



The Newsletter of

The Santa Rosa Iris Society

48th YEAR NUMBER 3

MARCH 2022

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2022 Potted Iris Sale Chairman

Need Volunteer

2022 Summer Rhizome Sales Chm.

Need Volunteer

MARCH

March 7th - 12:00 pm at LBA&GC

WELCOME BACK SOCIAL!

For this first in-person meeting in many months, we are inviting you to an informal, social event to get reconnected with SRIS friends. The club will provide lunch as well as water and coffee. If you choose, you may wish to bring a dessert, snack, or drink of your preference. We ask that you please wear a mask when not eating. Kitty will also do a short presentation on snapdragons and ranunculus. Please come and join us for this fun afternoon with friends.



To get some approximation of the number of people that will attend, we ask that you email Anna Cadd by noon, Friday, March 4th: caddsis@comcast.net

March President's Message Anna Cadd

It was two long years ago when we met last time in person for an SRIS meeting. Who would think that a small strain of DNA, not even alive, could wreak such havoc worldwide. And now, suddenly everybody feels safe, masks thrown in the wastebasket and hurrah! — hugs and kisses to all — even though it has just been reported that Hong Kong is battling the fifth round of Covid 19. I still wear my mask outside, and am not going to events with many people indoors. But I understand that life must go on. Even though the Center is open for all gatherings, masks are strongly suggested. The weather has been pleasant, but February is still flu season. We hope to have in-person events at the Center on a continual basis from now on. Stay safe and be vigilant.

SRIS February 14th Program on *Moraea Iridioides* Lynn Williams

We had a delightful zoom presentation by Garry Knipe and Mike Mace all about *Moraea Iridioides*, which are truly spectacular looking and fairly easy to grow in well-drained soil.

These irises are out of Africa and are very colorful, commonly known as Peacock Flowers, and there are more than 200 species. They interbreed, but do not cross with irises. Most of them grow naturally in the Cape Provinces of Africa, which have mostly quartz sand and silt soil. However, their natural habitat is shrinking because of the encroachment of man, sheep and goats.

Generally, they grow about 1 to 2 feet tall and average 3 flowers per stalk (which usually bloom one flower at a time, each one open for several days) and are 2 to 3" across. The foliage is very grass like. It takes about 3 to 4 years from seed to bloom. The *Moraea* grow from corms and require good drainage and watering during the growth season, but they are dormant during summer, so can be left dry. The bloom season is March - April.

As far as hybridizing goes, the field is wide open and only one hybrid, Zoe, has been introduced so far. Dr. August Delfertogh from North Carolina State, along with Stan Farwig, Vic Gerald, and Wayne Roderick have been foremost in working with these flowers. Mike Mace went to South Africa and collected seeds and now has thousands of them growing on his property. He does about 300 crosses per year in screened, raised beds, what he calls "screenhouses." Both Mike and Garry are working on hybridizing these beautiful flowers. We were shown pictures of various crosses that have single or double centers as well as different, beautiful color combinations with unusual eyes as well. You can never really predict what a cross will produce. Telos Rare Bulbs, in Northern California, sells the seeds.

Mike would be happy to give seeds to anyone who wants them. Depending on Covid, he might do a visitor day in late March. The contact info for Mike Mace: michaelcmace@gmail.com. He said just tell him what colors you like when you ask for seeds, and he'll mail them to you. Mike also does a blogspot at growingcoolplants.blogspot.com



