The process of speciation is usually not instantaneous, but rather occurs through the gradual buildup of reproductive isolation. During this process, hybridization between the diverging taxa can result in a number of evolutionary consequences ranging from genetic swamping and species extinction, to the introgression of adaptive traits or even the evolution of new reproductively isolated hybrid lineages. The Louisiana Iris species complex provides an excellent opportunity to examine such consequences of natural hybridization at varying time-scales. This complex comprises four widely-acknowledged species that are known to hybridize with one another in nature. In this talk, I will describe a number of experimental and field studies that together provide an in-depth exploration of ecological divergence and natural hybridization in this increasingly well-studied “model system.”