



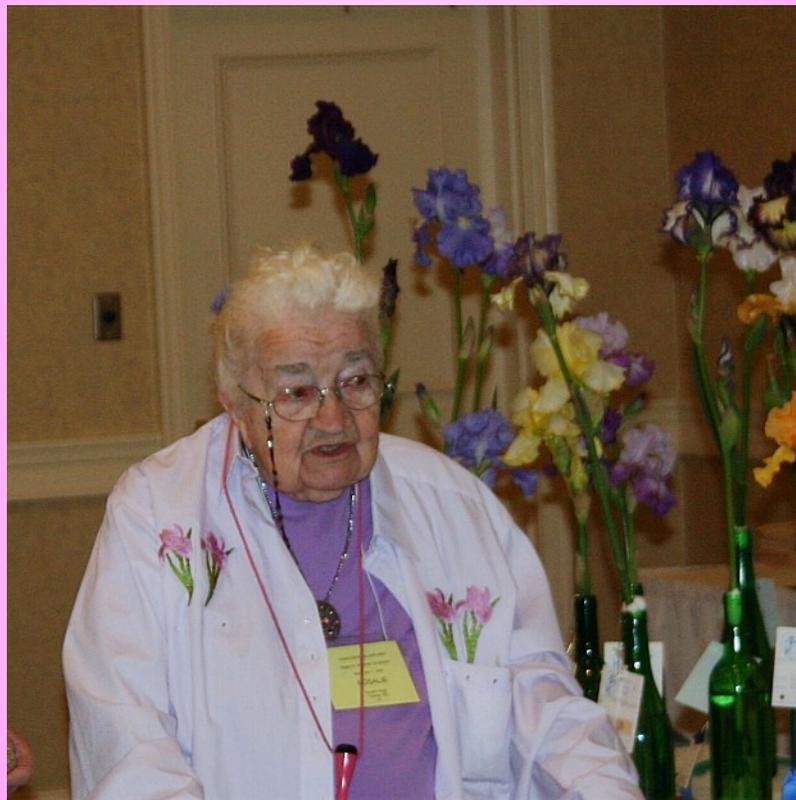
NEWSCAST

REGION FOUR OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

VOL. 48, No. 2

MARCH 2006

Rosalie Yerkes Figge



1909 - 2006

-American Iris Society- Region 4 Board

Regional Vice President

R. Jerry Coates FSK
120 Record Street
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 662-1664

Assistant RVP

Carrie Winter CIS
5801 Masters Court
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 542-3812

Immediate Past RVP

Ginny Spoon C&P
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625
(540) 888-4447
VSpoon@aol.com

Secretary

June S Hood
11700 Albemarle Rd
Charlotte NC 28227

Treasurer

Carol Warner FSK
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155
(410) 374-4788
dracott@quis.net

Historian

Margaret Stone AHIS
229 Crowfield Circle,
Lellwisburg, WV 24901
(304)647-4395
mstone@brier.net>

Parliamentarian

Rosalie Figge FSK
4 Maryland Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 337-9118

Editor NEWSCAST

Anita Moran FSK
5351 Rocks Rd
Pylesville, MD 21132
(410) 452-8828
avmoran1@earthlink.net

Beardless and Species

Carol Warner FSK
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155
(410) 374-4788
dracott@quis.net

Budget

Jack Loving FAIS
10483 Edgehill Lane
King George, VA 22485
(540) 775-4043
jrloving@juno.com

Judges' Training

Dr. E. Roy Epperson ENC
1115 Delk Drive
High Point, NC 27262
(336) 883-9677

Median Irises

Ginny Spoon C&P
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625
(540) 888-4447

Membership

Mac Shawe C&P
6405 Fairborn Terrace
New Carrollton, MD 20784
Z7Sh-we@erols.com

Photography

Bill Mull TIS
7112 Fox's Lair Court
Norfolk, VA 23518
(757) 858-5521
AISslides@aol.com

Reblooming Irises

Mike Lockett
500 Pantela Drive
Richmond, VA 23235
804-330-2916
CMarti8855@aol.com

Robins

Libby Cross
8907 Potts Creek Road
Covington, VA 24426
(540) 747-2123
LCross@aol.com

Conventions

Jerry Coates FSK

Youth

David Stoll
8119 Martha Street
Alexandria, VA 22309-3119
jafool@msn.com

Legal Counsel

Bill Kuykendall
Rte 2, Box 232
Keyser, WV 26726

Webmaster

Anita Moran FSK
www.irisesregion4.com

Auction

Dr. Don Spoon C&P
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625
(540) 888-4447

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Region 4 Of the American Iris Society Affiliates

ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS IRIS SOCIETY - MARGARET STONE
229 Crowfield Circle, Lewisburg, WV 24901 (304) 647-4395

CAROLINA MOUNTAINS IRIS SOCIETY - DANEE A. HOOVER
133 Horizon View Drive, Horse Shoe, NC 28742 (828) 891-2847

CENTRAL VIRGINIA IRIS SOCIETY - DAVID L. TRAYLOR 7724
Hickory Road Petersburg, VA 23803-1332 (804) 590-1095

CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY - JUNE HOOD 11700 Albemarle Rd
Charlotte NC 28227

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY - DAVID STOLL
8119 Martha Street Alexandria, VA 22309-3119

**EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY - MARGARET
PEARSON 241 Camping Creek Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7265**

**EASTERN SHORE IRIS SOCIETY - ANN DUMLER 901 Camden
Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801-6301**

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY - DORIS REBERT FSK
152 Leister's Church Rd Westminster, MD 21157 (410) 848-3781

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY - LOIS ROSE
PO Box 30, Partlow, VA 22534 540-582-5799

HAMPTON ROADS IRIS SOCIETY - JOANNE HAMM
304 Beacon Road, Portsmouth, VA 23702, (757) 393-4389

VIRGINIA PENINSULA IRIS SOCIETY - NELDA PRESSLY
111 West Kingswood Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185-3248



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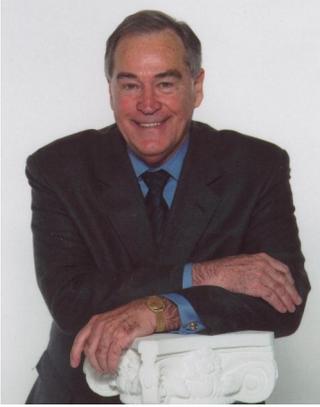
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March Issue—01 February
August Issue—01 July
December Issue— 01 November

Words From Our Regional Vice President



The Spring Region IV Convention in Charlotte this May was wonderful. Thanks to the Charlotte Iris Society for hosting us. The choice of hotels was great, the gardens were great, the auction was great - all went smoothly. Carrie Winter and her group deserve our gratitude and thanks.

