

HIPS Board of Directors Editor's End-of-Year Report for 2016

In 2016, I gathered and edited articles, selected photographs, and did layout for two 44-page issues of *ROOTS*. We heard from many voices, with articles or columns by at least ten different people in each. Topics ranged from iris and gardening education through activity reports and thoughtful gardening philosophies. My editorial goal is to have a wide range of pieces in each issue, so iris gardeners at all levels of experience can find something to enjoy and learn from.

Our new printer, Sundance Press, did a much improved job of photo reproduction. Of course this can never be perfect unless the printer has an open bloom of the flower to compare the color with, but that limitation recognized, Sundance is doing a fine job for us. Gene Mandish, our customer service representative there, is so easy to work with and full of good ideas to help improve production and keep costs down.

I thank Phil Edinger, as always, for vetting the iris photos, and Janet Smith for working her photo magic on them to prepare them for press. I also thank all of our text and photo contributors, who give so much of their time to make *ROOTS* an interesting and informative read.

Looking forward, I am excited by the possibilities embodied in the new HIPS email newsletter. That newsletter will allow us to save our glossy color bulletin for illustrated articles and columns. Pieces that require no illustration are better presented in the email newsletter—always with the option for a plain black-and-white newsletter sent via postal mail to members who do not use computers. Our annual vendor list, annual Treasurer's report, and HIPS Board of Directors meeting minutes are examples of pieces that needlessly occupy many pages of our full-color *ROOTS*. Moving these to the newsletter will allow me to drop the size of *ROOTS* back to the more usual 36 pages without giving up illustrated content.

I look forward to continued exciting content for *ROOTS*, as HIPS becomes ever more active in rescuing and preserving historic irises. Enthusiasm is contagious, and the more successful efforts we report in *ROOTS*, the more members will be inspired to participate.

Nancy McDonald, Editor