

AIS_2006_Photo_Contest

Hello everyone,

Judging of the 2006 Contest photos was completed by early October. The photos received were judged by three judges; Ellen Gallagher, Editor of The Siberian Iris bulletin from Berlin, New Hampshire (Region 1); Glenn Corlew, past RVP of Region 14, Emeritus Judge and avid photographer who resides in Walnut Creek, California, and Kenneth Coleman of Boise, Idaho (Region 11), another avid photographer who has a website, C. Iris on Pond. The photos were numbered without identification of the exhibitor's name and shipped to each of the judges. The judges' scores were combined and tallied to determine the Winners and Runner-Ups. Each of our winners are receiving a newer introduced iris from a Region 13 hybridizer and the 1st place winners are receiving an AIS annual membership or extension. I think our three judges did a wonderful job in selecting our top Winners and Runner-Up photos!

After the judges scores were tabulated, the names of the winners and runners-up were sent to John Ludi, and photos and bulletin article has been sent to Bruce Filardi. Terry Aitken has informed me, through Region 13, due to the lateness of the shipping season, all of the hybridizers were shut down for the season and unable to ship award rhizomes except to two contestants in southern climates. Thankfully, he has made provisions for alternate shipping dates next year.

A website is on-line for viewing the contest winners at <http://www.aisregion14.org/2006-Contest.html>.

Because we had so many great photos, I have taken a percentage of photos receiving high vote tallies and presented them as Honorable Mentions on the AIS Photo Contest web site. Permission was obtained from the contestants to display their photos. I think you will enjoy seeing what the photographers were able to capture with the camera lenses! The photos are simply inspiring. I'm hoping some viewers will get inspired as well to join AIS.

The contest has been a lot of fun. It was great to work with the three judges, even though we did it long distance. Ellen Gallagher, from Region 1 sent me this note, "When Kitty asked me to be one of the three judges for the AIS Photo Contest, I thought that sounds like fun...sure, be glad to do it. Little did I know how much difficult work it would entail mainly because of the volume of photos but, more importantly, because of the high quality of the photos. We have a lot of fine photographers in AIS and they submitted some of their finest work. All in all, it was a heady job and over 90% (in my estimation) were extraordinarily fine photos. They captured interest, they were exceedingly well presented and the quality was humbling to this very amateur photographer. "

The provider I use to host web sites, charges only \$6.50 for additional domain names. I'm thinking it would be good to get a specific domain name which says "AISPhotoContest.org". Once it is set up, it will allow the internet crawlers who search for web information for indexing purposes, to index "us" by the description of "photo contest". Then if people use their search engine to look for photo contests, they might very well find us, quick and easy. If you use those words now, you will find some very fabulous photo contests; e.g. nature photo contests, there is a good horse photo site, and so on. I think it may be a way to draw people to iris and AIS.

I am requesting the following:

1. Approval in concept of a specific Domain name for the AIS Photo Contest.
2. Approval to repeat the contest for 2007.
3. Approval of a minor budget item for costs (matting, poster materials, easel rentals, if necessary) to display photos at the 2007 AIS convention, estimated to be \$200 or less.

I've enjoyed coordinating and handling the contestant's photos, and thank you for the opportunity to have chaired the contest this year.

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