



The Newscast



**Delane Langton at Eagle Ridge Iris Garden,
Billings, Montana**

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"Don't wear perfume in the garden unless you want to be pollinated by bees." —Anne Raver

"Weeds are nature's graffiti." —Janice Maeditere



Iris fulva

Botanical Synonyms: *Iris cuprea*, *I. rubescens*

Classification: Louisiana, Hexagonae, Apogon, Beardless Iris

Common Names: Copper iris

General Description: Height 18"-31" tall, with red, copper, orangish, or yellow flowers. Flowers are 4" to 4.5" across in brick red, rust red, or coppery red, and occasionally yellow. Flowers generally drooping, occasionally showing a slight flare.

Distinguishing Features: Rhizomes are 4 to 5 inches long and do not exceed 3/4" in diameter. The anthers often extend beyond the tips of the style arms, a characteristic unique to *Iris fulva*.

Preferred Habitat: Open wetlands, sunny streambanks, partial shade to full sun. Swamps, streams, canals, and roadside ditches. Grows best in fertile soil rich in organic matter.

Hardiness: Estimated Zone 3-10

Native Range: USA (Mississippi River Valley)

Additional Comments: Does not tolerate dense shade or brackish water. This species has performed exceedingly well for me in Zone 6 with no winter protection, even plants that were wild collected in the Deep South (USA). It has done best when grown in a pond rather than in a garden bed. (D. Kramb)

References:

1. Species Iris Group of North America - <http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Iris-fulva>
2. U.S Forest Service - https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/beauty/iris/louisiana/iris_fulva.shtml

Iris fulva

photo by
D. Kramb



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March Issue—31 JANUARY August Issue—30 JUNE

Notes From The Region 4 Vice President

It was a busy spring for me with going to the wonderful Regional Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. The gardens were varied and delightful, and it was nice to see the host gardens for the first time. After the Regional, I was off to judge two iris shows and then I began a planned family vacation. I picked up my baby sister, Ginny, in Omaha. We went to the Arch in St. Louis and were introduced to White Castle, a restaurant known for its sliders. Wow, what a great food stop! We went to Legoland® and found we needed a child to get in. We tried to borrow one from the school group waiting to enter, but no one wanted to allow us to use one. Disappointed, we were off to our next stop, the Evel Knievel Museum in Topeka, Kansas, which we were lucky to see since it is being relocated to Las Vegas. The Wizard of Oz museum was next on the list of places to see. In the rear was a theater and we almost got lost in the movie that was playing since Dorothy had just found the Yellow Brick Road. The movie still had the same pull as we experienced as children, and it was a struggle to leave. Just down the road was nothing less than the Oz Winery. After tasting wines like “Flying Monkey”, “Drunken Munchkin”, and “Aunt Em’s Prairie Rosé”, I chose some “Flying Monkey” for my daughter-in-law.

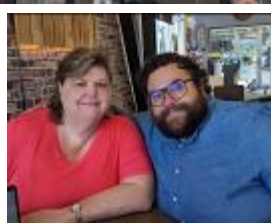
Missing several stops due to injuries and people not at home, we made it to Colorado to see my oldest sister and her kids. I was also there to see the gardens of Elizabeth and Kimberly Rieniets. I will write up their gardens for the spring Newscast. We learned we needed to go to California to deal with the aftermath of my sister-in-law’s death. There was paperwork and decisions all the surviving sisters needed to help our nephew make. Leaving California, we headed to Idaho and stopped for lunch at “The Pig Bar-B-Q and Pub”. It was delicious. I visited Sutton’s Iris Gardens and the Garden of Jeanette Graham, who invited me to her garden after reading in the last Newscast that I would be in the area. Jeanette and her husband took us to where Evel Knievel tried to jump the Snake River (he failed) and then to Shoshone Falls, also on the Snake River. The main reason for stopping in Idaho was to visit my nephew, Albert, whom I hadn’t seen in over 15 years. Ginny and I laughed at the name of the restaurant he chose to meet us at. “The Biscuit and Hogs” had a sign on the door inviting us to “Release your Inner Pig”. The breakfast we were served barely fit on the trashcan lid-sized plate.

In Montana, we were able to visit the gardens slated for the 2025 AIS National Convention, but first we were side tracked by Bear Encounters. In Billings, Delane Langton and Jane Tibbs were wonderful hosts at a barbecue in their home garden. You can read more about the 2025 gardens in this issue. We also visited one of the extra trips at the Little Bighorn Battlefield. For those planning to attend the 2025 Convention in Montana, this optional tour is worth taking.

Region 4 is going through a flux. When I returned home, Sue Shackelford submitted her resignation as the Judges Training Chair. Last fall Region Treasurer Carol Warner also submitted her resignation. Expect calls from the nominating committee. Hopefully, you can fill one of those slots. I would also like to see if we can fill the Youth Chair and Median Chair for the Fall Regional Meeting.

I hope your summer went well and your gardens bloom riotously as you make plans to add or remove plants. As always, I welcome any suggestions on what you might like to see in your Newscast.

Anita Moran
Region 4 RVP



*Iris hexagona***Botanical Name:** *Iris hexagona***Classification:** Louisiana (Hexagonae), Apogon, Beardless Iris**Common Names:** Dixie Iris, Prairie Iris**General Description:** 12-35 inches high, with bluish purple, lavender, or white flowers with yellow signal. Flowers are 4" to 4.75" across in lilac, shades of blue, and rarely white. Flowers are generally flaring. The flower stalk is stout, four feet tall or less, erect, strictly or slightly zigzag. In the wild it grows in wet, shallow, sunny areas such as marshes, ditches, swamps, and streams or riversides of the coastal areas. Toxic to cats, dogs and horses.**Distinguishing Features:** Rhizomes are stout, greenish, and wide, creeping up to 12 inches. Flowers are peculiar in that they last for several days without wilting.**Preferred Habitat:** It prefers full sun; however, it can tolerate some shade and moist to wet acidic-rich soils. It can grow in several inches of water; so is perfect for that low spot in the landscape that never drains, a bog garden, or a pond garden.**Native Range:** Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Southeastern USA.**Hardiness:** Zones: 6b to 9b, possibly colderSIGNA - <http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Iris-hexagona>AIS - <https://wiki.irises.org/Spec/SpecHexagona>N.C. Cooperative Extension - <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/iris-hexagona/>Gardenia Country Garden - <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/iris-hexagona>
Plant Delights Nursery - <https://www.plantdelights.com/products/iris-hexagona>

Iris hexagona photo by H. Wolford

From The Editor

Happy summer, everyone. I have decided to start a new series and I could use some help. I want to start to impart knowledge to the newest members of our society. I am beginning with the colors and patterns most often found in the iris world. I would like to invite some of the judges and growers to take a shot at writing an article for those new to irises. Some of the topics I would like to include are: Early Spring Care of Irises, Planting Irises, Potting Irises, Diseases of Irises and Their Treatment, Preparing Irises for Sale, Trade or Shipping, Iris and Companion Plants, and How to Treat Newly Arrived Irises. I am sure there are many other topics new irisarians would like to learn, so I leave it up to you.

As we are into rebloom season, please send your rebloom information to Colin Campbell by the first of December so he has time to complete his rebloom report for Region 4.

The majority of visits to the Region 4 website since January included seven issues making it to the top ten downloads from the site. Usually, the majority of downloads include schedules and pictures. It is always nice to see others downloading our newsletter.

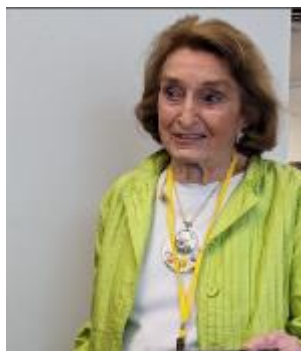
Top 10 Downloads from the Region 4 Website include: Newscast DEC09, MAR2024, MAR10C, Historic Newscast 41_1_1999, CIS SHOW schedule, Historic Newscast 40_3_1998, CVIS BYLAWS, Historic Newscast 37_2_1995, Spring 2024 Regional Meeting Schedule and Newscast AUG2012

Please enjoy this issue of the Newscast and please let me know if there is more you want to know about irises growing and thriving in Region 4.

Miscellaneous Pictures From Spring 2024 Region 4 Meeting



Council House Garden



Dr. (New) Katherine Steele



Alleah Haley and Bonita Masteller preparing stalks for the CIS Show

For New Iris Lovers –Colors and Patterns (arranged by A. Moran)

Welcome, irisarians, to Region 4 of the American Iris Society. This is the beginning of information we will be sharing for you and others to learn more about irises. In this issue we will cover the various colors and patterns that can be found in irises.

Color Classes/Patterns:

Amoena, Bicolor, Bitone, Blend; Broken Color, Glaciata, Halo, Luminata, Neglecta, Plicata, Reverse Amoena, Self, Squalens, Variegata

Amoena: Simply defined an amoena is a flower with white standards and colored falls. It takes its name from *Iris amoena* which was at first believed to be a species but later was thought to be an ancient cross involving *Iris pallida* and possibly *Iris variegata*. Because it was one of the first larger bearded irises to have this color combination it provided the name for this color class.

Examples: 'Wabash', 'Dreaming of Rio'



'Wabash',
(M. Williamson 1936)
Photo by A. Moran



'Dreaming Of Rio'
(Schreiner's 2008)
Photo by Betty Jacobs

Bicolor: A bicolor is an iris with standards of one color and falls of another. It usually has the lighter color in the standards; but when the darker color is in the standards, it is often referred to as a reverse bicolor. Special cases such as amoenas have white standards, variegatas have yellow standards and reddish falls, neglectas have standards and falls the same color but different intensity with lighter color in the standards. Neglectas are often referred to as bitones.

Examples: TB 'Adoree', TB 'Dream About You'



'Adoree'
(B. Blyth, 2009)
Photo by Aitkens Salmon Creek
Garden



'Dream About You'
(T. Johnson 2018)
Phot by Anita Moran

Bitone: This is an iris that has standards and falls of the same color, but the standards are usually a lighter shade than the falls.

Examples: 'Bayberry Candle', 'Smoky Shadows'



◀
'Bayberry Candle'
(C. DeForest 1969)
Photo by A. Moran



'Smoky Shadow'
(R. Tasco 2010)
Photo by A. Moran

For New Iris Lovers –Colors and Patterns (Cont.)

Blend: this color pattern has two or more colors blended into the standards and falls. Many Japanese irises exhibit this color pattern.

Examples: TB 'Polish Princess', JI 'Blushing Snowmaiden', SIB 'Maura'



'Polish Princess'
(A.&D.Cadd, 2000)
Photo by A. Moran



'Blushing Snowmaiden'
(C. Harris, 2000)
Photo by Chad Harris

Broken Color: Broken color has become such a popular color pattern that perhaps it should not be included as a novelty anymore. It should not be confused with irises that show streaking due to virus. The trait is not well understood but a few irises selected hybridizers have developed some spectacular plants. We are attempting to develop a list below of irises with this trait.

Examples: TB 'Orangutan Orange', 'Gnu Again', BB 'Batik', 'Meerkat Manor', IB 'Blueberry Filly'



'Gnu Again'
(B. Kasperek, 1994)
Photo by A. Moran



'Meerkat Manor'
(B. Kasperek, 2008).
Photo by A. Moran

Emma Cook Pattern: A darker ring of color around the falls of the flower is referred to as the Emma Cook Pattern, which is named after this famous ground-breaking cultivar.

Examples: TBs 'Conjunction', 'Alsea Falls', 'Rare Coin', 'Queen's Circle', 'Double Ringer'



'Queen's Circle'
(F. Kerr, 2000).
Photo by A. Moran



'Alsea Falls'
(Schreiner's, 2012)
Photo by K. Brewitt

Glaciata: Glaciatas appeared as segregates out of plicata breeding which carried no anthocyanin pigments (shown as red, purple, blue, or black). The first white ones were referred to as ice-whites because of the purity of color. By 2003 they occurred in white, lemon, and other shades of yellow, pink, salmon, and orange.

Examples: BB 'Immortal', TBs 'Glacier Blush', 'If Not For You', SIB 'Swans In Flight'



'Swans in Flight'
(R. Hollingworth, 2006)
Photo by A. Moran



'Glacier Blush'
(L.&K. Jedlicka, 2010).
Photo by Blue J Iris

For New Iris Lovers –Colors and Patterns (Cont.)

Halo: Most of the time it is easier to see on the flower than to photograph. It is not very common but, when present, can be very striking. It is the dark coloring found surrounding the signal.

Examples: JI 'Embossed', SIB 'McKenzie Bruiser', (SPX) 'Yasha', (TB) 'Plum Pretty Whiskers', SDB 'Orange Arc'



◀
'Orange Arc'
(G. Spoon, 2017)
Photo by A. Moran



▶
'Embossed'
(L. Marx, 1956)
Photo by Chad Harris

Luminata: Another glowing iris type, the luminata, is an iris with a white or yellow base washed over with color so that it appears to glow from within.

Examples: 'Pretty Pansy', 'Daughter Of Stars', 'Moonlit Sea'



'Daughter Of Stars'
(D. Spoon 2001)
Photo by A. Moran



'Moonlit Sea'
(J. Sass, 1943)
Photo by A. Moran

Neglecta: Neglectas are blue, violet, or lavender bitones but the standards are of a lighter hue. This color pattern was first exhibited in 'Neglecta', a natural hybrid that was at first considered a separate bearded species.

Examples: TBs 'Northwest Progress', 'Night Bird'



'Northwest Progress;
(Schreiner's, 1997).
photo by Elladan



'Night Bird'
(J.G. Crump, 2013)
Photo by J.G. Crump

Plicata: Plicatas have stippled, dotted or stitched edges on white or yellow ground. "I love the white ones with the pretty picotee edging the best. "We now have lots of plicatas with pink or apricot ground, and we're working to intensify the depth of color so you can really say 'orange'" Keith Keppel

Examples: TBs 'Cosmic Voyage', 'Drama Queen', MDB 'Dinky Circus'



◀
'Drama Queen'
(K. Keppel, 2002)
Photo by A. Moran



▶
'Dinky Circus'
(P. Black 1998)
Photo by A. Moran

For New Iris Lovers –Colors and Patterns (Cont.)

Reverse Amoena: These flowers have white falls and colored standards just the reverse of the traditional amoenas.

Examples: TBs 'Frontline' (blue), 'Note to God' (pink)



◀
'Note To God'
(T. Johnson 2012)
Photo by A. Moran



▶
'Frontline'
(P. Black 2011)
Photo by A. Moran



'Dr. Bernice'
(Hooper & Co., 1867)
Photo by Mary Hess



'Gypsy Queen'
(J. Salter 1859)
Photo by Mike Unser

Variegata: An iris with red falls and yellow standards. My very favorite photo of this color, below, shows the cultivar 'Supreme Sultan' with its earliest progenitor, the original Iris variegata. Can you believe what modern hybridizing has accomplished?

Examples: TBs 'Supreme Sultan', 'Decadence', 'Barbara Rider', LA 'Joe Pott', MTB 'Bumblebee Deelite'



'Supreme Sultan'
(Schreiner's, 1988)
Photo by Joëlle Franjeulle
Sologne FRANCE



'Joe Pott'
(J. Mertzweiler 2007)
Photo by Kate Brewitt

Self: An iris of essentially a single color. If the falls and standards are of the same color the iris will usually be called a self even if there may be haft marks, shoulders, or beards that vary from the primary color.

Examples: MTB 'Wonder Beard', TBs 'Lunar Whitewash', 'Saturday Night Live'



'Wonderbeard'
(P. Black 2021)
Photo by A. Moran



'Saturday Night Live'
(Schreiner's 1996)
Photo by A. Moran

Squalens: This color class was based upon an early hybrid that was thought to be a species, *Iris squalens* L. . The Latin *squalidus* means dirty, neglected, squalid. The original *I. squalens* was muted in tones with prominent veining and haft marks. the falls were somewhat darker brownish purple and the standards a muted light yellow with purplish stains/veins at the edges.