The National AIS Convention in Portland, Oregon, was awesome! Hosted by Region 13, and dubbed, "Reigning Iris," the entire week was filled with activities. Some of the activities did include the putting on and off of Rain Gear and opening and closing of umbrellas, but the gardens more than made up for any "inconvenience" caused by the continuous drizzles. There were representatives from all 24 Regions as well as several countries including Australia, Czech Republic, England, Germany, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, and Switzerland.

The gardens included a remarkable diversity, from smaller, intimate gardens to the vast acreage of commercial gardens like Cooley's and Schreiner's. In most cases the bloom was past peak, but the enormous number of cultivars kept everyone's interest. For me personally, I was most fascinated by the big difference in environmental conditions; from the Coastal Plane, where irrigation systems were in place, to the Mountain-Side Gardens, which receive 90 inches of rain per year.

AT the meetings for Regional RVP's I met a lot of great people and made some new friends. For my Region IV members I learned that you each can benefit more than you probably have been by taking advantage of the "tax-free" status of AIS. Any and all of your donations to AIS are "deductible," on your annual 1040 tax returns. Any time you are assisting with AIS Business, your donations are tax deductible. This includes attending conventions, judges training, etc. Your annual dues are deductible. This applies to the members of AIS, not necessarily all members of our affiliate organizations. According to Tom Gormley, AIS Membership Secretary, Region IV has 452 Members as of June, 2006. This makes us the third largest Region in AIS. Thirty Percent of all memberships are now being renewed through Join/Renew option at WWW.irises.org, the AIS website. I encourage all of you to visit the site and see how easy it is, and encourage others to use the site and join as well.

I look forward to seeing most of you at the Region IV & Region III Joint Fall Convention in Gettysburg, October 6th. & 7th.

From The Editor

This has become a sad task to complete. Since taking over as editor of the Newscast this is the fourth I have done as a memorial. Rosalie was like the grandmother I had lost more than 30 years ago. As you all know I have been in the AIS a very short time so I am probably among the few that know little of the contributions that Rosalie has made to AIS as a whole. All I can tell you are of the contributions she has made in my life.

I had not a clue who Rosalie Figge was when I volunteered to work with Clarence Mahan on the 2003 AIS National Convention. A little secret, I love auctions and some times got carried away. I could not understand who this little old lady was who kept raising the bids on the new intros I wanted and you know I just had to have. Sanity eventually won out but I managed to get two of the ones I wanted. While waiting for the Awards Banquet, my mother (now 80) and I were sitting on a bench waiting for the doors to open when Rosalie and a friend sat on the opposite benches. We had a great time and I told her I was not happy with her bidding techniques. She laughed and said it was all for the region.

That was the last I saw of Rosalie until the first meeting of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society meeting I attended. Well this was pretty cool. Here was a sprit, opinionated, funny, knowledgeable woman who was not shy in expressing "The Way, According To Rosalie". A heart of gold hidden in her sometimes gruff manner attracted me from the start. Rosalie was an active member of the Francis Scott Key Iris Society and did not hold an office just to fill it. Her knowledge was vital and her opinions, though no always sought, were given freely, and her suggestion though not always followed were gratefully received.

Two years ago was the first summer picnic I attended and was happy to know it was Rosalie's Birthday.

I was finally able to visit Rosalie at her house after she saw an iris I was showing at the regional in Raleigh, North Carolina, to which she had driven some of the way. I delivered BORDEAUX PEARL to her as she had requested. We sat in the back yard while she cleaned iris a friend was digging for the rhizome sale. There were so many interesting plants besides the iris and she knew their names and growth habits. All of which I forgot by the time I was half way home.

Rosalie's passing was a loss to FSK, Region 4 and the American Iris Society, but more importantly it is a severe loss to those of us who knew her even for a short time and was touched by her entry, however small, into our lives.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION: A color copy of the March , August, and December Newscast are available for download only at www.irisregion4.com/Newscast.html Follow the directions for downloading carefully. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the file as it is in PDF format, but there is a link near the download area for downloading the viewer. You can also print

Tribute to Ruth Walker

By Lois Rose



I first met Ruth Walker during the latter part of the iris bloom season in 1984. The farmer who was baling our hay field noticed my small collection of irises. He commented that his daughter also grew irises, and that a friend of hers was starting a local iris society. That friend was Ruth Walker. Ruth and I met, and if you know Ruth, you also know that I joined the iris society. I didn't have much choice.

I soon found out that Ruth had offered to have our new, fledgling chapter host a Region 4 Spring Meeting in the spring of 1987. The society needed someplace to plant the guest irises for the convention. Also about that time Ruth visited my garden for the first time and saw an area my husband had plowed up to summer fallow. You guessed it; that area got planted to guest irises. Then Ruth needed someone to chair the convention. You guessed it again; I chaired the convention. I think Ruth Walker could talk anyone into doing anything.

Over the next few years, Ruth and I visited gardens and attended iris meetings, luncheons, shows, and sales together from Maine to South Carolina. (She had the nerve to go to Louisiana without me.) Because we went to iris functions together so frequently, I was often mistaken for her daughter, an identity I was proud to assume, if only briefly.

Ruth lived only two miles from me, and often when I went for my morning walk, I ended up at Ruth's house, to deliver her iris newsletter (she had obviously talked me into being newsletter editor), to view what was in bloom, or to conduct iris society business. I would call ahead to let her know I was coming, and Ruth would have a cup of coffee ready for me. If I admired a plant in her yard, I would generally be handed the shovel and go home with a piece of it. My garden is a more interesting place, thanks to Ruth.

I think Ruth could make anything grow. If Ruth heard that a plant was hard to find, she found it. If Ruth heard that a plant was hard to grow, she grew it. And if it was both hard to find and hard to grow, you can bet it was in Ruth's yard. One day she proudly showed me a tray full of little test tubes in the window of her breakfast room. Each had a little green sprout in it--iris seedlings she was growing from seed she had received in the mail from the Species Iris Group. She gave me one to take home. Mine died. I'm sure all of Ruth's lived.

