



The American Iris Society

News & Notes

March 13 2020

In This Issue

[Convention Status & Updates](#)

[Event Cancellations](#)

[Ackerman Essay Deadline
March 31st](#)

[March 25th Board
Teleconference](#)

[Meetings Listings and
Notices](#)

[A Grand Jigsaw Puzzle](#)

Convention Status & Updates



We are all deeply concerned with the rise in cases of the Coronavirus. The majority of our membership fall into the high risk category. Many Regional and Sectional events have already been canceled.

Although the 2020 Convention is still two months away, the Convention Committee and AIS executive committee have been monitoring the COVID-19

Welcome to the 75th 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.

Event Cancellations

With the rapidly developing Coronavirus / Covid-19 situation, a number of iris events are being cancelled and others are considering cancelling/postponing/other options. This is a list of what we know so far and where to find other updates as they become available.



'Virus Iris'

Two 2020 mini-Conventions have been cancelled:

1. **Society for Louisiana Irises April 3-5, 2020, New Orleans, LA - CANCELLED** - Details [here](#). (Right hand column, down the page)
2. **Median Iris Society April 16-18, 2020: Oklahoma City, OK - CANCELLED** - Details [here](#). (Facebook - Oklahoma Iris Society)

The **AIS 2020 Convention** is still scheduled while AIS is actively following developments. See the [announcement](#) in the left hand column of this issue.

There are several places where you may find updates. We are attempting to gather those we receive in two places: the **AIS website** [News & Events page](#) and in a new **Iris Encyclopedia**

situation closely. Our first priority is the health and well-being of all attendees. While no one can predict the future spread of the disease, we do want to be ready to respond to whatever does happen. It may slow or stop with the warming of spring weather. It may not.

For now, the convention will still be held. We will be monitoring the CDC and government guidelines and re-evaluating the situation as it unfolds. We expect to have a final decision by the end of March.

If we do have to cancel the convention, we will post it on AISTalk, News and Notes, and all attendees will be contacted. Contingency plans are being made should this happen.

It would be a shame to miss our Centennial celebration, but it would be far worse to miss any one of you.

Jody Nolin
AIS President
March 12, 2020

Updates as available will also be posted on the AIS website on the [News & Events page](#).

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

[Arl Society
International](#)

[Dwarf Iris Society](#)

page devoted to [2020 Iris Events - Cancellations and Status Announcements](#). Please let us know of other changes, or lack of changes, as they become available. You are also welcome to add them to the Iris Encyclopedia page if you are comfortable doing that.

Thank you for your help.

Ackerman Essay Deadline March 31st

The year is 2070! You are The American Iris Society President. We need to encourage people in our world to learn about and grow iris. How can we do it? What do our iris look like in 2070?



The deadline is drawing near. You have until **March 31** to write and perfect your essay for the Youth Ackerman Essay Contest. The full theme is:

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?

Send your creative stories by mail or email to:

Debbie Strauss
2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland TX 79707-5012
debbie@loveirises.com

To see all the rules and great prizes click [here](#).

Happy writing! Debbie

March 25th Board Teleconference

This month's **AIS Board teleconference** promises to be an important one. While the agenda is not yet available, you can expect the coronavirus topics to be an important component. Details, including the agenda, when available, will be found [here](#) (that is the direct link). Be sure and check it and other breaking news on the [News & Events page](#).



'Marching Band'

The meeting will be **Wednesday, March 25th beginning at 5 p.m. Pacific, 6 p.m. Mountain, 7 p.m. Central, 8 p.m. Eastern**. As always, the meeting is open to all members. You can connect via [Zoom videoconferencing](#) or call in as shown in the announcement. **Everyone is invited to attend and participate.**

Meetings Listings and Notices

AIS and all its parts have a large number of iris events, the majority coinciding with the iris bloom season.

[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](#)

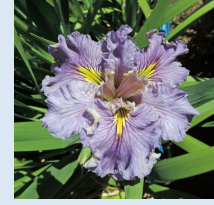
[Reblooming Iris Society](#)

[Novelty Iris Society](#)

::

That is, starting now! To keep you up on these iris opportunities, we have created several resources.

Approved Iris Shows are listed in [this table arranged by date](#) so you can easily plan attendance.



'Royal Meeting'

Spring Regional Meetings occur in many Regions. Ones we know of can be found [here](#).

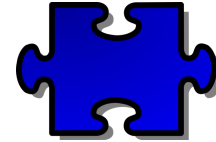
Iris Calendar contains [references to the above and to other deadlines and events](#). This is a general resource we added this year before the Coronavirus/Covid-19 effects began.

2020 Iris Events - Cancellations and Status Announcements is the most recently created resource. It contains [changes to any of the above areas](#) as we become aware of them. Changes are expected to be mostly because of Coronavirus/Covid-19 concerns. It and the [AIS News & Events webpage](#) are where to first check for changes.

Again, please let us know what needs to be in these and other resources. You can send your updates (and suggestions) to Wayne Messer wrmesser@gmail.com. **Thank you for your help. Stay safe.**

A Grand Jigsaw Puzzle

Okay, by now you probably can guess the above title means you will see "Grand" somewhere in the iris's name. And you are correct; this month's jigsaw is '[Grand Portage](#)', a tall bearded from **Jack Worel** (2018) observed at the 2019 Convention.



Enjoy either or both: the [standard difficulty jigsaw](#) puzzle and the [harder difficulty jigsaw](#) puzzle.

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).