

HIS Southwest Region Report for 2017

2017 was a quiet year for me as SW director. I am vice president of my local Elmohr Iris Society, and serve on the board of AIS District 20.

I attended all board teleconference meeting this year. I was able to share some rare irises with other GG members, which was great fun.

I attended and judged at the Denver and Colorado Springs AIS Spring Iris Shows. These were two great opportunities to pass out HIPS brochures and talk to interested members of the public, who are also fans of the oldies.

I volunteer many hours of weeding to the Elmohr iris Society as we maintain the DR Loomis Memorial Garden here in the Springs. We also have a HIPS display garden there. It has been my particular baby, and I am happy to say that this is year number three for it.

Our Elmohr Iris Society sale continues to grow every year. We think we had over 6000 rhizomes this year. Many of those are historic. This July is our 52nd year as an iris Society, and our Iris show brought in the most money ever.

Since we are such an old club, we have many members who are in their 80s and 90s, who are growing some old irises. At our sale this year we identified all the Dykes winners, as well as all the historic. We find we have many customers who are looking for them. We also bagged up some Historic Irises, labeled with name and year, and sold them as Historic grab bags.

I was able to help rescue some oldsters, named and species, from a local Irisarian who was downsizing and plant them in my home garden to save them for future share outs.

Also attended two meetings of the Mountains and Plains (Denver) Iris club, which I love to do.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baumgartner