After my husband and I separated in 1991 and I went back to work, I didn't see quite so much of Ruth. But I always knew she was there if I needed her. If she didn't hear from me for a few days she would call to make sure I was alright. When I told her I had overslept and missed my van pool one morning, she offered to start calling me at 4:30 in the morning to make sure I was up, since she would be up to call Nancy anyway. I passed on that one, but it was always good to know my "iris mother," as I called her, was watching out for me.

Ruth was an American Iris Society Master Judge, and in the spring of 2005 she judged her last show for the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society. Although she hadn't been as active in the iris society in the last few years, she still called me for a ride whenever she felt up to going to a meeting. But in her early years with the American Iris Society she was a dynamo. When I sent out some e-mail messages to spread the sad news of Ruth's passing to her iris friends, the first person I heard back from was Clarence Mahan, her good friend in northern Virginia, a past President of the American Iris Society, and the person who had helped Ruth organize our local chapter of the AIS. Clarence wrote:

"Ruth Walker did more to build Region 4 membership numbers than any other person. She truly loved AIS and Region 4. She was responsible for organizing at least two new AIS affiliates, and assisted in organizing two others. No one worked harder. She recruited hundreds of new AIS members. And I do mean hundreds.

"No one loved irises more than Ruth. And no one loved AIS more. She would travel any place to judge an iris show or give a program. She was a wonderfully talented and extraordinarily kind woman. Suky, our daughter Christiane, and I loved her and admired her. And we are going to miss her. The Region and AIS has suffered a great loss. --Clarence"

Clarence was right. She recruited hundreds of new AIS members. I was only one of them. I can remember one time when Ruth signed up the chef at a hotel where an AIS function was being held. She never missed an opportunity to recruit a new member!

Clarence also wrote that one of his fondest memories of Ruth is her story, which she often told iris groups, about joining AIS and being listed as belonging to "Chapter Inactive." After she got the Fredericksburg Chapter up and running again, she said that she hated it when she had read "Chapter Inactive" after her name, and she was resolute that those words would never again be next to her name.

Clarence's closing remarks summed up the essence of Ruth better than I can, so once again I quote:

"Ruth was a mighty force for good in this world. She loved life and she loved people. She was never content to be just a spectator watching life pass by. She lived! She helped people get involved and active! She made a great difference for the better in many people's lives. Could anything finer be said of any of us when we die?"

Ruth will be greatly missed by those of us who knew her.



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
REGION IV, AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
SHERATON CHARLOTTE AIRPORT HOTEL
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006**

The meeting was called to order around 8:00p.m. by Regional Vice-President, Jerry Coates. Roy Epperson (Judges Committee) reported the loss of 2 judges, Ruth Walker and Rosalie Figge. He announced that the new Handbook would be ready in January, 2007. He reminded everyone that Tall Bearded Iris Training would take place at the Hull garden on Saturday morning.

Mac Shawe (Membership Committee) sent a report enumerating 11 affiliates, 380 single memberships and 66 dual memberships. Region IV has 150 less people than a year ago.

Anita Moran (Webmaster) has designed a web page for each of the affiliates. She requested information be sent regularly on a continuing basis for these pages. She is also preparing "rebloomer pages" and needs any information that would upgrade these.

The affiliate reports were presented. Jack Loving sent a proposed budget for 2007. The AIS Photo Contest deadline is 8-31-06.

Carrie Winter was asked to purchase a Jefferson Cup to be Awarded to the "out of region hybridizer" who introduced the best iris blooming in one or more of the tour gardens.

Regional Vice-President Coates announced that the Region 3 - Region 4 Joint Fall Meeting would be October 6 - 7, 2006, in Gettysburg, Pa. at the Wyndham. Also the Francis Scott Key Iris Society will host the Spring Meeting, May 25 - 26, 2007 in Hunt Valley, Baltimore, Md.

The National Board Meeting will be in November, 2007, in Raleigh-Durham with Susan Grigg of the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society as hostess.

the meeting was adjourned.

June Hood
Secretary

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
Region 4, American Iris Society
Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel
Charlotte, N. C.
Saturday May 6, 2006

Following dinner, Regional Vice-President Jerry Coates thanked the Charlotte Iris Society for their hospitality. He encouraged everyone to attend the Regions III and IV joint meeting October 6-7, 2006 in Gettysburg, Pa.

Roll call of the affiliates recognized representation from Central Virginia, Charlotte, Chesapeake and Potomac, Eastern North Carolina, Francis Scott Key, Fredericksburg Area, and Hampton Roads Iris Societies.

The Rev. Everette Lineberger presented an illustrated lecture entitled "The Joy of Growing *Spurias*".

June Hood
Secretary

BUDGET 2007

PROPOSED 2007 BUDGET FOR REGION 4

Expenditures	Dollars
Printing and Mailing Three (3) Issues of Newscast	\$3300.00
RVP Travel Expenses	600.00
Membership Committee – M. Shawe	250.00
Slides and Photography	500.00
Memorials	300.00
AIS Youth Program	100.00
Web Page	300.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	300.00
Total	\$5650.00

Submitted by:

JACK W. LOVING

**TREASURER'S REPORT
A.I.S. REGION 4**

October 7, 2005 to May 5, 2006

Checking Account Balance on October 7, 2005: **\$16,254.39**

Receipts:

Fall Auction:	\$907.00
Donations:	
Charlotte Iris Society	\$200.00
F.S.K. Iris Society	\$500.00
E.N.C. Iris Society	\$250.00
Memorials:	
J. Owings Rebert	\$25.00
Mavis delVecchio	\$50.00
Interest:	\$4.20

Total Receipts: **\$1,936.20**

Expenditures:

Purchase Certificate of Deposit (M&T Bank)	\$10,000.00
December 2005 <i>Newscast</i> Printing	\$1,042.43
December 2005 <i>Newscast</i> Mailing	\$140.51
Refunds for June 2004 Auction	\$311.00
March 2006 <i>Newscast</i> Printing	\$574.60
March 2006 <i>Newscast</i> Mailing	\$117.70
Memorials for J. Owings Rebert	
AIS Scientific Fund	\$200.00
AIS Foundation	\$100.00
Global WEB Solutions	\$239.25
RVP Pin	\$32.00

Total Expenditures: **\$12,757.49**

Checking Account Balance on May 5, 2006: **\$5,433.10**

Certificate of Deposit (M&T Bank) **\$10,000.00**

Total Assets: **\$15,433.10**

Remembering Rosalie Figgie

by Katharine Steele

Toward the end of March, when Carrie told me she had telephoned Rosalie about this year's Region 4 meeting and that Rosalie was not well, I thought of sending a note. Then I felt a need to call instead. I left a message on her home phone. Her daughter returned my call and gave me Rosalie's number at the health care facility where she was receiving therapy.



