



# The American Iris Society

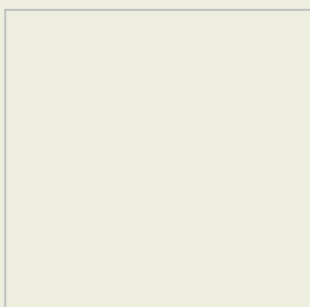
News & Notes

April 27 2018

## In This Issue

- [First Photos from 2018 Convention](#)
- [Two Iris Requests for 2020 Convention](#)
- [2019 Calendars Special Ends May 1st](#)
- [2018 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium Underway](#)
- [Ackerman Essay Winners Announced](#)
- [Iris Shows Popping Up All Over](#)
- [New Iris Species Discovered!?](#)
- [Events, Meetings, and More](#)
- [Survey Follow-up - How You Can Help](#)
- [A Doubtful Jigsaw Puzzle](#)

## First Photos from 2018 Convention



**Welcome** to the 57th regular issue of the **AIS News & Notes**. Please let us know what you would like to see here. And if you have notes you would like to add, or you would like to become a reporter, please let us know! You can contact either [Bob Pries](#) or [Wayne Messer](#) with your comments or interest.

## Two Iris Requests for 2020 Convention

2020 represents a special year for The American Iris Society as **it is the 100th Anniversary of its founding!** Among the celebratory highlights the 2020 Convention will feature guest iris plants as in prior conventions, but also there will be an International Iris Competition.



Both of these are opportunities for hybridizers to submit irises. The **Convention is seeking bearded guest irises**, and the **International Iris Competition is requesting Tall Bearded iris**.

The two groups of irises should be submitted to different addresses.

For Guest Bearded Irises submit them to:  
**2020 GUEST IRIS ONLY**  
**George Hildenbrandt**  
**4245 Lovers Lane**  
**Slatington, PA 18080-3651**

For Tall Bearded International Iris competition they go

The **2018 Convention in New Orleans** is over. Thank you to our hosts for a great Convention! Now everyone has great memories of the Convention and many photos to share.

You can see many of these on Facebook. For example, the [Greater New Orleans Iris Society shared a photo album with 138 pictures](#). They also had a [short video of the Society for Louisiana Irises iris show at the Convention](#). See the [Greater New Orleans Iris Society Facebook page](#) and the [AIS Facebook page](#) for other photos and videos.

A more permanent way to share photos and videos is using the **Iris Encyclopedia**. Pages for photos from each of the Convention gardens have been created and a few initial photos added. [Start on this page](#) to get to all the gardens. And be sure to add some of your photos or videos!

Immediately before the New Orleans Convention was the **2018 Aril Trek in Las Cruces, New Mexico**. A [World of Irises blog posting offers an initial take on the Trek](#) complete with several beautiful aril photos. And this page on the Iris Encyclopedia also [points to the Trek gardens where you can add your photos](#).

Need help adding your photos to the Iris Encyclopedia? [Start here](#) or contact Bob Pries [robertpries@embarqmail.com](mailto:robertpries@embarqmail.com) or Terry Laurin [tlaurin@rogers.com](mailto:tlaurin@rogers.com).

Stay tuned for the next *Irises Bulletin*. You will be able to see and read about more of the Convention gardens!

## Quick Links

[AIS Website](#)

[AIS Facebook](#)

[AIS Blog](#)

to:  
**INTERNATIONAL IRIS COMPETITION ONLY**  
**Nancy Skjei**  
**Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens**  
**474 Upper Mountain Avenue**  
**Upper Montclair, NJ 07043**

Full details can be found in the Winter 2018 issue, *Irises Bulletin*, page 32-33 or online for the [Guest Iris](#) and for the [International Iris Competition](#) (PDFs in both cases). Note that for **both requests the irises are accepted from July 1 through 15, 2018**.

## 2019 Calendars Special Ends May 1st

If you hurry, you can still order your **2019 AIS Calendars** at the Early Order Special price. **Early orders for these calendars will end May 1, 2018**. Please place your order through the AIS Storefront.



