



Illinois Region 9 American Iris Society Spring

Meeting



Haunted Heart Keppel 2016

2025 SPRING FLING

SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2025

Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building

1505 Valle Vista, Pekin, IL

Coffee Hour: 9:00 AM

Silent Auction- Accepting donations for this auction

Iris Program 10:00 AM – 11 AM Part One

Median Iris "The Little Ones" 1 hour education

Deb Strauss Midland, TX - President- Median Iris Society, Master Judge

Iris Program 11:15 AM – 12:15 AM Part Two

***Lunch 12:30 – 1:15 PM**

**Potluck lunch – bring a dish or two to share
meat and beverage furnished**

Short Business Meeting: 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

In Garden Judging 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM 1 hour education

Kelly Garden - instructor Steve Poole

Back to Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building to clean and close 4 PM – 5 PM

[Please register for this meeting-information on the last page!](#)

Here is the final result of Region 9's 2024 Tall Bearded Symposium tally!

AIS PLACEMENT

1. Daughter of Stars

9 vot

#4

2. Thornbird	7	#2
3. Stairway to Heaven	7	#7
4. Dusky Challenger	6	#1
5. Jesse's Song	5	#5
6. Mesmerizer	5	#11
7. Florentine Silk	5	#21
8. Champaign Elegance	4	#33
9. Haunted Heart	4	#12
10. Silverado	4	#18
11. Wintery Sky	4	#38
12. Bottle Rocket	3	#6
13. Catch the Fever	3	#87
14. Clean Energy	3	#
15. Don't Doubt Dalton	3	#9
16. Happenstance	3	#41
17. Laced Cotton	3	#79

39 cultivars were voted on - here are the top 17 cultivars Had 10 participants casting votes



Meet your new Region 9 Officers:

Debra Miller - Regional Vice President of Springfield, IL
Diana Anshakov - Vice President of Newark, IL
David Miller - Secretary of Springfield, IL
Margaret Kelly – Treasurer of Pekin, IL
Steve Poole - Region 9 Judges Training Chair Eldorado, IL

2025 Calendar

March 7, 2025 Sangamon Valley Iris Society Rochester Community Building, Rochester, IL 7PM Speaker: "Flowers in my Garden"

March 8, 2025 Southern Illinois Iris Society 12:00PM Village Garden Family Restaurant 1517 W Main St, Salem,

March 24, 2025 Mid Illinois Iris Society Caseyville Township Hall (small bldg.) 6 PM power point Jim Morris/Bob Skaggs

**April 26, 2025 Spring Fling Illinois Region 9 Tazewell County Farm Bureau 1505 Valle Vista, Pekin, IL Deb Strauss, Master Judge – Median Irises 2 hours
1 hour garden judging – total 3 hours of education**

May 3, 2025 NOTE: MIIS members are also invited to attend the Region 18 Spring meeting & tour hosted by the Kirkwood Iris Society to be held on Saturday,

May 2, 2025 Sangamon Iris Society Rochester Community Center Rochester Community Center, Rochester, IL Deb Miller – “Preparing Irises for Iris Show with Debra Miller

May 3, 2025 The bus will depart from Kirkwood at 8 AM to tour 4 iris gardens. There is a fee (more information on this later) and lunch and dinner are included. Iris auction after dinner.

May 10, 2025 Sangamon Valley Iris Show Judging 10 am Washington Park Botanical Garden 1720 W Fayette St Springfield IL

May 10, 2025 Mid Illinois Iris Society, will set up the evening at 6 PM Missouri Botanical Garden in the East/West room

May 11, 2025 Greater St Louis Iris Show with Mid Illinois Iris Society . Entries must be in place by 9AM Missouri Botanical Garden in East/West Room

May 14, 2025 Mid Illinois Iris Society Caseyville Township Hall (small bldg.) 6 PM Information about iris show at MOBOT in conjunction of Greater St Louis Iris Show. Demo “How to enter an iris stalk” & review show schedule

May 15, 2025 May 15 (or another day that week) - MIIS members are invited to the garden of Mike & Gerlinde Koebel, 535 North Stanton St., Lebanon, IL 62254. Mike & Gerlinde are members of GSLIS. The exact date will depend on peak bloom for the spring of 2025. The garden contains some 100 mature clumps of tall bearded irises and is definitely worth seeing. More details to follow. Time of day will likely be 2 PM.