It was good to hear her strong distinctive voice. She expressed that she was glad I called and said she was pleased to be in what she termed "The very best facility in the area." We had a most pleasant talk and recalled other times when we were together. Whether or not she received my follow up note is not important.

Years ago (1982) when she, along with Bill and Claire Barr came to Charlotte to judge our show, they stayed at our house. During their stay she captured Richard's admiration as well and he came to adore her. He loved their conversations regarding irises and was amazed that she knew and remembered each and every iris in her garden.

When Richard had surgery at Johns Hopkins in 1987, she read the stress in my voice and insisted that she would take me to dinner. I had of course expected to spend each evening back across the street in Richard's room but she was convincing and Richard said I should go. A few hours later she picked me up in front of the motel and drove me through Baltimore to the waterfront and the most wonderful and Classy restaurant in all of Baltimore where the waiters knew her name. I was impressed and also recharged.



I am privileged to have been a friend of Rosalie's and in many ways she, without knowing it, was my mentor as I worked

Remembering Rosalie Figgie

by Katharine Steele

Even when she was in a crowded room her presence was felt. There was an aura that was Rosalie. She collected and wore lovely Iris patterned clothing to meetings and on tours. But, if she were to wear all beige, she would still be the most colorful person in the room or in the garden.

She was gentle until the bidding began. At the auction, on iris rhizomes and iris artifacts, then it was combat on her terms. You couldn't out bid a pro.

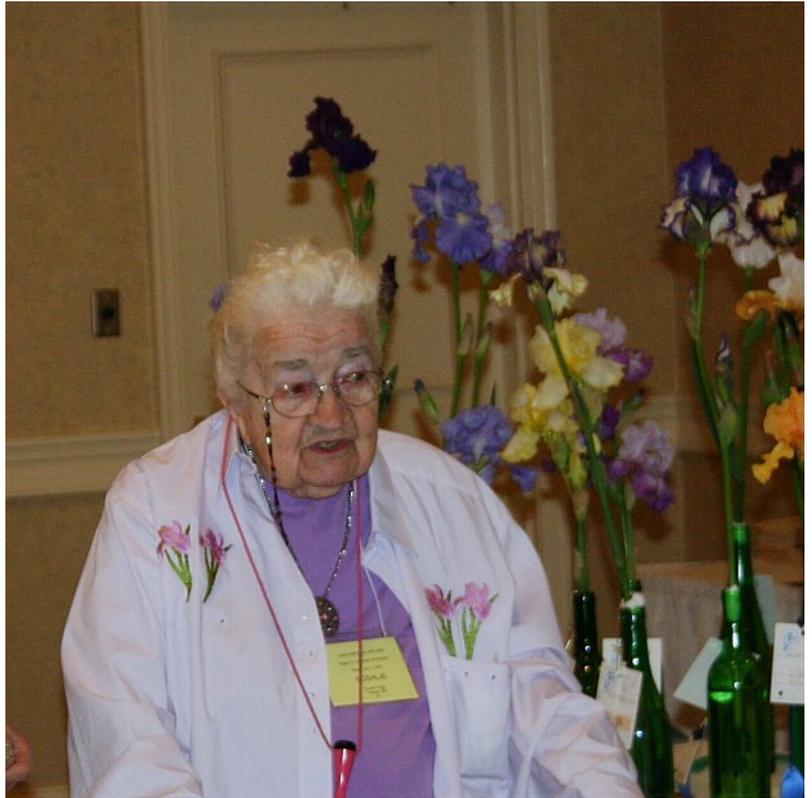
Do you remember when she bought that iris bench, and then she had to get it home. Among hundreds of iris imprinted items, she even had an outdoor iris trash can!

Her enthusiasm was contagious as was her passion

The American Iris Society benefited greatly by her dedicated loyal support and Region 4 reveled in it.

I don't know a lot about her many, many other attributes or the causes that kept her busy; but I do know that she was multifaceted.

Without Rosalie, our world of irises is diminished
Words are inadequate.



The Oregon Trail for Iris

Anita Moran

WOW! Where to start? Okay, I admit it, I went early and not just to see other iris gardens. When the plane landed, the three nearest volcanoes, Mount St. Helens, Mount Adams and Mount Hood, stood like white jewels on a dark green background. It would be the last time I would see Mount Hood clearly, even though the window of my hotel room faced the volcano, the mist had moved in obstructing any clear sitting of the mountain. Oh did I forget to tell you that it was eight hours before I reached the hotel room. Ah.

Well as soon as I landed I headed down to Salem to meet Denise Stewart, and off we went to Keith Keppel's. You must understand that when I left Maryland it was 35oF, when I arrived at the airport it was 92oF and hotter still at Keith's. The gardens however were absolutely beautiful. Berry Blyth graciously gave Denise Stewart Judges training while I plodded along to listen. Thankfully, Keith was wise enough to have cold water handy for visitors and I took full advantage. After Denise completed her training it was off to Mid-America's Siberian fields, but first a stop to get fresh off the tree avocados. What a treat.

The following day I picked mom up from the airport and the gallivanting really began. There were the Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, The Grotto, and by the time we got to the Chinese Garden we were burned out. The Grotto was the first stop; it was an amazing feat having such a large garden essentially atop a cliff that you needed to ride an elevator to get to. The Rhododendrons were in full bloom shade abounded so even in the heat we were comfortable. The wood carvings and statuary throughout the gardens were highlighted by a wide variety of plants, including versicolor and pseudocorus. The Japanese Garden was a wonderful experience. We were met at the bottom of the hill by a bus painted with what else, Japanese iris.