Examples: MTB 'Gypsy Queen', Dr. Bernice, 'Malvina'

References:

American Iris Society - <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/InfoColorClasses>

World Of Iris Blog - <https://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/2014/12/tall-bearded-iris-color-terms.html>

Chestnut Acrea Iris Farm - <https://www.chestnutacresirises.com/general-iris-info/iris-flower-patterns-colors>

National Gardening Association - <https://garden.org/ideas/view/KentPfeiffer/2299/Iris-Flower-Patterns/>

Exline Iris - <https://exlineirsgarden.com/all-about-irises/iris-patterns-and-colors/>

Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm - <https://mtplesantisirises.com/colors-patterns-japanese-iris>

TREASURER'S REPORT A.I.S. REGION 4 October 14, 2023 to April 26, 2024

Checking Account Balance on October 14, 2023: \$20,076.56

Receipts:

Fall Region 4 Auction:	\$1,724.00
Checking Account Interest:	\$1.06

Total Receipts:	\$1,725.06
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Expenditures:

Computer Software - Anita:	\$265.81
March NEWSCAST:	\$822.06
Epperson Award - Bowl & Engraving:	\$312.43

Total Expenditures:	\$1,400.30
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Checking Account Balance on April 26, 2024: \$20,401.32

2023 Budget For Region 4 of the American Iris Society

Expenditure	Contact	Description	Dollars	Actual	Sub Total
Printing and Mailing	Anita Moran	Two issues of <i>Newscast</i> per year	\$1,500.00		
		March 2023		\$696.00	\$1,729.05
		August 2023		\$880.47	
		Instant Ink		\$152.58	
RVP Travel Expenses	Anita Moran	\$800/yr for AIS Conventions stipend	\$800.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Membership Committee	Ginny Spoon		\$100.00	\$0.00	
Memorials	Board	In Memory donations	\$300.00	\$0.00	
Zurbrigg-Mahan Award	Susan Grigg	Engraved Cup (\$300)	\$300.00	\$205.86	\$231.47
	Awarded to:				
	Shipping:			\$25.61	
Judges	Sue Shackelford	Supplies postage, etc.	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Epperson Service Award	Sue Shackelford	Engraved Silver Bowl	\$140.00	\$312.43	\$312.43
	Awarded to:	Heather Haley, Sheryl Campbell		\$ 50.00	\$362.43
		Late Fee			
Sunshine Fund	Kathy Huneycutt	Get well and sympathy cards	\$100.00	\$0.00	
		Flowers			
AIS Youth Program			\$100.00	\$0.00	
Region 4 Website	Anita Moran	Costs associated with website	\$100.00	\$71.40	\$71.40
		Web Hosting			
Zoom Account		Annual Pro Subscription	\$170.00	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses		New Checks	\$300.00	\$91.42	\$668.52
	Board	Equipment and programs for <i>Newscast</i>	\$600.00	\$577.10	

Total	\$4,610.00	\$3,575.30	\$3,575.30
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Difference	Budget Amount minus Expenses	\$1,034.70
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Submitted by Anita Moran

A Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention in Billings, Montana

by Anita Moran

During my roundabout meanderings through the United States this summer, I happened to stop in Billings, Montana, the site of the 2025 American Iris Society National Convention. I saw all six gardens and one of the optional tour locations. The gardens include Cynthia St. Charles's Garden, DanWalt Garden, Eagle Ridge Iris Gardens, Muriel's Iris Garden, Tina and Daughters Iris Garden (Master Planting), and the Zoo Montana Garden. There was a seventh garden, the Stekenburg Iris Garden, surrounding an apartment complex's vegetable garden. After leaving Billings, Montana on our way to Devil's Tower in Wyoming, we stopped at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. I was awed.

Please enjoy just a touch of what you can expect in Montana in 2025.



The Muriel Iris Garden

As we were closing in on Billings, Montana, I contacted Mr. Delane Langton. He pointed us to visit Muriel's Iris Garden on our way to Billings. When I arrived, Muriel, who has been growing irises for more than 50 years, was busy in the garden with her daughter. Although the temperature was rising, the tall bearded irises were just beginning to bloom. I was happy I would be returning to the garden in a few days. As I walked to the side yard I was greeted with a beautiful clump of MTB



'Bumblebee Deelite'
(J.&G. Norrick, 1986).

'Bumblebee Deelite' (J.&G. Norrick 1986). Muriel and her daughter were busily weeding and allowed me to look around. All the plants blooming looked great and included TBs 'Wabash' (M. Williamson 1936) and 'Grape Harvest' (D. Spoon 2005), and the IB 'Dude' (K. Keppel 2002). The guest bed was in a triangle in the rear of the garden. There were blooms already and more buds were showing. When I returned to the garden a few days later, it looked transformed. The many buds seen on my first visit were now open. The Mitch Jameson IB seedling 7-94 was blooming well as was Don Murphy's TB seedling DM13-05-01.



'Wabash'
(M. Williamson, 1936)



1 year old Guest Beds at
Muriel's Garden

I joined the members of the Big Sky Iris Club for a Sunday outing to the various gardens we would tour in 2025. We all met at Muriel's Iris Garden. The difference was like night and day as the buds seen before all seemed to be opening for our visit. Among the newly opened were tall bearded irises 'Baltic Star' (H. Stahly 1994), 'High Class' (P. Black 2003), 'Epicenter' (J. Ghio 1994), and 'Casting Crowns' (R. Van Lier 2006). As I moved through the garden, I was escorted by a four-legged worker who made sure I was not up to some nefarious intent.

In the guest bed, newly opened irises included the quarter arilbred 'Galactic Gigolo' (P. Black 2023), the tall bearded seedling from George Bacon GB-2016-10-A (aka 'Gavin Creel'), 'Fire in My Veins' (R. Van Lier 2023) and 'Gone Viral' (T. Johnson 2023). On this visit, I was also shown the "back garden" where I saw some old friends like 'Class Ring' (K. Keppel 2010), and my favorite black 'Here Comes the Night' (Schreiner's 2009). I so really enjoyed both visits to Muriel's Iris Garden and I am looking forward to seeing it in 2025.



(OGB-)AB 'Galactic Gigolo'
(P. Black, 2023)



Bacon Seedling GB-2016-10-A



'Here Comes the Night'
(Schreiner, 2009)



'Fire in My Veins'
(R. Van Lier, 2023)

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

The Eagle Ridge Gardens



The following day after we arrived, we traveled through Oz by way of the Emerald Hills, as we passed the Tin Man and his dog Parts. Then we descended into Jurassic

Park along Dinosaur Drive until we reached Eagle Ridge and finally to the garden of Delane H. Langton and Jane Tibbs. I met Delane and Jane when they attended our Spring 2023 Region 4 Meeting when Winterberry Iris Garden would be open to the public for the last time. I quickly discovered how Eagle Ridge earned its name. I am a terri-



ble acrophobic, meaning I fear heights. While walking around their upper garden, I approached a cliff with irises planted very close to the edge. While Delane walked the narrow path easily, I cautiously went close to the edge to get photos and then I moved quickly away, depending on Delane to keep me safe. Jane also watched out for me, but from above; and she encouraged me as I moved about the garden. I have to admit that the view throughout the garden was spectacular. I was hoping the birds I saw off in the distance were eagles but, unfortunately, they ended up being Black Vultures.



Delane is known for his unusual garden art and I was not disappointed when I happened on various metal iris art and a decommissioned motorcycle among the flowers. There were



'Shah Jehan'
(E.W. Neel, 1932)



'Horned Flamingo'
(L. Austin, 1963)

metal cats in a stone bowl and a dinosaur looking over the garden. The home garden had a wide variety of irises from historic like 'Shah Jehan' (E.W. Neel 1932), 'Latin Lover' (Shoop 1969), and the space agers 'Horned Flamingo' (L. Austin 1963), 'Space Dragon' (M. Osborne 1974), and 'Spoon Lace' (L. Austin 1963). Siberians 'Sarah Tiffney' (Schafer/Sacks 1999) and 'Uncorked' (Schafer/Sacks 2002) were doing well among the companion plants in the garden. TBs 'Silver Streak' (M. Sutton 2006) and 'Viking Dancer' (B. Blyth 2006/07) were also among the collection. Looking down from the top of the hill, the guest beds were visible, and a deer was making herself at home with the grass and browsing around the beds.



'Uncorked'
(Schafer/Sacks, 2002)



'Silver Streak'
(M. Sutton, 2006)



'Viking Dancer'
(B. Blyth, 2006/07)



Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)



◀ Lynda Miller
MTB Seedling
2119C

Driving down the hill we saw an old truck on display as garden art, and Delane had made further use of old vehicles by making tailgate benches overlooking the guest beds. Many of the tall bearded guests were putting on a show for my visit including the broken colors 'Boom Shakalaka' (R. Van Liere 2023), 'Barney in A Blender' (R. Moore 2021), 'Modern Madness' (D. Toth 2021), and 'Sheer Panic' (D. Toth 2019). The medians were still blooming: border bearded 'Winter Romance' (M. Lockatell 2019), miniature tall bearded seedlings from Lynda Miller (2119C) and Adam Cordes (M8-A), and the intermediate bearded 'Mediate' (M. Sutton 2022) were all trying to outshine the others. Doug The Pug was our constant companion as we toured, including getting close to the cliffs. Always a source of hilarity, he was great to have around for the laughter alone.

As much as I enjoyed the tour, it was time to move on to see other places.



'Boom Shakalaka'
(R. Van Liere, 2023)



'Barney in a Blender'
(R. Moore, 2021)



◀ IB 'Mediate'
(M. Sutton, 2022)



◀ 'Sheer Panic'
(D. Toth, 2019)



Doug The Pug
Shows no fear of any of the cliffs as he romps around the gardens



▶ BB 'Winter Romance'
(M. Lockatell, 2019)

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

The Garden of Cynthia St. Charles

The day after my arrival I continued the tour of the 2025 AIS National Convention gardens. After our visit to the Eagle Ridge Garden, my sister Ginny and I headed toward the garden of Cynthia St. Charles. But first, we had to visit a store called Bottles and Shots. We were looking for Crown Royal Blackberry Flavored Whiskey. Although we were out of luck, Ginny managed to buy some exceptional vintages and as a gag and, just for old times' sake, picked up some Boone's Farm strawberry wine and wild raspberry wine. After leaving the store, Ginny and I quickly discovered that many of the roads and highways in the Billings area were suffering from AKA (Also Known As) syndrome which might not confuse the locals but did put out of towners in a quandary. While the GPS gave road names, the street signs showed route numbers on some signs, the road number on others, or both. This resulted in many wrong turns and questioning our GPS's directions, especially when we turned onto dirt roads. That was the case as we moved toward Cynthia St. Charles's Garden. At the beginning of a cul-de-sac, we saw what was obviously an iris garden. While Ginny went to investigate the garage sale across the street, I headed for Cynthia's front door.



After Cynthia purchased her home, she removed several trees to give her the sunlight she would need to grow irises. After the tree removal Cynthia built her new flower beds directly on top of sod by layering compost over cardboard and then placed her plants as she wanted. Her entire front yard was filled with irises, including the guest irises. She had her own collection in with many companion plants or moved to the backyard. To one side of the front were the guest garden beds protected from the road by a line of mixed companion plants which did not seem to mind acting as a barrier. On either side of the guest iris beds were irises in her collection including MTBs 'Breakfast in Bed' (C. Bunnell 2014) and Dykes Medalist 'Dividing Line' (C. Bunnell 2005). Also in her collection were historic irises like 'Gracchus' (A. Perry 1884) and 'Loreley' (Goos & Koenemann 1909). There were also two of Cynthia's 2018 seedlings out of 'Autumn Wine' X 'One of a Kind'. Among a display of bright orange and black poppies was a nice clump of 'Football Hero' (L. Miller 2015, Dykes Medal 2022) on one side and 'Peaceful Easy Feeling' (R. Van Liere 2015) on the other.

Among the guest irises blooming, were TB seedlings from Rhodes (LR19.05.13) and Langton (18-10-1) and an MTB seedling from Lynda Miller (2119C). Two arilbreds were also putting on a show, 'Galactic Gigolo' (P. Black 2023) and 'Not of This World' (Tasco 2020). Among the tall bearded blooming at our arrival were 'Fizzed Out' (M. Sutton 2023), 'Morning Sun Rayz' (D. Toth 2023), and 'Straight Out of Nebraska' (D. Toth 2023).



MTB 'Dividing Line'
(C. Bunnell, 2005)



MTB 'Breakfast in Bed'
(C. Bunnell, 2014)



St. Charles Seedling
'Autumn Wine' X 'One of a Kind'



Rhodes Seedling
LR19.05.13



Langton Seedling
18-10-1



AB 'Not of This World'
(R. Tasco, 2020).



'Fizzed Out'
(M. Sutton, 2023)



'Straight Out of Nebraska'
(D. Toth, 2023).

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

The Garden of Cynthia St. Charles (cont.)

I was amazed at how well her irises were growing in the muted light filtering through the trees in the backyard. A birdbath was the center of the planting and the gardens wrapped around the backyard and along both sides of a stone path. The visit to Cynthia's Garden was a lovely interlude and I cannot wait to come back next year.



'Sign Of Leo'
(L. Zurbrigg, 1977)



'Splatter Matters'
(J. Painter, 2010)

Meininger 2000) was taking over one corner of the garden and putting on quite a display.

A large clump of allium was blooming giving me a great chance to get wonderful photos of the bees gathering their pollen. A resident stopped and told me that since the garden was put in, she has learned so much about irises. She loved taking her walks including the garden area where



The Garden of Teus Sterkenburg: An Extra Garden



'Codicil'
(S. Innerst, 1995)



'Gnus Flash'
(B. Kasperek, 1996)

Less than three minutes away from Cynthia's Garden is an apartment complex called Starnier Garden. It hosts a vegetable garden for the residents. One resident, Teus Sterkenburg, added an iris garden surrounding the vegetable garden walled in with chain link. Although no guests were planted in the garden, a wide variety of irises from historic to modern tall bearded were present and blooming beautifully.



'Carolina Ruby'
(L. Powell, 1964)

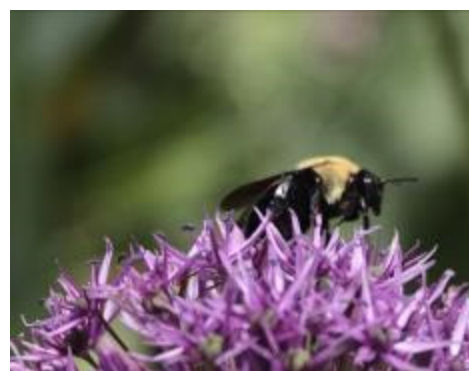


The historic irises including 'Carolina Ruby' (L. Powell 1964), 'Loreley' (Goos & Koenemann 1909), and 'Sign Of Leo' (L. Zurbrigg 1977) were all blooming well in their environment. Other irises blooming were 'Splatter Matters' (J. Painter 2010), 'Codicil' (S. Innerst 1995), and 'Gnus Flash' (B. Kasperek 1996). 'Red Canyon Glow' (L.

◀ 'Loreley'
(Goos & Koenemann, 1909)



'Red Canyon Glow'
(L. Meininger, 2000)



Mr. Sterkenburg taught her more about the irises.

By then it was time to move on and Ginny and I headed for the DanWalt Gardens.

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

The DanWalt Botanica Gardens



A short distance from Cynthia's Garden was the DanWalt Gardens which just received the designation of Botanical Garden. The two-acre garden of perennials, shrubs, trees, fountains, and more, started as a backyard garden, turned event venue, and is owned by Clint and Suri Lunde. The guest iris bed is a small area in the front corner of the garden. I was greeted by a robin who could have cared less if I was headed toward him since he was more interested in the bug he was hunting in the grass.



Some of the seedlings were putting on a nice display including Mitch Jameson tall bearded seedling 2-10, Gary Slagle seedling GDM42-6 with a very unusual bud, my own 18Whh05, and Lynda Miller's MTB seedling 2119B. Other medians blooming were the intermediate bearded 'Impressive' (P. Black 2022) and the standard dwarf bearded 'Stone Ground' (M. Sutton 2023). Tall bearded irises 'Mystical Sunshine' (R. Tasco 2021), 'Stellar Wind' (M. Sutton 2022), and 'Gilded Chocolate' (L. Miller 2022) put on a great show considering they were only one-year plants. For such a small space, the DanWalt Gardens gave a lot for the visit.



Slagle seedling
GDM42-6



Moran seedling
18Whh05



IB 'Impressive'
(P. Black, 2022)



'Stone Ground'
(M. Sutton, 2023)



'Mystical Sunshine'
(R. Tasco, 2021)



'Stellar Wind'
(M. Sutton, 2022)



'Gilded Chocolate'
(L. Miller, 2022)



The Zoo Montana Garden

I think my GPS was confused by the AKA streets since it tried to take me to the zoo by way of waiting for a very long train to pass and then through the back door of the zoo by way of someone else's yard. Backing out of the neighborhood, I was lucky to find the zoo and the members of the Big Sky Iris Club waiting for me at the entrance. Poor Delane was waiting for a response from me to make sure I was coming, but my phone did not deliver his text until I was at the next garden.

Entering the zoo, we walked around a grassy area including a pond with a goose statue and a slide waterfall. As we walked around the pathway, we came to the first irises in a planting around a park bench. A little further along was a planting in front of an elephant statue and a bear statue. In a partially shaded area were the guest irises which looked to be thriving with a little bit of scorch here and there.