May 26, 2025 Northern IL Iris Society Iris Show Morton Arboretum, Lyle Illinois

June 2-7, 2025 American Iris Society Iris Convention Billings, Montana

July 14, 2025 Elmhurst in the Park Northern Illinois Iris Society Iris Sale

July 19, 2025 July 19 - Tentative Iris Sale at one of the three local farmers' markets (Eugene is checking on the cost of a space, and which one gets the most traffic). An alternate date might be August 23.

July 19, 2025 Sangamon Valley Public Iris Sale Washington Park Botanical Garden 1740 W Fayette Ave, Springfield – Public Iris Sale 1PM

August 1, 2025 Judges activity report due to Judges chair: Steve Poole

August 22, 2025 Illinois Region 9 Iris sale set up at Washington Park Botanical Garden Exhibition Hall 1:30pm – 4:30PM meet Hampton Inn SW, Springfield for dinner at Golden Corral, education session 7PM Hampton Inn Southwest, Springfield

August 23, 2025 Public Iris Sale Washington Park Botanical Garden Exhibit Hall 1740 W Fayette Ave, Springfield, IL beginning 9AM, silent auction for all AIS members during the morning, lunch, short business and tour of iris beds at the botanical gardens.

Sept 1, 2025 NO SYMPOSIUM THIS YEAR!!!

Sept 5, 2025 Sangamon Valley Iris Society Rochester Community Building, Rochester, IL 7PM Member only Iris sale

Sept 22, 2025 Mid Illinois Iris Society Caseyville Township Hall (small bldg.) at 6 PM - Iris Jeopardy. A future date in October, we may discuss hosting a Judges Training on a Saturday in the month of October. It would be a 5-hour event and some of the Region 18 Judges might be interested in attending along with those from region 9.

October 3, 2-25 Sangamon Valley Iris Society Rochester Community Center, Rochester, IL 7PM Speaker TBA

**Illinois Region 9 Fall Meeting, Iris sale, and Iris Speaker
August 22nd & August 23 2025
Washington Park Botanical Gardens
1740 W Fayette Ave, Springfield, IL**

2025 Iris Shows

**May 10, 2025 Sangamon Valley Iris Society Washington Park Botanical Exhibit Hall 1740 W Fayette, Springfield, IL
Flowers to be in place by 10AM for judging Show open to public by noon**

May 11, 2025 Mid Ill Iris Society to MBG Greater St Louis Iris Show Missouri Botanical Garden in the Jack Taylor Visitors Center

May 26, 2025 Northern Illinois Iris Society Morton Arboreum, Lyle IL Judging 10AM , open to public noon



**Siberian/Species Iris and AIS Region 21 Convention
AIM for Ames for Irises
May 23 & 24, 2025 Ames, Iowa**

**The 2025 Siberian and Species Iris Convention in conjunction
With the American Iris Region 21 spring meeting. The convention
Begins Friday afternoon and concludes Saturday evening, It will
Include a tour of three gardens, two with guest Siberian, and species
irises, in-garden judges' training, and silent and live auction.**

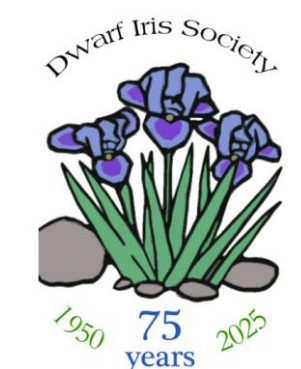


SLI Iris Spring 2023 in Lafayette

Web site <https://louisianas.org/>

Hotel – Hilton Garden Inn Lafayette/Cajundoe Spring Region 9 Meeting Saturday April 26, 2025 beginning 9:30AM

lunch and informal tips about irises.