The Water Walk would have been spectacular to see in the summer as it was surrounded by Japanese iris. We drove by the rose garden but decided not to stop since there was no bloom. It was getting late and food was highest on our minds and what better place to

eat that China Town. After an excellent meal (much of went with us), we looked at the entrance to the Chinese garden but were just to pooped to continue, especially since mom and I had a long trip the next day.



The Oregon Trail for Iris (cont.)

Mom wanted to see a long lost cousin that lived near Bend Oregon, so off we went deciding on the longer route so that we had ample opportunities to see the country side. It was a wonderful trip that would normally take two to three hours and instead took six. We didn't care, every little turn off was a park and every little part had an explosion of plants, yep including iris which Will Plottner kindly identified when we got back as Tenax. There were miles of wild roses, broom, blackberries in bloom and so many neither of us knew. Where's Julia when you need her. Besides the plant life we were able to see Mount Bachelor, Mount Washington, and the Sisters. In the town of Sisters, we were planning to take an excursion to see Black Crater. Well the road was closed, which turned out to be a good thing as we were able to stop at a church which was filled with chainsaw carvings to include a nativity scene. A brief refill at McDonald's and on we went. The next day, on the return trip, we went a different route and were treated to miles of Lupines along the side of the road. We made fewer stops but still managed the lava fields.

Now it was time for what I was looking forward to most, a trip to Mount Saint Helen's. According to my map there were two ways to get there a southern route and a northern route, well this



time I tried the shorter route. WRONG!, that road was closed as well and did not meet up with the road that would have taken us to Johnston's Ridge anyway so we had to back track all the way to the freeway to get to the Northern, CORRECT route.

I had always heard that the river that ran in front of Mt. St. Helen's was destroyed, Yet as we drove we found a back wash to the Toutle River that was vibrant filled with stands of huge lily pads with yellow flowers with stands of pseudocorus among the reeds. Although thousands of trees have been replanted the devastation was obvious very early. Apparently not everyone got the word that the volcano was still active and rumbling as we saw a newly built house in the shadow of the volcano. Waterfalls were every where and finally there was a place to pull off to see the volcano for the first time. Although Mother Nature is trying her best to heal, it was a waste land across most of the area in front of the blast zone. Yet animals have returned, including a little beggar who knew how to wrench food from you.



Photos by Anita Moran: 1. Carving Nativity Scene, 2. Additional Chainsaw Carvings, 3. The Sisters; North Sister, South Sister, Broken Top 4. Mount Washington

The Oregon Trail for Iris (cont.)

Johnston Ridge was a revelation. It had taken less than 30 seconds for the blast to hit it and kill Dr. Johnston who was observing the mountain at the time of eruption. The film we saw was like living it all over again. When we went out for more pictures, we noticed that steam was still coming from the lava dome. It is a desolate area surrounded by lush forest and clear waterways.

As we traveled back towards Portland, we saw the nuclear cooling tower that was slated for demolition the following day.

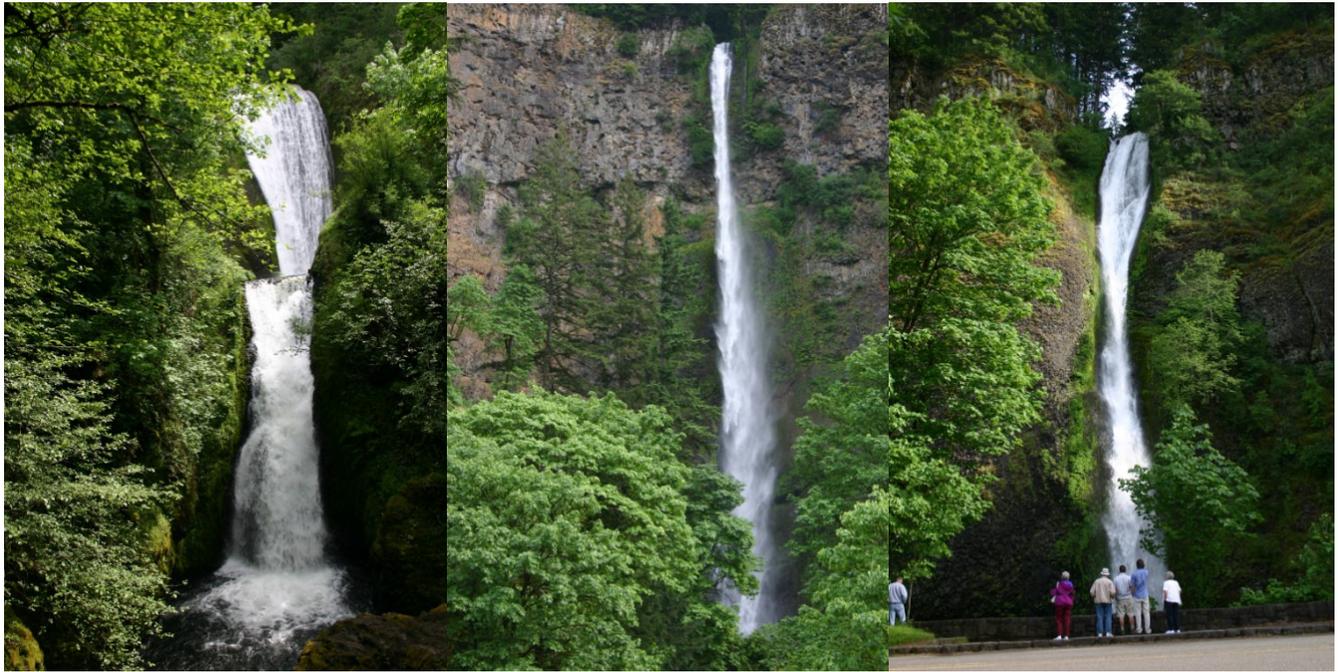


Ah but the next day was destined for the Columbia River Gorge. An easy spring drive through cool shaded roads that were obviously paved in the early 1900s, guard rails, were 12" stone or none at all, and cliffs hundreds of feet high. The draw for the gorge, were the waterfalls and the view of the Columbia River. The first waterfall we stopped at was the Bridal Veil Falls. You could, take the wild flower tour it was only 1/2 mile, but then it was only 2/3 mile to the falls. They don't tell you it is steep, very steep. Mom was game and luck would have it that benches were placed strategically on the path. After the third leg mom decided that

Photos by Anita Moran: 1. I. pseudocorus in Toutle River , 2. new house on Mount St. Helen Slope, 3. Begging Chipmunk, 4. Devastation of Mount St. Helen Area, 5. Lava dome still releasing steam.