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

The Zoo Montana Garden



The plants were blooming well. Again, the seedlings took most of my attention, especially the colorful yellow and lavender Steve Kelly seedling WEMB-19-1. The D13-1-1 seedling from Bob Skaggs was a peach and white tall bearded that was lovely. Elizabeth Rieniets's seedling 24e4-7-21, a pale blue and white amoena, was lovely and the bud of her seedling 28e4-1-21 was very interesting. My own seedling 20DDDas02, a bi-color maroon, was blooming well and it was good to see it thriving in a strange environment. The Lynda Miller MTB 2119B showed off well in every garden and this garden was no different.

The median irises were all putting on a spectacle. Intermediate bearded 'Endora' (T. Johnson 2023), 'Nickel's Worth' (P. Black 2019), 'Besos' (H. Stout 2023), and 'Hungarian Rhapsody' (P. Black 2024), were all special and showing off well. The border bearded offering included the beautiful 'Cowboy Coffee' (M. Sutton 2023), and 'Prairie Song' (L. Meininger 2024) and were growing well. The miniature tall bearded class stole the show with 'Soft Kitty' (L. Miller 2024), 'Little Hero' (E. Rieniets 2016), 'Wonder Beard' (P. Black 2021), and 'Paw Prints' (L. Miller 2022).



'Endora'
(T. Johnson, 2023)



'Nickel's Worth'
(P. Black, 2019)



'Besos'
(H. Stout, 2023)



'Cowboy Coffee'
(M. Sutton, 2023)



Kelly seedling
WEMB-19-1



Moran seedling
20DDDas02



Skaggs seedling
D13-1-1



Rieniets seedling
24e4-7-21



'Wonder Beard'
(P. Black, 2021)

The median irises were all putting on a spectacle. Intermediate bearded 'Endora' (T.

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

The Zoo Montana Garden (cont.)



'Superstitious'
(T. Johnson 2023)



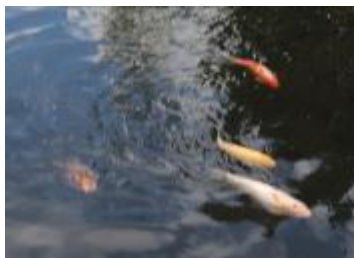
'Class Ring'
(K. Keppel 2010)



◀
Teus
Sterkenburg



Cynthia St. Charles, Delane H. Langton, Joan Miller, Jane Tibbs, Martha Rhodes, Carla Robert, Teus Sterkenburg, Lori Hainey, Muriel Zahm, Jaunice Terrel, Karen Robinson, Michelle Robinson, and Cheri Curry



Tina and Daughters Garden (The Master Planting)

I would never have found the last garden of the day without following one of the members of Big Sky Iris Club. There seemed to be many unnamed dirt roads, and at one time I thought we were driving through backyards. Nope, they were roads that led to a spectacular sight of over 3,000 varieties of irises in their private collection along with the master planting of convention irises.

After perusing the guest bed, Delane guided us to a koi pond that the Water Skippers Pond Club and the Big Sky Iris Club maintained. The various colorful koi seemed to want something to eat since groups of koi came near any time our reflection hit the water. Of course, there were irises including a floating mass of *Iris pseudacorus*. The water went under the walkway allowing the koi to swim in both sides of the pond. A waterfall on one end of the pond added to the resting sounds from the birds in the area - a restful place needing only a few more benches to make it perfect.

As we made our way out, I saw the only animal we had time to see, a wood bison who completely ignored the passing crowd.

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

Tina and Daughters Garden (The Master Planting)



All of this is on an acre of land owned by Tina Muller with a lot of help from her daughters Holly, Heidi, Harmony, and Hailey. A large white pergola guarded entry to the garden which had lots of bloom in both their garden and the guest beds. To make room for the guest irises, Tina moved her median collection behind the house. Heat and fatigue did not stop me from taking my camera and entering the guest area where more than half the guests were in bloom. The garden was laid out so that it was easily navigated and all the irises were visible.



8-91-1, 'Rain of Angels'
(A. Cadd, R. 2024)



Cummins's seedling
13-10-A

The first run-through was to look at the various seedlings, and there were many to enjoy. I'm not sure if the white and pale-yellow seedling 8-91-1, 'Rain of Angels' (Anna Cadd R. 2024), was a seedling or newly introduced but I added it here just in case. Other yellow seedlings include Jim Cummins's seedling 13-10-A, an unusual silver and yellow Van Liere seedling 16RF26, and a bright yellow and white Van Liere seedling 16RK19. Richard Van Liere had two other seedlings: 16SZ2, heavily lined dark purple and lavender, and a nice white seedling 17VQ129.



R. Van Liere seedling
16RK19



R. Van Liere seedling
16RF26,



Van Liere seedling
16SZ2



Van Liere seedling
17VQ129

A mango broken color David Toth seedling 21-128 was really putting on a show for a one-year planting. Seedling 33e5-19-21 from Elizabeth Rieniets was another yellow and silver seedling and nearby was the maroon and pink seedling 304DSB1 from Diana Ford. Don Murphy seedling DM13-05-10 is another red and yellow broken color.

Even the arilbred 'Galactic Gigolo' (P. Black 2023) was growing happily among the other guest irises. 'Asteroid Belt' (J. Hedgecock 2019) drew me with its dark plicata markings. It was a sharp contrast to 'Baby Sarah' (C. Burgard 2018) and 'Foxy Roxy' (D. Toth 2022). 'Patriotic' (P. Black 2023), a pale blue, and 'Peach Dreams' (D. Ford 2022), a pale peach pink, were great contrasts in the garden.



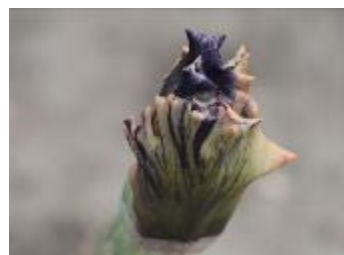
'Asteroid Belt'
(J. Hedgecock, 2019)



'Patriotic'
(P. Black, 2023)



'Foxy Roxy'
(D. Toth, 2022)



'Wild Streak'
(P. Black, 2020).

After a long hot day of garden visiting, Tina provided snacks and drinks under the shade trees lining one side of the garden. Walking the aisles one last time, I noticed a bud of an iris I saw in other gardens, 'Wild Streak' (P. Black 2020). It was so unusual that I was sad I needed to leave and would not be able to see it in full bloom. I cannot wait to see it in person in 2025.

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

Little Bighorn Battlefield

One of the optional tours for the 2025 National Iris Convention in Billings, Montana, was the Battlefield at Little Bighorn. Having never been to the site, Ginny and I took the time to make a stop. We had a time limit since we needed to be at Devil's Tower in Wyoming by 8:00 p.m. that evening, a trip of almost four hours. The site is only an hour east of Billings, so it was an easy decision to make the stop.



The sight of the headstones in the cemetery was heart-wrenching as it is with most military cemeteries; but the sight of headstones throughout the area was curious. Stopping at the visitors' center, we decided to take the diving tour since we had limited time. As we drove, we saw many more headstones in the grass, either alone or in groups. Our first stop was The Memorial where 220 soldiers, scouts, and civilians were buried. Although the officers' deaths were marked by headstones, their remains had been removed to various cemeteries around the country including



The Memorial



Gen. Custer's marker

that of General Custer, who was buried at West Point. Next to the monument I was attacked by Magpies who were in a nearby prayer tree. The Indian women would tie a rope on the tree in hopes that their braves would return.



Prayer Tree



Magpies

As we continued along we discovered that the remains of the soldiers were only noted by the gravestones but they were interred in the cemetery. I noticed that there were coins on several of the headstones and Ginny said each coin meant something. When I looked it up, this practice originated during the time of the Roman Empire but it became popular in the U.S. after the Vietnam War. For many, a coin left on a headstone is a symbol of remembrance and respect, a way of telling all who pass by that the person buried there was loved and remembered. For soldiers a penny means you visited the grave, a nickel means you and the deceased veteran trained together, a dime means you and the deceased veteran served together in some capacity, and a quarter means that you were there when that veteran died. For civilians, the coins represent a sign of respect.



Near The Memorial, I noticed a headstone that was different than the rest. When I went to see why it was there, I smiled at the headstone designated the 7th Calvary Horse Cemetery for those animals who fell June 25-26, 1876.

Preliminary Look at the AIS 2025 National Convention (cont.)

Little Bighorn Battlefield (cont.)



The Indian Memorial

The U.S. Congress approved and President George H. W. Bush signed on December 10th, 1991, that the Battlefield would be renamed The Little Bighorn Battlefield National

Monument. This action authorized an Indian Memorial to honor the Native Americans who took part in the battle. Being part Native American, I walked through the Memorial to find that some of the tribes who took part in the battle were completely wiped out. There were etchings of the chiefs and other important men and their thoughts before and after the battle. The metal art depicting warriors rushing into battle gave a feel of how perhaps we needed to look at both sides.



Wooden Leg (Cheyenne warrior), Sitting Bull (Lakota Sioux), (BVT.MAJ.GEN.LTC) George Armstrong Custer, and Gall Phizi (member of the Hunkpapa Lakota),

After the drive, I went to the museum where the busts of Sitting Bull (Lakota Sioux), (BVT.MAJ.GEN.LTC) George Armstrong Custer, Gall Phizi (member of the Hunkpapa Lakota), and Wooden Leg (Cheyenne warrior) were displayed. People were quickly leaving the building so I followed and found Ginny listening to a ranger giving a talk. Ranger Steve Adelson is known for his precise battle presentation of the events leading up to, during, and after the battle of Little Bighorn. I wish I had been there from the beginning and knew I would not be able to stay until the end, but I resolved to return to the Battlefield in 2025.



Ranger Steve Adelson giving a presentation on the occurrences of the battle transpiring at Little Bighorn

2024 Spring Region 4 Board Meeting Minutes

**2024 Spring Region 4 Board Meeting Minutes,
April 26, 2024**

**Hilton Hotel Charlotte University Place,
Charlotte, North Carolina**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by RVP Anita Moran who confirmed that a quorum was present with a minimum of nine members.

The item regarding Judges' Training in the Minutes of the Fall 2023 Region 4 Board Meeting was questioned by a member. The minutes stated: "Apprentices in Region 4 must have two more hours of training on beardless irises, one of which must be in-garden." Anita clarified that Region 4 of the American Iris Society (AIS) requires all Students, Apprentice Judges, Garden Judges, and Master Judges to adhere to the rules set forth by AIS. For Apprentice Judges, besides the 10 hours of training required by the AIS, Region 4 requires all Apprentice Judges to have two additional hours of beardless training, including one-hour in-garden training. It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously that the minutes of the Fall 2023 Region 4 Board Meeting be revised to state this clarification.

Anita thanked the Charlotte Iris Society for organizing this Regional Meeting.

RVP Report: Anita read her RVP report. She gave a program on irises that grow well in Region 4 and visited with gardeners around Clarksburg, West Virginia in March. She hopes that this area will become another AIS Region 4 affiliate in the future. Anita reported that in Maryland she is having an early iris bloom season this year with warmer temperatures than usual.

Assistant RVP Report & 2023 AIS Convention Report: Assistant RVP Kathy Huneycutt read her reports. She listed the shows she will attend this spring: Region 4 Spring Meeting in Charlotte, Central Virginia Iris Society, and Fredericksburg Iris Society shows in May, and, hopefully, later shows held by Francis Scott Key and Bayshore Iris Societies. She represented Region 4 at the AIS National Convention in Dallas last spring, her first such convention. Kathy noted that one of her duties is finding affiliate clubs to host Region 4 meetings. Host clubs are needed for Fall 2025 and Fall 2026. She asked affiliate presidents to consult with their board members and encourage their societies to volunteer to host one of these regional meetings. Email kathyhuneycutt@yahoo.com.

Treasurer's Report: Anita read the report from Treasurer Carol Warner. The budget was \$4610.00. \$2900.44 was spent, leaving an excess of \$1709.56.

Membership Report: Anita gave the report by Membership Chair Ginny Spoon who was judging the show. Region 4 is 2nd among AIS Regions with 306 members. The most popular type of AIS membership is a full membership, perhaps as a result of the 2023 membership drive. Bob Pries mentioned that AIS is having a 2024 membership drive in which new AIS members or those who upgrade to full membership qualify for up to two free, one-year youth (age 18 or younger) print memberships – great gifts for children or grandchildren.

Website Report: We have few readers from Canada. Anita reported we don't know where 22% of the people who access our website are located. Also, if you find a broken link; i.e., if you click on something and an error message appears, please notify Anita.

Newscast Editor Report: Anita thanked Susan Grigg and Alleah Haley for their help with the Newscast. Their editing work has made the publication more uniform. Anita asked for volunteers to do writeups on this Region 4 convention. Sarah Sue Miller and Lewis Bozard volunteered to write up their gardens. If you have suggestions for topics you'd like covered in the Newscast, email Anita at pilmore22@gmail.com.

Judges Training Report: Anita gave the report for absent JT Chair Sue Shackelford. Region 4 now has two Emeritus, ten Master, eight Garden/Exhibition, and three Apprentice Judges. Frances Thrash, a longtime Master Judge, is our only accredited Artistic Design Judge and Sue is working toward getting Frances to give Artistic Design JT to our judges. Sue encouraged all judges to keep current their Judges' Activity Records to facilitate the preparation of their required Judges' Activity Reports. The JT report reviewed AIS's iris judging standards/guidelines.

Iris Program Resource Report: Alleah Haley gave the report in the absence of Chair Heather Haley. Heather has 13 topics related to irises available online for any Region 4 member or affiliate to use in programs and welcomes new programs on iris culture. Heather encouraged donations of recent (within five years) color iris catalogs and back issues of Irises for use in programs for iris newbies. Please bring them to Regional Meetings for collection.

Public Relations Report: Chair Bob Pries spoke briefly on changes and additions to the Iris Encyclopedia. Bob started working on entries dated 1979. He stated that 'Sky Hooks' (Manley Osborne, R. 1979; the first successful iris with horns) "has 250 descendants and three were Dykes Medal winners, which have 200 descendants each." This information is helpful not only to new hybridizers but to experienced hybridizers as well.

2024 Spring Region 4 Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Sunshine Report: Sunshine Chair Kathy Huneycutt reported that between October 2023 and April 2024, she sent out eight cards (sympathy, get well, and thinking of you). Anita reported that Barbara Alexander of the Charlotte Iris Society died and that the society is maintaining her garden.

Fall 2023 Auction Report: Heather Haley submitted a written report. R4 members donated over 180 items for sale at the Fall Regional Meeting. This event generated \$1675 for the Region, and when combined with the Spring 2023 auction, gave a total of almost \$4000 income. Heather thanked all who made donations, placed bids, and won irises and thanked RVP Anita Moran for her organization and PowerPoint presentations that made the auctions highlights of the meetings. Abby Glasgow volunteered to record this Saturday night's auction in Excel®.

Report from the (Not-So-Secret) Parliamentarian: Anita read the report that was submitted. Most of the information came from "Simplified Parliamentary Procedure", a booklet from Iowa State University.

Beardless and Species Report: Anita read the report submitted by Carol Warner. The 2024 AIS National Convention in Portland, Oregon will highlight Japanese and pseudata irises for the first time and the 2026 AIS Convention in New York and New Jersey will feature Siberian seedlings and introduced varieties.

Rebloom Chair Report: Colin Campbell was judging the iris show, so Anita read the report he submitted. Large areas of the Region experienced severe drought last summer, but some rebloomers still bloomed last fall. Colin thanked those who submitted rebloom reports for 2023 from 18 different gardens. He also thanked those who transported entries to last fall's rebloom show at the Regional Meeting in Boyce, Virginia.

Epperson Award Report: Anita read Sue Shackelford's report. Before August Affiliate presidents should send the names of the person or persons they recommend for this Region 4 distinguished service award. Sue will present them to the committee (made up of Affiliate presidents) who will select the winner to be awarded at the fall regional meeting.

Zurbrigg-Mahan Seedling Award: Region 4 funds and provides this award given each year at the AIS national convention.

Nominating Committee Report: Anita stated that Carol Warner, the committee chair, is resigning from this committee. We need a replacement. Carol will resign from being Regional Treasurer at the end of 2025. Anita appointed Leisa Mullin to serve on the Nominating Committee and

Heather Haley to chair the committee (both effective immediately) and that Colin Campbell be recommended as the new regional treasurer. A slate of officers for 2026 will be submitted at the fall meeting and Region 4 officers for 2026 will be elected at the Spring 2025 AIS Region 4 member meeting and will take office after the fall 2026 Regional meeting.

