

SLI 2009 Convention General Information

Convention applications must be received no later than March 23rd, 2009!
Applications received after March 23rd will be accepted on a space available basis.

Hotel

The Holiday Inn located at 102 Lake Street, Shreveport, LA, will be the host hotel for the 2009 convention. You should make your reservations directly with the hotel. The hotel is holding a block of rooms specifically for the convention until March 23, 2009. The convention rate is \$92.00 per room plus tax. Check in time is 3:00 PM and checkout time is 11:00 AM. The hotel can be reached at (318) 222-7717 (or 1-800-HOLIDAY) or www.holidayinn.com. Mention the SLI convention to obtain the convention rate. Each room has a microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, free hi-speed internet, hair dryer and alarm clock. The hotel fax number is (318) 222-5951.

NOTE: Hotel reservations are separate from convention registrations.

Gardens on Tour

Recommended Accessories:

Cameras, comfortable walking shoes, binoculars and umbrella in case of rain.

Tours will be conducted regardless of weather conditions.

Thursday Tours:

Briarwood–Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, Saline, LA

Tour members will depart the Holiday Inn, downtown Shreveport, at 7:00 AM for a one and one-half hour bus ride to Briarwood, the home of Caroline Dormon.

Caroline Dormon (1988-1971) was a botanist, horticulturist, historian, archeologist, preservationist, naturalist, conservationist and author. She was born at Briarwood, the family home in northern Natchitoches Parish, LA, and was reared in Arcadia, the seat of Bienville Parish. She never married.

Caroline Dormon's friends gathered together before her death and funded a foundation which would perpetuate Caroline's work. Before her death she willed Briarwood to the Foundation for Preservation of the Caroline Dorman Nature Preserve, Inc.

Winter 2008

Briarwood is home to her "bog garden" in which she grew LA irises. At Briarwood visitors will visit Caroline's log cabin which contains some of her original water color pictures and albums full of photographs of Caroline and her beautiful nature preserve. Visitors can expect to see many "wild flowers" and native plants in bloom. Briarwood contains a huge collection of native azaleas, mountain laurel and many different kinds of magnolia trees. To



tour the approximately 40 acres open to the public, visitors will walk down paths and narrow roads through the lovely wooded terrain. Several golf cart "people carriers" are available for those unable to walk the forest paths.

Lunch will be served at Briarwood in a relatively new "meeting house" that is a screened in room with tables and chairs. Visitors will dine on delicious BBQ from "Grayson's" famous BBQ. Lunch and drinks are included in the cost of the tour.

Debbie and Colton Sanders Garden, Ringgold, LA

The tour bus will depart Briarwood at approximately 12 noon for a short ride to the small town of Ringgold, LA, where we will be treated to the wonderful gardens of Debbie and Colton Sanders.

This "family owned land" has had years of hard work put into transforming the house and gardens into a breathtaking home and garden featuring many water features and lots of irises. Colton has dug a large pond (really a lake!) behind the home and many LA irises are planted around the edge of the pond. Visitors will find many "collected" items scattered around the property to fascinate and thrill the creativity in all of us. Quite a few "guest irises" will be found among the many rocky water streams in the front and to the side of the home.

Fleur de Lis: The Journal of the Society for Louisiana Irises

Cookies and snacks as well as drinks will be provided at this location.

Upon completion of this tour, at approximately 3:00 PM, the bus will depart Ringgold for a one hour ride back to the Holiday Inn.

The cost for the day trip is \$40.00 per person and this includes all admissions, lunch, snacks, drinks and the bus expenses. This is a tour that you will long remember.



Debbie and Colton Sanders Garden

Friday Tours

Plantation Point Nursery, Mooringsport, LA

Tour members will depart the Holiday Inn at 8:00 am for a short bus ride to the small town of Mooringsport, LA, located about 14 miles north of Shreveport and located on historic Caddo Lake.

