

AIS First Vice-President Report

2017 Spring Board Meeting

The promotion of the iris as a great garden plant is one of AIS's major goals. Our judges' training stresses the evaluation of all types as good garden plants. However, far too often we see mono-cultures of iris or industrial rows of iris with no companion plantings.

At conventions we typically see few gardens with iris integrated into a larger landscape design. When we do, it usually knocks our socks off. We also have very little recognition for the hard-working host gardeners at convention.

I feel there should be a specific award for integrated plantings at conventions. We could name this for our recent benefactor, Mr. Richardson. It would be based on a popular vote of attendees, with an engraved trophy for the host gardener to keep. These trophies, if done in acrylic or Lucite, are not expensive and can be easily designed and engraved. The AIS Awards Chair would be responsible for the purchase and engraving. A cost ceiling could be set. I have seen some attractive ones in the \$40 range.

The prize could be limited to non-commercial gardens since we really want the general gardening public (who have no staff to maintain beds) to see what they can do with iris and companion plants.

With these things in mind, I make the following motion:

Motion:

AIS establish a convention award, the 'Richardson Prize' for the best integrated non-commercial planting at an AIS Convention garden. The prize will be awarded annually to a non-commercial host garden based on popular vote of convention attendees. An integrated garden is defined as a garden bed composed of iris and companion plants that displays the iris to their best effect as a landscape plant. The prize shall be an acrylic or Lucite trophy engraved with the award name, year of award and host garden name. The AIS shall assume the cost of the award.

Respectfully,

Jody Nolin