

2024 AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium

COMPILED BY RILEY PROBST, AIS SYMPOSIUM CHAIRMAN, CALIFORNIA | PHOTOS BY RILEY PROBST

The Iris Symposium was created in 1941 by Kenneth Smith of Staten Island, New York. He conducted it annually for several years. By 1946, the AIS board had endorsed it, and it was an annual AIS happening still conducted by Mr. Smith. At that time, only the AIS judges voted in the Symposium. By 1957, it had been changed by the AIS board so that all AIS members could vote on the Symposium. It has been that way ever since. The mechanics of the Symposium have not changed too much since that time.

Today, it is known as the AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium. It has also been known as the Symposium, the Top 100, and maybe other names along the way. It is completely separate from the symposia run by some of the sections including Median, Japanese, Siberian, Spuria and others. These symposia are each specific to the irises of the section endorsing it.

The 2024 AIS Tall Bearded Iris Symposium is the eighty-fourth annual. It speaks well for the symposium that it has lasted eighty-four years with few changes. Eighty-four years ago, there was no Super Bowl, no NBA Playoffs (no NBA), no NASCAR, no Emmy Awards, no Grammy Awards, no United Nations, no NATO. These are all things that have started more recently. It is remarkable that the AIS Symposium is older than the previously mentioned

entities.

In 2024 ‘Dusky Challenger’ regained its position as number one! It was introduced in 1986 and rapidly moved into the number one spot which it held for more than twenty years through 2019. In 2020 ‘That’s All Folks’ beat DC by one vote. But, in 2021 DC moved back into number one for one more year. In 2022 ‘Bottle Rocket’ came in number one, beating DC, which came in fourth, by eight votes. In 2023 ‘Daughter Of Stars’ came in number one, beating DC which came in fifth, by six votes. But, this year DC beat ‘Gypsy Lord’ & ‘Thornbird’ by twelve votes. It will be interesting to see which iris comes in first in 2025.

Be sure to vote your symposium ballot at the proper time in 2025. The ballot will be included with the Spring 2025 issue of the *AIS Bulletin*. Your one vote could make all the difference and help determine iris history. Will ‘Dusky Challenger’ retain its number one spot?

Riley Probst
AIS Symposium Chairman

Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Intro. Year	Bloom Season	Ht In	Brief Description
1	5	DUSKY CHALLENGER	93	Schreiner	1986	M-L	39	dark purple
2	13	GYPSY LORD	81	Keppel, K.	2006	ML	40	S. white; F. violet w. white ctr & red beard
2	2	THORNBIRD	81	Byers, M.	1989	M	35	ecru tan w. violet horns
4	1	DAUGHTER OF STARS	77	Spoon, D.	2001	EM & RE	35	purple luminata w. white edge
5	10	JESSE'S SONG	73	Williamson, B.	1983	M	36	white & violet plicata
6	2	BOTTLE ROCKET	69	Sutton, M.	2010	EM & RE	35	S. orange; F. ruby red veined orange
7	7	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	65	Lauer, L.	1993	E-M	40	S. off white; F. medium blue
8	12	THAT'S ALL FOLKS	63	Maryott, B.	2005	M	40	S. gold; F. white w. gold band

