

Spring 2012 Board Meeting Report

AIS Director Debbie Strauss

Silent Auction

Nick and I have been working diligently preparing for the Ontario Silent Auction. We gathered up the left over items and supplies and organized for the upcoming auction. We received donations from several AIS members, such as Anner Whitehead, Janet Smith, Patsy Howlett, John Weiler's estate and Dave Silverburg (from the AIS library). I mailed out forty-six letters to hybridizers and iris gardens asking for iris donations for the silent auction. To date, I received donations from Jim Hedgecock/Comanche Acres, Nancy Price-Dave Silverburg/Abbey Gardens, Dyna Hermann/Schreiner's, Denise Steward-Anita Moran/Snowpeak Iris, Joe Ghio/Bayview Gardens, Marty Schafer-Jan Sacks/Joe Pye Weed's Garden, Lesley-John Painter/Napa Country Iris, and Hugh-Jennifer Stout/Stout Gardens at Dancingtree. Thank you to each of them for their generosity.

I made the iris coupons for the donated iris, and prepared the database program for keeping track of the items, the bidders and the sale of the items. Making decisions, like minimum bids, what to package together of the books, bulletins, flyers, etc was difficult. So thanks to everyone that answered my emails questions. I made silent auction flyers with photos of some of our items for tables and section meetings and posters about the silent auction to post around.

I am adding a new area to the silent auction next year in Dallas. I am asking each AIS Region to prepare a basket for the silent auction. Each AIS Region VPs will be asked to be in charge of preparing a basket from donations from their local affiliates. The basket can be anything that they want. It can be a themed basket, like a "Crazy for Coffee" basket filled with coffees, creamers, cups, etc, or a "CuCu for Cocoa" or "Cravin Chocolate", etc. Or it can be a basket full of iris items, "Rainy Day" basket with Daniel Steel books, tea and cookies. Maybe each region would like to make a basket full of items that are unique in their region-local cheeses, wines, corn, etc.

Fall regional meetings would be a good place for members to bring their items and get the basket made (if items are perishable) or plans can be made of what to put in it and when and how to get it to Dallas. I am going to start the publicity for this endeavor, by giving letters out at the RVP meeting and sending letters to the local affiliates in the final show reports. I also plan to make a standing poster to go with the baskets that show the location of the region that donated it.

Again, remember when you are cleaning closets, drawers, boxes, or garages please save any iris objects, iris books, catalogs, bulletins, etc for the AIS Silent Auction. You can mail them to my home at any time of the year.

We will need many volunteers to work the silent auction, so if you find an hour or two please come on down and help out...after you bid on our goodies.

Again, I would like to thank Jill taking in any mailed donations.