The Oregon Trail for Iris (cont.)

although she would probably get down, getting up might be a problem. As much as I wanted to stay at the bench myself, I trooped down to get pictures of the falls for mom. The down was easy, but I was real happy to see those benches on the way up. The next falls were the Wahkeena Falls, ah, but I cheated and took the pictures from the car. The Multnomah Falls is the big draw and so we parked. There was a gift shop and a small restaurant. After taking the pictures of the falls, we decided to get a snack. Berry tarts are not something I am used to, but my they sure hit the spot with the herbal tea that was served. In the gift shop they gave us a map that showed an outlook for Mount Hood which had remained elusive.



Ignoring the rest of the gorge, we headed for the Mt. Hood lookout. Well, we saw it and it was not shrouded in mist, however the peak was blocked by a cloud bank. Well it was getting late and we wanted to drive home on the Washington side of the river.

Well it was time for the garden tours; however, I was now a co-bus captain, ah so much for the relaxation. Denise was actually the bus captain I was just support and a loud voice. The gardens were beautiful that first day. Arriving a Cooley's we were treated to a wonderful breakfast that was there even if we decided to do the garden first. With the sun out with passing clouds, these would be the best pictures I would get. Even as we toured the gardens the workers, were dead heading and cleaning to make sure we were able to get the best pictures.



Photos by Anita Moran: 1. Bridal Veil Falls, 2. Wahkeena Falls, 3. Multnomah Falls, 4. Cooley's Garden

The Oregon Trail for Iris (cont.)

After Cooley's everything went down hill. The rain began and did not let up for the rest of the tours often times coming down in sheets. I have never seen such gung-ho people in all my life. Even mom was out with her little notebook making sure she made the best choices. At Wildwood we had the option of taking part in an experiment on judging, whether or not you were an AIS judge. Hmmm, wonder how that turned out.

The following day the rain continued as we headed for Aiken's of Salmon Creek. We had a light drizzle when we arrived that turned into a torrential down pour. I lost mom and already there had been some slips, so I was frantic as I looked in the lower gardens. Finally I looked in the greenhouse, never guess who I found. Yep mom was in the greenhouse with just about everyone else admiring the various orchids that filled every available space. The color combinations were spectacular and the sizes from less than an inch to more and five inches. When the rain turned to drizzle again many braved the elements again to go back out in the garden. After one final trip through the gardens were headed to the buses, and off to the Ludi Garden. How wonderful the rain stopped but then the winds came. Still it was better than the constant pounding. Despite the rain the irises were in good shape and I was able to get great shots including one that I think I will submit to the AIS photo contest. The Collier Garden was next and as we were winding our way through the great and unusual garden layout, the rains returned and with a vengeance so that many sought shelter again. When we arrived at the Harris garden, the rain was reduced to a low insistent drizzle with an occasional burst. Looking over the garden was the back drop of the Columbia River Gorge. For the second day in a row it was a wet tired group that arrived back at the hotel.



Photos by Anita Moran: 1. Wildwood Garden, 2. Aitken's of Salmon Creek, 3. Ludi Garden, 4. Collier's Garden

The Oregon Trail for Iris (cont.)

Saturday started the same with rain. We arrived at Schreiner's with was heavy drizzle but nothing to keep you out of the garden and there was the inevitable hot tea to keep us warmer and it was surely welcome. The display gardens were lovely with many interesting plants, many which were for sale. There was a barn filled with cut flowers which made taking pictures a little easier but for the guest were out in the garden. The gift shop and other areas gave us a reason to get out of the wet for a while but we always gravitated back to the irises. It was then in to Mud-America (Paul's words not mine). They tried so hard and I am sure the tour before ours had seen the spectacular bloom I had seen the week before, however, the rain, which continued, made the walking was tenuous at best and I was thankful that Paul and Tom provided transportation so mom could ride up to the hosta house, which we spent a lot of time in. I did not know there were so many different types of hostas, even tiny little one with leaves about an inch. Paul and Tom were both very gracious and apologized for something they had no control over. But I was glad I saw the gardens the week before.

Despite the rain I had a wonderful time in Oregon and can not wait to return. I thank all the garden owners for their hard work, for they all had something to keep us occupied when the rain became too much.

The Franklin Cook Cup went to a well deserving Miniature Tall Bearded "**Sailor's Dream**" by Ken Fisher and the President's Cup went to "**High Chaparral**" by Schreiner's.



Photos by Anita Moran: 1. Schreiner's Garden, 2. Mid-America Metal Sign, 3. Big Mama Hosta in Mid-American Hosta house, 4. Sailor's Dream Cook Cup Winner, 5. High Chaparral President Cup Winner

Region 4 Affiliates

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

Danee Hover , President

The mountains of western North Carolina had a mild winter followed by a spring that had frost-free days one-month prior to the last frost-free date. We had a nice progression of things unfortunately blooms started two weeks in advance. Our show date was scheduled to accommodate our regional spring meeting and show. This delay in our usual show date along with our early spring forced us to cancel our May 13th show. Canceling was a great disappointment to the general public and us.

June brought better times with a Japanese Exhibit at the Opportunity House on June 9th. Forty blooms were placed out for the general public. In the past our Japanese Show lasted two days. One day was planned for our exhibit but the Opportunity House asked if we could leave the exhibit one more day because they expected a number of people to use their facility the following day. We were happy to comply.

August 12th will be our Iris Sale and Auction at the First Congregational Church.

CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY

President June Hood

Charlotte Iris Society Chapter Report

The Charlotte Iris Society began its year planning and preparing for the Region 4 Spring Meeting. Carrie Winter served as the chairman and skillfully appointed committees to cover every detail.

In addition to attending to Spring Meeting business, a seminar "Visual Wonders of the West Coast" was presented by member Julia Hindle at the February meeting. Julia's vivid descriptions and colorful photographs made one feel as though they were actually on the garden tour with her.

Then in April while still attending to the upcoming Region 4 Meeting business, the Charlotte Iris Society had a wonderful Plant Exchange. At the same meeting, member Katharine Steele presented a program "Tips for The Show". She brought iris from her garden and demonstrated grooming and display techniques.

