

## National\_Collections\_Display\_&\_Test\_Gardens\_committee\_report\_Spring\_2011

Due to my task of repairing the Iris Encyclopedia, I have not had as much time to spend on the work of this committee as I liked. But the limited Progress is this;

- I have been in touch with 4 botanical gardens who are interested in creating Iris display gardens that are consistent with their missions and overall landscape design. Although these are in very formative stages, they potentially could be good for attracting people to Iris and developing better working relationships with the botanical and horticultural communities.
- I have begun work on a set of criteria for Display gardens and have received some input from a new member of my committee George Boyce the famous actor and regional director. I am looking for others who have an interest in this area.
- It has been suggested that we develop a garden placard indicating a garden to be an official AIS display garden. Missouri Botanical garden has such for other garden areas like the Daylily Societies beds.
- A useful concept, that maybe developed with the board's approval, is a cadre of knowledgeable Irisarians who could provide expert advice in the naming and culture of Irises in the display gardens. I suggest the title Iris Consultant. It may also be useful to develop a training course for Iris Consultants providing some rudimentary knowledge of Iris taxonomy and plant science. My degree would allow me to present this as an accredited junior college course, and there are others in AIS who have this capability also.

Much work needs to be done, and I invite AIS members to consider serving on this committee so long as they have an interest in protecting and preserving Iris, promoting their use in the garden, or educating the public about irises.

Respectfully submitted; Robert Pries