What is the Geek Dinner and Why You Should Not Miss It

BY JILL BONINO, CALIFORNIA

Hopefully the title got your attention, or you wouldn't have read this far. The Geek Dinner is an event held during the National Convention of the American Iris Society (AIS), to raise money to fund electronic services for AIS operations.

In 2023, it is a lunch held at the Convention hotel on Thursday, April 13, from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is $50 per person for entry, which includes lunch.

The Geek Dinner was started by former AIS board member and electronic services chair John Jones, who, sadly, passed away in January 2022. You should have been at the early dinners when George Sutton was the auctioneer and Dave Silverberg passed the items out to the audience after bidding. Over nearly twenty years of dinners, the Restricted Electronic Services Fund grew to more than $30,000. Now we are beginning to draw it down to pay for the new online registration system that went live in December 2022 and the new integrated member service, judges, and AIS ballot system that is being created now. So, come help us build it back up!

After a sit-down lunch, the real fun begins with a live auction of iris plants, iris knick-knacks, and iris gift certificates. Some gift certificates will surprise you, and some are door prizes. When you check in for lunch, you select a paddle with a number, and you receive a door prize ticket. We project live pictures of each plant that will be auctioned off (either as a plant or as a gift certificate). A variety of hybridizers and iris gardens donate to the Geek Dinner, so we never know what we are going to have for auction until shortly before the event. There will be several current year introductions of various iris classes (tall bearded, medians, novelty, etc.) and maybe some historic iris (we had two auction bags of historic irises in 2022).

Donations are welcome from hybridizers who have or have not participated in the past. If you have special iris items that you think people would bid for, please bring them with you to the convention after emailing me to let me know what they are.

We are taking reservations now. Please send your check (made out to the American Iris Society) or credit card information for $50 per person to

Jill Bonino, Geek Dinner Chair
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My email is jillbiris62@gmail.com.

We need to let the hotel know a count of people for lunch, so please reserve your space before April 7, 2023.

Note: This event is called the Geek Dinner and normally it is held in the evening, but this year is going to be a lunch. We don't want to change the title for one year. Thank you for your understanding.

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