A plant sale featuring a selection of choice Iris is planned for mid July.

June Hood

President, Charlotte Iris Society

May 2006

Region 4 Affiliates

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC IRIS SOCIETY

President: Dave Stoll

Well here it is July, the days are now getting shorter and the back to school is just around the corner. We had another very successful garden tour this spring. An especially big thanks to the Naylor's for hosting a barbecue at the end of our tour. It was interesting to see the wide range of microclimates within our geographic region. We saw some interesting seedlings from Griff Crump's and my gardens; The Jones's and Margaret Thomas's gardens were gorgeous. The Naylor's garden is always beautiful and they grow some of the largest and prettiest flowers.

Our Iris show in May was very successful; we got to see lots of different irises as well as seedlings that may be introduced in the next couple of years. The location at Meadowlark Gardens is ideal. We had a lot of visitors and recruited some new members. The grounds are gorgeous and the staff was extremely friendly and helpful. I can't wait to go there again. The Spoons awarded Brittany Stoll a red pair of tweezers with her name engraved on it for all of her help with the youth hybridizing clinics. Thanks to the Spoons for letting us invade their garden once again. The hybridizing clinic was a great success. I haven't heard from anyone at the 05 clinic to see how their seedlings did. (Alan Moore said he had great success with his seedlings from 2005. He potted them up and sprinkled pink needles over them, editor). I do have some seedlings that are growing. After an initial class, a question and answer session was taught by Brittany Stoll, then, we divided up into pairs and went at it. There was an experienced hybridizer paired with those less experienced to show those who weren't as confident. What was entertaining was watching the youth members' race for the same plant. Rumor has it a couple of the girls found a toad--not sure which one kissed it in search of their elusive prince. We also got a sneak peak at some of Don and Ginny's newest introductions. I think we're also going to have chocolate pie again at the September picnic--you don't want to miss that.

Speaking of which, now is the time to dig your iris to thin, move or bring to our sale. We can use any extra rhizomes at our annual sale. This would also be the perfect opportunity to get some newer varieties of iris for your garden. The sale is at Meadowlark on the 22nd. If you like you can join us for a potluck lunch. When you come why not bring a friend? If they sign up for a year membership then they'll "Iris Bucks" which they can use right there at the sale. What they get back in Iris bucks can be used there at the show for flowers for their yard and it covers most of their cost for the membership fees. Also, the American Iris Society is running a promotional. If someone signs up or renews for three years then the AIS will send them a 2006 plant. If you've already paid for a year, you can write a note and send in the difference between your one-year and the three-year. For more details please refer to your AIS Bulletin.

In September we're having our annual potluck (and short members meeting) picnic at the Jones's. We've always had great food, good company and a large area for the children to run and play.

Happy irising and see you on the 22nd of July, David

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Susan Griggs

Saturday, January 21st was our planning luncheon at the Crabtree Marriott in Raleigh. Plans were made for our Spring program on April 22nd with Mike Lowe of Blackstone Virginia, who gave an excellent program on his photography.

On Saturday, July 29th our first iris sales will be held at Randy's Iris Garden, 10901 Falls of the Neuse road in Raleigh. Please come with friends and your checkbook.

Our Harvest Lunch and final meeting for the year will be in early November. New officers will begin terms in August. They are Susan Griggs, President; Donna Shields, Vice President; Jill Haizlip, Secretary and Dr. E. Roy Epperson, Treasurer.

Submitted by
Susan Griggs

Region 4 Affiliates

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: DORIS REBERT

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

FSK started the New Year on a positive note, with a covered dish luncheon at the home of Bruce Hornstein and Lee Dedmon. With a good Chapter representation present, we were able to finalize plans for the coming year's events. These events can be found listed on the Region 4 Website - www.irisregion4.com, under "Affiliates". For those who would prefer a paper listing, I will include the events in this report.

Our spring luncheon was well attended at The New York Inn in Cockeysville. Carol Warner presented an excellent slide presentation of her trip to New Zealand.

Events for the remainder of the year are as follows:

◆ Iris Shows

Bearded Show
Saturday, May 20, 2006
Shops of Kenilworth
800 Kenilworth Drive
Baltimore, MD 21204

Beardless Show (in conjunction with the District III, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.)
Saturday, June 24, 2006
Shops of Kenilworth
800 Kenilworth Drive
Baltimore, MD 21204

◆ Preview Garden Tour

Sunday, May 21, 2006
Host Gardens for Region 4 – 2007 Meeting

◆ Rhizome Sales

Saturday, July 15, 2006
Watson's Garden Center - Lutherville

Saturday, July 22, 2006
Dutch Plant Farm – Frederick

◆ Annual Chapter Picnic

Saturday, July 29, 2006
Home of Member Anita Moran

◆ Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 21, 2006
Boulevard and Beyond - Westminster

Submitted by:

Doris Rebert, President

Francis Scott Key Iris Society

Region 4 Affiliates

FREDERICKSBURG AREA IRIS SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORT

President: Jim Schroetter

Fredericksburg Area Iris Society Chapter Report

Since immediate past-president Jim Schroetter's report last fall, FAIS has experienced a changing of the guard, and a profound loss.

In November, at our well attended, annual Harvest Dinner, the following new slate of officers was elected:

President: Lois Rose

Vice-President: Doug Chyz

Secretary: William (Nick) Kennedy

Treasurer: Shirley Hardisty

In February we suffered a great loss with the death of our founding member, first president, and great friend, Ruth Walker. As a driving force in FAIS and in Region 4, as the only AIS judge in FAIS, as a true lover and champion of irises, and as a wonderful personal friend, Ruth will be greatly missed.

On a happier note, another charter member and past president, Freda Martin, celebrated her 90th birthday in March. In honor of the occasion, the Spoons are introducing a beautiful blue iris named "Freda's Gift."

We started our new year in March with a wonderful and informative program presented by Doug Chyz on "Iris Basics." While aimed mainly at our newer members, the old hands found they still had things to learn--and share. In April Lois Rose presented a demonstration on how to choose, transport, and groom a stalk for our upcoming show. More informative and fun programs for the entire year are scheduled, with information available at our page on the Region 4 website.

