

***The Society for Siberian Irises,
The Species Iris Group of North America and
Region 4 Spring 2018 Meeting***



***Celebrating
The 25th Anniversary of
Siberian/Species Conventions
Sponsored by the Francis Scott Key Iris Society
May 25th and 26th, 2018***

***Convention Headquarters: Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley,
245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD, 21031 Call 410-785-7000
and request the \$117.00 plus tax per night FSK IS Rates***

Friday, May 25th: Show with horticulture and artistic divisions. We encourage attendees to bring specimens for the show so that we can see a cross section of irises that are blooming in late May in different sections of the region and the nation. Bus Tour to Carol Warner's Draycott Gardens in Upperco, and Alan Summers Garden in Westminster, Garden Judges Training Sessions and Welcome Dinner at Friendly Farms of Upperco. A silent auction and a hybridizer's presentation will be held at the hotel from 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

Saturday, May 26th: Bus tour to Joan Miller's Garden in Maryland Line Garden, Dave Piasecki and Vicki Stewart's Garden and Ladew Topiary Gardens in northern Harford County. Lunch will be served at Ladew Gardens. The Awards Banquet and a silent auction and the live auction will be held at the hotel from 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

Note: Because the tour gardens cannot accommodate large charter buses, transportation for the garden tours on Friday and Saturday will be via **School Buses!** The trips to/from/between the gardens are a maximum of 35-minutes each.



Silver Siberian/Species Convention

The Francis Scott Key iris Society is pleased to be hosting the Convention for the Society for Siberian Irises, the Species Group of North America and the Region 4 Spring Meeting of the American Iris Society in Maryland on Friday and Saturday, May 25th and 26th, 2018. We have been very fortunate to receive a total of 494 guest rhizomes from 15 different gardens / hybridizers which are growing in our four tour gardens. These Siberian, laevigata, species and specX irises will be blooming on third year clumps.

We are also planning to have a show on Friday morning with entries permitted either Thursday evening or early Friday morning at the hotel headquarters: Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley, 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD, 21031. We encourage attendees to bring specimens for the show so that we can see a cross section of irises that are blooming in late May in different sections of the region and the nation. The AIS 2018 National Convention is very early this year and is in New Orleans. We are hoping that many visitors from other AIS regions will be able to attend our meeting Additional information and the registration form can be found on the Region 4 website, <http://www.irisregion4.com/>.

Joan Miller's Garden, Dogwood Hill near the Maryland- Pennsylvania Line in Northern Baltimore County is a plant collector's garden with a cottage garden plan. In addition to over 300 varieties of tall bearded irises, 75 IB's, MTB's and SDB's, and over 50 Siberian, Japanese and pseudata irises, there are over 600 varieties of daylilies. A wooded pond garden with azaleas, rhododendron and hostas adds spring color. Throughout the garden, many bulbs, and companion plantings extend the bloom season from late February to Mid-November. A taxidermy museum with a collection of animals from around the world collected by Bob Miller will be available for viewing by interested visitors.



The Piasecki-Stewart Garden is a picturesque setting of gardens, which include a mixture of annuals, perennials, flowering trees and shrubbery, are located in the rural region of northern Harford County, Maryland. The owners, Dave Piasecki and Vicki Stewart, established these gardens on 2.2 acres overlooking Geneva Farms Golf Course in 2003. Numerous varieties of tall, standard and miniature dwarf bearded and Siberian iris fill the beds with color throughout the spring. Soon after, several hundred varieties of daylilies steal the show with a dazzling display of color, while mixed beds of perennials and annuals keep the show going until frost. For those who like foliage, our shade gardens feature more than 150 varieties of hostas.



Carol Warner's Draycott Gardens, located in north western Baltimore County, will be on tour Friday morning. The rolling property consists of ten acres, about half of which is wooded. The landscape gardens feature collections of peonies; herbaceous, Itoh hybrids and tree peonies; bearded irises and a large collection of beardless irises; two rock gardens featuring dwarf conifers and many specimen trees that have been maturing over the past 45 years. An almost complete of Morgan Award and Morgan Wood Medal winners will be on display. A one hour Judges Training session will also be held in this garden



Alan Summers Garden. The five-acre garden of Alan Summers, host of the Garden Club radio show for almost 30 years and owner of Carroll Gardens mail order nursery (now closed) welcomes your visit.

The garden is designed in the modern English manner – island beds of perennials and flowering shrubs between meandering grass paths. Planting began about 20 years ago. Extensive renovations of the house and grounds took place 8 years ago, with the most intensive planting during the last five years. The goal of continuous flower color from March into October has been largely achieved. Each year over 100 varieties are trialed for garden performance, low maintenance and durability. The main displays are from multiple varieties of narcissus, azaleas, peonies and hemerocallis, with particular emphasis on late blooming daylilies. Mr. Summers has developed and introduced three perennials that are still available: New England Aster ‘Honeysong Pink’, Stokesia ‘Honeysong Purple’ and Veronica ‘Giles Van Hees’.



Ladew Gardens consists of 22 acres of formal gardens and reflects the style, elegance and sense of humor of Harvey Ladew. The garden has two cross axes to allow for long vistas with “garden rooms” off each axis. The axes meet at his oval swimming pool, placed in the center of the Great Bowl. Garden rooms are devoted to a single color, a single plant or a single theme. Ladew was among the first Americans to create this type of garden on this side of the Atlantic. In addition to garden rooms including the Iris Garden, Pink Garden and Yellow Garden, to name a few, there are over 100 topiaries on the property. Visit www.LadewGardens.com to see lots of pictures of this incredible garden.