See us in Montana: Our speaker will be well-known hybridizer Kevin Vaughn, author of *Dwarf and Median Bearded Irises, Jewels of the Iris World*.

Go to <https://bigskyirisclub.com/register-2025/> to register for the Convention.

AIS Looking for Directors

If you are interested in keeping up with the workings of AIS and being involved in decisions that affect the AIS, the promotion of irises, its members, sections, and affiliates, this is the place for you.

What is involved in being an AIS Director?

Directors serve 3-year terms, with elections held each spring. A director is responsible for attending AIS Board meetings which are usually held once a month on Zoom. Directors serve on at least one of the AIS committees where their special skills or knowledge can be applied.

How to nominate yourself or someone else

If you are interested in becoming an AIS director or know someone who might be, prepare a short biography stating experiences with iris related matters, including club, region, and AIS experience. Include a statement about the impact that can be made on AIS by this nominee. Send the biography to the chair of the Nomination Committee, Susan Driver susandriver801@charter.net

Interested? Attend a Zoom Board meeting to see what goes on. To attend, request a link to the Zoom meeting from the AIS secretary at secretary@irises.org

AIS Webinars

We are inviting you to take a look at the webinars that are available on the YouTube for the American Iris Society. Since 2020, more than 40 webinars have been presented to the public, some of these webinars, are for Judges Training hours. Take a LOOK and enjoy.



Here is but one example!

You may also find on the AIS web site, under Membership, scroll down to judges, click on judges and scroll down quite a way to just under the judges, hand book, there is a section called Training Videos on line, there about 6 video you may watch and take a test for judges training credit- otherwise you may watch these videos to gain new insight. Note: these video's, will take you to you tube, which is correct. Below the video, you will notice a posting of directions of finding the test for this video.



MID-ILLINOIS IRIS SOCIETY

By Jean Morris, Ballwin, MO

Hello Region 9 iris lovers! Our MIIS group is small but eager for iris bloom season to begin. Our first meeting will be Monday, March 24 at 6:00 PM at the Caseyville Township Hall, 10001 Bunkum Road in Fairview Heights. The program will be a review of the iris classes – bearded and beardless – by Jim Morris. Seeing this colorful presentation should put everyone in the mood for spring.

Future meetings are set for April 14, September 22 and October 13, same time and location. Our iris show will be May 11 (Mother's Day) at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, MO in partnership with the Greater St. Louis Iris Society (GSLIS). Come visit us and enjoy the other sights the Garden

has to offer. Region 9 has a history of sharing events (and members) with GSLIS, and it has been beneficial to both clubs.

The 2024 iris bloom season began quite early, so both MIIS and GSLIS members had fewer stalks to enter in the iris show than usual on Mother's Day last year. However, everyone worked together and brought what they could. The show looked beautiful. Claire Martin won a blue ribbon with 'Gentle Reminder' (K. Keppel 2014 TB) and Dave and Arla Chevess earned a blue ribbon for 'Lemon Supreme' (M. Sutton 2019 TB). The Queen's Table held an interesting combination, and show visitors crowded around to see several iris types they had never seen before. Several asked questions, which gave members a chance to share a bit of iris knowledge. People were laughing and having a good time all day long.

The Queen's Table, shown in the photo from left to right, consists of 'Over In Gloryland' (Best Siberian); 'Megabucks' (Best Historic); 'Quite Quirky' (Best MTB); *I. fulva* (Best Species and Best Specimen of Show); 'Final Answer' (Best TB); 'Roy Davidson' (Best Spec-X); and 'Bali Bali' (Best Spuria). Another chance to see a beautiful display of irises, this time in 2025 growing in the garden of Mike and Gerlinde Koebel, in Lebanon, IL, will be in or near mid-May.

The exact date of this FREE tour will be determined as soon as peak bloom time approaches. Look on the Region 9 Web Site or get in touch with an MIIS officer to learn the Tour date.

We hope to have an iris sale in July at one of the Farmers' Market locations, likely O'Fallon or Swansea. We would love more members in our club, and a public sale will give us the opportunity to bring in both funds, and (hopefully) some new members.

