



The American Iris Society

News & Notes

February 25 2020

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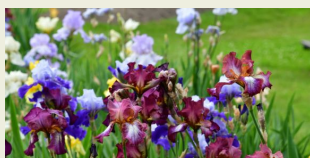
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AIS Convention News

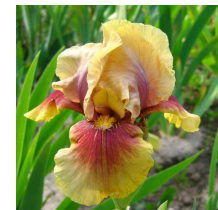


The [AIS 2020 Centennial Convention website](#) is your source for what's happening **May 18 - 23** at our celebration.

Welcome to the 74th 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.

Median Iris Society Mini-Convention April 16-18.

As everyone hopefully knows by now, on **April 16-18, 2020**, the [Oklahoma Iris Society](#) and the [Median Iris Society](#) will be hosting the "**2020 Visions**" **Median Iris Convention in Oklahoma City, OK**. Full registration includes a two-day, five garden tour with lunch provided both days and includes Thursday welcome banquet as well as Saturday Awards banquet. Everyone please register soon and join us!



'Oklahoma Bandit' - Sass Medal Winner

You can [read the complete invitation](#) online and [visit this page on the MIS website](#) for additional details. There is both a [Convention website](#) and a [Convention Facebook](#) page to learn more.

Register **before March 15th** for the lowest rate. [Direct link to the registration form](#) (PDF).

Iris Pollination Research Needs Your

The [Convention Program page](#) is where to find the latest version of the Schedule of Events. This is regularly updated so choose the Printable Schedule to obtain the latest version. This is a [link to the latest version - February 18 2020](#) - before **News & Notes** was released. It contains more details for programs and happening.

That page also has a link to the [Geek Dinner and Auction details](#) (PDF). A great way to relax on **Friday, May 22** after spending the day at the [New York Botanical Garden](#). **Preregistration for the Geek Dinner is required** and is separate from the Convention Registration.

The [Registration page](#) has the form and information you need for Convention Registration. Here is a [direct link to the Registration Form](#) (PDF). And [this page is for making your hotel reservation](#).

Hope to see you there!

Quick Links

[AIS Website](#)

[AIS Facebook](#)

[AIS Blog](#)

[Iris Encyclopedia](#)

[News & Notes Archive](#)

[AISDiscuss Archives
2005-Nov 2017](#)

[Read AISDiscuss](#)

[EMembers Login](#)

[Types of Irises](#)

[Aril Society
International](#)

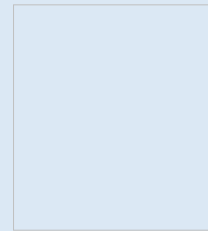
[Dwarf Iris Society](#)

[Median Iris Society](#)

[Tall Bearded Iris Society](#)

Help

AIS members are an amazing source of knowledge about all things iris-related! And because of this, we received an interesting request: what do you know about pollination of irises? A research project by Dr. Yuval Sapir and Dr. Katarzyna Roguz is reconstructing the evolution of flower traits among all irises and would like your help. Their request is shown below:



Dear Iris lovers,
Thank you for the willingness to help. We are currently trying to reconstruct the evolution of flower traits among all irises and therefore, we would like to use the huge knowledge gained in the American Iris Society and Aril Society International, to complete information we are missing. We have a few questions regarding irises nectar and mating system:

- 1. Does this species have nectar?**
- 2. Is self-pollination possible in this species?**
- 3. What are pollinators/flower visitors?**

The list of species with missing data is shown below. We are interested in data for any iris species (but not arilbreds or other hybrids).

Please send your response to Dr. Katarzyna Roguz, kaska.roguz@gmail.com Or to Dr. Yuval Sapir, sapiryuval@gmail.com

The [list of species with missing data](#) they refer to is shown in the **Iris Encyclopedia**. Learn more about [Dr. Sapir's Lab research interests and results](#) (irises are one of the topics) and [find him on Twitter](#). Some of the [lab's research](#) has funding by the **American Iris Society Foundation**.

British Iris Society 2019 Awards

The [British Iris Society](#) recently [announced its 2019 iris and irisarian awards](#). The [British Dykes Medal](#) went to the tall bearded 'Hever Castle' hybridized by [Olga Wells](#).



'Hever Castle' -
2019 British
Dykes Medal
Winner

The [Foster Memorial Plaque](#) was awarded to [Dr. Nina Alexeeva](#) of Russia. Other awards were the **Pilkington Award** and the addition of a new **Honorary Member**.

Congratulations to all these winners!

You can learn more about [becoming a BIS member and the membership benefits here](#).

Editors Notes: In addition to being a hybridizer, Dr. Nina Alexeeva has also published many iris papers. These can be found beginning on the [Scientist Dr. Nina Alekseeva page](#) in the **Iris Encyclopedia** (note the alternative name spelling). And there is a third page because of the alternative spelling, [Hybridizer Dr. Nina Alekseeva](#) with some additional irises. Thank you to an eagle-eyed reader for spotting the additional pages. We have linked them all together so you can find the complete story no matter where you begin.