**Early Order Special** (cutoff date May 1, 2018): USA individual copy \$7.00, Packet of 10 \$40.00; Canada individual copy \$9.00, Packet of 10 \$50.00; International individual copy \$12.00, Packet of 10 \$60.00. Prices include S&H. To download the early order form for the calendars with all the details please follow this link: [AIS 2019 Calendar Early Order Form \(PDF file\)](#).

## 2018 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium Underway

The **2018 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium** kicked off with the publication of the ballot as an insert in the Spring 2018 *Irises Bulletin*. There are 478 irises for you choose up to 25 in voting. **All AIS members are eligible and urged to vote. Votes need to reach your RVP by September 1st.**



2017 Winner  
'Dusky  
Challenger'

And a reminder, the **2017 Tall Bearded Iris Symposium** results were in the Winter 2018 issue of the *Irises Bulletin*, along with an interesting article. You can see the [2017 results in this PDF](#). You can also [see the results from 2007 onward here](#). This is the same page that has the details on voting.

## Ackerman Essay Winners Announced

The **2018 Ackerman Essay** winners were announced at the AIS Convention in New Orleans by Debbie Strauss, Ackerman Essay Contest Chair.



[Iris Encyclopedia](#)

[News & Notes Archive](#)

[AISDiscuss Archives  
2005-Nov 2017](#)

[Read AISDiscuss](#)

[EMembers Login](#)

-----  
[Types of Irises](#)

[Arl Society  
International](#)

[Dwarf Iris Society](#)

[Median Iris Society](#)

[Tall Bearded Iris Society](#)

[Society for Japanese  
Irises](#)

[Society for Louisiana  
Irises](#)

[Society for Pacific Coast  
Native Iris](#)

[Society for Siberian  
Irises](#)

[Species Iris Group of  
North America](#)

[Spuria Iris Society](#)

[Interests](#)

[Historic Iris  
Preservation Society](#)

[Reblooming Iris Society](#)

[Novelty Iris Society](#)

::

This year's theme offered an opportunity for the youth to learn what the first president of AIS thought about iris and then put their ideas in writing on why his statement is true. The 2018 theme for the Ackerman Essay Contest was: **The first president of the American iris Society, John C. Wister said, "The iris is the mainstay of the hardy garden". Write three examples of why you agree with him.**

This year there were fifty-one 12 and under entries and five 13 and over entries. Thank you to everyone who entered, the adults who encouraged them, and the judges.

The complete list of winners and topics can be found [here](#). As a bonus, you can [read the essays from the winners](#) as well

Look for the 2019 Ackerman Essay topic coming this July.

## Iris Shows Popping Up All Over

This year's AIS iris shows are well underway. They began the first weekend of April and are continuing to build. Plan your visits and travels - you can [find all the approved shows listed by date here](#). That is also a good list to find where you can show your irises!



'Helza Poppin'

The show reports are showing up at my doorstep also. Well, mainly my email doorstep. Beginning April 8th with my first show form. That has to be a record for fastest reporting: one day!

And the medals are going out the door more rapidly as well. The first batch has already been mailed to the show chairs. You can [see where your show stands in this spreadsheet](#).

Speaking of medals, thank you to everyone who donated medals for reuse last year and all the clubs who reuse their medals. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and encourage everyone to consider donating them again. If you do not need medals, please let me know with your show report.

**Show committees:** You can find [more reference material here](#). Included is the [2018 supplies order form](#) and the [2018 show report form](#), both as fillable PDFs. Please let me know if you have questions, thoughts, or suggestions. My email is [wrmesser@gmail.com](mailto:wrmesser@gmail.com) and other contact information is in the above links.

## New Iris Species Discovered!?

**International Rock Gardener**  
99, March 28, 2018, pages 22-35,  
"Iris sisianica, a new stoloniferous  
species (*Hermodactyloides*  
section, *Iridaceae*), described  
from Zangezour floral area,  
Armenia". The part I can





understand describes it as similar to but distinct from *Iris reticulata*. You can read the complete article, and see some nice pictures of it and *Iris caucasica* in [this PDF](#).