Plantation Point Nursery was started in August of 2002, when owners Bobbie Ann Hutchins and Stanley Schikowitz bought the remaining iris stock from Lone Star Nursery in Garland, Texas. About 5000 LA irises, representing some 350 varieties, were planted at that time. They have multiplied! The nursery has a greenhouse, 350+ varieties of daylilies, a large vegetable garden, young fruit trees, and other plants and wildflowers. The owners retired this last year and are building a private botanical garden. The house they built will be opened for the tour, as will the coffee roasting facility for Stan's other business, Plantation Gourmet Coffee Company. Ron Killingsworth, the general manager for the nursery, also lives there, and his wife Sue's garden and home will be open for tour. Breakfast snacks, coffee and cold drinks



Plantation Point Nursery

will be served on arrival at the nursery, and a catered lunch will be served at 11:00 AM before departing for the American Rose Center.

Gardens of the American Rose Center, Shreveport, LA

Experience nature at its finest when you visit America's largest garden dedicated to roses! Winding paths, babbling brooks and thousands of glorious roses invite you to relax and enjoy the beauty that abounds here. Surround yourself with vibrant blooms and delicious floral scents as you stroll through 20,000 magnificent roses! Discover why the gardens are among America's most valuable treasures!* (*Taken from the web site of the Gardens of the American Rose Center, www.ars.org/ARC/gardens.html)



American Rose Center in Shreveport

The Gardens of the American Rose center and home of the American Rose Society is a 188 acre park consisting of over 65 individual gardens containing in excess of 20,000 rose bushes. New roses are provided each year by America's best rose hybridizers and nurseries.

At the far end of the gardens you will find a "tranquility garden" that contains many Louisiana irises and you will find various irises scattered throughout the property, although none of the irises are identified by name.

There is a beautiful gift shop located on the property. Various soft drinks and water will be available on the bus. There are a couple of "people carrier" golf carts available for those unable to walk the vast distances covered by the gardens.

The bus will depart the Rose center at approximately 3:00 PM for the thirty minute bus ride back to the Holiday Inn.

The cost of this wonderful tour is \$40.00 per person and includes entry fees at the Rose center, lunch at Plantation Point Nursery and all bus expenses.

Hospitality Room

Even if your schedule does not allow you to partake of the tours on Thursday, please come and join your fellow SLI members in the Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn, downtown, Shreveport, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Come and join other conventioners for good conversation and fun. "Finger foods", wine and other drinks will be provided by the Society for Louisiana Iris. A slide show of iris pictures will be displayed on the "big screen" during the social.

Symposium

Dr. Kevin Vaughn, the famous "weed scientist," author, hybridizer, humorist, and friend, will provide an entertaining presentation and discussion of his "pollen spreading" activities. If you have never met Kevin, you are in for a thrill. His hour and a half presentation will be chock full of wonderful ideas and beautiful pictures projected on the "big screen".

Business Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend the Society's Annual Business Meeting, from 8:00 to 9:00 AM, April 25, 2009, at the Holiday Inn, downtown Shreveport. Check with the reception desk for the room number.

Silent Auction

A popular event of the convention and one that raises money to support the activities of the Society is the Silent Auction. Members are encouraged to donate tasteful and useful items with an iris or horticultural theme. If you have items to donate



contact Wendell Hall at (501) 228-0500 or wendellhallgarden@sbcglobal.net.

Let's make the 2009 Silent Auction a BIG SUCCESS!

Iris Auction

A tradition at the Saturday Night Dinner and a fundraiser for the Society is the Iris Auction. Members who wish to donate plants, either live or in the form of certificates for plants to be mailed, should contact Ron Killingsworth at (318) 996-9969 or retmiagt@dishmail.net. The auctioneer will be announced at the convention.

Judges Training

All American Iris Society judges, anyone thinking about becoming a judge, and those interested in broadening their knowledge, are invited to attend a two hour judge's training session on Sunday from 8:00 to 10:00 AM at a meeting room in the Holiday Inn, downtown Shreveport. This two hour block of instruction will be conducted by Robert Treadway, AIS Judge, hybridizer and "shiner" farm owner from central Arkansas. The topic of discussion will be AIS awards and ballots. Further details will be announced at the convention. This training is free to all interested. Reservations can be made once you arrive at the convention. Breakfast snacks and coffee will be served in the training room.

See You in Shreveport
April 23-26, 2009