continued on page 10

2024 AIS TALL BEARDED IRIS SYMPOSIUM RESULTS CONT.

Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Intro. Year	Bloom Season	Ht In	Brief Description
9	21	DON'T DOUBT DALTON	60	Burseen, T.	2015	EML	35	S. white; F. white w. gold hafts & purple splattering
10	4	SHARP DRESSED MAN	59	Johnson, T.	2010	M	36	S. purple; F. purple black
11	20	MESMERIZER	58	Byers, M.	1991	M	36	white w. white flounces
12	30	HAUNTED HEART	57	Keppel, K.	2010	M	36	pinkish grey-white-lavender
13	24	CELEBRATION SONG	56	Schreiner	1993	E-M-L	37	S. apricot pink; F. blue lavender
14	21	ABSOLUTE TREASURE	53	Tasco, R.	2006	M	42	sky blue w. white beard
14	6	QUEEN'S CIRCLE	53	Kerr, F.	2000	ML	32	white, blue border on F.
16	17	CONJURATION	52	Byers, M.	1989	M-L	36	white & violet & white w. horns
17	14	IMMORTALITY	51	Zurbrigg, L.	1982	M & RE	30	white
18	19	SILVERADO	49	Schreiner	1987	M	38	light silver blue
19	9	MONTMARTRE	48	Keppel, K.	2008	EM	33	S. purple w. yellow edge; F. purple w. white edge
20	18	BELLE FILLE	46	Smith, M.	2015	E - L	34	S. blue-violet; F. purple luminata w. cream edge
21	7	FLORENTINE SILK	45	Keppel, K.	2005	ML	40	S. peach; F. violet w. pink edge
22	23	CLARENCE	44	Zurbrigg, L.	1991	M & RE	35	S. white; F. light blue
23	36	BEFORE THE STORM	42	Innerst, S.	1989	M	36	near black
23	24	BEVERLY SILLS	42	Hager, B.	1979	M	36	pink
23	64	BLACK LIPSTICK	42	Keppel, K.	2016	EM	35	purple black
23	28	DECADENCE	42	Blyth, B.	2004	M	38	S. apricot; F. plum w. apricot edge
23	36	LADY FRIEND	42	Ghio, J.	1981	VE-E	38	garnet red
28	46	EDITH WOLFORD	41	Hager, B.	1986	M	40	S. yellow; f. blue-violet
29	10	FOOTBALL HERO	40	Miller, L.	2015	M	36	S. butter yellow; F. plum-purple w. orchid edge
30	26	GOLDEN PANTHER	39	Tasco, R.	2000	M	34	gold/bronze
31	42	DRAMA QUEEN	38	Keppel, K.	2003	EM	38	cyclamen purple/capucine buff plicata
32	14	PAUL BLACK	37	Johnson, T.	2003	M	42	dark purple, orange beard
33	34	BLACK IS BLACK	35	Schreiner	2010	M	37	black self
33	34	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	35	Niswonger, D.	1987	M	33	pink & apricot



'Folklorico' (Steve Kelly 2021, TB)



'Decked Out' (Tom Burseen 2015, TB)

Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Intro. Year	Bloom Season	Ht In	Brief Description
33	42	DARING DECEPTION	35	Johnson, T.	2012	M	35	S. white; F. violet w. wide white band
33	14	SPLASHACATA	35	Tasco, R.	1998	M	35	purple on white dotted plicata
33	64	TUSCAN SUMMER	35	Keppel, K.	2010	M	38	blackish port wine w. yellow striations on F.
38	36	WINTRY SKY	34	Keppel, K.	2002	EM	36	S. blue; F. blue white
39	30	AUTUMN EXPLOSION	33	Tasco, R.	2013	EM & RE	33	white & pansy-purple fancy plicata
39	50	SLOVAK PRINCE	33	Mego, A.	2003	M	33	S. orchid w. gold rim; F. purple w. white zone
41	26	HAPPENSTANCE	32	Keppel, K.	2000	M	37	pink
42	84	SNAPSHOT	31	Johnson, T.	2008	M	32	S. yellow; F. mahogany w. yellow center
42	32	STEPPING OUT	31	Schreiner	1964	M-L	38	white & violet plicata
42	36	YAQUINA BLUE	31	Schreiner	1992	M	37	medium blue
45	73	BLACK MAGIC WOMAN	30	Tasco, R.	2008	EM	34	S. red-violet; F. black
45	36	RECKLESS ABANDON	30	Keppel, K.	2010	M	38	S. white-yellow; F. burgundy black
45	64	ROYSTON RUBIES	30	Cordes, A.	2017	LM	32	S. mauve; F. dark ruby red
45	46	SEA POWER	30	Keppel, K.	1999	M	38	ruffled blue
45	59	SKATING PARTY	30	Gaulter, L.	1983	M-L	40	white
45	56	VANITY	30	Hager, B.	1975	E-L	36	pink
51	50	GLITTER GULCH	29	Burseen, T.	2009	EM	36	cadmium orange w. spoons
51	32	NOTTA LEMON	29	Burseen, T.	2010	EML	37	S. yellow; F. white w. lemon yellow edges
51	59	SUPERSTITION	29	Schreiner	1977	M	36	maroon black
54	42	GOT MILK	28	Aitken, T.	2002	ML	40	white self
54	28	TITAN'S GLORY	28	Schreiner	1981	E-M	37	dark violet
56	49	BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS	27	Black, P.	2012	M-VL	45	blue w. B. orange
56	64	MILLENNIUM FALCON	27	Kasperek, B.	2000	M	38	blue bitone w. white streaks
58	56	HELLO DARKNESS	26	Schreiner	1992	E-M	37	purple black