Gardening tips for March Anna Cadd



1. Maybe someone remembers that at the end of January for our February Newsletter I stupidly wrote: "Do nothing for the irises now." Boy, was I wrong! It has been a very long dry winter season, with our last small rain somewhere in early January, and temperatures in the 80's some days. Probably you heard that they pulled the groundhog from underground somewhere in Pennsylvania and Phil predicted 6 more weeks of winter! Sure, he was right, there is still winter in Pennsylvania, but this rodent was never in California before. When the last February Newsletter arrived, it was 72 degrees outside with a bright sunny day, and it is still that now! They promised a winter storm some days back, and maybe in the future (good: no weeding!), but promises, promises.... So, irises awakened and started to grow like crazy, double and triple in size in one month. I have "Concertina" – G. Sutton, 2000 IB - in full bloom. Also, "Litany Of Magic" – B. Annand, 2014 TB - will bloom with 3 huge stalks next week.
2. I hope that you have already weeded the irises, fertilized with 5-10-10 or 10-10-10, and used pre-emergent with weed preventer. Usually snails and slugs are in full force now and can create a lot of damage, but for two years I haven't seen any of them. Is it climate change with too hot and dry weather, or are the birds taking care of them?
3. Just in case your irises start to look 'watery' and fall over, you have bacterial soft rot, caused by *Ervinia corotovora* and *Ervinia chrysanthemii*. It is the most serious iris disease. Bacteria enter through injuries or cuts to the rhizome. The cuts can happen when you pull off the dead leaves or by damage done by insects and worms. Soft rot causes the rhizomes to become mushy and have a disagreeable, rotten potato odor. The use of fresh manure or excess nitrogen, coupled with poor drainage, contributes to soft rot development. Dig up and destroy diseased rhizomes. If the rot is not extensive, cut off and destroy diseased plant parts. Sprinkle the cut areas of the saved rhizome generously with household cleansers, Comet or Ajax; also sprinkle around on the surrounding ground. Doing that may save the plant.
4. Leaf spot, another malady, is caused by the fungus *Didymellina macrospora* which is also known as *Heterosporium iridis*. The first evidence of the disease is the appearance of small, yellow-brown spots on leaves that are surrounded by a water soaked border. The spots enlarge, turn brown and dry. The whole leaf may be killed prematurely. With poor air circulation, dead leaves, debris and warm wet weather, the disease gets worse. I have a lot of damage but usually I let it go for now, removing damaged leaves later. However, if you decide to spray for leaf spot, follow the recommended doses and use precautions with the chemicals. Use only the minimum dose. Depending on the weather, you may need to spray more than one time. Follow the instructions on the bottle/package.
5. Now is the time now to fertilize citrus, roses, fruit trees and shrubs. There are many fertilizers available. Remember to bury the fertilizer around the perimeter of the roots, where there is new root growth. This means a drip line around a tree or bush. It is good to scratch the bark on the tree trunk and some branches on citrus trees, as this same hormone that controls the healing process helps with developing the new buds. Scratching canes at the base of rose bushes will promote the growth of new canes.
6. Time to plant annuals. There are pansies, snapdragons, violets, primroses, marigolds, African violets, poppies, and calendulas. They will be beautiful in April, blooming profusely with the irises.
7. Select and plant bulbs for summer blooming. I saw beautiful dahlias, begonias, gladiolas, Nerine and Calla lilies. They are not cheap, unfortunately, usually about \$ 7.99 for a 2 bulb package. Perhaps checking catalogues or on-line may be cheaper.
8. If you have hydrangeas, you can amaze your friends with their color by fertilizing them with aluminum sulfate. This chemical will change the color of the pink flowers to light to deep blue, depending on how much you apply. You can also have one bush fertilized from one side and have different shades of blue. Worth trying!
9. If you can't wait, plant some seeds and pray that nothing happens to them. Gardening is a lot of patience, hope, miracles, sun and rain, good garden worms and Garden Fairies who watch over the seedlings. It is good, sometimes, to leave some dandelion flowers in the garden, because they produce dandelion umbrellas, the favorite of Garden Fairies. They love to fly to the sky on those dandelion fuzzies! Spy them as they fly, while you are reclining on the garden lounge under a blooming apple tree with a martini in hand

2022 SRIS Dates

- Monday, March 7: 12:00pm at LBA&GC
(**note the date change** from March 14th)
- Monday, April 4: 12:00pm at LBA&GC- show prep
(**note the change of date** from April 11)
- Saturday-Sunday, May 7-8: Show at LBA&GC
with set-up on Friday, May 6
- Monday, May 9: TBD
- Monday, June 13: 12:00pm at LBA&GC



Interesting data, broken down by state, from AIS Exhibition report in the latest AIS bulletin. This is data for the 42 AIS shows held from 4/10/21 - 11/13/21.

The first chart shows the region of AIS and the number of shows held. The second chart shows the state in which shows were held, and how many shows they had. Texas had the greatest number of shows held.

Region	# of Shows	Region	# of Shows
1	1	13	2
4	4	14	4
5	1	17	8
6	3	19	4
7	2	20	2
11	1	22	7
12	3		

These states held only 1 show each:
ME, NC, MD, GA, IN, ID, NV

These states held the # indicated:
VA - 2, MI - 2, TN - 2, UT - 3, WA - 2, CA - 3,
TX - 8, KS - 4, CO - 2, AR - 3, OK - 4

The shows held in CA were in Redding, Coursegold, and Chico.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

Membership in the Santa Rosa Iris Society is on an annual basis from January thru December. **Renewals are due January 1st of each year.** The current dues are: Single Membership - \$15.00 & Dual Membership - \$25.00

If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please do so ASAP to Anna Cadd, 329 North St., Healdsburg 95448.

