

2014 Photo Contest

Fall 2014

Janet Smith

The photo contest was successful with 93 adult entrants and 7 youth entrants, some from Spain, Romania, France, Poland as well as the USA. The judges were Judy Keising, Jan Lauritzen, and Elledan McLeester. As a thank you I personally sent each of them rhizomes I purchased myself.

Every year except 2011 when the convention was held in Canada we have used the convention guest irises as the prizes for the winners and runners-up.

Last year Jim Morris sent out rhizomes to the winners and runners-up and I found out later folks did not receive the introductions as mention in the rules but rather much older irises. A few were unhappy about that.

However, this year there was a huge problem and it is time to address if we continue to use convention guest irises at all. I have not heard from Bonnie Nichols what the total cost was to send out the rhizomes from the convention, but it was my understanding that there were extra costs involved especially to California. It seems there had to be a special certificate sent along with the iris, an extra \$30 each, as well as the shipping fees.

I discovered in September none of the runners-up received their rhizomes and have been scrambling to fulfill that obligation including pulling irises from my own small collection. I asked RVP of Tennessee to help with a couple of entrants in Tennessee and that did not come to fruition so I asked the president of Memphis Iris Society to help and so far that is not working. One of the Tennessee winners is not an AIS member which I hope to change, but this is not looking good for this to happen.

Note: Had I known back in July/August this was going to be an issue I could have solved it very easily myself as I had rhizomes to obtain. Now it is September and I am trying to fill 3 more obligations to finish the 5 runners-up who did not receive their winnings. That is not counting the youth who have yet to answer my emails and are not available by phone.

September 26th I called Superstition Iris Garden since they are still digging and thanks to Rick and Roger the last 3 runners-up will get their irises before October 1st. I am thankful they were willing to help.

This has become a HUGE issue and harder work than it should be.

DISCUSSION:

1. Shall the Photo Contest continue if the calendar is no longer produced?
(It is my understanding that this is why the contest was begun, to have photos for the calendar.)
2. Shall the rhizomes continue to be acquired from the convention guest irises?
3. If not where shall they come from as the rules for the contest state winners received current introductions and runners-up introductions within the prior two years?
4. Shall the Photo Contest have a budget to reimburse the folks mailing the rhizomes? Currently if they turn in their receipts Dwayne refunds them from the AIS Digital Program funds.

Respectfully,
Janet Smith, Coordinator

09/27/2014