

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hilton Garden Inn

120 Wingate Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22601

Phone: 540-722-8881 Fax: 540-722-8889

www.winchester.hgi.com

Room rate: \$99.00 plus tax per night plus tax.

You must mention S&P Iris Society when registering to get these rates and you must make your own reservations with the hotel BEFORE April 30, 2017 in order to get the discounted rate. The special price of rooms expires on May 1st at the hotel so call early.

Some additional rooms have been set aside at our special rate for Thursday, May 18th for those who desire to arrive early.

Facilities & Services

- Indoor Pool & Whirlpool
- Fitness Center
- 24 Hour Business Center with Remote Printing
- Pavilion Pantry - 24-Hour Convenience Center with Snacks & Toiletries
- Restaurant and Bar On Site
- Complimentary Wired & Wireless Internet
- Microwave, Refrigerator, and Safe in Every Room
- Keurig Coffee/Tea Maker in Every Room
- Garden Sleep System Beds
- Walking Distance to Restaurants & Entertainment
- Complimentary Parking
- Business Center with Copy and Fax Services

Directions to the Hotel: From I-81 take exit 313B west towards Winchester to route 50 (E. Jubal Early Drive) turn left on S. Pleasant Valley Rd. (at the McDonalds) and take an immediate right onto Wingate Drive (if you get to Featherbed Lane you have gone too far). The Hilton Garden Inn Hotel is at the end just past the Wingate Hotel.

2017 Spring Regional Tour Gardens

Glen Burnie Gardens at The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

The seven-acre Glen Burnie Gardens are both impressive and intimate. The creation of the gardens began in 1956 and continues today with a multi-year renovation in progress.

The Pleached Allee is a highlight during spring bloom, and boxwood plantings create the Parterre and Knot Gardens. Herb and Vegetable Gardens demonstrate the use of edible plants in garden design. The redesigned Rose Garden is comprised of hundreds of plants while the Perennial Garden presents a rainbow of colors.

Speaking of rainbows, the S&P Iris Society donated hundreds of iris in 2014 and 2015 to add to the existing iris displays throughout the Glen Burnie Gardens. Walk the path along the stream to discover Siberian irises and tall bearded mixed perennial beds, meander by the large planting of *iris tectorum*, meditate on the Japanese irises in the Asian Garden, and climb the overlook path for a larger display of TB's. Historic irises dot the landscape in plantings where you would expect them – near the historic Glen Burnie House.

State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm

Started in the 1930's, the Arboretum occupies 172 acres of plantings, driving and walking trails. The Walter Flory Memorial Iris Collection can be found in the Interpretive Iris Beds near The Quarters. Originally planted in the early 2000's as Region 4 prepared to host the National Iris Convention, the beds suffered damage in ensuing years as trees grew to shade the beds, deer moved the rhizomes, and soil was depleted. In the summer of 2015, the S&P Iris Society donated and planted 100 new iris varieties to rejuvenate the collection. The beds bloom from early spring through late fall featuring reticulates, median and tall bearded iris, Louisiana's, Siberians, *iris virginica*, and Spec X irises, including many reblooming SDB's and TB's. In addition to the main iris beds, *iris virginica* can be found in the wetlands and *iris cristata* bloom throughout the grounds. The Siberians have an additional bed all their own nearer The Quarters.

To get to the iris beds, you walk through the Pollination Garden observing butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds visiting their favorite flowers. Leaving the irises, you enter a shaded path leading you through a half-acre Native Plant Trail that is a living field guide to Virginia native plants.

Iris Hills Farm, A youth member commercial and hybridizing garden

Iris Hills Farm started as a commercial venture several years ago when Colin needed a way to support his iris habit. He originally planted a large terraced garden above the sheep pasture and began merrily hybridizing. The front yard disappeared in irises the year that Colin discovered he had no place to plant the 800 seedlings he had grown. Iris Hills Farm now comprises about an acre of iris, over 300 varieties grown for sale, and (still) hundreds of seedlings. Most of the irises are tall bearded varieties, but there are 40 medians scattered about, a growing number of Siberians, *iris virginica*, and some Spec X varieties.