This will be your last newsletter if dues have not been paid.



Keeping in Touch

from Nancy Fortner - February 20th

Cloud Reflection - TB
Edwards, 2009



from Anna Cadd - February 21st

Concertina - IB - RE
G. Sutton, 2000

Honorable Mention 2002
Award of Merit 2006



Something to Look Forward To.....

2022 Spring Regional, April 30: to be hosted by SBMIS and MDIS at the Dry Creek Garden in Union City.

2022 Fall Regional : October 7 - 8: to be hosted by Leo T. Clark and Shasta Iris Societies - Chico

2023 Spring Regional, May 12 - 14: hosted by Yosemite Iris Society in Oakhurst, CA
visiting Kanarowski Gardens and Gonzalez Iris Garden, Ahwahnee, CA

AIS National 2022 Convention April 11 - 16 in Las Cruces, New Mexico

AIS National 2023 Convention April 10 - 15 in Dallas, Texas

AIS National 2024 Convention June 17 - 22 in Portland, Oregon

Excerpt courtesy of Sloat Garden Center newsletter:

The first reaction after a frost is to get out into the garden and prune back any obviously damaged fronds, stems or branch tips. Stop! And stop yard maintenance people from doing this also. This is just the beginning of winter and the potential for more freezing nights is high. Damaged plant parts actually protect unaffected parts below. If these damaged portions are removed, you expose the healthy tissues to the next frost or freeze.



Many frost-damaged plants will come back from the base or sprout from unaffected branches in the spring. Plants that will not return are the summer annuals and vegetables. The best thing you can do for all of your garden plants now is to keep them watered until the rains come. The bright side? Peonies, tulips, fruit trees, and other plants that require a good chilling will give us a grand show.

Do you know *Iris lazica* and *Iris unguicularis*? by Anna Cadd

It is the end of February and in a distant corner of my garden, behind the house, covered by leaves and pine needles from the neighbor's pine trees, a small blue iris is blooming happily. It is *Iris lazica*, another species of series *Unguicularis*.

I have several *Iris unguicularis* clumps. One of them is *Iris unguicularis* species, others are introduced varieties, "Mary Barnard" and "Teressa." I can share them if anyone is interested. Unfortunately these plants do not like to be disturbed, but if it has to be moved or divided, it is best to do in late summer. It is vital that the divisions are watered in their first season to help them get established, even if the increased leafy growth means missing flowers for a season. So, call me in October!!!



Iris unguicularis sp. –
Poiret 1785



Iris lazica –
N. Albov 1895



"Mary Barnard" –
Anderson 1962



"Teressa" –
C. Rigby 1998

Iris unguicularis is from Algeria, Tunisia and the Mediterranean and needs very dry, sunny conditions, while another species from this Series, *Iris lazica*, the plant from the Black Sea Coast, Northeastern Turkey and Georgia, prefers slightly shaded, moist soil. It grows there on shady sandy banks, often beneath shrubs or bracken. The name *lazica* refers to the fact that this iris was found in Lazistan on the shores of the Black Sea. There are only two described above species of this series and they are united by flowering in winter. (Although Carla Lankow for the KCIS Newsletter 11/97 includes *Iris cretensis*, a tiny plant found on Crete to this group). All of them are valuable and beautiful garden plants.

Iris lazica leaves are a little greener, and arranged in looser clumps, in fans at an oblique angle to the soil, about 12 in long. The flowers are smaller and shorter stemmed than the *Iris unguicularis*. You may say that its flowers are somewhat somber – deep blue with large upright standards, white and yellow falls with lavender spots and veins — and unlike *I. unguicularis*, have no perfume. In our conditions, at least in my garden, usually it waits to bloom until early spring, not like *I unguicularis*, which blooms from October to March.

When planted, the rhizome should be partially exposed. Plant singly or in groups of three with the fans outermost, 6-12 in apart. Feed or top-dress with a low nitrogen fertilizer when planting, in late summer or early autumn, and again in early spring. Lift rhizomes or divide clumps, when dormant, and plant immediately back.