No reports were submitted by the Past RVP, Historian, Bayshore Iris Society, Charlotte Iris Society, or the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society. The Legal Counsel, Youth Chair, and Median Iris Chair positions are open and no reports were provided.

Unfinished Business:

Hold the spring regional meeting with a Zoom option – this proposal was not adopted.

Anita got a Zoom account for committee meetings, e.g., by-laws meetings, Zurbrigg-Mahan report, etc. The by-laws need to be revised and the Procedures Group (chaired by Susan Grigg) will work on this via Zoom.

New Business:

Botanical Garden Membership. Anita stated that AIS Region 4 should belong to a botanical garden. For example – the American Horticultural Society belongs to River Park in Maryland. Each affiliate should determine the fee to join. ENCIS is associated with the Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, North Carolina and Sarah P. Duke Gardens.

Photography Committee. Anita stated that every affiliate should have a photographer who takes pictures at all events and then sends pictures to Anita for use on the R4 website and in the Newscast.

Guest irises for both spring and fall regional meetings. Anita recommended that host affiliates receive \$400 for only out-of-region guest irises for spring and fall regional meetings. The host affiliate must request the funds. It was moved and seconded that this proposal be implemented. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:49 a.m.

Alleah Haley, AIS Region 4 Secretary

Iris Laws: Continued from August 2023 Newscast Vol. 67.1, pp32

Law Number 24: If God did not want you to have lots of weeds, He wouldn't have made so many of them. Therefore, next time you are goofing off instead of weeding you need not feel guilty.

(Excerpts from 1986 Newscast Vol 28.1)

2024 Spring Region 4 Member Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2024

Hilton Hotel Charlotte University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina

approximately 6:00 p.m. by RVP Anita Moran, who again thanked the Charlotte Iris Society and all its hard workers for this great meeting!

The slate of officers until October 2025 is RVP Anita Moran, Assistant RVP Kathy Huneycutt, Treasurer Carol Warner, and Secretary Alleah Haley. The slate was accepted unanimously.

Roll Call (registrants):

Bayshore Iris Society – 3
Central Virginia Iris Society – 4
Charlotte Iris Society – 18
Eastern North Carolina Iris Society – 11
Francis Scott Key Iris Society – 2
Fredericksburg Area Iris Society – 5
Shenandoah & Potomac Iris Society – 6
Guests from Region 1 - 5

Election of Regional Officers

RVP Anita Moran stated that she didn't publish the slate of officers in the Newscast in a timely manner as required by the Region 4 bylaws so the election of officers that was held at the fall 2023 regional meeting was invalid. She announced that the slate of officers published in the March 2024 Newscast is now valid

The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of officers for the 2025 year:

RVP – Anita Moran
Assistant RVP – Kathy Huneycutt
Secretary – Alleah Haley
Treasurer – Carol Warner

A vote was called and the slate of officers was approved unanimously.

In Region 4 an election of Region officers is held during the General Meeting at the Spring Regional every year, and those elected take office after the fall Regional Meeting. From the Minutes of the Fall 2023 General Meeting Minutes: The Nominating Committee has proposed the following officers for the next year: RVP – Anita Moran, Assistant RVP – Kathy Huneycutt, Secretary – Alleah Haley, Treasurer – Carol Warner. It was moved and seconded that the slate be accepted. The motion carried unanimously. According to the bylaws, the slate of officers for the following year will be voted on after publication of the slate of officers for the 2025 year as printed in the Newscast are:
RVP – Anita Moran
Assistant RVP – Kathy Huneycutt
Secretary – Alleah Haley

Treasurer – Carol Warner.

A vote was called and the slate of officers was voted in unanimously.

The RVP announced the Awards at the 2024 Spring Regional:

Alice Bouldin Award (given to a Region 4 hybridizer's seedling that is growing and blooming in a tour garden) – no winner (No votes)

Nearpass Award (given to a Region 4 hybridizer's most popular introduced variety growing and blooming in a tour garden) – 'Debra's Melody' (2020, TB). Award to hybridizer Colin Campbell

B.Y. Morrison Award (given to an out-of-region hybridizer's most popular variety growing and blooming in a tour garden) – 'Starring' (2000, TB). Award to hybridizer Joseph Ghio

Affiliate Presidents were reminded that the E. Roy Epperson Service Award could be presented at the fall meeting. Please have recommendations to Sue Shackelford no later than August first.

Following dinner, the Guest Speaker was Bob Pries, who spoke on "Iris Species Cross Hybrids" based on his extensive knowledge of different species of the genus Iris and the botanical and floricultural impact of hybrids between iris species.

Following Bob's talk, Patricia Canute, the president of the Bayshore Iris Society, gave a presentation about the fall Region 4 Conference in eastern Maryland and invited everyone to attend. An active iris and other plant auction was held.

Meeting adjourned approximately 10:30 p.m.

Alleah Haley, AIS Region 4 Secretary

"The garden reconciles human art and wild nature, hard work and deep pleasure, spiritual practice and the material world. It is a magical place because it is not divided." —Thomas Moore



"Flowers are the music of the ground from earth's lips spoken without sound." —Edwin Curran

Committee Reports

Regional Vice President Report for Spring 2024 Meeting, Charlotte North Carolina

I want to thank the Charlotte Iris Society for hosting the spring meeting and it looks like we have a lot of activities to experience.

I spent some time with gardeners from around Clarksburg, West Virginia in March and had a wonderful time. I gave a program on the various irises that grown well in Region 4 gardens. I am hoping that they will eventually be another affiliate for Region 4. Time will tell. I saw the irises that came from Winterberry Gardens were doing well and it is planned that those gardens with iris experience will receive some of the irises but the majority will be placed in a ¼ mile-long walk for hospice patients from the veteran's hospital nearby.

I had been expecting a freeze after the warm weather early in February, but it just kept getting warmer and reblooming SDBs bloomed well before my Iris pumilas. Even 'Mango Parfait', which has never bloomed before the second week in May, is close to showing color on the 18th of April. 'Daughter of Stars' and 'Metro Blue', which are usually my first tall bearded to bloom, have just begun to develop stalks. The dwarf irises are putting on quite a show and already we have people slowing down as they pass the house.

I will be doing a lot of out-of-Region iris garden visits and hope those capable will visit in-Region gardens, or maybe take a short trip to see some out-of-Region gardens. For those who are judges, this will give you a greater understanding of garden conditions out of the Region and allow you to see irises and how they grow before voting your ballot.

If you need anything having to do with the Region, please let me know

Anita Moran
Region 4 RVP

Assistant Regional Vice President Report for
Spring 2024 Meeting Charlotte, North Carolina

In January I get my things together for spring. By the time spring comes around it's time to get weeding and fertilizing done, and compost added if it is needed. Most of my irises prefer full sun each day. But my Siberian and Japanese don't mind my shade.

By this time they are off to a great start. When April comes around in Region 4, we start having Region 4 conferences and shows. This April 26 & 27 we are going to Charlotte, North Carolina for the Region 4 Spring Regional Meeting,

which will include an iris show and garden tours. too. After this I will go be back to Virginia to get ready for the Central Virginia Iris Society show at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens on May 4, 2024. Then my next stop will be at the Fredericksburg iris show on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

My fourth stop will be at the Winchester show on May 18, 2024. Then I hope to go to Francis Scott Key and Bayshore Iris Society. After all this traveling, I'll be back home to work in my gardens to get them ready for my reblooming irises and for the winter.

The next America Iris Society Convention will be in Portland, Oregon, on June 26-29, 2024, hosted by Greater Portland Iris Society. The 2025 America Iris Society Convention will be in Billings, Montana on June 2-7, hosted by Big Sky Iris Club. Also, the 2026 American Iris Society National Convention will be May 18-23 in New Jersey and New York. I hope our iris members will make plans to go to at least one of the National Conventions.

I enjoyed going to my first national convention in Dallas, Texas, because you meet all kinds of new people from all over the United States and beyond; and see their gardens too. You also learn a lot of new information. I hope to see you all at the 2024 Region 4 Spring Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, or at some show in the spring or fall.

Kathy Huneycutt
Assistant RVP

Convention Report for
Spring 2024 Meeting Charlotte, North Carolina

I am Kathy Huneycutt, the Assistant Regional Vice President of Region 4). One of my duties is finding Affiliate Clubs to host a Spring or Fall Regional Meeting.

Currently, we have:	
Charlotte Iris Society	Spring 2024
Bayshore Iris Society	Fall 2024
Eastern North Carolina Iris Society	Spring 2025
OPEN	Fall 2025
Fredericksburg Area Iris Society	Spring 2026
OPEN	Fall 2026

To all Affiliate Presidents: I need you to consult your board members to see if you can host a Regional Meeting.

You can e-mail at Kathyhuneycutt@yahoo.com.
Thank you.

Kathy Huneycutt
Assistant Regional Vice President

Committee Reports

Beardless and Species Report, April 26, 2024

The 2024 AIS Convention will be in the Portland, Oregon, area June 26th through the 29th and will coincide with Japanese iris bloom. This is the first time an AIS convention has been planned at a time for peak Japanese and pseudata bloom. Hopefully, we will have many more people interested in growing these oriental beauties that were once reserved for only royalty.

Siberian irises are being allowed as guests in three gardens for the 2026 AIS Convention in New York/ New Jersey and hybridizers have sent seedlings and recent introductions for that convention. Recent conventions have not been in places where the beardless irises flourish, so it will be a pleasure to have convention goers see the beauty of the beardless irises.

A wetter than normal winter and early spring in my area promises to signal a great bloom season for the types of irises that prefer more moisture. Time will tell.

Carol Warner, Beardless and Species Iris Chair

Spring 2024 Iris Program Resource Report

The online repository for recently created iris programs currently includes:

- Antique garden tools
- Aril and arilbred irises
- Bearded iris
- Calendar for iris culture
- Credit card processing
- Iris companion plants
- Delaying iris senescence (plant death)
- Dwarf irises
- Ethics
- Historic irises
- Hybridizing
- Judges Activity Report
- Median irises
- Tall bearded irises
- World of Iris

These programs are available for any Region 4 member or affiliate to use and help us serve AIS's mission of organizing and disseminating knowledge of the genus *Iris* while fostering its preservation, enjoyment, and continued development.

If you have recently created programs related to iris cultivation, preservation, or any other aspect of iris culture, we would greatly appreciate your contribution to the Region 4 repository.

On a related note, I am searching for recent (within five years) color catalogs and back issues of the IRISES bulletin. ENCIS members Susan Grigg and Rebecca Pow let me have some of theirs for an invited program with the New Irving Park Garden Club in Greensboro, North Carolina. Their donations saved me time preparing an "iris scavenger hunt." Program attendees were THRILLED when I invited them to keep the catalog or magazine they were using because a generous AIS member wanted to share the love of irises with someone new.

If you can, please bring your gently loved, but unneeded, "iris periodicals" to a regional meeting or send them with a friend attending. I'll have a box available for collection and redistribution to interested persons.

Heather Haley
Program Resource Chair

EPPERSON SERVICE AWARD - Spring Regional Report Charlotte, North Carolina, April 26-27, 2024

I would like to remind everyone that this is now the time to recommend someone who has done exceptional work for your group and our region over the years. Our world puts such demands on all of us that we should recognize our members when they are very involved in supporting and promoting our members in Region 4. Please send me your recommendations and I will collect them and present them to the committee (made up of affiliate Presidents) who will select this year's Epperson Service Award winner and present them with the silver bowl at the Fall Regional.

Sue Shackelford
Epperson Service Award Chair

Sunshine Report Report for Spring 2024 Meeting Charlotte, North Carolina

From October, 2023 to April, 2024 I have sent out the following cards:

Sympathy 4
Get Well 2
Thinking of You 2

If someone is in need, please notify me at Kathyhuneycutt@yahoo.com

Kathy Huneycutt
Sunshine Committee Chair

Committee Reports

Fall 2023 Auction Report

Members of AIS Region 4 donated over 180 items to for sale at the Fall Meeting in Boyce, Virginia. There was a wonderful assortment of bearded and beardless irises. The highest bids went for a stunning, historic, white Japanese iris 'Double First' (\$60) and an adorable yellow standard dwarf 'Flying Monkey' (p. Black 2021) with HUGE beards compared to its size (\$45).



'Flying Monkey'
(P. Black 2021)

When all was done, this event generated \$1675 for the region, and combined with \$2324 from the spring auction brings an annual auction total to almost \$4000!

Thank you to all who made donations, placed bids, and won irises. Your efforts and generosity make it easier to conduct regional business.

Also, a big shout-out to Anita for keeping us organized and engaged with photos in PowerPoint. Her tireless work has made the plant auction the highlight of every regional meeting I have attended.

Heather Haley
Auction Chair

The Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee members are: North Carolina - Heather Haley, Maryland - Carol Warner (Chair), and Virginia - Lois Rose. Open members are Diana Dudley and Lewis Bozard. Officers are elected every year.

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following officers for the 2024-25 year of service, according to the Region 4 Bylaws: RVP - Anita Moran, Assistant RVP - Kathy Huneycutt, Secretary - Alleah Haley, Treasurer - Carol Warner. It was moved and seconded that the slate be accepted. The motion carried unanimously at the Fall Meeting at Winchester, Virginia. The slate of officers was printed in the March 2024 Newscast.

Carol Warner, Chair
AIS Region 4 Nominating Committee

Rebloom Chair Report, Spring 2024

Some large areas of our Region experienced severe droughts last summer. But even in these areas, some rebloomers still faithfully bloomed in the fall, despite the lack of rain in the months leading up to rebloom season.

Thank you to everyone who sent in their rebloom report for their garden. I received reports from 18 different gardens for 2023. Also, thank you to everyone who transported reblooming iris entries to our fall show last fall at the Regional 4 meeting in Boyce, Virginia. With rebloom being sparse for S & P Iris Society members' gardens that weekend, having all those entries from attendees from other areas made our fall show a great success!

I will be marking on my calendar to send out a reminder before rebloom season, as an encouragement to record what is blooming in the garden on the new RIS rebloom charts as varieties start to rebloom.

Colin Campbell,
Rebloom Chair

Iris giganticaerulea

Classification: Louisiana Iris, Hexagonae, Apogon

Synonym: *Iris alticristata*, *Iris aurilinea*, *Iris citricristata*, *Iris elephantina*, *Iris fluvialis*, *Iris miraculosa*, *Iris paludicola*, *Iris parvicaerulea*, *Iris rivularis*, *Iris venulosa*, *Iris wherryana*

Common Names: Giant blue flag

General Description: Flowers are 5" to 6" (13 to 15cm) across, predominantly blue to blue-purple and sometimes white. The signal is a rich yellow, with a yellow-orange stripe along the pubescent central rib. The flower form is typically flaring. Stalks grow from 28" to 71" tall. Flowers are pale to dark blue with a yellow signal ridge.

Distinguishing Features: This is the largest species in the Hexagonae series. Rhizomes are very large, from 5" to 12" and 0.75" to 1.5" thick. This iris can grow to 66" to 72" tall. This species is extremely variable in the wild. The bright green leaves are stiff and erect, arising from shallowly rooted, branching rhizomes that can form large colonies.

Preferred Habitat: Grows in full sun or partial sun, in open swamps.

Thrives under flooded conditions and tolerates brackish water.

Hardiness: Estimated Zones 7-11. They can probably survive to Zone 5 or 6 with winter protection.

Native Range: Louisiana and Southeast Texas.



Iris giganticaerulea,
Rodney Barton

Wild Collected
South of Houston,
TX

References:

SIGNA - <http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Iris-giganticaerulea>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=IRGI

U.S. Forest Service - https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/beauty/iris/louisiana/iris_giganticaerulea.shtml

Committee Reports

Region 4 Membership Report April 2024

I asked AIS Membership Secretary Jean Richter for a breakdown of memberships in AIS and she sent me this report:

"I'm attaching my recent membership secretary report, which has the breakdown of how many members are in each region. It also shows the breakdown on types of membership for all of AIS. The membership type breakdown for Region 4 is 44 e-members, 125 full members, 35 life members, 81 print members, and 4 youth members. This is roughly in line with the full AIS percentages, though Region 4 has somewhat more e-members and full members than average in AIS."

Jean also sent the accompanying attachment.

The AIS also has an incentive for memberships this year:

2024 AIS Membership Drive

The purchase of one new full AIS membership qualifies the purchaser for up to two free, one-year, youth print memberships. In addition, if an AIS member upgrades to a full membership from a print or e-membership, they also will qualify for up to two free, one-year, youth print memberships.

Youth membership is for gardeners aged 18 and younger. (FYI, the regular rate for each youth print membership is \$12.)

The Membership Drive will run from March 1 to December 31, 2024.

