



The American Iris Society

News & Notes May 30 2025

Note: This issue is longer than usual and may be truncated by your email service. [View as Webpage](#)

You can also look at the beginning or bottom of the message for a link to see the complete message.



Social Time with the AIS Board of Directors



President's Message

I'm dreaming of Montana and we will be there next week. Some of our friends are on their way now. It will be great to see our friends – catch up on happenings and see their pictures from bloom season.

I have enjoyed touring iris gardens this

You are invited to stay after the live iris auction on **Thursday, June 5th for an AIS sponsored event.** There will be coffee and desserts to round out the evening. The auction should conclude at 8:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity for you to meet members of the AIS Board of Directors in person. We are a hard-working group who would enjoy saying "Hi" and hearing a few of your iris stories.

Bonnie J Nichols, President
The American Iris Society

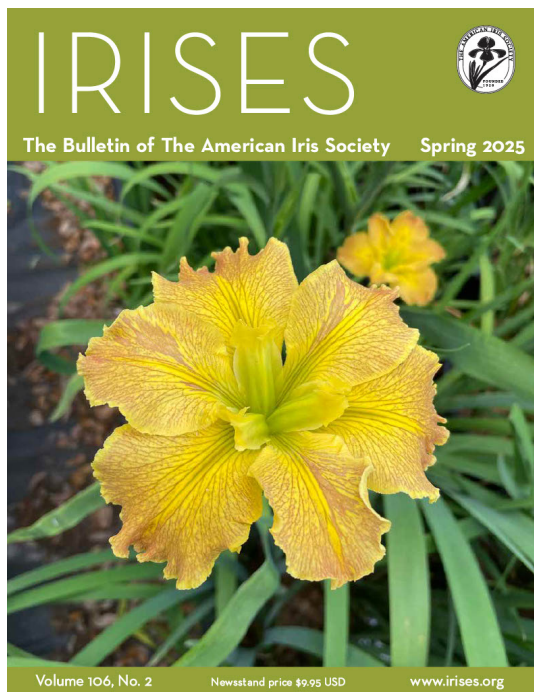
season and judging iris shows. A special GOLD star to Josh Winzer. The call went out last week for someone to judge a show in Colorado. For most of us, plans were already 'carved in stone' and we could not help. Josh stepped up and volunteered. He is driving from Oklahoma to the convention and was more than happy to offer to judge their show. Thank you, JOSH!

I understand we have iris societies that have reached milestone anniversaries. We have some 40, 50, 60,70+ years strong! Please email me (BJNHTN@aol.com) and let me know how many years your iris society has been around. I am interested in your iris society history.

I hope to see you in Montana!

Iristatically Yours,

Bonnie J Nichols, President/Iris Lover



Bulletin Advertisers

Have we missed you? It's not too late to start a summer ad campaign. You can submit your ad request on-line at: bit.ly/irisesads or send an email to the advertising editor, Linda Wilkie, at: bulletinads@irises.org. The **due date for publication in the Summer issue is June 1st, 2025.**

Current advertising rates are listed in the bulletin and on the AIS website at: <https://www.irises.org/hybridizers-growers/advertising-opportunities/>. Thank

AIS 2025 PHOTO CONTEST

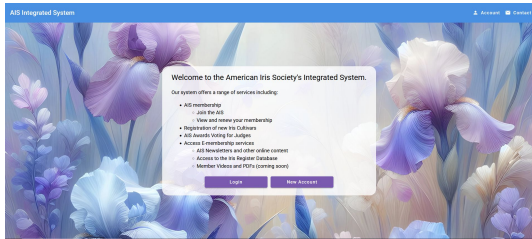
The American Iris Society invites you to participate in our annual Photo Contest which **began May 1, 2025 and ends August 1, 2025 at midnight, PDT.**

This contest is free and open to everyone, with the exception of contest Judges and the contest coordinator who are not eligible to enter. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS Spring Irises Bulletin and on the AIS web site. The 2025 winner of each

you to all our amazing advertisers for your support of the American Iris Society and its publication, *IRISES*!

category will receive a 2024 introduction (within USA only). The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership, or single e-membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an e-membership or annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runners-up of each category will receive a 2023 or 2024 introduction (within the USA only).

The 2025 Photo Contest Entry Form, including rules for entry, is on the AIS website at <https://www.irises.org/gardeners/photo-contest/>.



Say Goodbye

The old e-member landing page is going away! But don't despair, all of your favorite electronic resources like the *IRISES* bulletin, the new *Basic Iris Culture* booklet, the archived bulletins (yes, 105 years of bulletins at your fingertips!), and other historic publications, are still available to you in the new integrated system.

When you click the “**EMEMBER LOGIN**” button now you will be directed to the AIS Integrated System home page. Click the “**Digital Library**” tile to access Bulletins and Special Publications like the *Basic Iris Culture* booklet.