Rick Tasco from Superstition Iris Garden hybridizes and introduced several *I. unguicularis* species varieties:



Dazzling Eyes '14



Lavender Moonbeams '14



Winter Echoes '11



Wishmaster '07

The British Royal Horticulture Society Joint Iris Committee awarded *Iris lazica* an Award of Garden Merit and described it as: "Evergreen, rhizomatous perennial to 25cm tall, with arching glossy green leaves and deep purple or lavender-blue flowers 6-8cm wide, the base of the falls veined on a white ground and named *Iris lazica* as the Plant of the month for February 2008".

Sources: Geoff Stebbings – The Gardeners Guide to Growing Irises, page 79, Timber Press
Pamela Mc George and Alison Nicoll – Irises, page 69, Firefly Books
RHS website www.rhs.co.uk
www.kcis.org/kcis_education/et_irisunguicularis.htm
<https://wiki.irises.org/Spec/WebHome>

Virtual Door Prize Drawing for March -

Door prize process - This may change as we evolve over how we meet in the future:

Please email with your top **5** choices, in order of preference, by noon **March 10th**. If your choices have already been selected, a random item from the list will be substituted. Let me know if you would rather receive no prize than a substitution. If door prize rhizomes need to be mailed, due to your distance from Santa Rosa, you must be willing to pay the postage.

APRON STRINGS (Kananowski/2019) 38" M; S. white slightly tinged blue-violet; F. white ground overlaid with wide dark grape-violet blue band with fine veined sunburst, narrow cream edge with wire rim; B. red-tangerine over white

ARCTIC CHILL (Keppel/2020) 40" M; S. white with a slight cool blue cast; F. same w. faint warm tone toward center; B. light blue tipped cream, yellow in throat

BANANA BOAT (Dash/2020) 33" M; S. gold; F. sandy brown; B. orange

BIG FLIRT (Johnson/2021) 36" M; S. flesh pink with light veining; F. deep grape purple with white spray around beard and light lavender marginal band; B. orange tipped lt. lavender.

BREAK MY HEART (Johnson/2021) 36" M-L; S. white with lemon centers becoming faint veining to petal edge; F. deep rich red violet with a very light lavender band with a gold edge; B. tangerine tipped violet.

CITRUS BURST (Sutton/2020) 40" L; S. saffron yellow; F. red purple; B. orange

DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL (Schreiner/2021) 35" E; S. lusty burgundy; F. near black falls with edges burgundy; B. blue/purple.

DOUBLE KICK - RE (Sutton/2020) 31" M-L; S. amber yellow, purple flush; F. dark-violet bleeding into 1/2" violet band bordered by narrow tuscan yellow rim at edge; B. orange.

HEY LOOK ME OVER (Black/2021) 31" E-M; S. bright mid gold; F. mid-dark mahogany with a wide lighter tan gold blended band; B. marigold.

JUST YOU AND ME (Johnson/2021) 37" L; S. blended pink with peach gold bands; F. white with a narrow light peach band; B. powder blue.

LEMON CHEESECAKE (Sutton/2020) 35" M-L; S. citron green; F. white with gray veining; B. white with pale yellow tips in throat

MAGIC RING (Keppel/2020) 36" EM; S. dandelion yellow; F. lighter yellow ground paling to warm white with dark port edge; B. port, white, tips chinese yellow.

MIXED FEELINGS (Johnson/2020) 28" M; S. lemon-yellow; F. white ground overlaid with raspberry plicata with center stripe and raspberry plicata band and narrow gold band with raspberry wire edge; B. based white, tips orange.

PANIC ATTACK - AB (Johnson/2020) 17" E; S. medium lavender blue; F. lighter lavender blue with large red violet central signal; B. yellow tipped white.

PIRATES RANSOM - ABOGB (Black/2020) 27" E-M; S. light orchid; darker with black signals B. auburn

