

Annual Report from Webmaster - 2016

This has been a great year for the HIPS website. We officially launched our site October 2015. The new site gives us many advantages over the old site. We have a more secure, more reliable host, Dreamhost who has lived up to our expectations of quality service and support. Our site is now using a true content management system (Wordpress), where we can easily add new information.

A few of the features that have been added to our website are as follows:

- Enhanced Gallery with search features. The gallery currently has all our old gallery listings and about 170 new ones. Donor information, provenance and vetting information are being added to each image. We are currently going through the alphabet and are more than half way completed. We will continue to add new pictures particularly from our HIPS members at a faster pace once I finish the vetting and provenance information. We invite HIPS members to submit their photos whenever they can.

In addition the gallery will allow searching on a single iris name (or part of a name), will also allow 'Advanced Search' capability (such as search for color or hybridizer), and provide a listing without photos if requested. The old gallery is also available, and will be for a while, but is not being updated with new entries. Eventually as it becomes outdated, it will be discontinued but not in the near future

- There are many other new sections on the site, including 'Iris Basics', the Guardian Gardens program, all of our official business notes, and much more.

- A Members Section has been set up where aside from the Forum, we have downloads of ROOTs for our e-members, our Master Commercial source listing, and our HIPS databank.

Members can now set their own passwords, add their own Avatars and update the membership database with their current information. New members can instantly become members via a Paypal payment.

Indeed, we have come a long way in the past year due to the hard work of a few of our members to make it happen.

This coming year we will continue to enhance the information provided on the site. We have several fun projects we are promoting through the website, including the ongoing PBF study, the new composite photographs project that we will link to the listings, and provide handy identification features of an individual iris.

We also plan a major upgrade of our Membership database to include all HIPS members. Having an online database, including emails, will allow notices and information to be sent via email rather than by snail mail, saving money and time for HIPS.

Expenses for the website for the past year are as follows:

15.00 per month hosting fees which would be 180.00 per year.

Transfer of our domain name for 10.00.

Laetitia Munro