



You are invited to the 2025 AIS Region 4 Spring Conference, to be held Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, at the Research Triangle Park DoubleTree Hotel in Durham, North Carolina.

The Conference kicks off for early birds on Thursday evening with a discussion on how to capture the best photographic images of our favorite flower, presented by Anita Moran.

Friday starts with an iris show and classroom judges training, followed by lunch, viewing of silent auction items, the first garden visit, a “welcome” dinner and the perennial favorite live-plant auction.

Saturday begins on the tour bus headed to the second garden. Choose a more leisurely tour of extensive iris beds (and maybe the koi ponds!) or in-garden judges training followed by a little time to check out some of the iris beds. Lunch is provided during a stop on our way to the final garden, where participants can enjoy a comprehensive collection of Dykes Medal award-winning irises and, if interested, learn a little about growing irises commercially.

At each of the gardens on this year’s garden tour, you will find guest iris beds hosting as many as 107 different varieties of recent bearded iris introductions and seedlings donated by international, national and regional hybridizers including:

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| □ Michèle Bersillon | □ Anita Moran |
| □ Tom Burseen (by H. Stout) | □ Elizabeth Rieniets |
| □ Paul Black | □ Kimberly Rieniets |
| □ Adam Cordes | □ Schreiners |
| □ Howie Dash | □ Robert Skaggs |
| □ Diana Ford | □ Michael Sutton |
| □ Jim Hedgecock | □ Don Spoon |
| □ Steve Kelly | □ Ginny Spoon |
| □ Mike Locketell | □ Hugh Stout |
| □ Patricia McNeal | □ Rick Tasco |
| □ Randall Moore | □ Bill Tyson |

We particularly hope that those of you who have not been able to attend a National Convention recently will enjoy this opportunity to see in person a variety of new irises by both new and established hybridizers!

After returning to the hotel from the garden tour, there is a little time to relax and then an optional social hour before the awards dinner. Dinner will be followed by the Region 4 general meeting and then guest speaker Tony Avent, founder of Plant Delights Nursery and the Juniper Level Botanic Garden.

For those who are not in a hurry to leave the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area, a number of suggestions for Sunday will be provided, including two ENCIS member open gardens, local botanical gardens, plant nurseries, and other shopping venues.