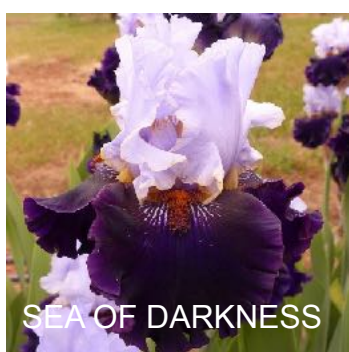
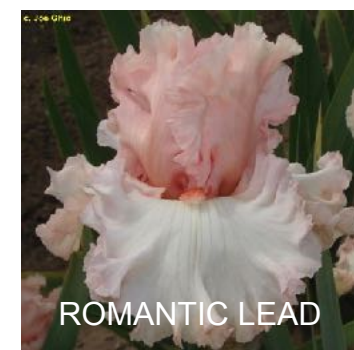
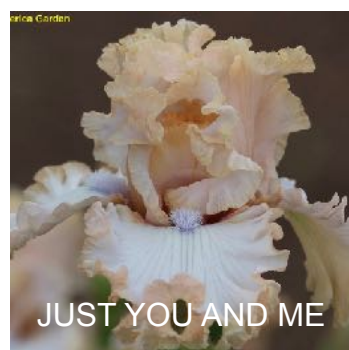
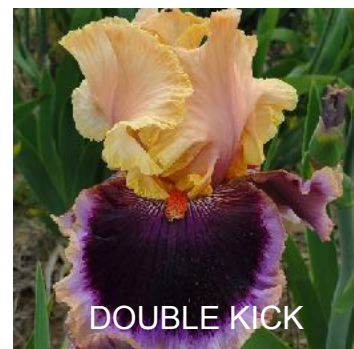
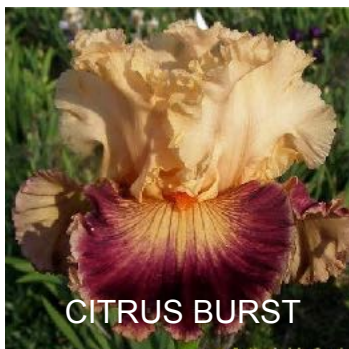
ROMANTIC LEAD (Ghio/2020) 33" M-L; S. mid pink; F. light pink; B. tangerine tipped white

SEA OF DARKNESS (Tasco/2020) 34" ML; S. wisteria blue with slight chartreuse white wire edge; F. midnight purple; B. bronze-tangerine.

SHARP WIT - SDB (Keppel/2021) 13" M; S. prune purple; F. vatican purple wide band, white center; beards B. pale yellow tipped brown in throat, ends based white with light blue

SPLIT TICKET (Keppel/2021) 37" ML; S. cool white; F. darker than canterbury, 1/4" wisteria violet edge; B. hairs based white, violet at mid level, tips chrysanthemum

TAPATIO (Schreiner/2020) 30" M; darker orange bitone; B. red-orange.



Spring Back To Dry Creek!
AIS Region 14 2022 Spring Regional
April 30, 2022



Dry Creek Garden - 550 May Road, Union City, Ca 94587

Speaker: Steve Poole from Illinois. Master Judge, Former RVP Region 9, AIS member since 1969

Speaker, Judge's Training, Silent Auction
Hosted by Mt. Diablo and Sydney B. Mitchell Iris Societies
Information: Jeff13bennett@gmail.com 510-677-0803

Saturday Agenda April 30, 2022

9:00am	Check in/ Registration/ Regional open
9:00am – 3:00pm	Fill out ballots and turn in
10:30am -12pm	Judge's Training (Possibly 2 at same time)
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch at Dry Creek
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Speaker - Steve Poole
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Iris viewing, 2nd Judge's Training TBD
9:00am – 4:00pm	Silent Auction/ Raffle Baskets
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Auction/ Raffle winners/ Silent Auction winners
5:00pm Adjourn	Closing comments and announcements

Monday Agenda May 2, 2022

6:30pm – 8:30pm Region 14 Meeting on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86704901624?pwd=dVgvRVNvZXI6WmlITm5Qc2pPTGg4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 867 0490 1624

Passcode: 395715

Minutes - February 14th, Zoom meeting - 6:30 PM Anna Marie Hermansen



The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Anna Cadd. She welcomed those present - Kathy Mc Callum, Cheryl Bryan, Jeff Davis, Kristin Herrera, Linnea Polo, Kitty Loberg, Loretta Figueroa, Rudy Ciuca, Joe Lawrence, Lynn Williams, Anna Marie Hermansen, Steve Albert, and Diana Ford.

Anna and Jeff had a dry-run of tonight's presentation earlier in the day with Garry Knipe to ensure that there would be minimal problems when the membership would view it later that evening.

The January minutes were approved.

Ten people still have not sent in their membership dues, so Anna sent an email reminding them. Two responded that they will send a check. It was decided that the March newsletter would be the last newsletter sent if people have not paid dues yet. They will be given notice about that when the newsletter is sent.

Upcoming meetings - We still need a speaker for March. The one originally chosen was determined to be not suitable for our members. A new topic/presentation needs to be found. The April 4th meeting will be our show prep demonstration/presentation. Jim Begley has agreed to help with that.

