

HIPS NORTHEAST DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2017

I was fortunate to attend the AIS National Convention in Des Moines in 2017, and participated in the HIPS activities there. My other activities included inventorying my own collection and submitting an annual list of cultivars I grow to the HIPS Membership Historic Holdings Database. I harvested and donated approximately 160 rhizomes of 50 varieties to the annual HIPS sale. I also contributed a goodly number of historic to my own affiliate's rhizome sale.

In late fall another Region 2 irisarian and I journeyed to the remnants of a deceased member's garden to inventory what had survived there. Unfortunately, the garden had been neglected after the irisarian's death, which had occurred 2 years earlier. Adding to that misfortune was the fact that the area had suffered a severe drought the previous season, and was also located in an area of extremely sandy soil. The drought was severe enough that farmers in the area were eligible for federal government assistance due to crop losses. Since the irises in the garden had been primarily beardless irises, there was little left to inventory. To complete the damage, markers were gone or mostly illegible, and it was impossible to verify the few straggly plants left. In short, it was an excellent illustration of how quickly iris gardens can vanish when they are no longer tended.

This was my final year as NE HIPS Director and I am glad to have served, but welcome "new blood" to the position, and offer to assist in any way I can.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Stiefel