Our annual show is scheduled for May 13, 2006. The next day, May 14, instead of our traditional car caravan tour of members' gardens, we are sponsoring an "Open Garden Day" during which five members have offered to open their gardens to the public for the day. We have arranged for good publicity in the local newspaper and other sources. This year we are trying something new. At our show and during "Open Garden Day" we will take pre-sale orders for irises to be delivered at our sale. We will let you know how well this works. Stay tuned.

I look forward to working with a dedicated group of iris lovers to make this year an exciting and fun one for all members of FAIS.

Submitted by Lois Rose

President, Fredericksburg Area Iris Society

May 2006

AIS 2006 Awards

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

79 SEA POWER (Keith Keppel)

JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL (TB)

108 QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Frederick Kerr)
103 GOLDEN PANTHER (Richard Tasco)
95 HAPPENSTANCE (Keith Keppel)

KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

88 ANACONDA LOVE (Brad Kasperek)

HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL (IB)

122 MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Lowell Baumunk)

WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL (MTB)

84 BAUBLES AND BEADS (Lynda Miller)

COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

54 RUBY ERUPTION (Chuck Chapman)

CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL (MDB)

64 AFRICAN WINE (Brad Kasperek)

CLARENCE G. WHITE MEDAL

(AR & AB) (Pure aril and arilbred irises of ½ or more aril content)

82 OMAR'S STITCHERY (Carl Boswell)

WILLIAM MOHR MEDAL (AB)

(Arilbred irises of ¼ but less than ½ aril content)
(Total votes cast = 128)

57 WALKER ROSS (Walker Ross by Chuck Chapman)

FOUNDERS OF SIGNA MEDAL (SPEC)

39 JOHN WOOD (John Wood by Everette Lineberger)

RANDOLPH-PERRY MEDAL (SPEC-X)

(No Award in 2006)

SYDNEY B. MITCHELL MEDAL (CA)

13 COZUMEL (Joseph Ghio)

DEBAILLON MEDAL (LA)

39 PEACHES IN WINE (Heather Pryor)

MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL (SIB)

108 RIVERDANCE (Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks)

ERIC NIES MEDAL (SPU)

(Total votes cast = 182)

61 ADRIATIC BLUE (O.D. Niswonger)

PAYNE MEDAL (JD)

(Total votes cast =)

To be determined after August 1.

WALTHER CUP

(Most HM votes in any category)

135 DECADENCE TB (Barry Blyth)

AIS 2006 Awards In Region 4

FOUNDERS OF SIGNA MEDAL (SPEC) *Runners-up:*
26 SYLVANSHINE (Clarence Mahan & Carol Warner)

AWARD OF MERIT

TALL BEARDED

Runners-up:
44 LADY OF LEONESS (Donald Spoon)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

115 MASLON (Donald Spoon)

HONORABLE MENTION

TALL BEARDED

31 SECONDHAND ROSE
(Ginny Spoon)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

24 ROSALIE LOVING (Donald Spoon)

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED

27 SPIDERWEB (Donald Spoon)
46 TWELFTH KNIGHT (Carol Warner)

Youth Corner:

At the 2006 convention there were many ideas floating around in many different groups about getting the youth interested in irises and the iris culture. The Spoons have had yearly hybridization clinics, many have given speeches to classes. How many of you remember growing beans in a jar or an avocado seed with tooth picks or even a potato. All these class projects in grade school were enjoyable and fun but they were also quick to produce results. What if seeds were given to grade school children that they could take to the next grade level. I have not talked to the school teachers or the principle on the practicality of this but it might be something to think of during the summer months before the children go back to school.

WEB NEWS

Sorry about the delays in updating the web page I will work on it in August. So much to do and so little time it seems like.

Please send your photos and anything else you would like to see on your section or in any other part of the web page. Send me pictures of your shows and winners.

Take photos of those rebloomers and if you have a rebloom that is not on the list please let us know.

The entire listing of the 2006 AIS winners will be listed on the Newscast page hopefully by the time you get this.

Thank you all for your patience.
Anita

Your Region 4 Web Address
www.irisregion4.com

FALL REGIONAL 2006

AN INVITATION REGION III & REGION IV JOINT FALL CONFERENCE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH., 2006 WYNDHAM GETTYSBURG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The honor of your presence is requested for the very FIRST Joint Regional Conference hosted by Region III and Region IV in Historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, October 6th and 7th. By holding the meeting on the "Mason-Dixon Line," we will be located conveniently for all Affiliates, and offer the added dimension of The Historic Gettysburg Area.

Headquarters:

the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel and Conference Center is a brand new facility, actually opening in August, 2006. All facilities will be available "on site," and free shuttles are available to additional shopping, historic sites, museums, etc.

Garden Tour:

The Bus Tour Saturday will include The Seton Shrine Center, Basilica & Historic Buildings (America's only Saint, Elizabeth Seton), South of the Mason-Dixon Line; followed by Ken and Joan Roberts Garden (Famous for Reblooming Irises) including Garden Judges Training, North of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Reblooming Iris Show:

With two Regions represented, we should see some good stalks. Bring all the bloom you can as show chairmen Sylvia Smith-Deck and Carol Warner will have everything ready for your entries.

Judges Training:

There will be both classroom and garden training available.

Auction:

We will have both a plant auction Friday night and a Silent Auction. Bring any and all items you wish for either auction. Maryann Coates is in charge of the Silent Auction and will answer any questions you have in advance at 301-662-1664. The proceeds from both auctions will be split 50/50 between Region III and Region IV.

Guest Speaker:

George Sutton will be our speaker on Saturday Night, and may have a Friday Night Surprise for us too.

AIS Region III & IV FALL 2006 Convention
Friday, October 6th & Saturday October 7th, 2006
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY:

1:00 – 5:00 Registration
4:00 – 5:00 Judges Training
5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour
6:00 Welcome Banquet
8:00 Auction (Benefit III & IV 50/50)

SATURDAY:

8:00 – 10:00 Show Entries
9:00 – 11:00 Region III & IV Board
Meetings
10:00 – 11:00 Judging Show
11:00 Show Opens & Lunch on/own
1:00 Tour Busses Depart
Historic Memorial Gardens
Friendship Gardens
Garden Judges Training
4:45 Buses return to Hotel
5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour
6:00 Closing Banquet
Speaker: George Sutton

Anita Moran
Newscast Editor
C/o
Winterberry Gardens
1225 Reynolds Road
Cross Junction, VA 22625

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