'Copper Angel' (Howie Dash 2018, TB)

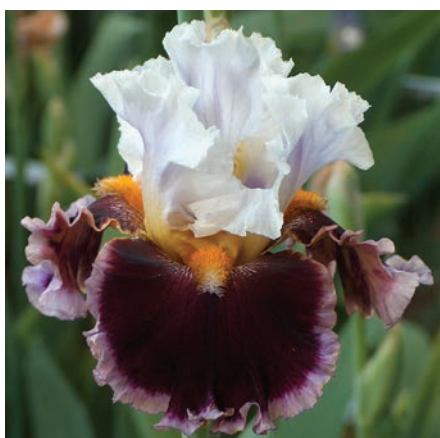


'Centennial Celebration' (Diana Ford 2021, TB)

Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Intro. Year	Bloom Season	Ht In	Brief Description
58	64	RISE LIKE A PHOENIX	26	Black, P.	2017	M-L	46	S. gold; F. dark velvety red-black
58	46	VICTORIA FALLS	26	Schreiner	1977	E-L	40	blue; white spot on F.
61	59	GHIRARDELLI SQUARE	25	Keppel, K.	2016	EM	38	S. brown; F. white w. purple-chocolate plicata edge
61	59	INSANIAC	25	Johnson, T.	2012	M	33	S. white; F. white overlaid violet lines
61	36	STARRING	25	Ghio, J.	2000	ML	33	S. white; F. purple black
64	100	CHIHUAHUAN DESERT	24	Dash, H.	2016	EM	37	S. white; F. tan-violet over white
64	79	OIL PAINTING	24	Ghio, J.	2013	EM	38	orange w. tan band on F.
64	79	YOU'RE SO VEINED	24	Tasco, R.	2020	EM	35	S. aster violet; F. white ground veined dark violet
67	64	MARRY THE NIGHT	23	Johnson, T.	2017	E	32	dark purple & white plicata
67	84	TIGER HONEY	23	Kasperek, B.	1994	EM	38	butterscotch caramel w. wht & yell streaks
69	84	BRAVERY	22	Ghio, J.	2012	EM	37	S. blue white; F. blue purple w. white band
69	100	JURASSIC PARK	22	Lauer, L.	1995	EM	36	S. yellow; F. purple
69	56	MARY FRANCES	22	Gaulter, L.	1973	M	38	blue-orchid
72	73	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	21	Lauer, L.	2017	E-M	32	S. nasturtium orange; F. tangerine-orange
72	-	DARK UNIVERSE	21	Keppel, K.	2019	E	35	concord luminata
72	88	GOOD MORNING SUNSHINE	21	Johnson, T.	2014	M-L	33	S. bright yellow; F. violet-purple wash w. yellow hafts
75	50	DON'T STOP BELIEVING	20	Johnson, T.	2013	LM	42	S. pink; F. white
75	50	INK PATTERNS	20	Johnson, T.	2007	ML	36	white plicata w. blue-violet stitched edges
77	100	PUMPKIN PIE ALA MODE	19	Johnson, T.	2014	M	40	S. white F. burnt orange
77	50	RUSTLER	19	Keppel, K.	1988	M	37	gold-brown
79	-	FOLKLORICO	18	Kelly, S.	2021	E-M	34	S. yellow; F. plum; B. bronze
79	-	GOLD DUST WOMAN	18	Dash, H.	2019	M	36	golden yellow self
79	-	IRRESISTIBLE CHARM	18	Tasco, R.	2016	ML	37	S. peach; F. black plum purple; B. red
79	73	LACED COTTON	18	Schreiner	1980	M-L	34	laced white



'Dark Storm' (Richard Tasco 2017, TB)



'When Doves Cry'
(Thomas Johnson 2018, TB)



