

# Awards and Symposium, Fall 2012

Because of family health issues, work on the ballots and updates of the on-line voting system got started almost three months later than desired. However, things got pulled together in time to avoid any catastrophes.

## Awards

After doing the manual checks (which involve going through two R&I's and comparing the introductions with the list of new HM candidates), I ran two steps of the ballot generation process out of order, and a bunch of iris were listed under the wrong categories. That incorrect ballot was sent out for review on 3/20, and the lack of confidence it inspired led to the final ballot not being sent to the printer until early May. The process has been put into a script so that all steps will be done in the proper order.

The problem of lateness was compounded by the fact that almost 20 ballots were lost in the mail. We will probably never know why, but the fact that several ballots that judges filled out and returned to me had had significant water damage makes me suspect insufficient protection from rain during some part of the delivery process.

The on-line voting process continues to improve. The number of judges using it has increased from under 100 the first year to around 130 last year and over 190 this year, while reports of problems have decreased. That has been a real pleasure to see.

One problem arose because of a late-arriving (but postmarked by the deadline) overseas ballot. It arrived the day after the results had been announced, and knocked two iris off the SIB HM list. After much discussion it was decided that since the list had been published the two iris should be put back on the list of winners. As a result of this it has been proposed that instead of a "postmarked-by" deadline we should have a "received-by" deadline. That would certainly help prevent this sort of problem from recurring.

## Symposium

The Symposium process necessarily got dragged out because of the delays in the other awards, but I expect to have the results complete and sent to John and Kelly by the time of the meeting.

Gerry Snyder  
Awards & Symposium Chair