



The King County Iris Society welcomes you to this year's Spring Regional Convention on Saturday June 2nd. The highlight of the Convention is the bus tour of the scheduled four gardens (one private, one commercial and two in large public gardens). Display beds in these four gardens contain bearded and beardless cultivars; both introduced varieties and seedlings under consideration for possible future introduction. Hybridizers from Washington, Oregon, California, Michigan and Massachusetts have sent their varieties for your review.

The two display beds in public gardens are the result of KCIS outreach efforts to display irises to the general gardening public. The first of these display beds is at the Lake Wilderness Arboretum in Maple Valley, Washington. The Arboretum is located in southeast King County and is famous for its collection of Western Azaleas. Since these plants usually hit their peak bloom in late May, we may still have a good bloom on them as well as the irises. The second public garden is the Highline SeaTac Botanical Garden, located just north of the SeaTac International Airport on a site that began as a way to preserve an extensive plant collection that needed to be moved to make way for the third runway in 2000. Over the past almost 12 years the Garden has grown to include a Japanese Garden as well as partner plantings maintained by the King County Iris Society, Seattle Rose Society, Puget Sound Daylily Club among others. We will have a Judges Training session and lunch in this Garden.

The private garden is in the Woodinville, WA area and is maintained by Debbie Harris, a fairly recent KCIS member. Debbie has been our beardless iris sale chair and her interest is in beardless iris.

The tour will finish at Cascadia Iris Gardens in the Maltby, WA area. Cascadia was founded as a commercial nursery 5 years ago by Patrick and Margaret Spence; specializing in Pacific Coast and Japanese irises. We will probably be too early for any Japanese iris, but visitors should look around to see what the Spences have blooming in addition to the guest plants.

After the bus tour, it is back to the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in Bothell, WA. Saturday evening will feature a dinner, business meeting, a short program, and a iris redistribution.

In addition to Saturday, we are working on a Friday afternoon welcoming event and an in-garden Judges Training on Pacific Coast irises will be offered on Sunday.

For additional information, please contact Ann Booth at 425-743-3066 or annbooth_hr@hotmail.com.