Ginny Spoon,
Membership Chair, Region 4

AIS Membership Secretary Report INFORMATION ONLY

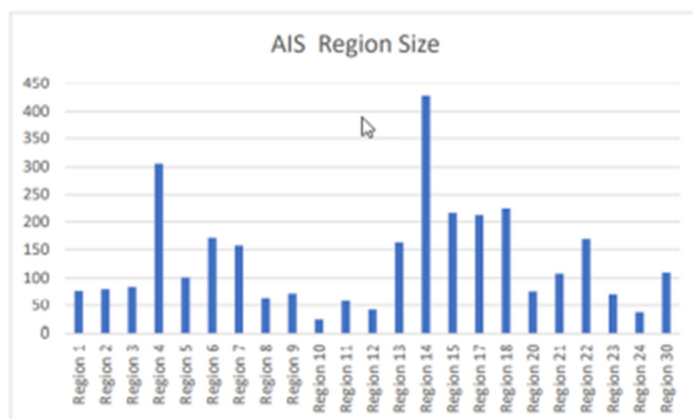
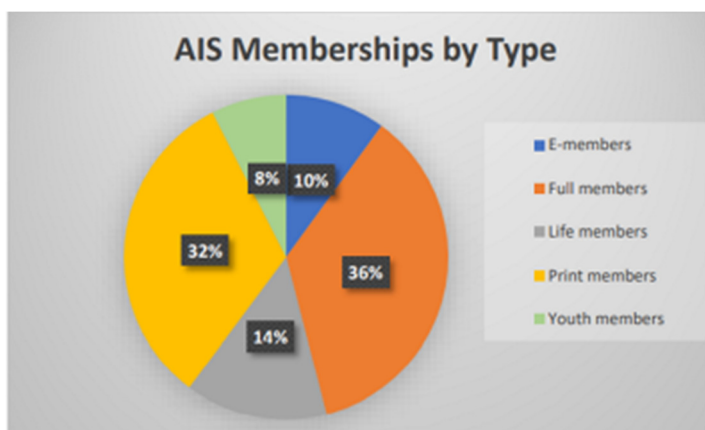
There are 2774 current active AIS members (not counting affiliates). Of these, 278 are e-members, 998 are full members, 394 are life members, 897 are print members, and 208 are youth members. Full membership is now the most popular membership type, perhaps a result of the 2023 membership drive. Here is a graph of the relative amounts of membership types.

The relative sizes of the regions remain stable. Region 14 is the most populous with 427 members, followed by Region 4 with 306, Region 18 with 224, Region 15 with 216, and Region 17 with 212. The smallest regions are Region 10

with 24 members, Region 24 with 37, and Region 12 with 42. Here is a graph of the sizes of the regions.

Although it is not possible to decipher date of joining for members beyond those who joined in the last four years, here is some data on those who have joined recently. 52 current members joined in 2020, 139 joined in 2021, 271 joined in 2022, 450 joined in 2023, and 123 (so far) in 2024. Together, these recently joined members comprise 37% of the total AIS members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Richter AIS Membership Secretary



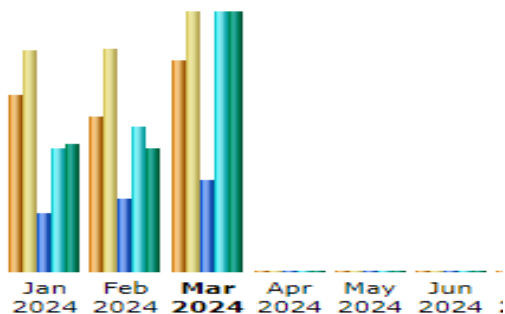
A garden isn't meant to be useful. It's for joy. Rumer Godden



Committee Reports

Website Report

Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
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Hits		Pages		Visits		Country
27382	50.08%	2920	18.69%	1261587	22.43%	Unresolved/Unknown
22431	41.39%	10289	65.36%	2424139	43.11%	Commercial (com)
2927	5.40%	1392	8.91%	1915148	34.06%	Network (net)
695	1.28%	408	2.61%	1123	0.02%	European Union
38	0.18%	34	0.54%	1139	0.02%	Non-Profit (org)
33	0.15%	58	0.37%	451	0.01%	Russian Federation
8	0.01%	3	0.02%	138	0.00%	China
7	0.01%	2	0.01%	259	0.00%	Canada
3	0.01%	1	0.01%	5014	0.09%	Address Routing (arpa)
1	0.00%	1	0.01%	7	0.00%	Generic Business (biz)

After posting an issue of the Newscast, the website activity spiked. This not only brings people to the general site but also to the Affiliate subsites. Because of this, the affiliates must send me their yearly schedule as soon as possible so that I can post the shows and sales people might be interested in. I was late in doing corrections to the website but those who sent me their schedules have been updated and I posted the garden photos of the Bayshore Iris Society in the Photo Section.

I will be working on minor corrections when I return in July and again in January. Thanks to the Board I was able to purchase a new version of Adobe Photoshop Elements and a 4 TB Solid State Drive (SSD). All files including pages, supplements, publications, photographs, and support documents for the website, Newscast, and those affiliates files I have were all transferred to the new device.

Anita Moran
Webmaster

Newscast Report Spring 2024

Top 10 Downloads : Newscast DEC09, MAR2024, MAR10C, historical Newscast 41_1_1999, CIS Show Schedule, historical Newscast 40_3_1998, CVIS BYLAWS, Spring 2024 Regional Schedule, historical Newscast 37_2_1995, Newscast AUG2012.

A week from online publication, the March 2024 Newscast took more than 9% of the activity on the website. Visitors to our website spent 25% of their activity in the Newscast area. For the first time, the most viewed Newscast was not the March 2005 issue but the December 2009 and the March 2024 issues. Of the top ten downloads which are usually pictures, since January, 2024 only the show schedule and the meeting schedule for the 2024 Spring Regional and CVIS's by-laws were the only non-Newscast downloads.

I have noticed that our website gets very few visitors from Canada, so I will be including many of the AIS members from Canada in the email notices I send out announcing posting of the August Newscast to see if we can expand our readership. I also want to thank the Board for the funds to purchase an updated program for photo editing and an SSD for storing Region 4 information. Of the \$700.00 approved I was able, after a burb, to purchase both for \$265.81.

I want to thank the Bayshore Iris Society for allowing me to hang out with them for their "Spring Open Gardens" last year. I am hoping to receive a write-up for each of the Spring Regional Meeting gardens for the August issue of the Newscast.

From past Newscasts I have found some gems of articles such as "Color Possibilities in Iris" by Wilma Vallette and the color classifications from the AIS and other sources. This prompted me to begin a series on what those new to irises might be interested in. With information from the AIS, Chad Harris, and others, I am putting together an article on Iris Colors. One interesting tidbit, as I was perusing old issues of the Newscast, was the top five of the 1969 Symposium Popularity Poll compiled by Frank Sherrill, Region 4 RVP at the time:

Name	Votes
Stepping Out	44
Esther Fay	35
Rippling Waters	42
Camelot Rose	28
Winter Olympics	38

Since there has been a recurring interest in Louisiana irises, I plan to include information on the five species that make up the Louisiana iris group. Again, if there is anything you would like information on, please email me at: pilmore22@gmail.com.

Anita Moran
Editor

Committee Reports

Judges Training Report Spring Regional Meeting April 26-27, 2024, Charlotte, North Carolina

Our judging program has been growing over the past couple of years. We currently have 2 Emeritus Judges, 10 Master Judges, 8 Garden Exhibition Judges, and 3 Apprentice Judges. Frances Thrash, one of our long time Master Judges, is also our only Region 4 accredited Artistic Design Judge. Lois Rose advanced to Master Judge this year. Amy Fletcher has advanced from a Student Judge to an Apprentice Judge. We also have 5 Student Judges working through the program. Anita updated the Region 4 website to reflect the contact information for our judges.

I encourage all judges to keep a Judges Activity Record throughout the year. It is invaluable when it comes time to complete the Annual Judges Activity report in August. I also want to remind all judges that it is the judge's responsibility to attend and successfully complete refresher courses during each three-year period. Five hours credit (two of which must be in-garden training) is required for Garden/Exhibition Judges every three years and three hours credit (one of which must be in-garden training) is required for Master Judges every three years. The national requirements are now back in effect after being lenient for the COVID pandemic. Meaning, if the training requirements are not satisfied AND the Annual Judge's Activity report is not submitted ON TIME for two consecutive years, the judge will be dropped. If this happens, then the judge would have to begin the program all over again.

Since we are beginning this new year of iris shows, I would like to take the time to review some of our judging standards.

Judging is a privilege and should be viewed as such. Judges should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the American Iris Society.

Judges should respond promptly to a request to judge a show.

Judges should have their copy of the updated Handbook with them when judging a show.

Judges should be prepared, mentally and physically to judge the show for which they have accepted the invitation. Judges do not charge for judging but can accept refreshments, meals, mileage and/or a token gift.

Judges should not place exhibits in a show that they are judging.

Judging is always based on what the exhibit looks like at the time of judging.

A judging panel is usually made up of three judges. Discussions should be had about an exhibit but the majority opinion is the final decision.

A judge should not dominate the panel.

A judge should not make a disparaging remark or comment on another judge's decision. It is inconsiderate and undermines the judging process. An exchange of ideas and opinions with other judges personally will improve judging techniques and improve one's knowledge of iris and establish a more trusting and comfortable relationship between judges. There is always something new to be learned.

A judge's personal opinion should never influence the selection process.

If a problem is noticed during judging, the Show Chairman should be made aware of the issue. Judges do not make these decisions.

The first two chapters of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials speak to judges's qualifications and considerations. It is advised that we all refer to it from time to time.

I am working toward having Frances Thrash present an Artistic Design training session. She is very busy traveling with the National Garden Club giving Flower Show Schools for them. I will send information to all judges when we get this hammered out.

Sue Shackelford
AIS Region 4 Judges Training Chairman

"If you wish to make anything grow, you must understand it, and understand it in a very real sense. 'Green fingers' are a fact, and a mystery only to the unpracticed. But green fingers are the extensions of a verdant heart." —Russell Page



Committee Reports

Report from the (Not-So-Secret) Parliamentarian

Everyone enjoys a meeting that is productive and completed in the allotted time. Here are some tips for each of us to use to have better meetings.

Principals of Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure is based upon a few simple principles:

- Only one issue may be discussed at a time.
- All members have equal and basic rights — the right to vote, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose.
- The rights of the minority must be protected.

No member may speak until recognized by the chairperson.

- Every member may speak to the issue on the floor; however, no one may speak a second time as long as another wants to speak a first time.
- A majority vote decides an issue.
- The chairperson is strictly impartial.

Reports of Officers: Typically, the officers will make brief reports on the group's business that has transpired since the last meeting. These may include the treasurer, secretary, chairperson, vice chairperson, publicity chairperson, etc. If the officers do not have any information to report, they should not be listed on the agenda. The chairperson should not have to ask each officer if he or she has anything to report. The annual treasurer's report should have a motion to adopt, a second, and a vote. Monthly treasurer's reports do not necessarily need to be officially adopted but should be part of the official minutes of the meeting. If a treasurer's report has not been audited or reviewed, it may be wise for the organization to simply record the report in the minutes rather than officially approve it.

Reports of Committees: Prior to the meeting, the chairperson should check with any committees to see what progress they are making and to find out if they want time on the agenda to make a report. When possible, committee reports should be written. To make the secretary's job easier, written reports may be attached later to the meeting's minutes. After the committee chairperson has made a few comments and answered questions about the report, motions may be received from the floor dealing with the substance of the report. A second is required for any action. Note, however, that a committee's report needs not be adopted. An affirmative vote on a motion to adopt the whole report has the effect of endorsing every word of the report. More frequently, a motion will pertain to some specific action recommended by the report and not deal with the whole report itself. The chair may want to wait until all committee reports have been given before allowing any motions to be made on any of the recommendations. One committee's recommenda-

tions may affect the recommendations of another committee.

References:

From "Simplified Parliamentary Procedure" by Iowa State University

Iris brevicaulis

Botanical Synonyms: *Iris foliosa*

Classification: Hexagonae, Louisiana Iris, Apogon

Common Names: Zig-zag Iris, Leafy Blue Flag

General Description: Blooms in shades of blue, on stems approximately 12" - 18" tall. Flowers are 3.5" to 4.5" (9-12 cm) in shades of blue to blue-violet and sometimes white, the form is flaring.

Distinguishing Features: Stems zig-zag at 45-degree angles with flowers that bloom at each axil. This species is also distinctive in that it has a yellow pubescence (rudimentary beard) on the falls. This is a dwarf species of the Hexagonae series, with leaves and stalks much shorter than the other species. Multi-flowered on a zig-zag stem with two terminal flowers and is hidden down among the leaves. Flowers are never above the foliage. This is also the latest blooming species of the Hexagonae series.

Preferred Habitat: Wetlands, ditches, streambanks, swamps, damp grasslands. Grows well in full sun to partial shade. Found in upland locations, pastures, prairies, and bluff areas in partial to full sunlight where moisture is generally high during the growing season (fall, winter, spring). Commonly found growing in swamps and wet meadows.

Hardiness: Zones 4-9

Native Range: USA (LA, TX, OK, NE, MO, AR, MI, AL, FL, GA, TN, KY, IN, OH)

References:

SIGNA - <http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Iris-brevicaulis>

U.S. Forest Service - https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/beauty/iris/louisiana/iris_brevicaulis.shtml



Iris brevicaulis, (White form)
Photo: by H.Datsjuk
Botanical Gardens of
Moscow University



Iris brevicaulis
Growing in Ohio
(phot D. Kramb)

Greenway Garden Retreat

By Lewis Bozard

My garden in South Charlotte, North Carolina, is a young garden, started in 2019. It surrounds the house on a half-acre lot gently sloping from the street toward McAlpine Creek and the public greenway just beyond the back garden. Greenway Garden Retreat gets its name from that proximate greenway and the retreat-like vibe I hoped to create. When I acquired the property the only landscaping consisted of several mature trees and basic shrubbery across the front of the house. The remainder was a grassy expanse awaiting garden vision like a blank canvas before an artist.



'Indian Chief'
(W.M. Ayres 1929)



'Clarence'
(L. Zurbrigg 1991, RE)



'Go Hokies'
(D. Spoon 2018)



On the sunny afternoon of April 27, Greenway Garden Retreat was the last official garden stop of the 2024 Spring Region 4 meeting. Near the street grew large clumps of three proven performers, selected to catch the eyes of neighborhood passersby: 'Indian Chief' (W.M. Ayres 1929), 'Clarence' (L. Zurbrigg 1991, RE), and 'Immortality' (L. Zurbrigg 1982, RE). Being late in the local bloom season, only wine 'Indian Chief' offered a remaining glimpse of color. I additionally like the prominent placement of these irises because Zurbrigg was a Region 4 hybridizer and North Carolina resident. These historicos were accompanied by a half-barrel pot of multi-colored celosia and a row of yellow snapdragons planted behind the curbside rock border.

Entering the garden by the driveway, tour guests passed red, pink, and white peonies on the left. Don Spoon's bright orange and maroon 'Go Hokies' (2018) strategically placed at the junction of the front door walkway and the driveway is an attention-getter each year and this tour was no exception. One young tour goer declared 'Go Hokies' his favorite in the garden. Near the front of the house is the iris bed I planted a couple of months after moving into the house, a

◀ 'Helen Collingwood'
(K.D. Smith 1949)

collection of historic tall bearded irises passed from the previous generation of my family, including purple and white 'Helen Collingwood' (K.D. Smith 1949), yellow 'Coronation' (I. Moore 1927), and golden 'Rocket' (Mrs. C. Whiting 1945).



'Absolute Treasure'
(R. Tasco 2006)

Approaching the back gate at the end of the driveway, guests saw my first-year experiment with growing irises in pots. Several half-barrel pots gave evidence of success including light blue 'Absolute Treasure' (R. Tasco 2006) showing off three large blooms on a



Aerial view of the back garden with the public greenway and wetland area visible just beyond the fence

towering stalk. The garden's location on a cul-de-sac means visitors first see a smaller front yard but upon passing through the back gate are surprised to enter a wide, expansive back garden.

Walking beyond that gate into the larger back garden, blue 'Codicil' (S. Innerst 1985), Ginny Spoon's rose-purple 'Little Rosie' (2015), and a few other irises shared space with emerging tiger lilies and just-blooming amaryllis.



'Little Rosie' (G. Spoon 2015)



'Codicil' (S. Innerst 1985)

Greenway Garden Retreat (cont.)

Visitors relaxed nearby in Adirondack chairs around the fire pit. Periodic 13-year cicadas began to emerge a week before the tour, and hundreds of them covered leaves, stems, soil—any available surface, really—especially in this area of the back garden.



