

HIPS Publications Chair report for 2016

I accepted the appointment of HIPS Publications Chair in March 2016. I sent an introductory email to Susan Boyce and arrangements were made by her to ship the storefront items within a reasonable amount of time.

In late June, approximately 12 boxes were received, unpacked, counted and arranged in filing cabinets and overflow boxes. An electronic spreadsheet was built to track the availability and sale of each item as well as a system of hand-written ledgers as backup documents. When the inventory of the items was completed, a copy of it was sent to the President and BOD for review. In this initial report, any known missing items and items with few copies were highlighted.

I contacted our webmaster in early summer and was given access to the storefront as an Administrator. Several pending orders were pulled from the inventory and prepared for shipment.

While filling these pending orders, I discovered that there were two items that required reprinting: *GARDEN IRISES* and *POGONIRIS*. Another item, *COMPREHENSIVE CHECKLIST FOR ARIL AND ARILBRED IRIS*, was completely sold out and there was no Master Copy.

There was a Master Copy for *GARDEN IRISES* so 5 additional copies were easily made. However, the *POGONIRIS* document was a stapled booklet and after obtaining an estimate it was clear that reprinting it would require a considerable expenditure.

After discussion with BOD members it was learned that the *CHECKLIST* had only been authorized for 50 copies per Sharon McAllister on whose research it was based. Bob Pries, via Dorothy Stiefel's request, has attempted to contact Sharon for permission to reprint more copies but so far, we have not heard back from her.

As a result of the discussion, the *POGONIRIS* booklet was replenished with 50 copies. (The printer provided us with both a Master Copy and a flash drive of the document.) And the *CHECKLIST* was removed from the store front offerings.

Early this fall HIPS obtained 50 *Bliss Irises* books signed by the author, Anne Milner. Anne donated one book to our organization and it has been set aside for the archives. 41 copies of the book were sold and shipped.

In early October, I learned that HIPS wanted to have themed gifts in the HIPS shop for a Holiday shopping Mart. Several items were found, purchased and listed on the store front. 25 additional *Bliss* books were ordered. The rest of the offerings consisted of a flash drive of all copies of *ROOTS*, a refrigerator magnet and Iris note cards. As of today, we have had only 2 purchases. Perhaps, in the future, we can investigate additional ways to advertise the availability of these items.

Because of the learning curve related to the responsibilities of this position, I have started a Book of Business that details step by step guidance on what is required and how to do it. It is a work in progress and as I understand more about the expectations I will add additional instructions. Also there is more specific detail that needs to be added but at least it is a start.

Not related to this position, but related to the HIPS mission, I organized and managed the 2016 Rezac rescue. This has been extensively written up in ROOTS. However, recently I did learn that my networking through the Mountains and Plains Iris Society (MPIS) group in Denver has netted HIPS a treasured opportunity.

In May, the Denver MPIS group was invited to view the Lankow display garden at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG). That day, I approached Angela Jewett, one of the horticulturists overseeing this project and told her about what we were doing in Nebraska. I began to include her in the correspondence for the Rezac rescue. The DBG was intrigued and eager to learn about irises since they had no specific background on individual cultivars.

Recently I received an email from Angela; the DBG had requested and received a grant to assist and acquire Rezac irises this year. They are going to partner with us! Doug is in touch with Angela and he will move this partnership forward. I will concentrate on the 2017 Rezac rescue.

Lastly, I supported the HIPS rhizome sale shipping 3 large boxes.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan A Flow
Publication Chair