'Flash Mob' (Keith Keppel 2016, TB)

Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Intro. Year	Bloom Season	Ht In	Brief Description
79	-	MOOD RING	18	Keppel, K.	2017	M	36	S. plumbago; F. silver lavender w. mimosa yellow band
84	88	CHINESE LANTERN FACTORY	17	Kanarowski	2020	M	36	S. white; F. red-violet w. sunburst & blue-violet rim
84	-	DECKED OUT	17	Burseen, T.	2015	M-VL	33	S. wisteria blue; F. electric blue w. brown edges
84	50	MONEY IN YOUR POCKET	17	Black, P.	2007	M	44	S. blue; F. blue, darker at hafts
87	-	ALL IN VEIN	16	Johnson, T.	2021	E	32	S. lt. grape purple; F. deep purple w. white rays
87	70	BETTER THAN BUTTER	16	Black, P.	2010	E-L	41	S. white w. yellow bands; F. light medium yellow
87	-	CATCH THE FEVER	16	Keppel, K.	2018	EM	34	S. rubient red; F. red-maroon; B. scarlet
87	-	COPPER ANGEL	16	Dash, H.	2018	M	39	S. white w. yellow rim; F. golden copper; B. orange
87	42	CROWNED HEADS	16	Keppel, K.	1997	M	38	S. wisteria; F. lt. blue
87	88	HIGH DESERT	16	Keppel, K.	2015	M	40	S. lemon; F. plicata white w. red-purple band
87	70	TIJUANA TAXI	16	Kanarowski, D.	2014	M	41	S. red-orange; F. ruby-red; B. red-tangerine
87	59	VOLCANIC GLOW	16	Keppel, K.	2012	M	36	luminata S. aureolin; F. red w. golden edge
95	-	CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION	15	Ford, D.	2021	E	35	S. white-yellow; F. magenta maroon w. yellow blaze
95	-	DARK STORM	15	Tasco, R.	2017	M	36	dark purple & white fancy plicata
95	88	KATHY CHILTON	15	Kerr, F.	2006	ML	35	S. gold; F. red-black B. gold
95	-	WHEN DOVES CRY	15	Johnson, T.	2018	M	36	S. white; F. plush burgundy w. lavender band; B. yellow
99	-	ARIZONA CAVE PAINTING	14	Kanarowski, D.	2020	E-M	38	S. pastel yellow; F. white w. ivory-blue & blackberry bands
99	100	BRIGHT AND SHINING STAR	14	Black, P.	2020	E-M	32	S. white; F. white w. purple plicata band
99	100	BROKE AGAIN	14	Tyson, B.	2012	EM & RE	34	S. peach pink; F. pink w. purple splashes; pink horns
99	79	COAL SEAMS	14	Schreiner	2013	M	41	S. dark purple F. darker purple
99	-	FLASH MOB	14	Keppel, K.	2016	M	37	S. rose-ebony; F. chrome-lemon w. plicata band
99	88	PEGGY SUE	14	Lauer, L.	2006	EML&RE	34	pink w. red beard
99	73	RARE TREAT	14	Schreiner	1987	E-M	34	blue & white plicata

Dropped from the list: (24) Baby I Love You, Beauty Becomes Her, Boundless, Celtic Tartan, Cow Patty, Dazzle, Elizabethan Age, Ghost Writer, Global Crossing, Going My Way, Grateful Red, Hearts Afire, Hollywood Nights, I Pink I Can, Jelly Bean Parade, Kaw, Mad About Saffron, Marrying Kind, Metro Blue, Multnomah Falls, Rocket Fuel, Sergey, Swedish Lullaby & Velvet Valentine.

New to the list: (14) All In Vein, Arizona Cave Painting, Catch The Fever, Centennial Celebration, Copper Angel, Dark Storm, Dark Universe, Decked Out, Flash Mob, Folklorico, Gold Dust Woman, Irresistible Charm, Mood Ring & When Doves Cry.

Runners-Up: But Darling, Coralina, Elizabethan Age, Going My Way, Hollywood Nights & Phasers On Stun with 13 votes each.

Close: Boundless, Cow Patty, Luminata, Ninja Warrior, Shivaree & Sunglasses Needed with 12 votes each.