Petite Monet (K. Steele 1990)

Turning to the right, tourgoers passed beneath the shade of a tall magnolia tree. On the steps ascending to the deck, white *'Ice Sculpture'* (B. Hager 1975) bloomed in a patterned green ceramic pot, a day after receiving a first-place ribbon in the potted division of the spring meeting's iris show. On another step, Charlotte hybridizer Katharine Steele's *'Petite Monet'* (1990) offered its first bloom of the season in a black pot.



A human-figure art piece crafted of metal and rock pointed skyward as visitors proceeded toward the Dykes Medal bed in the center of the yard. This still-growing collection of winners held 25 Dykes specimens at the time of the tour. *'Violet Harmony'* (E. Lowry 1952, Dykes Medal 1957) bloomed most generously. Proceeding farther toward the back, a collection of recent releases bloomed, including Colin Campbell's cream-white *'Debra's Melody'* (2020), voted winner of the Nearpass Award (best iris observed on tour from a Region 4 hybridizer). Hybridizer and regional vice-president Anita Moran gathered people for an impromptu demonstration of iris pollination. This was my first experience with hybridization, and I'm happy to report that with Anita's capable tutelage a 100% success rate was achieved resulting in the development of four plump seed pods this summer. Even beginners can be successful!



Debra's Melody
(C. Campbell 2020),
2024 Nearpass Award
Winner



A long bed across the center of the back garden featured three rows of irises flanking a central line of daylilies. Stepping stones cut across the bed in a raised area I refer to as "Iris Hill", the path lined by a colorful iris assortment including yellow and blue *'Easter Candy'* (K. Keppel 2011), yellow and white *'First Interstate'* (Schreiner's 1991), and orange and red *'Idol'* (J. Ghio 1999). Moving to the right side of the grassy back garden, perhaps the most-



'Idol' (J. Ghio 1999)



'Starring' (J. Ghio 2000)
2024 B. Y. Morrison Award
Winner



'Silvergilt'
(J. Wills 1960)

photographed view of the day was a large clump of Joe Ghio's *'Starring'* (2000) with eight purple and white blooms. It was voted winner of the conference's B. Y. Morrison Award (best out-of-region iris seen on tour). Near the back fence a ring of blue-lavender *Iris pallida* stood in full bloom. Companion plants in the back garden included heirloom petunias, Dutch irises, roses, and evening primrose.

Returning to the front garden through a wider gate on the other side of the house, guests discovered a bed of tall bearded irises planted along the west side of the house, stretching their long stalks at an angle toward the afternoon sun. Yellow and white *'Silvergilt'* (J.

Wills 1960) and *'Siva Siva'* (J. Gibson 1962) with reddish-brown standards and falls splotted mahogany brown exploded in abundant color. To the left, a small collection of Louisiana irises including red and yellow *'Cajun Sunrise'* (J. Mertzweiller 1993) acquired at the 2023 spring regional auction and white and yellow *'Crushed Ice'* (H. Pryor 1996/97) were in their first days of bloom.

A few more steps across the fescue front lawn led guests past a bountifully blooming *'White Cap'* peony and back to the start. One of the joys of gardening and a primary personal goal in developing Greenway Garden Retreat is having people experience beauty and inspiration through the natural world. I hope that tour guests were able to depart in such a spirit.



CIS member Charisse Miller enjoying the back garden

The Garden of Ingrid and Phillip Bray

by Anita Moran

The Bray Garden is a cross between an English cottage garden and the comfort of a backyard garden where you sit on a bench and enjoy the moments in sun or shade. Garden beds appear all around the house starting with the side of the driveway. Walking toward the front gardens you are met with the first of many seats where you can sit and enjoy the front garden. In this garden, you can enjoy not only historic and modern tall

the plants were various mushrooms and some adorable stone frogs dressed in very colorful tiles.

The side of the house path led to the backyard which looked



Iris Tectorum in Bray Garden



like

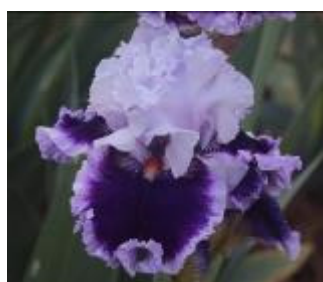
a small English cottage garden with a central stone pad surrounding a grassy area with a lion-faced fountain making a lovely sound to mix with the birds to break away any outside noise that might try to enter the area. From the center were several stone paths to take you to other parts of the backyard to expose some hidden beds. 'Mixed Berry Tart' (R. Van Liere 2011), 'Belle Fille' (M. Smith 2015), and 'Countess Markiewicz' (J.G. Crump 2016) were blooming in various areas of the garden as did the Siberian iris 'Richard's Joyous Love' (K. Steele 2009).



'Csardas Princess'
(J.G. Crump)2013



'Black Gamecock'
(F. Chowning 1980)



'Daring Deception'
(T. Johnson 2012).

bearded irises such as 'Csardas Princess' (J.D. Crump 2013) and 'Domino Noir' (R. Cayeux 2012) growing well in the shade, and 'Daring Deception' (T. Johnson 2012). Not only were bearded irises present but beardless as well. Louisiana irises such as 'Black Gamecock' (F. Chowning 1980), and 'Hush Money' (M. Dunn 1998) were also giving a

wonderful display of contrasting colors.

Along the opposite side of the house was a path through a shaded garden that included both purple and white *Iris tectorum*, an unnamed species cross, and some spurias that were unfortunately past bloom. Among



'Hush Money'
(M. Dunn 1998)



Fountain in Bray rear garden



'Belle Fille'
(M. Smith 2015),



'Countess Markiewicz'
(J.G. Crump 2016)

The Bray Garden, even with the presence of others enjoying it with me, was a wonderful place for a peaceful interlude. Returning to the front garden area, I sat on the porch to give judges training and enjoy the sights in front of me. This garden was a perfect place to train new judges.

Affiliate Reports

Charlotte Iris Society Spring Report

We spent a lot of time preparing for the 2024 Region 4 Spring Meeting. Last fall, we tried our hands in the Hybridizing Siberian Iris Project, encouraged by Katharine Steele and Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer. Enthusiasm was overwhelming; participant refrigerators were packed with seeds. We dreamed big. Reality kicked in when the seeds acted as if the seeds wanted to act. From dramatic to hilarious (one husband threw out the seedling containers thinking it was food gone bad). We were left with 10-12 seedlings. Less later. Lesson learned: hybridizing is not for sissies. Nevertheless, our Society has not lost its enthusiasm for hybridizing.

Keeping active and interested in gardening kept us busy. Some members attended Master Gardener classes, and our board member Iris Grieswell became President of the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs.

Two of our members, Sarah Sue Miller and Lewis Bozard, went to Winterberry to help with digging up rhizomes. Our rhizome sale was quite successful.

In November we held our annual Harvest Lunch, elected a new Board of Directors, and Ingrid Bray received the second Charlotte Iris Society Carrie Winter Award for mentoring. The first one was given to Katharine Steele several years ago. Katharine was bestowed an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee this spring. Several CIS members were happy and proud to attend the event.

Hosting the 2024 Region 4 Spring Meeting was a privilege and hard work. We thank all the participants, attendees, and volunteers.

Sadly, three members of our Society passed away this year: hybridizer Barbara Alexander, Kay Roderick, and Dan McDonough.

Ingrid Bray
CIS President

Central Virginia Iris Society - Spring 2024 Report

Our CVIS Facebook page readership is growing and has attracted new members. Iris season has arrived, and the page is active with many postings of new blooms in members' gardens. This allows everyone to enjoy the beauty of locally grown irises, and is proving to be a helpful method of identifying irises which have lost their names, as viewers share pictures and information.

CVIS members are working diligently to finalize details for our show, which will take place on May 5 in the Robins

Room at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. We are excited to have our first-ever spring iris sale in conjunction with this show! The sale will be held in the Robins Visitor Center Atrium and will feature irises that were potted specifically for this event last fall. We hope this sale will generate more interest from the public by having people fall in love with the iris show entries and then having plants immediately available for them to purchase and plant in their own gardens. We enjoy encouraging more iris devotees!

Wayne Bryant
President, CVIS

Iris nelsonii

Classification: Hexagonae, Louisiana, Apogon

Common Names: Abbeville Reds and Abbeville Yellow

General Description: The rarest species of Louisiana iris is *Iris nelsonii*. This iris is very special because it is the only plant that is endemic to Louisiana, which means that it does not naturally grow anywhere else. Growing 4-6 feet tall, with reddish-purple or yellow flowers. Flowers are 4.5" to 5" across, generally drooping to slightly flaring, bright red to purple, and rarely in beige brown or yellow-brown. Makes a vigorous clump of narrow, green, deer-resistant foliage, topped in early May with 2" cinnamon/lavender flowers, a hummingbird hangout.

Distinguishing Features: The flower color is more intense than in *Iris fulva*. Rhizomes are 4" to 6" long and 0.75" to 1" in diameter.

Preferred Habitat: Either moist soil or up to 4" of standing water suits this plant just fine.

Hardiness: Zones 7-11. Probably hardy to Zone 5 or 6 with winter protection.

Native Range: Found only in a limited location south of Vermilion Parish, Abbeville, Louisiana.

References:

SIGNA - <http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Iris-nelsonii>

Plant Delights Nursery - <https://www.plantdelights.com/products/iris-nelsonii>

University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Office of Sustainability - <https://sustainability.louisiana.edu/node/310>



Iris nelsonii,
photo by R. J. Sloan

Affiliate Reports

ENCIS Affiliate Summer 2024 Report

ENCIS held a successful Spring Iris Show on May 5 with many participants and entries. The show was held at a new location, which drew many visitors. We are excited about the potential for future use of the venue.

Our June meeting included updates on iris sales planned for later in the year, as well as ongoing planning efforts for the Region 4 Spring Meeting to be held in the Raleigh/Durham area. The highlight of the meeting, however, was a lively discussion of various pest control methods and other garden maintenance issues.

Our summer bearded iris sale on July 20 will already have occurred by publication time. In addition to irises donated by club members, we also will have received a selection of bearded irises from Sutton's Iris Gardens for greater variety and interest. Our beardless iris sale is scheduled for September 7 and will feature more irises from club members' gardens and a variety of Siberian irises from Ensata Gardens.

Additional meetings are scheduled for programs and to address business (2 p.m. on 9/7 in at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh - Windyhills Daylily Garden hybridizing program; 2 p.m. on 10/14 at the Arboretum in Raleigh - Judges Training).

Susan Miller, President

The Fredericksburg Area Iris Society Spring 2024 Report

The Fredericksburg Area Iris Society (FAIS) held our annual iris sale in late July to help raise funds for scholarships to horticulture students for both J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and Virginia Tech. The week following the sale an Iris Basics program was given by Lois Rose. Many thanks to our gardeners and members that contributed their iris and time to make the sale a success.

In September we enjoyed our annual picnic, graciously hosted by Oscar and Maritza Gutierrez at their home.

In November at our Harvest Dinner, CVIS joined with FAIS to celebrate the close of another active iris year. FAIS held elections and a new president and vice-president were voted in.

In January we participated in the Master Gardeners Seed swap and picked up three new members. Later that day, we held our first board meeting of the year where we introduced a grower's committee which Heather Mason will be chairing. This committee will encourage and support old

and new members who are willing to grow iris for the sale each year. Our goal for 2024 is to get more members involved in FAIS through member support.

Our first program of 2024 was held in March, "Getting the Most from FAIS". This was an in-house panel discussion held in person as well as available via Facebook live.

We are looking forward to our April meeting which will be a celebration of our 40th Anniversary! Lois Rose will be giving a PowerPoint presentation of FAIS and the past 40 years.

We are now preparing our gardens for Open Garden Day on May 12 and looking forward to our annual Iris Show on May 11.

Leisa Mullen, FAIS President

IRIS GARDEN ETIQUETTE Dr. Anne Lee, Norfolk, Virginia

Etiquette is defined in your dictionary as the form required by good breeding, a code of rules respecting what is right and fitting. Well, you probably wonder what this has to do with iris gardens. . . Soon, iris time will be upon us, and visitors will descend on your garden. It is a strange fact that a lot of people whose etiquette is above reproach in any other 'social contact will behave miserably in an iris garden. So here are a few tips which should help the owners of the garden as well as the visitors :

- (1) Let your friend know you are coming. Most people love to show you around and point out their newest things.
 - (2) Pick a good time to visit. Maybe your friend is in church on Sunday morning.
 - (3) Don't stay all day—you want to come back another time.
 - (4) Treat the garden as you would the owner's home. Likely as not he thinks more of his garden than his home.
 - (5) Leave your children at home. They may be angels, but you certainly will spare the owner's nerves.
 - (6) Leave the dogs at home, too. A dog in an unwelcome guest, and besides, he really is no iris connoisseur, and a cat or bird may tempt him to take a short cut straight through the choicest bed.
 - (7) Ladies, beware of those huge purses that swing from your arms. A swift swing, and that one and only stalk of the newest introduction has bitten the dust!
 - (8) Don't pinch, and I mean the iris blooms. You don't have to feel to determine if it has the right texture. Your eyes will tell you.
 - (9) Don't go to a garden if the owner is away unless he is a good friend of yours.
- Don't walk into beds, and please, ladies, don't wear those spike heels when you walk through the garden. Those little holes you leave are not very ornamental.

The owner has some obligations, too. Maybe the visitor is just beginning to grow iris and does not know that there is a difference between Blue Shimmer and Miss Alameda. So be patient and take a little time to answer his questions.

In conclusion: May only well-bred people descend on your iris garden come bloom time!

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Affiliate Reports

Francis Scott Key Iris Society Spring 2024 Report

We began our meeting by noting the downpour of rain we all drove through to attend our first Spring Meeting. We continue to notice unusual weather patterns affecting our gardens.

Early Growth and Weather Concerns: The warm spell has prompted early growth in our gardens, and there's concern about potential frost that could further complicate the situation.

1. Planned Events and Activities:

Hampstead Spring Event: An exhibit is scheduled.

Open Gardens: We all can enjoy an opportunity to see our members showcase their gardens.

Iris Sales: Two sales are planned.

Group Project: Making Lasagna Bulb Planters.

Gatherings: Regular meetings and gatherings are planned.

2. Special Project for our Late Member Dave Oktavec's Garden: Members will be working on identifying and placing signage throughout Dave's extensive collection of irises as a tribute to him.

3. Participation in the Spring Regional in Charlotte, North Carolina: Members will be attending and judging at this event.

4. Summer Picnic: Will be graciously held at the home of Dave and Vicki Piasecki

5. Discussion promises to provide awards to two students and an organization for the work we support.

6. Office Updates: New member Todd Heckel is taking on the role of Publicity, and Dave Potembski will be the Membership Chair.

Our club is well-organized and enthusiastic about the upcoming season, with a good balance of events, projects, and community involvement. Here's to a successful and fulfilling gardening season!

Carol Gitter
FSK President

Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society
President's Report Spring 2024

The Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society (SPIS) is looking forward to gathering with our iris friends this spring and summer at events throughout the region.

The SPIS Spring Board Meeting was held on April 6, 2024. Our current Board includes:

Patti Meagher, President
Ginny Spoon, Vice President
Colin Campbell, Treasurer
Dawn Zartman, Secretary
Kathy Holl, At-Large
Ray Jones, At-Large

The Board members approved the schedule and budget for 2024.

The Spring Show will be held on May 18, 2024 at the West Oaks Farm Market in Winchester, Virginia. Although SPIS held our Annual Iris Sale at West Oaks for the past three (3) years, this will be the first time holding our Spring Show at this venue. The Market owner has generously offered a large room for the Show. West Oaks Farm Market has ample parking, easy access to the room where the Show will be held, as well as a café, farm market and outdoor children's play area.

On May 25, 2024, SPIS will be hosting a Seedling Garden Tour at Colin Campbell's Iris Hills Farm beginning at 10:30 a.m. followed by Garden Judging at Winterberry Gardens with Ginny Spoon. All AIS members are welcome to attend.

The Annual Iris Sale will be held in August at the West Oaks Farm Market in conjunction with the Market's Annual Peach Festival. The festival includes craft and food vendors, as well as musical entertainment.

SPIS currently has 35 members with five active Certified Judges.

Patti Meagher, President
Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society



Reason for going to Devil's Tower was to get Star Field shots not all were good

The Garden on the Farm of Grey Drum

by Anita Moran

The old lyric of “over the hills and through the woods” is a perfect description of our visit to the farm of Grey Drum. When we arrived, from the road a trip through the woods led us to a house, but there was no sight of irises anywhere. There were, however, a couple of historic cars hidden in the



woods. After reaching the house we were escorted through more woods with hidden cars, and past a parking lot of more historic cars which, by the way, were for sale. We reached a flat area with a tent, outstanding refreshments including wine, and a varied spread of appetizers provided by Grey's partner Steve Trovitch, and, of course, the irises. Grey and Steve also arranged for golf carts so that those visitors with reduced mobility could tour the garden.



