

Gardens

The 2018 AIS and SLI Conventions will offer visitors tours of outstanding public gardens in New Orleans, on the Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain and in Baton Rouge. All boast beautiful collections of Louisiana irises, of course, but with much more to see.

In New Orleans, the principal stops will be the Museum of Art's **Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden** in City Park, and **Longue Vue House and Gardens**. The Sculpture Garden is unique. The nearly five acre garden was designed to display



over fifty sculptures by American and other artists. The lagoon flowing through the Garden is landscaped with masses of Louisiana

irises. The **GNOIS Display Garden** with around 120 cultivars and many convention guest irises is located within the Sculpture Garden.

While in City Park, we will steal away to take a brief spin through the work area that houses most of the irises that are part of SLI's **Louisiana Iris Species Preservation Project**. This not a manicured site, but it will offer a unique opportunity to see our native irises as they were once found in the wild.



Longue Vue House and Gardens consists of a majestic classical revival mansion completed in 1942 and eight acres of gorgeously maintained gardens. It was built by Edith and Edgar Stern, N.O. civic activists



and philanthropists. The **Wild Garden** at Longue Vue features a hundred yard, meandering walkway lined with Louisiana irises. The irises were originally planted by Caroline Dormon in the 1930s but the collection has been updated over the years.

A 24 mile trip on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway will lead to dry land only a few miles from **Madisonville** and **Gary and Leigh Anne Salathe's "A Louisiana Pond."** The Pond, which has it's own Facebook page, is a subdivision detention pond turned by Gary into a place to showcase Louisiana irises, other native plants, and a habitat for whatever wildlife happens by.

Once on the Northshore, it is a short drive West to the Hammond Research Station of the LSU AgCenter, which focuses on landscape horticulture rather than agricultural crops. The 150 acres nestled among pines is the setting for the evaluation of more than 500 ornamental plants leading each spring and fall to the release of "Louisiana Super Plants." There will be plenty to see, including large beds of Louisiana irises.

Baton Rouge offers two great tour stops, the **Baton Rouge Botanic Garden** and the **Burden Museum and Gardens**. The Botanic Garden will focus on the irises, with both guest plants and other cultivars, many the hybrids of the late Joe Mertzweiller whose efforts lead to the creation of the iris garden.

Burden is a multi-purpose 440 acre LSU facility that includes formal gardens, an arboretum and swamp, ponds, and the unique Rural Life Museum. You will see primarily species and older irises at Burden, but many other interesting things.



Events

Convention Dates

AIS, April 8-13, 2018

SLI, April 12-14, 2018

Sunday, April 8

AIS Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, April 9

AIS Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 10

AIS Committee Meetings and AIS Silent Auction Opens

AIS Section & Cooperating Societies Programs

Judges Training

AIS Welcome Dinner

Wednesday, April 11

Tour Longue View House & Gardens and NOMA Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden

AIS Section & Cooperating Societies Programs

Geek Dinner

Thursday, April 12

Tour "A Louisiana Pond" in Madisonville and Hammond Research Station of the LSU AgCenter

SLI Welcome Mixer

SLI Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, April 13

Tour Burden Museum & Gardens and Baton Rouge Botanic Gardens

AIS Awards Dinner

SLI Hybridizers Slide Show of New & Future Introductions

Saturday, April 14

SLI General Membership Meeting, Iris Symposium, Louisiana Iris Show

SLI Awards Dinner, Silent Auction, and Live Auction

CONVENTION WEBSITE

<http://www.2018irisconvention.org>

HQ



Hilton New Orleans Airport
901 Airline Drive
Kenner, LA 70062

Phone: 504-469-5000 Fax 504-466-5473

<http://www.neworleansairport.hilton.com>

Booking Link: <http://group.hilton.com/American-Iris-Society>

Reservations: 1-800-872-5914, Ext. 1 - Group Code AIS

Room Rate: \$159 single or double, \$174 for a triple, and \$189 for a quad; plus tax

Cut-off date is March 17, 2018

Directly across from the
Louis Armstrong International New Orleans Airport.
Easy access from I-10, about 2.5 miles

Complimentary airport shuttle, hotel parking, and high speed internet in sleeping rooms and meeting rooms.

Convention Registration

There will be a single registration fee covering the two conventions. Events and activities will be arranged separately by AIS and SLI, and registrants are welcome to attend any of them. Some events are covered by the registration fee, but for others, such as the dinners, there will be a separate charge. When registering for paid events, note that the program at some will involve both organizations and some will involve only AIS or SLI.

Full registration for all official events will include:

- Bus transportation to six gardens
- Three garden tour lunches
- AIS Welcome Dinner and Awards Dinner

The registration form will be available soon at:
<http://www.2018irisconvention.org>

New Orleans

There's no other city quite like New Orleans. Its long history and diverse cultural influences have created a unique blend that is reflected in the music, the food, the architecture and the celebrations such as Mardi Gras.



Laissez les bon temps rouler! The Cajun French expression captures the spirit of New Orleans. The restaurant scene in the City is exceptional and eating out is a great recreational activity. Today there are more home-grown restaurants flourishing in the City than before Katrina despite a smaller population. New Orleans boasts a well deserved reputation as one of the country's best cities for fine cuisine, great neighborhood haunts and iconic local treats as well.



A visual feast. Located on the lower Mississippi and surrounded by water and wetlands, New Orleans had to adapt. Forced to be compact, the architectural styles that evolved present



sights not found elsewhere. From French Quarter courtyards to down-river and uptown neighborhoods, New Orleans has a look and feel that you won't experience at home.

Unique music. Local music has many sounds, but, like the symbolic streetcars, they unmistakably say "New Orleans." Come listen!



N.O. paintings courtesy of Jane Brewster www.janebrewster.com

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS 2018



AIS
April 8 - 13



SLI
April 12 - 14

New Orleans



Hosted by the

Greater New Orleans Iris Society

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