

October 29, 2009

Re: AIS 2009 Photo Contest

Greetings to all!

Our 2009 Contest has been judged and an article about winners is scheduled for the October bulletin.

The photos were judged by three new judges. Our first judge, Janet Hill, resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and was our 2008 Winner of the Close Up category, and had a couple of Honorable Mentions. She has combined her love of flowers with her photography hobby for the last 30 years.

Our second judge was Aaron Skiles. He entered our first contest in 2006 as a Youth exhibitor, and went on to be our 2008 winner in the Art/Macro category. Aaron began his first garden from irises dug from his great grandmother's garden. He won a number of photography contests in high school.

Our 3rd judge was Lynn Williams, currently the RVP of Region 14, and she resides in Willits, California. She discovered her love for photography when she minored in fine arts in college and has taken additional training in photography at a private studio.

I have had a couple of requests from Regions who were planning to hold Photo Contests at their regionals. Guidance was given to them so they could use rules similar to the rules we have for the National contest.

This year I want to discuss correspondence I receive from our exhibitors. The biggest request I receive, is "when will you post the winning photographs?", or "how soon will we know the winners?". Our exhibitors are waiting anxiously to hear the results. They are very appreciative of being able to see the group of the best photos, and I've received many thank you's for having the honorable mention photos on the www.irisphotocontest.org. Please visit the site and enjoy the photos!

This National Photo Contest is a wonderful way to promote the American Iris Society and encourage participation in the joy of irises from both AIS members and non-AIS members alike. We must seek ways to improve promotion of the Contest itself.

I recommend the development of a seamless interface or minimal interface via a link from the AIS Website, as no interface currently exists at the AIS Website. With the development of the new Wiki website, a potential exists there for an additional interface. I will continue to communicate with AIS Sections and all Regions to encourage them to provide links to the Photo Contest as well. A Google search will take one directly to the contest website.

I ask that the following motion be considered:

“That announcement of contest winners and honorable mentions be completed on websites in as timely of a manner as is reasonably feasible. That website interfaces and/or links be enabled as is reasonable possible, with an eventual goal of having them as seamless as possible.”

Anyone with ideas for improvement of the photo contest, please do send them to me. Each year I am looking for new judges with photography experience. If you know of someone to recommend, please send me your recommendation.

I regret I won't be attending the Fall Board meeting, and hope you all have a great time!

Warm regards,

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