There were neatly boxed garden beds and a small field in front of the beds with escapee irises. Although many irises were not labeled, those that were blooming were beautiful. It reminded me that many in the iris community

grow irises for their beauty, not their names. The iris beds were situated on a huge property, and it was a pleasure to see Grey's irises.



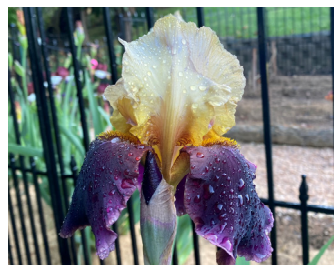
Since we had a social hour and dinner on our own, Grey recommended Geppeto's Pizza Restaurant. After we ordered our meals, we received an order of garlic breadsticks and we were hooked. They were so wonderful we needed another order, even as our entrees arrived. All in all, a wonderful day of irises, friends, and of course food.



Miller's Edgewater Iris Gardens

By Sarah Sue Miller

What is the saying, everything old is new again? I consider myself new to Region 4 and the Charlotte Iris Society (CIS), although I'm not new to growing irises or the American Iris Society (AIS). I've just had "life" happening with careers and family taking my attention. We consider an iris that is 30 years old or older as historic, so I guess I can classify myself as an old dog although I keep learning new tricks every day about irises. It was in the fall of 2021, after finishing breast cancer treatments and gazing down at my jumbled mess of "old friend" irises, that I thought it was time for us again; and we always need new friends. I went to the AIS website, sent in my dues, joined the local affiliate, and learned there is a Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) too. Who knew so much had changed in 30 years. Now I find myself writing this article, enjoying the company of like-minded irisarians, and volunteering more. You and my irises are some constants in life, friends that are tried and true. My irises joined the adventures of my life and never complained through moving from Charleston, South Carolina, escaping Hurricane Hugo to my family's small-town of St. Regis, Montana. Then it was back east to Virginia and finally settling, after bouncing around a bit in North Carolina, after easily over a dozen moves.



'Suave'
(Schreiner's 1980)



'Clarence'
(L. Zurbrigg 1991)



'Edith Wolford'
(B. Hager 1986)



'Thornbird'
(M. Byers 1989)



'Jesse's Song'
(B. Williamson 1983)

Those original 50 varieties never minded the tribulations, weeds, or their mixed company; they just kept pressing on. There were true originals of *Iris flavescens* and *Iris pallida*, classics like my first purchase 'Jesse's Song' (B. Williamson 1983), or well-known 'Wabash' (M. Williamson 1936), and 'Superstition' (Schreiner's 1977). There were not-so-well-known 'Mexico' (R. Kleinsorge 1943), 'Suave' (Schreiner's 1980), and 'Orchid Lady' (C. Salbach 1942). Ones I prized as big money at the time were 'Dawn of Change' (R. Ernst 1993), 'Clarence' (L. Zurbrigg 1991), the ever-popular 'Edith Wolford' (B.

Hager 1986), and 'Thornbird' (M. Byers 1989). These irises and many more were always there to say, "Hello beautiful!"

In my 20s I had plenty of time to keep them neat and tidy. I'm surprised more did not expire, as growing in the South is much different than growing out West. "Those old things?" I can recall my mother saying to me, when reflecting on my asking about the burgundy gold blend with a spicy scent at my childhood home when I started my very own flower garden. I've been told I'm an old soul too. I like how history informs our future and the stories behind many of the things we love in life. Somehow, being young, dumb, and with limited resources in the 1980s led me, today, to have a rather fun and eclectic historic iris collection.

On Sunday, April 29th, my family and I had the honor of opening our gardens as an optional tour following the Region 4 Spring Meeting hosted by the CIS. This year I have also earned the designation of a Historic Iris Preservation Display Garden with over 175 varieties considered historic and over 30 that are listed on the HIPS rare or Guardian Garden list. Over 500 varieties, starting with *reticulatas* and ending with species and rebloomers, extending the season until Old Man Winter arrives. I am not sure who was more excited, me or my family as we placed a sign that announced our garden in preparation for visitors.



'Wabash'
(M. Williamson 1936),



'Mexico'
(R.E. Kleinsorge 1943)

Miller's Edgewater Iris Gardens (cont.)

The grandchildren always love to play at PawPaw and Gi-Gi's and especially picking flowers or garden goodies to take home and enjoy. Indulge me as I share a bit more on our gardens and some highlights of blooms that were quite striking with hopes it would inspire others, especially those of you who are just getting started or are an "old soul" such as myself.

Our property is considered a young garden as we moved to our 1.2 acres in 2010 as the second owners. There was not a bit of landscape — seriously, none. The soil was North Carolina red clay, heavy and hard. The backyard yard, a very steep slope to a cove off Lake Hickory, littered with downed large trees as the original owner wanted a lake view. It is our blessing to have such an opportunity and we were determined to take on such a fixer-upper and make it our own, one shovel and wheelbarrow-full at a time. The gardens are perimeter mixed perennial with feature trees of crepe myrtle, smoke bush, maples, fruit trees, and hardwoods.



In 2013, we began terracing and with over 10 years of working the soils. After terracing, our back yard is now thriving.



Upper Driveway Garden

The 2024 "Garden Show" began at Miller's Edgewater with *Iris reticulata*, then the liliputs (SDBs) announced their entrance on March 26, with 'Singing Angel' (C. Palmer 1976), 'Gingerbread Man' (B. Jones 1969), and 'Plum Pie' (D. Spoon 2010). The upper front yard driveway is lined with a 60' display sloped with various irises and perennials including daylilies, peonies, columbine, tulips, and a hedge of scalloped boxwood under pink crepe myrtles. This bed is studded with many new plantings of recent award-winning irises — what I call 21st Century Foxes, and a selection of the late Ruth Holbrook's collection. It is always exciting to see our very latest introductions such as

the first variegated SDB 'Futuristic' (P. Black 2023), notable TB 'Unstained' (K. Keppel 2023) which Keppel describes as his purest of whites, and from our Region 4 hybridizers, I am in LOVE with a darling, soft pink SDB 'Nymph's Shell' (A. Moran 2021), a developing showcase of Colin Campbell's colorful TBs, 'Mama's Music' (2022)



'Nymph's Shell'
(A. Moran 2022)



Gingerbread Man
(B. Jones 1969)

and



'Mama's Music'
(C. Campbell 2022)



'Debra's Melody'
(C. Campbell 2020)



Oldies and Goodies Lane

delicate 'Debra's Melody' (2020), and many more displaying their beauty.

As you make your way to the lower driveway on the front of the property, the historic section is the newest-built bed, dedicated to the "oldies and goodies" and Historic Iris Preservation display. We designed it for easy trespass and also much easier to maintain than the cliff-hanging I do in our backyard. Over 100' of lovelies to take in with a central pathway and terminating at my "she-shed." A favorite respite when the rains come in or to sprout some seeds.

Miller's Edgewater Iris Gardens (cont.)

Our affiliate took on a group sprouting project from Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer. I have never attempted such; however, under the mentoring of Katharine Steele, I have one surviving seedling. I hope to do her proud. Now I am getting crazy notions from Anita Moran to start hybridizing my own irises. Maybe I need to transition my sprouting of vegetables to irises! Only time will tell. I am honored to



'Snow Spoon'
(B. Hager 1982)



'Minnesota Mixed Up Kid'
(J. Worel 1970)



'Gladys My Love'
(A. Ensminger 1998)



'Petite Monet'
(K. Steele 1990).



The back yard and horizon of where the 76 steps BEGIN down to a dock at the lake.

have a HIPS (Historic Iris Preservation Society) display garden and welcome any visitors at any time of the year with advance notice.

Tour guest favorites in this garden included: 'Snow Spoon' (B. Hager 1982), 'Minnesota Mixed-Up Kid' (J. Worel 2003 but distributed since approximately 1970), 'Chocolate Cream' (H. P. Sass 1944), 'Gladys My Love' (A. Ensminger 1998), and our local hybridizer Katharine Steele's 'Petite Monet' (1990). 'Jesse's Song' (B. Williamson 1983), for me, is always ready for the show bench when in bloom. No wonder she is a Dykes Medal winner.

If you are looking for an adventure, the backyard is a special place, and as my grandson says, "Gigi, you have secret gardens!" Once you get to the end of the lawn, the terracing, stairs, and trails begin. You can see the backyard and horizon from where the 76 steps BEGIN and go down to a dock and Lake Hickory. Iris beds are all along the perimeters and the irises are naturalizing the very steep hillside down to the lake. Last fall I planted 'Black Gamecock' (F. Chowning 1980) at our lake edge to experiment and so far it has had a few increases. There are a few groupings of irises into themes like color and names, such as Wine and Sunsets in the western gardens near the fire pit, a Tar Heel collection of blues, whites, and blacks near the blueberry bushes, and just off the back porch adorned with wisteria are rhododendrons and a water fountain feature with beardless irises. There is a confetti of color along the way as you stroll under the nectarine tree and head down the hillside. As you meander around the terraces and head towards the stairs, you can't help stopping and staring at the darling clump of BB 'Moon and Stars' (C. Nearpass by D. Spoon 2005).



'Moon and Stars'
(C. Nearpass by D. Spoon 2005).

Miller's Edgewater Iris Gardens (cont.)

Each way you turn there is another sight to see. Stepping down into the Wine and Sunset garden, you can see rich colors of new and old. 'Flamenco' (K. Keppel 1977) is one of my favorites and how fitting is 'Reckless Abandon' (K. Keppel 2010) with a sunburst pattern and bright beard. The purple-based foliage and bud sockets on 'Volcanic Glow' (K. Keppel 2012) are just waiting for their time on the stage. The naturalized irises with rugged friends from iconic hybridizers such as Schreiner's, James Gibson, Larry Gaulter, William Maryott, and B. Blyth can be seen among the scattered *Iris pallida*.

Departing to the eastern side of the stairs you again see iris "in the rough" and areas under construction. After climbing back up, if you dared to adventure this far, you are met with

Many thanks to all old and new friends who ventured out to Miller's Edgewater Iris Gardens. We welcome your return and safe journeys ~ until we meet again!



◀ Shade Area



'Flamenco'
(K. Keppel 1977)



'Reckless Abandon'
(K. Keppel 2010)



'Volcanic Glow'
(K. Keppel 2012)

▶ Another path to
irises



'Crimson King'
(Barr and Sons)

a chair in the shade and refreshments while you check out the education stations with posters and a specimen table with examples of common garden encounters, such as leaf spot, slug damage, trimming/dividing, and others. Not to be missed were networking with new and old friends, and if you timed your visit just right, the pleasure of hearing Colin Campbell's magical music on the piano.



Welcoming guest to the garden

Touring Gabe Rivera's Iris Gardens

By Colin Campbell

On a pleasant, slightly overcast afternoon in late April, the irisarians in attendance at the 2024 Spring Regional found their carpools, buckled their seatbelts, and drove off to tour the first garden of the weekend. This first stop was the garden of Gabe Rivera, known as Gabe's Iris Gardens. As I stepped off the street onto Gabe's front walkway, a multitude of glorious blossoms caught my eye. On the left side of the walkway, he had planted a collection of bearded irises. The right side was bordered by a lovely garden filled with Louisiana irises, rose bushes, and a Japanese maple.



◀ Gabe Rivera front garden

Gabe Rivera started growing irises back in 2015 and soon was smitten by the iris virus. He started out growing primarily tall bearded irises; but after a number of years of losing bearded varieties due to weather conditions, Gabe decided to focus his collection towards Louisiana irises. He has found Louisiana irises to be much more adaptable than bearded ones in Charlotte, North Carolina's humid climate. He is also hybridizing both Louisiana and bearded irises. Gabe had some exciting seedlings getting ready to bloom, but they had not quite opened yet by the time of the tour. As I continued my walk around the garden, my attention was drawn to a large circular garden in the middle of the



Gabe Rivera Circular Garden

front lawn, surrounded by brick pavers and filled with Louisiana irises just bursting into bloom. I heard several judges comment that Gabe had curated one of the nicest collections of Louisiana irises that they had seen. In addition to growing many older favorites, he has a good selection of recently introduced hybrids. Both American and Australian Louisiana iris hybridizers are well represented in Gabe's garden. In the past, the only Louisiana irises that I had seen

in person had been in gardens where there were just a few varieties scattered here and there in areas of the garden that collected moisture well. It was very exciting for me to see this gorgeous garden where Louisiana irises were the prominent feature! I had only seen older varieties of Louisiana irises in the garden before – now I had the opportunity to see recent hybridizing advances in the Louisiana class. If I get the chance to visit Gabe's Iris Gardens again in the next couple of years, I might be able to vote for the Louisiana iris section of the AIS ballot for the first time in my years of judging.

The garden area in front of Gabe Rivera's house displayed roses in full bloom and more splendid cultivars of Louisiana irises. My eye was immediately drawn to the English shrub rose 'Abraham Darby' (D. Austin 1985). It was put-



Gabe Rivera Front LA Garden

ting on a beautiful show of color with its enchanting, pale pink blossoms. Making my way around the other side of the house I saw lush hostas amid the irises.



Gabe Rivera



Gabe Rivera LAs Growing in plastic Tubs

Touring Gabe Rivera's Iris Gardens (cont.)



Rose Abraham Darby in Rivera Garden

More roses festooned the wooden fence separating the gardens in the front yard from the nursery in the back yard.

The nursery fills most of the back yard and is an area where Gabe grows potted irises and varieties



that are not ready for a home in the front gardens. He has constructed raised tables for his potted irises with long wooden planks set atop cinder blocks. Gabe has also discovered a way to grow Louisianas in black plastic cement-mixing trays. He fills the plastic trays with planting mix, and they are ready for planting Louisiana irises in. Because Louisiana irises love moisture, he does not even have to drill any drainage holes. Several gardeners went home with plans to try their hand at cultivating Louisiana irises in these easy containers.

One of my favorite newer Louisiana iris hybrids that I saw was the frothy blue 'Vonda's Music' (P. O'Connor 2022), which sports white style arms and cheery yellow signals. It contrasted perfectly with the dark pink rose blossoms next



Vonda's Music
(P. O'Connor 2022)



Eyes Wide Open
(H. Pryor 2016)

to it. Another of my favorites was 'Eyes Wide Open' (H. Pryor 2016), a most unique blend of pinks with a pale edge around the standards and falls, and russet eye markings around the yellow signals. I enjoyed this one so much that I took four photos of it. Other newer varieties putting on a stunning display included 'Cream Galore' (D. R. Grieves



Cream Galore
(D. Grieves 2021)



Violet Vision
(R. Treadway 2019)



Moonlight Music
(P. Jackson 2019)



Pointe Aux Chenes
(J. Musacchia 2009),

2021), 'Violet Vision' (R. Treadway 2019), and the highly ruffled 'Moonlight Music' (P. Jackson 2019).

Some older Louisiana hybrids that caught my eye were 'Rich and Rare' (H. Pryor 2006), a ruffled concoction of pink and purple, the russet and gold 'Wizard of Aus-sie' (H. Pryor 1999/2000), and 'Pointe Aux Chenes' (J. Musacchia 2009), a bronze-colored variety with sleek blossoms perhaps hinting at influence of *I. fulva* in its ancestry?



Ocean Liner
(K. Keppel 2017)



Lavender Breeze
(T. Johnson 2019)

Bearded varieties of note included 'Ocean Liner' (K. Keppel 2017), and 'Lavender Breeze' (T. Johnson 2019), a lovely blend of lilac hues.

Gabe Rivera was a gracious host, taking time to answer all of our many questions as we explored his beautiful gardens. What a wonderful way to start off the garden tours for the Regional!

Barbara Alexander**September 24, 1926 - February 23, 2024**

Charlotte, North Carolina - Barbara Joyce Alexander, 97, of Charlotte, North Carolina, passed away February 23, 2024. Born September 24, 1926, in Stanly County, North Carolina, she was the daughter of the late Minnie Esther Kimrey and George Alexander Huneycutt.

Barbara is survived by her loving sons, Sam and David (Tassanee) Alexander, her brothers, C.J., Sherman and Gary Huneycutt & many more loving family and friends.

In addition to her parents, Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Robert P. Alexander, and sisters, Prudence McGinnis, and Jane Stetler.

Barbara was active in Mulberry Presbyterian Church and was a dedicated gardener. She was also active in many gardening clubs and had many rare and special plants. She loved to show visitors her garden, walking among the plants and telling their stories.



