and 4. Availability. The award committee determined that the award should go to Amas, the first cold-hardy, tetraploid iris.

The announcement of this award will be made at the same time as the AIS awards. This could be an annual award made by rotating committee members working with a small pool of irisarians.

B. In other new business, Nancy McDonald, editor of ROOTS, announced that Justin Fortunascio had been promoted from assistant editor to co-editor in recognition of the great job he is doing.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Randy Smith to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 p.m. EDT

Respectfully Submitted by
Nina Morris, Secretary