In October, 2024, MIIS elected new officers, as follows:

President – Jean Morris; jean6morris@aol.com ; 636-256-3927;

Vice President – Beckie Decker; beckied49@yahoo.com ; 618-288-1904;

Secretary – Claire Martin; clareadair@hotmail.com ; 618-234-4052;

Treasurer – Eugene Bazan; bazai83@att.net ; 618-277-5960.

Future MIIS goals are to grow in our knowledge of irises, to share what we learn with others and to include a bit of fun at each of our club's functions.

Enjoy the photo of the 2024 Iris Show Queen's Table, taken by Jim Morris.



Queens Table

New Youth Protection Policy

- read in the Fall bulletin page 44 and page 45



by Margaret Kelly Pekin, II

Irises have always been in my back ground. I worked in both my mother's garden and my grandma's iris bed, growing up, back in Ohio. Then as time passes, I was again reminded of my past when on vacation one summer visiting my parents farm in Ohio. My mother asked if I might like to share some of Grandma's irises. I was delighted! Grandma's irises were so beautiful as I remember. Every Decoration/Memorial Day, we would gather at Grandma's and cut irises and peonies to decorate the graves of our loved ones. I brought Grandma's irises back to Illinois and planted in a 4 x 4 raised bed. Later, when looking at a Better Homes and Garden magazine, I noticed an ad in the back of the magazine, offering a free iris catalogue. I decided to try that offer. I received this beautiful colorful iris catalogue from Cooley Iris Gardens. After almost wearing out the pages, I decided to order an assortment of 5 rhizomes. They arrived, planted them in the raised bed that I had started for Grandma's irises. Along with that catalogue was an application for membership in the American Iris Society, I decided to complete and sent in the application. I was told the closest iris society to me was located in the Champaign/Urbana area here in Illinois. That is almost a two-hour drive from my home. I made contact with the Prairie Iris Society, became a member, a member for the past 30 years. We had a spring meeting, an iris show, iris sale, fall meeting and we visited each other's gardens, doing "in the garden judging training". We became one big family! I have had some very good mentors in my group, among them - Jerry & Melody Wilhoit who founded the Prairie Society, plus Steve Varner, Nancy Pocklington,

and Orville and Lu Dickhaut. As time passed, I was able to acquire more irises from Cooley's, Schreiners, Superstition Gardens, Red Bud Gardens and many more gardens from the door prizes, give aways, and iris sales. As you might suspect, my garden has grown larger from that time. I now grow all my irises in raised beds, much easier to maintain. I have around 600 cultivars which include all the groups of irises except Pacific Coast Iris. I enjoy the whole iris season, from the reticulatas to the species and rebloomers, plus all the ones in between. I accepted the opportunity to become an apprentice judge, then garden judge and then a master judge. This has led me the opportunity to travel in order to judge iris shows and meet the lovely iris people. And that led to the attendance of the American Iris Society conventions, from Washington, Oregon, California, Wisconsin, Iowa, three times to Texas, and New Jersey/New York . I am planning to attend this year's convention, in Billings, Montana. What a treat it is to see the wonderful gardens and learn more about these gardens. This year I was honored to be elected a director with the American Iris Society!



BLAST FROM THE PAST



1st Brian & Carol Davis's Garden 2nd Garden Judging National Dallas Texas
3rd Garden Judging Steve Pool's Garden



NIIS Morton Arboretum Lisle, IL



Exhibition Judging Prairie Iris Society



Attended Master Gardener Day Lincoln, IL



Attended State Master Gardeners Conference - East Peoria, IL



Judging Iris Show,

Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL



see next page

Please register for the Spring meeting April 26, 2025

Potluck - Share a dish or two. Region will serve meat & beverage - will need a count in order for all to partake, Thanks.

NAME _____

NUMBER PARTICIPATING _____

E-Mail me at dkelly558@comcast.net by April 19th, 2025

Call me at 309-347-8561 and leave a message, please.



Contributing Reporter: Margaret Kelly dkelly558@comcast.net 309-347-8561 leave message

Details