Barbara Alexander and Ruth Hoibrook

Thoughts of Barbara Alexander

by Anita Moran

Barbara Alexander was a member of my Carolina Ladies including Carrie Winter, Katherine Steele, June Hood, Ruth Holbrook, and Julia Hindle. Most of you know I love driving and it was my pleasure to drive these ladies around during Regional Meetings. I did not meet Barbara until she and Dr. Epperson presented species irises at one of the Regional Meetings. That presentation was the reason I went home to plant some seeds I received from SIGNA. I was still new to the American Iris Society, but when I went to Charlotte, North Carolina I was in love with her beautiful garden. I never knew crepe myrtles could reach fifty feet tall, or that

irises could grow so well in shade. It was in her garden that I first saw *Iris foetidissima*, also known as the stinking iris. I never found this to be true when I saw it blooming in any garden from Washington state at the Aitkins' gardens to North Carolina in Barbara's garden. It was in Barbara's garden, that I learned that beardless irises have an important place in a garden. Siberian irises, both species and introduced varieties, grew well with other species.

As we traveled between gardens during Regionals, Barbara often joined in the calamity of jokes, often started by Ruth Holbrook and picked up by other ladies. There were stops at roadside stands to look or to shop. Between Kathrine Steele and Barbara, I was slowly learning the names of companion plants. It was embarrassing that I would forget the names of those plants by the time it took to get to my car to write down those names.

It is sad to know that another mind vault of information was lost, another garden lost, but most of all a good friend was lost.

*Iris foetidissima*

“HARVEST CELEBRATION”

of Rebloom Across Region 4

AN ACCREDITED IRIS SHOW

presented by

BAYSHORE IRIS SOCIETY

Affiliate of

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY, REGION 4

St. Michael's Inn

1228 Talbot Street, St. Michael's, MD 21663

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - NO ADMISSION CHARGE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Show Chair: Lois Rose (540) 582-5799; Lowy222@aol.com

Design Chair: Terry Holman (908) 963-9227; thereseholman@gmail.com

JOIN THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY: www.irises.org

Receive Irises: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society quarterly! Attend informative meetings and events! Make new friends!

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Jean Richter, Membership Secretary
The American Iris Society
1226 High St.
Alameda, CA 94501

See the AIS website www.irises.org for more information or to join by credit card or PayPal.

GENERAL RULES

1. This accredited show is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of The American Iris society as set forth in the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, 8th Edition, 2021, and subsequent rules and regulations approved by the American Iris Society Board of Directors. These rules and regulations may not be violated.
2. Entries will be received from 10:00am to 11:45am on Friday, October 18, 2024 in the Chesapeake Room, located upstairs in the St. Michael's Inn.
3. Accredited judges of the American Iris Society will judge all entries in the Horticulture Divisions. NGC Accredited Judges will judge the Artistic Division. Judges' decisions will be final. Any award may be withheld at the judges' discretion.
4. Judging will begin at 12:00pm on Friday, October 18, 2024. The show will open to the public at 1:00pm to 3:00pm on Friday, October 18, 2024.
5. Only specifically authorized personnel are allowed in the show area during judging. This includes Show Chairmen, Clerks and Judges.
6. The Classification Committee may divide, sub-divide, combine, or create groups as necessary.
7. The Show Committee will exercise all possible care but is not responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.
8. Show judges are not permitted to exhibit in this show except under extenuating circumstances as determined by the show chairmen.
9. Youth exhibitors (persons under 19 years of age) who enter specimens or seedlings will compete with adults.
10. Exhibits will remain in place until 3:00pm and must be removed completely by 3:15pm. We welcome any flowering stalks "left" to create our Dinner Table Arrangements.

SPECIAL RULES -- HORTICULTURE DIVISION

1. This is a VARIETY/CULTIVAR show, staged according to type and in alphabetical order within the various sections and groups. Each variety constitutes a separate class and must be correctly named. No unnamed variety may be exhibited except seedlings which may be entered under number. Division, Section, and Group numbers and name of variety (number or name in Seedling Division) must appear on the entry card. The entry card is to be prepared by the exhibitor.
2. The horticulture and seedling divisions are open to any grower.
3. Exhibitors may enter only one stalk of a variety in single specimen and seedling sections, but may enter any number of varieties.
4. Containers will be furnished for all single specimens. Containers for single blossom specimens will be furnished for the first 30 single blossom entries.
5. Unobtrusive material (paper towels, Styrofoam peanuts, foam insulation, etc.) may be used for bracing stalks at the necks of containers.
6. Single specimens will be placed by the Placement Committee.
7. Entries must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag. Members of a family may exhibit from the same garden. An exhibitor may enter a seedling originated by another person but the hybridizer's name and the seedling name or number must appear on the entry card.
8. Seedlings that have been registered but not introduced may be entered in the Open Horticulture Division or in the Seedling Division, but not both, and will receive awards appropriate to the division in which they are entered.
9. Unnamed stalks (except seedlings), potted exhibits or labeled iris grown by another person are not eligible for AIS ribbons and awards, but may be displayed on the table marked "FOR DISPLAY ONLY."

DIVISION I – OPEN HORTICULTURE

Section A. Tall Bearded

Section B. Other Bearded

- Group 1 Miniature Dwarf Bearded
- Group 2 Standard Dwarf Bearded
- Group 3 Intermediate Bearded
- Group 4 Border Bearded
- Group 5 Miniature Tall Bearded

Section C. Beardless Irises

Section D. Any other

Section E. Single Blossom (not eligible for Best Specimen of Show and ribbons not included in Medal tally)

DIVISION II -- SEEDLINGS

Any unintroducted iris of any type. Seedlings must be entered under seedling number or registered name and must be made in the name of the owner or originator of the clone.

AWARDS -- All are American Iris Society Awards

1. All exhibitors are eligible for ribbons and awards.
2. **Ribbons:** One First (Blue), one Second (Red), and one Third (White) place ribbon may be given to each cultivar in each section except in the Seedling Division. As many Honorable Mention (Pink) ribbons may be awarded as the panel of judges deems worthy. Each specimen can be awarded only one ribbon.
3. **Best Specimen of Show** – (Seedlings and single blossoms excepted): Large purple rosette and certificate.
4. **One Runner-Up to Best Specimen of Show:** Small purple rosette. (Runner-up must have earned a first place ribbon.)
5. **Horticultural Sweepstakes** (most blue ribbons): Large purple rosette, Silver Medal and Certificate. [There must be at least three (3) exhibitors and at least ten (10) cultivars.]
6. **Horticultural Sweepstakes Runner-up** (second most blue ribbons): Bronze Medal and Certificate. [There must be at least three (3) exhibitors and at least ten (10) cultivars.]
7. **Best Seedling:** Purple rosette and Exhibition Certificate. Exhibition Certificate will also be awarded to any seedling receiving 5 or more votes from fully accredited AIS judges attending the show. Ballots are available at the Seedling Division. Judges will please place ballots in ballot box.

ARTISTIC RULES

1. Entries are open to everyone except Design Judges. An exhibitor may enter one design per class.
2. Exhibitors under age 19 may enter adult Artistic Classes.
3. Advanced reservations are required for all entries in the Artistic Division and must be made with Terry Holman by Oct. 14, 2024. Information regarding design type specifics can also be obtained. Phone: (908) 963-9227 or E-mail: thereseholman@gmail.com
4. One or more open irises must be used in each design and iris should be the dominant flower in the design. Fresh plant material must predominate except where noted in the class description. In all other entries, dried or treated materials may be used, but no treated fresh plant material is permitted. No artificial plants allowed in any design.

5. Fresh materials need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
6. Conservation rules will be observed. No members of the animal kingdom should be included in any design of this show.
7. Accessories are permitted but not required.
8. A 3" x 5" card listing common plant materials must accompany exhibit. List iris cultivars, if known.
9. Entries will be accepted between 10:00am and 11:45am on Friday, October 18, 2024, and must remain in place until 3:00 p.m. They must be removed by 3:15 Friday, October 18, 2024 unless you leave stalks for use in Dinner Table arrangements for Saturday.
10. Artistic Design exhibits will be staged as described in Class descriptions below.
11. Judging will be in accordance with the AIS rules. Decisions of the judges will be final.
12. The Show Committee will exercise caution in safeguarding exhibits but cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage.

ARTISTIC DIVISION AWARDS

1. One First Place (Blue) ribbon may be awarded for each best in class. One Second (Red), Third (White), and Honorable Mention (Pink) ribbon may also be awarded if the quality merits it.
2. An American Iris Society Best Design of Show rosette and certificate may be awarded for the best design arrangement in the show.
3. The Artistic Division will be judged by National Garden Club Accredited Flower Show Judges.

DIVISION III -- ARTISTIC

"Harvest Celebration"

4 entries per class maximum

Class 1 "Fan Dance" An American Traditional Design, of Designer's choosing, staged on a 42" H white pedestal with 22" round top. Underlay may be used but must not exceed 22" round top. Viewed from all sides and judged from the front. No staging panels allowed. Plant materials may be fresh and/or dried. Iris must be fresh.

Class 2 "Fall Reflections" A Reflective Design. A Creative Design type staged on a 42" H white pedestal with 22" round top. Underlay may be used but must not exceed 22" round top. Viewed from all sides and judged from the front. Plant material may be fresh and/or dried. Iris must be fresh. Optional non plant accessories allowed. No background panels allowed.

Class 3 "Autumn Spice" Designer's Choice of Design Type. Staged on a 30" H Table covered in white by Committee. Design staged in 30" W x 29" D space. Underlay may be used but must fit within defined staging space. Staging Panels may be used. Plant material may be fresh and/or Dried. Iris must be fresh.

Fall 2024 Regional Information

2024 AIS REGION 4 FALL MEETING LODGING OPTIONS

Conference Lodging

Fall is a busy time of year on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with rooms being booked months ahead. For that reason, we've secured rooms at 2 hotels in addition to the St. Michaels Inn, our conference hotel. Both hotels are about 12 miles from the conference hotel or about a 20-to-25-minute drive.

Hotel	Details	Reservations
St Michaels Inn (Conference Hotel) 1228 S Talbot Street St Michaels, MD	Double Room Complimentary Breakfast Thurs. \$100 + tax Fri. and Sat. \$175 + tax	Call: 410-745-3333 Booking Code: "Iris"
Best Western Hotel 8708 Alicia Drive Easton, MD	Double Room Complimentary Breakfast Thurs. \$120.60 + tax Fri. and Sat. \$197.10 + tax	Call: 410-822-7100 Booking Code: "American Iris"
Quality Inn 8523 Ocean Gateway Easton, MD	King Room Complimentary Breakfast Thurs: \$ 95.15 + tax Fri. and Sat. \$153.80 + tax	Call: 410-820-8333 Booking Code: "American Iris"

Close by Alternative Lodging

The following list includes most nearby hotels and inns if you choose to stay elsewhere and find available rooms:

Days Inn by Wyndham 7018 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD, 21601
 Econo Lodge / Easton Rt 50 8175 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD, 21601
 Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott 8945 Sunflower Drive, Easton, MD, 21601
 Hampton Inn 8058 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD, 21601
 Holiday Inn Express 8561 Ocean Gateway Route 50, Easton, MD, 21601
 Hummingbird Inn 14 N. Aurora Street, Easton, MD 21601
 Tidewater Inn 101 E Dover St, Easton, Maryland, 21601
 Lowes Wharf Marina Inn 21651 Lowes Wharf Rd, Sherwood, MD, 21665
 Parsonage Inn 210 North Talbot Street, St. Michaels, MD, 21663
 Saint Michaels Harbor Inn 101 North Harbor Road, St. Michaels MD 21663
 The Wildset 209 N Talbot St, St. Michaels, MD, 21663

Fall 2024 Regional Information

2024 AIS REGION 4 FALL MEETING REGISTRATION

October 18-19 at St. Michaels, Maryland

Hosted by Bayshore Iris Society

All meetings & events will be held at the **St. Michaels Inn (SMI), 1228 Talbot Street, St. Michaels, MD 21663**, except for the Garden Tours and the Patriot River Cruise. A limited number of rooms have been reserved for a reduced rate at SMI and two other hotels in Easton, MD, a 20 to 25-minute drive. Please see the attached Lodging Options. The area is very popular for tourists in the fall, and hotels fill up fast, so we recommend making your reservations early. You can cancel up to 7 days in advance with no charge. Complimentary breakfast is available at all 3 locations with 3:00 p.m. check-in/ 11:00 a.m. checkout. Less expensive weekday rates at all three locations are available.

Registration Form

Registration includes lunch and dinner on Saturday. Also included is Friday's 4 PM narrated Patriot River Cruise of the Miles River/Chesapeake Bay estuary.

Name (1): _____ Chapter or Region: _____

Name (2): _____ Chapter or Region: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Full Registration: \$95.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Youth Registration: \$60.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

After September 17, the Full Registration will be: \$115.00 x _____ person(s) = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail your completed Registration Form with a check payable to Bayshore Iris Society to:

Bayshore Iris Society
c/o John Iwanski, Treasurer
7344 Levin Dashiell Rd
Hebron, MD 21830

For additional information:

johniwanski@yahoo.com
c- 443-783-1594

or

Pat McNeal, 2024 Fall Meeting Chair
thegoodlife4all@verizon.net
c-443-786-3668 (preferred over email)

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Fall 2024 Regional Information

Friday and Saturday, October 18th and 19th

Location: The Chesapeake Room, St. Michaels Inn, 1228 S. Talbot Street, St. Michaels, MD 21663

HIGHLIGHTS—FRIDAY, Oct. 18th—Registration, Silent Auction, Scavenger Hunt, Classroom Judges Training, Board Meeting, Show, Patriot River Cruise, Lunch and Dinner on your own. No need to arrive by 10 a.m. if you're concerned about the morning rush-hour traffic around DC and/or choose not to attend the "Early Bird" Classroom Judges' Training. (There's an in-garden JT planned on Saturday.) If you are entering irises in the show, arrive in time to have them entered by 11:45 a.m. Judging and the Board Meeting start at 12:00 p.m. Scavenger Hunt begins; all persons completing it correctly on time get a FREE Iris!

Bidding on any local Gift Certificates in the Silent Auction will close at 2:45 p.m. so they can be used during your visit. Please make arrangements to car pool to the Tour Gardens on Saturday, as parking will be somewhat limited. Sign up during registration if you have seating available so others can contact you for a ride.

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. - Registration until 3:00 p.m, bidding on Silent Auction begins, pauses during judging of show; (bidding on local Gift Certificates only closes at 2:45 p.m. for immediate pickup). Show entries accepted until 11:45 a.m. Drop off items for plant sale until 3:00 p.m. Scavenger hunt (in your Welcome Bag) all day today, ends tomorrow; turn in when completed, by 3:30 p.m., for a FREE iris!

10:30 a.m. - "Early Bird" Classroom Judges Training
 12:00 p.m.- Judging of Show Entries, Board Meeting, Lunch (Bring your own or eat beforehand.)
 1:00 p.m. - Show open for viewing until 3 pm, Bidding on Silent Auction resumes.
 2:45 p.m.- Silent Auction bids end for local Gift Certificates only; please pick up immediately.
 3:00 p.m. - Show closes; remove exhibits until 3:15. Meeting room will close @ 3:15 p.m. and be locked until 3 p.m. on Saturday.
 4 p.m. - Patriot River Cruise Departs - carpooling suggested. Assemble near the dock at 3:45 pm. to count noses. Dinner on your own

HIGHLIGHTS—SATURDAY, Oct. 19th—Garden Tours (3), In-garden Judges Training, Silent Auction closes, Scavenger Hunt ends, Plant Sale, Social "Hour", Cash Bar, Banquet, and Guest Speaker. .

NOTE: If you are staying overnight Saturday, and would like some free time on Saturday (to rest, shop, sightsee, etc.) you may choose to visit the Iwanski or Rhodes garden on your way home on Sunday. The Iwanski garden is convenient to those returning south via the Bay Bridge Tunnel, and the Rhodes garden is convenient to those returning north via the Chesapeake Bay Bridge or Rt. 301.

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

9:00-10:30 a.m. McNeal Garden open for viewing and In-Garden Judges Training Pick up box lunches there. Anyone registering late will register there as well.
 11:00-11:45 a.m. Iwanski Garden Open
 Lunch - seating available at Iwanski and Pat Rhodes' Gardens
 1:30-2:30 p.m. - Rhodes Garden Open
 3:00 p.m. - Meeting Room reopens, Bid on Silent Auction, drop off items for plant sale
 3:30 p.m.- Scavenger Hunt Ends - FREE Iris for all that are correctly completed in time
 3:45 p.m. - Silent Auction bidding ends - Winners posted for pickup ASAP
 4:00 p.m. - Plant Auction followed by Social "Hour" with Cash Bar
 6:30 p.m. - Dinner and Door Prizes followed by Guest Speaker

Anita V Moran
630 Third St
Aberdeen MD 21001

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