

Iris Encyclopedia Report Fall 2018

Submitted by Robert Pries, Encyclopedia Manager

State Of The Wiki

With approximately 5,000,000 page views each year and roughly 40,000 users the Iris Encyclopedia is the most visible element of AIS. It is the de facto information source for the Iris world and a primary source for most AIS members. With 77,000+ pages it is the most complete resource available.

Work Accomplished;

- During the last 12 months 2,652 pages were added. (this includes items added in the Online Library, new registrations, and a few cultivars that might have been discovered from old references.
- At the same time there were 44,302 edits. (This includes bits of information that were added to a cultivar page and links created to reference other pages)
- Roughly 30,000 new images were added.

Work Continues:

- Adding more excerpts from old catalogs and journals to enhance the information provided by registration.
- It would seem that more than half of all pages now have images. But the percent of newly registered cultivars with images is only about 33% and has been gathered directly from the hybridizers.
- Work on image galleries continues with the yearly top award winners being displayed.

The Future of the Wiki:

- The wiki has the potential for exploring various topics. A wiki user could develop a topic of their interest on the wiki and share it with the Iris world. Being a collaborative platform small groups of users could explore a topic together providing a continually edited topic that would enlighten the Iris world.
- In our electronic age “Whats New” has a new immediacy. R&I’s that come out in 2018 with 2017 introductions are history not News. Many hybridizers have already displayed their work on Facebook a year or more earlier making the R&I irrelevant except as a historical record. Various social media now plays the role that AIS used to play when years ago the R&I came out in January. How could AIS become relevant again? If new registrations were displayed with images each month on the Wki as they were registered, then AIS would have News again. These monthly reports could be compiled to print an Illustrated R&I. I would suggest that this

illustrated work could be the size of one bulletin issue and be a second publication sent to all members. Financially this would be feasible with about a \$4 increase in dues.

- The wiki can and does have U-tube videos on it. This area has pretty much remained undeveloped but there is great potential for judges training classes, programs, etc. to be made available on the wiki.
- The wiki offers a platform for many possibilities. Anyone wishing to show their creativity is invited to experiment.

Thanks to all the wiki workers: Special thanks to Betsy Higgins, Terry Laurin, and John Black.