The first registered introduction from Iris Hills Farm debuts in 2017 and will be playing the debutante for the Spring Regional Tour. Come join us as Anita Moran gives Iris Seedling Selection Training in Colin's seedling beds that weekend.

While you are at the farm, make sure to spend a few minutes with the lambs, chickens, and guinea hens cavorting on the lawn. And make sure to pet InkJet and Cocoa, our two intrepid barn cats who love to wander among the irises with visitors.

The Bird Sanctuary, A youth member garden

This lovely suburban garden includes irises, daffodils, chrysanthemums, tiger lilies, roses, and zinnias. Sarah has always had a few irises, and became even more interested in them when she learned through S&P Iris Society about the panoply of colors and types that were available. She especially likes purple, yellow, blue, and burgundy tall bearded iris. Most of the irises in grown here are in the Bird Sanctuary which is the garden grown to attract different types of birds including gold finches, robins, and mourning doves. Sarah once rescued an iris from a foreclosed lot and it now blooms in a special spot in the garden.

Opequon Memorial Scatter Garden

Located next to the Kernstown Battlefield, Opequon Presbyterian Church was organized in 1736 over 100 years before the famous battles fought there. Work on the Memorial Scatter Garden was commenced in 2009 and is finishing up this year with donations of iris from Ray and Karen Jones.

The garden is in the shape of a Jerusalem Cross, containing four smaller crosses said to symbolize the four books of the Gospel. There are four distinctive areas with each quadrant planted in daylilies, dianthus, and salvia. In addition, foundation plantings of boxwood, shrubs, lavender, and hyssop complement the area. Upright plantings of spirea, lilac, and crape myrtle bushes are carefully arranged around two meditation areas with seating positioned to afford individuals a place for prayer, meditation, and an unrestricted view of the Kernstown Civil War Battlefield.

Ray and Karen, long time members of the American Iris Society, Region 4, and Shenandoah and Potomac Iris Society, have donated many tall bearded irises to Opequon and planted them on the outer edge of the quadrants in the Memorial Garden during the past two years. They recently added SDB's, donated by Don and Ginny Spoon of Winterberry Gardens, to the display.

Winterberry Gardens

Don and Ginny learned, as youths, to love irises while gardening with their mothers, Lilla Edwards Spoon (past President of the Charlotte Iris Society) and Wilma Patrick (an avid plant collector). Don was born and raised in Charlotte, NC and Ginny in Fairfax, Virginia. Don first learned Genetics by breeding pigeons with his father, Kenneth Bryan Spoon, and later studied Genetics in Graduate school. Don earned his M.S. and Ph. D. degree at Emory University and taught Ecology and directed graduate research at Georgetown University for 22 years retiring in 1994.

Ginny met Don at their local iris club, the Chesapeake and Potomac (C&P) Iris Society in 1991. They were married in 1994 and moved to Oracle, Arizona for two years where Don worked as a microbiologist on the Biosphere 2 project as a senior scientist and Ginny managed the Intensive Agricultural Biome for several months while the manager went back to Nepal to visit his family and then worked inside the Biosphere IAB until they returned home to Virginia.

In 1996, they moved back to Cross Junction, VA and started their Winterberry Gardens iris business in earnest where they now grow over 5,000 cultivars of bearded irises, over 2,000 of them are rebloomers. They both enjoy hybridizing all classes of bearded irises and have over 20,000 seedlings. Don and Ginny have both earned major awards for their irises from the American Iris Society and Don has won International Awards. They are both official American Iris Society Master Judges. Ginny completed her Horticultural Business degree at Lord Fairfax Community College, and is the business manager of their Winterberry Gardens iris business. They also grow over 1,000 cultivars of daylilies; have a large collection of daffodils and many other woody plants planted around their 5 acre property.