In the treasurer's report, it was noted that LBA&GC had not yet deposited our \$5,000 check for the general fund/maintenance. Contact was made with the person who received the check. It appears that the roof and painting are the 2 projects most need to be done. The revised proposed budget was briefly gone over and approved.

LBA&GC update - Our iris garden has been weeded and looks weed free. All the sheds were broken into again, but nothing was stolen from our shed. It was suggested we try to find another type of lock/bolt that would be harder to remove.

Newer registration books have not been ordered yet, but it was brought up whether we really need those books now, since if there are questions, people just pull out their phone and do an iris search. Anna brought up that addresses of hybridizers can be found in those books.

Show updates: Jeff said a show theme is still needed. Kitty will put together the program so it can be sent to AIS for approval. Several suggestions were made for the theme, but it was decided it would be "Rainbow of Colors." We will decide next time about keeper gifts for winners. Jeff mentioned the problem of getting judges. He has contacted 4 so far who have not made a commitment, but will try to contact more judges.

The Spring Regional is upcoming and information has been emailed to club members already. Unless you want to attend the business meeting, it is only a 1 day event on a Saturday at Dry Creek Gardens in Union City. The business meeting will be on Sunday. (Update - the business meeting will be on zoom Monday)

The business part of the meeting ended at 7:10 to prepare for the Zoom presentation on Moraea iris.

Thanks to the following people for contributions to the newsletter ...
Lynn Williams, Sloat Garden Center, and Anna Cadd

April Newsletter Deadline - March 20th

Here are the latest AIS webinars on YouTube. You can access all webinars on www.youtube.com/theamericanirissociety



1:11:48

AIS Webinar #20 "An Introduction to Growing Pacific Coast Irises" by Bob Sussman



1:16:19

Webinar #21 "Beauty from the Past, Saved for the Future" by Wendy Scott



1:17:09

Webinar #22 "Iris Ensata — the Japanese Iris" by Patrick Spence



1:24:43

Webinar #23 "Growing Iris in Containers" by Doug Chyz

2022 AIS Convention - Iris Enchantment



The [Special 2022 Convention Issue](#) (PDF version) of News & Notes from early October announced:

- Registration is open and can be done online at <https://ais-2022.square.site/>
- Several special events are on the schedule
- The Silent Auction request by Eva Barry eva13barry@gmail.com
- Video from the [6 host gardens and more about the Convention](#)

You can learn more about all these on the [2022 AIS Convention website](#). Note there is a website technical issue which will be resolved in the next day or two. In the meantime, all the above links are working.

2022

Winter Webinar Series

By

The American Iris Society



Start Time: 5:30 p.m. Pacific, 8:30 p.m. Eastern

Duration: about 1.5 hours per session

Via: ZOOM

Info: AISwebinars@gmail.com

DETAILS

1. An email invitation to register online will be sent to all AIS members a week before each event. Once you register you will be sent the webinar's link.
2. All webinars will be **FREE** of charge to all members of AIS, AIS sections, and local iris clubs.
3. Not an AIS member but want to attend? Email us.

Wednesday, March 2nd

Presented by **Gary White and Bonnie Nichols**

Awards and Ballots (JT)

This is an updated presentation and will identify, describe and show the numerous awards given by the American Iris Society. This first session will focus on garden awards that are voted by garden judges of the AIS. History about the awards is included, with notes and photos about the people for whom the special medals are named. For judges, apprentices, and students, this webinar includes 1.5 hours of Judges Training credits. Another 0.5 hours of credit will be included in the March 9 webinar to fulfill the 2 hour requirement for apprentice judges. Please note that this program is informative for non-judges as well. If you are interested in AIS garden awards, this program explains them, from the HM to the Dykes Medal.

Wednesday, March 9th

Presented by **Gary White and Bonnie Nichols**

Awards and Ballots, continued

The first part of this webinar will conclude the Awards and Ballots presentation. This 30 minute portion will focus on Show Awards, Convention awards, Honorary Awards, and Symposium ballots. These are not garden awards and are voted either by judges at exhibitions, convention attendees, the AIS Board of Directors, or by any member of the AIS/section/affiliate depending on the particular award. Judges Training credit of 0.5 hour will be given for this 30 minute session.

Ethics (JT)

This 1 hour session will focus on the dos and don'ts while visiting iris venues, whether they are private gardens, convention gardens, public gardens, or iris shows. The program will discuss three categories of ethics for AIS judges, and will discuss general ethics for non-judges as well. 1 hour of Judges Training credit is available for this presentation.