

Southeast Region Report 2018
By Linda Baumgartner

Our iris year started out with a visit from Cathy Egerer and Nancy McDonald from HIPS. We had some quality time with them. Cathy gave a presentation on the history of irises with was very well received.

Our local club, the Elmohr Iris Society, joined HIPS. Our club was founded in 1966, so many of us are growing historic, and have been for a while.

We had a booth at Spencers Spring garden show, earlier in March. We enjoy talking to people about growing irises. Several people have told us over the years that they used to grow some of Dr. Loomis's irises, or their Mom or Dad or grandparent was a great gardener. We pass out the HIPS membership brochure as well. This is working well for us, as we find the category of Historic is now one of our most popular at our annual iris sale.

We have an Historic Display garden at the Dr. Loomis test garden here.

While Cathy and Nancy were in Colorado Springs, we were fortunate to visit Long's Garden in Boulder. Long's Gardens has been in business for 114 years this year. We were very lucky to have Catherine Long Gates give us judges training on how to judge historic. We also toured the gardens where Catherine, the third-generation owner, has been growing historic and introducing them for Colorado hybridizers since some of them were new.

Our AIS sanctioned Iris Show was held in early June. This year will be Elmohr's 40th Iris Show. We have a special award for the best Historic iris. The end of July is our Iris sale. Last year we had 6000 iris rhizomes for sale. We identify, with pictures, all the historic irises as well as all the Dykes medal winners we have. It has made them very popular here. In fact, one of our members is looking to collect all the Dykes winners and grow them in his yard.

I am also a member of the Mountains and Plains Iris Society in Denver, so I try to get to all of their meetings to keep in touch with HIPS members who live there. Being on the AIS Region 20 board of directors also keeps me in touch with Iris growers. I am hoping to tour Susan Flow's Historic Garden this spring.

Hoping 2019 is a wonderful year for all our gardens.