

# Destiny Dallas: April '23!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BONNIE NICHOLS, TEXAS

Spring in Texas will be here before we know it. As I write this message to you, members of the the Iris Society of Dallas are planning for your visit to Texas in April. If this is your first iris convention, Dallas is the place to begin a long tradition. If you are a seasoned iris convention attendee and have been to Dallas before, that same Texas hospitality will be ready to welcome you home.

The 2023 hotel venue has changed since the last time you were here. If you fly into Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, there is a shuttle to the hotel. If you are driving, hotel parking is no charge. Please make your hotel reservations soon since there are always other conventions in the Dallas regional area. We hope you can come to Dallas a few days before the convention or stay after and see some of the other sites such as the Dallas Arboretum and Fort Worth Botanical Garden.

This year we kick off the convention with the Geek Luncheon. Jill Bonino does a great job overseeing the event and gathering wonderful auction items. For those who have not attended a Geek meeting before, there is a meal followed by a live auction with all proceeds going to the furthering of electronic services such as the AIS Wiki and Encyclopedia, online iris registrations, online judges training, and other electronic advancements to provide us quick and easy access to learn more about our favorite perennial.

Instead of traditional iris section meetings, we will be hearing from hybridizers discussing their iris programs and new developments in irises from tall bearded, median, novelty, reblooming, Japanese, pseudata, spuria, and more. What a great opportunity to visit with the hybridizers and take

home great ideas for your garden. Each section of the American Iris Society will have a reception area. Sections will have plants and seeds for sale, raffles, pictures, T-shirts, and how-to-grow information on various types of irises.

There will be two classroom judges training sessions as well as garden training. The training sessions are open to everyone whether you are a judge or not.

There will be a silent auction of regional baskets. Each American Iris Society region is encouraged to construct a basket of any and everything from their region such as plants, seeds, books, wine, food, clothing, and candy. There is no end to the amazing baskets. As bid closing time approaches, the competition is fun to watch.

We hope you will attend the live auction. There will be an option to have a light supper before the auction begins. The auction includes plants that hybridizers very generously donated as well as interesting items donated by the AIS

Library. Collector magazines and books are some of the items that will be auctioned.

In addition to these activities there will be two days of bus trips to see area gardens. We picked mid-April for the convention, so if we have an early season or a late season there will be irises to see.

We hope your destiny is to be in Dallas this April. Please visit the Iris Society of Dallas website, [irises-dallas.org](http://irises-dallas.org), for registration information and a tentative convention schedule.

