

AIS_BULLETIN_TOPICS_FOR_DISCUSSION_FALL_2006
November 2006

1. Bulletin Obituary Policy – Current Policy adopted May 22-23, 2006: Obituaries may be published in the Bulletin of The American Iris Society at no charge for persons whose leadership and dedication to the ideals of the Society are of genuine and obvious distinction. Among such persons are: the RVPs, hybridizers who have received at least three Awards of Merit (AM) or one higher award; and Directors or Officers of AIS. The Editor of the Bulletin has discretion to edit all obituaries for length and may publish an obituary for a prominent irisarian who does not meet the criteria stated above. If desired, space may be purchased at the then current rates of publication of an obituary for person (s) not meeting these criteria. The paid obituary will carry the printed statement “Paid for by friends of ...”

Proposal – Remove RVPs from this policy effective January 2007 (excluding those obituaries already written and in the obit pipeline).

Proposal – Establish a separate “Milestones” listing to which people not meeting the above criteria (revised) would be listed with abbreviated write-ups.

Discussion – Our Society continues to age and our numbers of obits are increasing taking up lots of space that, arguably, could be better used for iris articles or iris pictures. Removing past RVPs, where that is the person’s sole qualifying criteria and coverage of which could be more appropriately covered in Regional bulletins, would free up space. “Milestones” could be used for many brief listings such as the following:

A. Sid Dubose (birth/death) Long-time iris and daffodil grower and hybridizer from Stockton, CA. Co-owner of Melrose Gardens with the late Ben Hager. Winner of the 1960 Debaillon Award for ‘Amethyst Star’ (Louisiana iris) and the 1977 Morgan Award for ‘Vi Luihn’ (Siberian iris). Recipient of the American Daffodil Society Gold Medal in 2000 for his then 30-year daffodil hybridizing accomplishments.

B. Steve Moldovan (birth/death) Long-time iris, daylily and hosta breeder from Avon, OH. In the 1960s the British Iris Society president dubbed his then 12-acre terraced garden as the finest in America. He was the recipient of 26 HMs and 6 AMs for his irises. An Ohio State University horticulture graduate, he taught and presented iris and horticulture programs throughout the United States. With his partner, Roy Woodhall, he sold daylilies and hostas by mail order and online at www.daylilytrader.com.

C. Edith Wolford (birth/death) Former AIS First Lady to her husband, past AIS President Leon Wolford from Texas. She was always there in support of his 1978-80 AIS presidency. The 1993 Dykes Medal winner ‘Edith Wolford’ by Ben Hager was named in her honor.

D. Midlands Iris Society (fictitious) of Region XX will celebrate their 50th anniversary in February 2007. Of the original 20 charter members two are still active.

2. Bulletin Cultivar Naming Convention – Our current AIS Bulletin cultivar naming convention is all capital letters as in SEA POWER (Keppel 99).

Proposal – Change our naming convention to single quotation marks surrounding the cultivar name in upper and lower case print as in ‘Sea Power’ (Keppel 99).

Discussion – This change would bring AIS into compliance with the International Horticulture Council standard and the International Iridaceae Conference recommendation. Many of our Sections such as SIGNA, MIS and SJI have adopted this standard.

3. Bulletin Listing of Officers, Committee Chairs, Sections, etc. -- Current AIS Bulletin practice lists all AIS Officers & Committee Chairpeople, Chairs of Standing Committees, AIS Sections, Cooperating Societies, Regions & Regional Vice Presidents in all Bulletins.

Proposal – Print these listings in the January and July issues only.

Discussion -- Many of our members are turned off by the amount of “business” stuff or boilerplate items printed in each issue of the Bulletin. This was one of the serious complaints revealed by the AIS Survey. By removing these listings in the April and October issues the number of pages could be reduced by four -- or these four pages could be used to print more iris articles or iris pictures. Other plant societies have reduced their coverage and one, the American Daffodil Society, only prints their officers and other listings once annually. Some have removed them entirely printing a separate “business” insert. The AIS website can be utilized for this data also.

4. Bulletin Listing of AIS Storefront, AIS Slide Rentals and Digital Programs, Section Slides & AIS Bulletin Ad Rates – Current AIS Bulletin practice lists the AIS Storefront, AIS Slide Rentals and Digital Programs, Section Slides and AIS Bulletin Ad Rates in each issue of the Bulletin.

Proposal – Print these listings in the January and July issues only.

Discussion – Again, too much “business” stuff in each issue. By removing these listings every other issue five more pages could be eliminated or used for more iris articles and pictures. Other plant societies have reduced coverage of such items, preparing advertising rate cards, using the internet and using separate inserts such as AIS does for the AIS Tall Bearded Symposium ballot

5. Reinforce AIS Bulletin Picture Policy – Current AIS Bulletin Picture Policy from the May 23, 1995 and November 4, 1995 AIS Board Meetings is “that color pictures used in AIS publications should be registered, introduced irises, properly published species, historical cultivars, and those used for illustrative purposes and overall garden shots.”

Proposal – Reinforce this AIS Bulletin Policy to delete printing of hybridizer seedling pictures except as part of a specific article regarding seedlings or when used sparingly as part of general garden shots.

Discussion --There is a perception that the use of seedling pictures has been excessive and beneficial to certain hybridizers, namely foreign and west coast United States hybridizers. The AIS Bulletin Editor and the Photo Assistant walk a very fine line to secure appropriate pictures to support the publishing of the Bulletin on a quarterly basis. Irregardless of whether this Committee and Bulletin team agrees with the above perception, it does exist and has been expressed on the east coast, in the Midwest and on the internet. Requests for future pictures should entail earlier planning and picture requests from more photographers around the United States and Canada. This policy does **not** eliminate the use of irises that are in the AIS Awards chain, it in fact **allows** the use of same. It also allows the Editor to use his discretion and good judgement.