

2017 Symposium Program

9:00 a.m. Welcome by Gary White, AIS President

9:10 a.m. The Juno Iris Species by Tony Hall, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew

About: Tony Hall came to horticulture relatively late in life after an early career in music was cut short. While still in his 3rd year as a student at Royal Botanic Garden Kew (RBG Kew), he was appointed Manager of the Alpine and Bulb Unit where he, along with Brian Halliwell, built up the collections of natural source material that made the Unit renowned. He also transformed the Woodland Garden at the base of Cumberland Mound into a plantsman's paradise of shade-loving species. He oversaw the landscaping, development and displays of Kew's world-famous pyramidal Alpine House, sadly demolished in 2004. He has contributed to *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, The Alpine Garden Society (AGS) Bulletin and the British Iris Society (BIS) Yearbook and Species Group Newsletter, among others, and has lectured around the world. He was awarded Kew's Gold Medal in 1979, the Foster Memorial Plaque by the BIS in 1998 and the Lyttel Trophy by the AGS in 2000. He is an Honorary Associate of the Royal Horticultural Society and was made an Honorary Research Associate at RBG Kew on his retirement just over 12 years ago (the only member of Kew's horticultural staff ever to receive an Associateship). He has described several new iris species in the last few years and is working towards a complete monograph of the Juno irises in conjunction with Arnis Seisums of Latvia.

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Artistic Iris Arrangements by Dawn Boyer

About: AIS Judge Dawn Boyer will present the finer points of artistic arrangements and designs on-screen and through live demonstration with a follow-along for symposium participants. Boyer will discuss creating a great design as well as how to judge it effectively, because as she says in her own words "I am a staunch promoter of getting iris people involved in making and entering designs." Boyer is the immediate past RVP of Region 17 and has owned her own florist business. She grows bearded and arilbred irises and roses in her Amarillo, TX garden.

***This session qualifies for AIS Judges Training credit, but is open to all!*

11:15 a.m. Agnes Whiting and the Journey to Blue Rhythm by Cathy Egerer, Historic Iris Preservation Society

About: Cathy Egerer is the President of the Historic Iris Preservation Society and a devout collector of historic irises, particularly those of Iowa hybridizer Agnes Whiting. Even today, Whiting's legendary irises are treasured in gardens around the world. In this presentation, Cathy will tell the stories behind Whiting's introductions and her breeding career, which culminated in the Dykes Medal-winning 'Blue Rhythm' in 1950.