The AIS website [Links page](#), found on the menu under

[Society for Japanese Irises](#)

[Society for Louisiana Irises](#)

[Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises](#)

[Society for Siberian Irises](#)

[Species Iris Group of North America](#)

[Spuria Iris Society](#)

Interests

[Historic Iris Preservation Society](#)

[Reblooming Iris Society](#)

[Novelty Iris Society](#)

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Resources, is beginning a list of links to other international iris societies. Please let us know which ones we are missing. The **Iris Encyclopedia** also has more information about [international iris societies](#).

Board Teleconferences - Mea Culpa

One of those I can't believe I did that minutes. Hopefully no one missed last month's teleconference due to my mistake. The Board Teleconferences are held on the **fourth Wednesday of the month!** I won't say what I had in the January News & Notes, just that it was not Wednesday.



'Mistaken Identity'

The February teleconference is **Wednesday, February 26th**. All the details can be found [here](#). They include the agenda, a [link to the reports and draft minutes](#) from the previous meeting, and a [link for joining the meeting](#).

Meetings start at **8 pm Eastern, 7 pm Central, 6 pm Mountain, 5 pm Pacific**. There are no teleconferences during Convention month and December. The November meeting may not occur every third year when they meet face-to-face and it may be moved due to Thanksgiving.

Again, everyone is invited to attend and participate! It is a great way to learn about AIS.

Guest Iris Requests

It seems as if there is always something iris doing in Dallas! The [Iris Society of Dallas](#) is hosting the **2022 AIS Convention** and the next year hosting the **2023 Louisiana & Spuria Iris Joint Mini-Convention**.



'Dallas Moonlight'

So this summer they will be planting guest irises! They have their requests in the **Winter 2020 AIS Bulletin on pages 20 and 21**. And you can see them online [here for 2022](#) and [here for 2023](#).

In both case plants should go to:

Hooker T. Nichols, Guest Iris Chair
3365 Northaven Road
Dallas, Texas 75229

The guests requested for **2022 are medians, early tall bearded, aril, and aril-bred varieties** which will be accepted between **July 31 and August 31, 2020**.

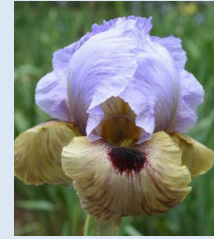
Guests requested for **2023 are Louisiana and spuria irises** being accepted between **September 1 and September 30, 2020**.

For both events they are looking for **up to three rhizomes of each variety**.

Questions - please contact **Bonnie J. Nichols, Convention Chair**, at **214-676-9892** or bjnhtn@aol.com.

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

We are coming up on the busy iris season in the Northern Hemisphere. Which means all kinds of meetings. Some of them are highlighted above and here are a "few" more for you.



'Event Horizon'

- April 3-5, 2020, New Orleans, LA Society for Louisiana Irises - Contact: Joe Mussachia
1cajunjoe@att.net 985-209-2917 - [details](#). **Registrations should arrive by March 15th**
- July 17-18, 2020: Nova Scotia, Canada. Society for Japanese Irises National Convention - [details](#) .
- [2020 Regional Spring Meetings](#) - listed by Region.
- [2020 AIS Iris Shows](#) - arranged by date.
- [2020 AIS Calendar](#) - not just meetings, contains other deadlines as well.

Something to put on your calendar for October! An invitation in the [World of Irises to attend the Iris Society of Australia's 2020 National Convention](#).

Ackerman 2020 Essay

The topic for the **2020 Ackerman Essay Contest** is definitely a timely one for our Centennial Celebration. It is:



'Joyous Youth'

"Imagine that YOU are the president of the American Iris Society 50 years from now, on the 150th Anniversary of AIS. How would you encourage people to join AIS and continue to support growing and sharing irises into the future? What do you think irises will look like in 2070?"

The **deadline for entries is March 31st** and should be mailed to

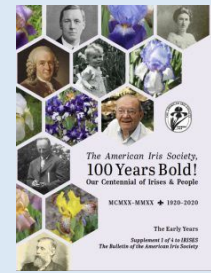
Debbie Strauss,
2213 Hereford Blvd.,
Midland, TX 79707-5012.
Email: debbie@loveirises.com
432-352-5483

There are three age groups; 9 and under, 10 to 12, and 13 and over. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each age group. Complete details for the [Ackerman Essay Contest are here](#).

Thank you to the American Iris Society Foundation for sponsoring this contest.

100 Years Bold in the AIS Storefront

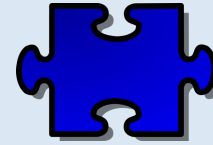
Part of our celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the American Iris Society is the publication of **4 special supplements to the *Iris*es Bulletin**. You should already have received your first issue with the Winter 2020 *Bulletin*. And Emembers can see both the Winter 2020 *Bulletin* and the first supplement by using the [Log In button](#) on the AIS website.



The first issue will also shortly be available from the [AIS Storefront](#).

A Kind of Jigsaw Puzzle

More from the 2019 Convention. This tall bearded is a 2015 from Keith Keppel, ['Marrying Kind'](#).



Here are the [standard difficulty jigsaw puzzle](#) and the [harder difficulty jigsaw puzzle](#) - twice the number of pieces.

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 **Iris**es, 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).