If you are not already logged in you will receive a login dialog box to complete to access your content. If you aren't a member with electronic privileges (i.e. print only members) you will get a pop-up telling you that you don't have access and offer you the option to purchase e-access.



SBM Virtual Show Entry Deadline June 15

Time is running out to send in your submissions to the Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Society virtual iris show! We are accepting entries until June 15. For entry instructions (and a few photography tips), please to go <https://www.bayareairis.org/virtual-show-entries.html>



**Virtual Iris Shows are alive
and well and open to
everyone!**

The Mt. Diablo Iris Society's Virtual Show will **end on August 31, 2025**. You still have time to submit entries or request a registration number at MtDiabloIris@gmail.com We respond within 48 hours so be sure to check that we have received your entries or your request! Already over 150 entries have been submitted and we look forward to many more.

We are still accepting judges so if you are interested in applying your skills to a virtual show, please contact us.



**AIS FOUNDATION DONATION
SPECIAL**

UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2025, EVERY DOLLAR OF DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE AIS FOUNDATION WILL BE **MATCHED \$1 FOR \$1 UP TO A TOTAL OF \$7,500.**

An anonymous donor has come forward with the matching funds. Donations can be for memorials, gifts, or in honor of a specific person. Donations can be designated to any of the AIS and AIS Foundation funds.

Go to <https://foundation.irises.org/contributions/> to donate online or to complete the Donation Form. Mail check and form to **Jill Bonino, AIS Foundation Treasurer, 3110 Kirkham Drive, Glendale, CA 91206.**



TBIS Voting - America's



Plant Sale

Dwarf Iris Society News

Plant Sale: The DIS annual [plant sale](#) is a great way to acquire more interesting irises for your garden and to support the society. The sale is usually the best

Choice & Directors

TBIS members, it is time to **vote for up to ten of your favorite irises for America's Choice**. Ballots must be **postmarked no later than June 30, 2025 or emailed by then**.

You may vote for up to 10 TBs that are **growing in your garden now** for at least 2 years, have been in commerce for at least 5 years, and are easy, hardy, and healthy growers. Note those in the Hall of Fame are no longer eligible. [Details](#) including the Hall of Fame list.

The ballot was printed in the Spring 2025 Tall Talk. Questions and email lists of your choices may be directed to Jerry James jpjrmj36@gmail.com

A reminder your votes for TBIS Directors are also **due. June 1, 2025** is the deadline and you can email your choices to ebclarinet1@gmail.com. Or mail them to:

Dr Kevin Vaughn
4358 River Road S,
Salem, OR 97302-9793



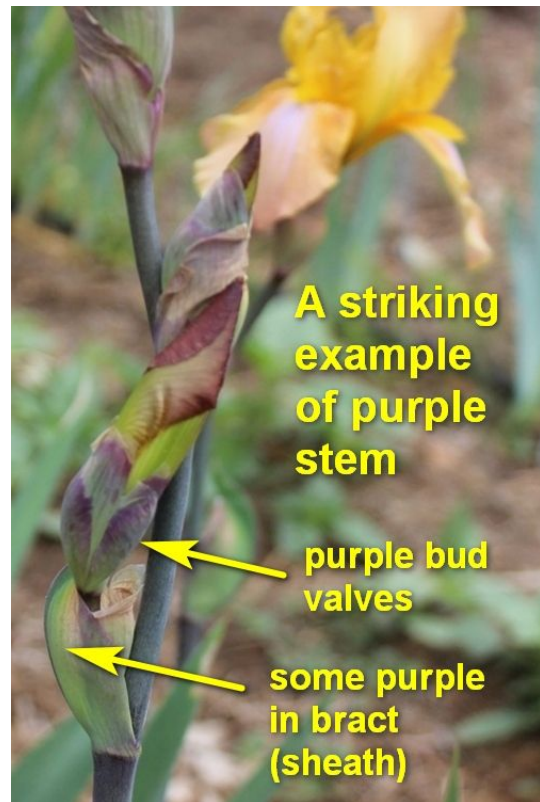
Novelty Iris Society News

Come see the Novelty Iris Society at the AIS convention! Our program featuring **Tammie Clark will be at noon on Wednesday, June 4** and we will also have a **novelty iris auction at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 5**.

Please come to our Novelty Iris Society section table. We will be selling our newly designed **T-shirts that have the Thomas Johnson flattie, 'Why Be Normal'**, on a black or white shirt.

source for hard-to-find MDBs no longer available from commercial growers. It works like this: donors offer collections of irises they would like to offer for sale. The plant sale coordinator compiles a list of collections and receives orders through the DIS online store. Finally, donors ship their collections directly to the buyers, ensuring the freshest possible plants. The sale is open to DIS members only until July 1, but buyers may join when they order.

