

AIS YOUTH REPORT
 FALL 2008

Currently there are approximately 250 youth members. Two new Classroom Iris Projects have just started, one involving 4th 5th and 6th grade classrooms at a school in Missouri, The City Academy, and the other one is on Mercer Island, Washington. The interesting thing about the Mercer Island CIP is that they are concentrating on Beardless Irises to begin with. Region 1 has had the most individual growth thanks to the efforts of Linda Ridlon, Region Youth Chair.

Tom Gormley has been very cooperative in providing me with new youth names as soon as he has processed them. This makes my job so much easier, since I can get their Youth packet mailed within days of their joining.

Jean and Jim Morris have been very busy with a new project that Jean calls the “Storybook Iris Garden”. She has located irises that are mentioned in childrens’ storybooks and created a garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden and at The City Academy school. Hybridizers and others have been very cooperative in providing Jean with the irises. Hopefully this will encourage children not only to read the books but also to grow the irises named in the stories.

Other “themes” could include ‘Animal Alphabet’ (and no, it would not contain ONLY Kasperek irises!), ‘Weather Wonders’, and ‘Rainbow Colors’. As long as the hybridizers keep coming up with creative names, there is no limit to the possibilities.

The AIS Youth Program is an ever evolving entity and I welcome all comments and suggestions to help it become even better.

At this time I would like to request \$150 from the General Youth Fund to help cover the cost of the cash prizes awarded in the annual Coloring Contest. This year there were 51 entries.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Deaton, AIS Youth Chair