This was discovered from a posting to **iris-species**, the electronic "round robin" for the **Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA)**. You do not need to be a member of SIGNA to join the electronic group; however, you are encouraged to join. [Learn more about iris-species here](#).

And to learn more about SIGNA, see [their website](#). A great resource!

## Events, Meetings, and More

Especially this time of year, there are many activities in irisdome. Iris shows (see above), the AIS Convention and other mini-conventions, Regional meetings, club meetings, and iris sales, what else am I missing?



'Current Events'

There are a variety of sources to help you be aware of some of these. The *Irises Bulletin* has Conventions and mini-conventions listed in each issue. [Regional websites](#), [club websites](#), and [Facebook pages for each](#) list many of the Regional and local meetings. We pull some of these together in listings of [Regional Spring Meetings](#) and [Regional Fall Meetings](#) (link coming soon). The AIS website [News page](#) provides information on the Board teleconferences which you are encouraged to participate in. The next teleconference will be June 27 with information on the [News page](#) and/or [AIS Discuss](#) shortly before the meeting.

Do you have events you would like to publicize? Send them to the *Irises Bulletin* editor [irises@janemilliman.com](mailto:irises@janemilliman.com) and/or News & Notes [wrmesser@gmail.com](mailto:wrmesser@gmail.com).

## Survey Follow-up - How You Can Help

The **AIS Affiliate Survey** is ongoing. You do not have to be in a club to participate; we would like to hear from everyone. You can [participate here](#).



'Please'

Speakers were one of the needs identified by many in the survey. As a result, in last month's News & Notes, we offered a way for clubs, especially geographically challenged clubs, to enjoy a speaker via a remote presentation. The responses were quicker than I expected. One of the interested clubs really hopped on the opportunity: **Thank you to the Logan Iris Society** for stepping up to be the guinea pig! The first remote presentation of "**Using the Iris Encyclopedia**" was a resounding success. Well, it was successfully completed. As a bonus, a video of the

presentation was created which will soon be on the [AIS YouTube Channel](#) - stay tuned.

One thing we have been struggling with is how to present the results and show what is happening with them. Both to organize our efforts and to encourage you to help. There are some requests and suggestions where AIS already has resources available, they just need to be more visible or better publicized. Other requests I can see how we might create them with your help. For still others your ideas and participation are needed to proceed at all.

You can see one [presentation of the results in this table](#). It shows the **answers to What help would you like from AIS? and What else would you like to tell AIS?** And then there is a column for follow-ups to show what is happening, where to find the items requested, etc. I like the format; however, the devil is in the details. Editing something like this on the Iris Wiki without changing something else in the table unintentionally is a bear. I'm not even sure that the conversion used from a spreadsheet to this table has not caused some problems.

Please let me know what you think of presenting results this way. And especially how it might be easier to understand and maintain. Other ways of presenting the results would be welcomed! You can send your thoughts to Wayne Messer [wrmesser@gmail.com](mailto:wrmesser@gmail.com) or other ways of contacting:

Wayne Messer, PO Box 64, Huxley, IA 50124  
phone: 515-597-4240.

Thank you for your help! And if you spot some suggestions you would like to help with, work on, talk about...I would love to hear from you!

## A Doubtful Jigsaw Puzzle

This was one of the 2017 Convention guest irises in bloom at the [Iowa Arboretum](#). ['Don't Doubt Dalton'](#) (Burseen 2015) is a TB novelty iris which received an HM last year.



Enjoy the [standard difficulty puzzle](#) as well as the [harder difficulty puzzle](#). And enjoy all the great things happening in your garden this time of year!

## Become an Emember

If you are already a member, you might consider adding an **American Iris Society** Emembership. This is a way for you to show additional support for AIS. For just \$15 a year, in addition to your regular membership charge, you have online access to **Irises**, including all the back issues of it and the **AIS Bulletin**, the

**Registration & Introductions** database, and you help to support our online initiatives! Find out more [here](#). And you will qualify for the **AIS Voucher Program**



described in earlier issues.

The Emembers Login link can now be found in the Quick Links in the left column. You will need your username and password which comes from the AIS Membership Secretary ([aismemsec@irises.org](mailto:aismemsec@irises.org)).