DIS at the National Convention: If you are attending the AIS national convention in June, please visit us! Tom Waters will be giving a presentation on "75 Years of Dwarf Irises", and we will have a table set up where you can buy anniversary merchandise, seeds, and back issues of the DIS Portfolio. These items are also available through [our online store](#).



HIPS PBF Survey 2025

For those of us still in bloom season this is a reminder to gather observations on in-bloom-season PBF. We also want to remind people that the PBF Survey now

Tammie Clark has worked tirelessly on getting them ready, so come buy yourself one. You can use cash, check, or your credit card.

Also, we are in the process of building our website and would **love to use your pictures of novelty iris** to decorate the site and populate our photo gallery! Please email photos to jeanmarierichter@gmail.com - all photos used will be credited to the photographer.



Phishing Reminders

Remember, AIS will never ask you for gift cards or for money through apps such as Venmo, Zelle, or PayPal. Or even overnighting a check.

For more, see "Spring is Phishing Season: How to Protect Yourself from Scammers" [AIS Irises Bulletin Spring 2024, page 44](#).

accepts data collected outside the normal bloom season, both pre-bloom and post-bloom. We discourage data gathered in late fall and winter. Out-of-bloom-season data is grouped differently than in-season data so the reporter needs to make comment if an observation is out-of-season. If there is no comment then we will assume the observation is in-season.

Please visit the [PCT Project webpage](#) for details. Thanks for your valuable data!

The [2025 PBF Cumulative Counts Report](#) containing data on 2,357 different irises is now posted online. While there do take the time to check the About This Report tab. Found there is valuable commentary about methodology and an analysis of the data.



Invitation to Iris Contest 2028 in Muncheberg, Germany

Dear Bearded Iris Hybridizers,

The "Fachgruppe Iris" of the "Gesellschaft der Staudenfreunde" (GdS, Germany) invites you to participate in the Iris Contest 2028 in Muncheberg, Germany. The contest includes SDB, TB, and for the first-time Median Irises.

You may send:

- Three seedlings or cultivars of TBs (two rhizomes each), and
- Three seedlings or cultivars of SDBs (two rhizomes each), and
- Three seedlings or cultivars of median irises together (IB, BB, MTB). For example, two IB and one MTB, or three BB. Two rhizomes each.

The application forms for submitting your entries will be sent to you upon request.

Please request them from Pia Altenhofer
by email:
schwertlilien-altenhofer@posteo.de

Please send the plants, completed
application forms, and pictures of all your
plants (digital or hard copy) to **arrive no
later than August 31, 2025** to the
following address:

E. und T. Kaliebe
Iris-Bewertung
Mariefeld 1c
D-15374 Müncheberg
Germany
tomas.kaliebe@gmx.de

Please inform Mr. Kaliebe by email
before sending your parcel of plants,
application forms, and photographs. He
will notify you after he has received the
plants.

[Complete details can be found here.](#)

We hope for a brisk participation.

Thank you very much and good success.

Best regards,

Pia Altenhofer



Storefront Traveling and Handbook 9.0

The AIS Storefront will be closed May 28,
2025 through June 18, 2025, while we are
on the road. We will have the Storefront in
Billings, MT, while at the convention. Due
to the time it takes to process payments,
orders received after May 22, 2025, will



TBIS at the Convention

TBIS is excited to offer a **panel
discussion** on tall bearded iris at the AIS
Convention featuring **Lynda Miller,
Thomas Johnson and Rick Tasco**.
Should be a wonderful learning
experience!

We will also be **auctioning freshly dug
new varieties** from several hybridizers.
Looking forward to an amazing time in
Montana!

not be processed/mailed until after we return back home.

Looking forward to a great convention.

John & Kay Ludi
AIS Storefront
aisstorefront@irises.org
503-826-8808

Handbok for Judges and Show Officials,
Edition 9.0, 336 pages. Pages with cover
\$35.00; Insert (pages only) \$30.00 USA.
Prices include shipping and Handling
fees.



Yea! The Ackerman Entries Are Being Judged!

2025 Ackerman Youth Essay Contest
By Debbie Strauss, Chair

“The petals of an iris may fade, but their beauty never truly dies, a reminder to cherish the moments and memories that bring meaning and joy to your life.”

The deadline for the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest has passed and the entries are in the hands of the judges.

I am sending a giant thank you to our youth who took time to write an essay, also to the Sutton's who are donating the 2025 iris prizes. Remember the American Iris Society Foundation sponsors this contest and gives the monetary prizes for our youth winners. Please thank them.

Be watching for next year's theme to be announced soon in another Ackerman article in *News and Notes*.



