

Southwest Regional Director's Report for 2016
Submitted by Linda Baumgartner

Activities included:

Maintaining the Elmohr Iris Society's HIPS bed at the Loomis Test Garden in Colorado Springs.

Attended the Spring meeting of the Mountains and Plains Iris Society in Denver. I am a member there too. I gave a little intro to the members there about HIPS and passed out HIPS brochures. Also met Susan Flow in person.

Chairman of the Elmohr Iris Society's AIS flower show the first Sat. of June. Passed out HIPS brochures and talked to the public about historic irises. We had many historic entries, in both adult and youth categories.

Did my final apprentice judging at the Mountains and Plains AIS flower show in Denver at the Denver Botanic Garden later in June. Many historic entries. Saw some blooms that I have only read about in books.

Attended a special viewing of the Lankow Iris Collection at Chatfield campus of the Denver Botanic Gardens in May. This was a special invitation to a preview of the collection issued to local Iris Societies. The gardeners there asked us all to help correctly identify some of the cultivars. Not completely in bloom at that time, but we did find some that were mis-identified. I saw 'Rose Unique', another bloom I had never seen.

Last week end in July brings the Elmohr Iris Society's annual sale. We put out all the rhizomes in boxes, with pictures and a write up of each. We marked all the historic with a bright yellow stick in each box for instant identification. A great idea of 2 of our members were historic grab bags. We sold a number of labeled historic rhizomes in a bag at a discount. This was very popular. Of course, HIPS brochures were available, and we talked to many customers about the oldies.

We rescued some leftover historic from the Mountains and Plains Iris sale. Got 'New Snow', 'Brown Lasso', and 'Snow Carnival', among others.

Speaking of rescues, we did two here in the Springs this summer. The Mom of a soldier who is deployed asked us to move the irises from an Iris bed at a house the soldier and his wife had purchased. They wanted to claim more of the yard for recreation. We dug many irises from a huge raised bed. We planted many of the rescues at the Loomis test garden. I found 'Baby Blue' from 1931 for my GG collection and our HIPS bed, as well as some Schreiners Dykes winners we did not have.

Second rescue was from a charter member of the Elmohr Iris Society, which was founded in 1966. She remembers Dr. Loomis. At the age of 93, her daughters thought she should move to Denver to be closer to family. We helped to dig what she wanted to

take with her. She talked the Assisted Living folks into letting her grow a few irises outside of her apartment. This spring will be her 50th year as an iris collector. We dug over 50 rhizomes to plant in a bed at the Loomis Test Garden. It will be called the Lola Quinn bed. She had some historic which will be planted in the HIPS bed, and some rare historic for my GG collection. Lola also did some hybridizing. I notice that although 'Lola's Delight' is listed in the wiki Iris Encyclopedia, there is no picture, so there is another project!