Short Takes

Sometimes there are too many happenings for each to have their own items in News & Notes. So these are short summaries instead:

- Next AIS Board Teleconference will be July 23. We will have details in the July News & Notes.
- The next Affiliate Work Group meeting will be June 19th with speaker Jean Richter discussing AIS digital programs. Email Jody Nolin - jody.nolin@gmail.com - for an invitation.
- Prepare for a new AIS Electronic Iris Popularity Poll by continuing to enjoy your irises and note which ones do well. [This is what we know](#) (from the April News & Notes). More details as they become available.
- The *Irises Bulletin* Spring 2025 issue Beginner's Corner "Online AIS Iris Resources" now has the links for public AIS resources online here: <https://wiki.irises.org/Main/OnlineResources>.
- SIGNA Reminder - Time to plan

which crosses' seeds you will donate for the next [Seed Exchange](#). Thank you.



HIPS Iris Sale Donations Needed

The annual **HIPS Iris Sale** will be held **online July 15-18**. If you are a US or Canadian HIPS member, you may purchase irises during the first two days of the sale and then it is open to the public.

HIPS is requesting donations of irises in collections of six cultivars. Can you help? Look at your garden and think about 6 varieties that you'd be willing to bundle together. Give your collection a name of your choosing. We love it when donors can provide duplicates of the same collection, when possible. Buyers purchase during the sale, and the collections are shipped directly from the donor's garden. It's a great way to thin your clumps and help us preserve historic irises!

More details are posted at <https://historiciris.org/2025-hips-sale-donations-needed>. Be sure to see the special note about Canadian shipping.

Thanks for your support.



SPCNI News

[SPCNI](#) is close to launching its new website, and started a YouTube channel for PCI presentations in late May. The first talk debuted May 21st, and was posted to the new channel soon after. Among future actions, we are considering a logo redesign to include a banner for digital media, and a mailer redesign for print issues of Pacific Iris. A marketing friend of a board member did the conversion for our current logo to transparent so it can be used on our new website.

Dues for all membership categories will increase on the new website. After much discussion, the board has decided to move life members to digital starting in 2026. This is due in part to fewer seed sales, which formerly subsidized the costs of carrying life memberships from year to year. Printed copies of Pacific Iris will continue with regular members, and new dues will reflect actual costs to print and mail. We've been subsidizing these costs from savings for more than five years.

SPCNI encourages any one who grows PCI to save seeds for our seed exchange. Our formerly robust seed catalog dwindled as those who sent seed in regularly also declined. New gardeners will come forward to continue this

tradition, but like much else in SPCNI, this is also in transition. The seed exchange will be live on the new website in late fall 2025.

The new [Facebook Group page](#) now has almost 140 members, and has become an active discussion site, just as Diane Whitehead proposed, and Jeff Chiu endorsed. It's been a great source of good PCI photos this spring.



Median Iris Society News

Debbie Strauss, President

"The iris is a symbol of transformation and growth, a reminder to embrace change and to never stop learning and growing."

May is upon us, and nearly over. I hope you all had wonderful bloom on your median iris. We had a strong freeze about the time the medians were setting their bloom, so I had little median iris bloom this year.

It's about time for those of us attending the 2025 AIS Convention in Billings, Montana to head out. We are so excited because we will have well known hybridizer Kevin Vaughn as our speaker at the Median Iris Society meeting Wednesday from 11 am to 12 noon. Please be sure to come and hear Kevin if you can.

At the Median Iris Society Section table, we will have awesome median iris rhizomes for sale donated by Delane Langton from Eagle Ridge Iris Gardens and Paul Black. Dell Perry is donating older median rhizomes for us to give to iris lovers who join or rejoin the Median Iris Society. So be sure to come check out the current membership list to check your status. Single memberships are \$12 and 3 year ones are \$30. The photo above is 'Leave The Light On' just one of



Photo Identification

- Meet the Board - 'Social Event'
- President's Message - 'Montana Dawn'
- Phishing - 'Fake A Smile'
- SBM Virtual Show - 'San Francisco'
- TBIS - 'Captain's Choice'
- Storefront - 'Happy Traveler'
- TBIS - 'Football Hero'
- Ackerman - 'Judge's Special'
- Short Takes - 'Short Order'
- HIPS - 'Vishnu'
- Photo Id - 'Fade To Black'

the iris donated to give with membership.
Thank you Delane, Paul, and Dell.

Anyone hybridizing iris? Do you have any extra seeds? Please contact Dr. Kimberly Rieniets at KimRieniets@gmail.com. If you are interested in purchasing median iris seeds, please go to http://www.medianiris.com/mis_seedsale.html to learn more.

I have been wondering if anyone reads these little news articles. I did receive an email from Gregory Prabucki from Wisconsin. He is having trouble with more rot this year. I am working on an article about rot for publishing somewhere. Perhaps I will get in the next Medianite. If you are reading this article, please send me an email and tell me what you would like to see in our in News And Notes article or maybe in the Medianite? My email is debbie@loveirises.com.



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