

**RICK TASCO**  
**Guest Speaker**  
**Spring Regional May 11<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Rick's program on Saturday night will be **IRIS HYBRIDIZING: MY WAY**. It will give detailed information on how Rick hybridizes iris by every step in the process. At the end of his program we will get to see slides of his current year introductions.

Rick Tasco is the co-owner of Superstition Iris Gardens, a mail order iris nursery, which is also open to the public between mid-April and early May. The 1-acre display-type garden with around 800 varieties of iris is located in the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada's in Cathey's Valley, Mariposa County, California—near Yosemite National Park. In 2018, Superstition Iris Gardens celebrates 32 years in business. Superstition Iris Gardens started in Apache Junction, Arizona in 1987, at the base of the famous Superstition Mountains, thus the name. Superstition Iris Gardens was one of the official tour gardens for the 2004 American Iris Society National Convention.

Rick is a member and an Active Master Judge of the American Iris Society. He is a member of the Fresno Iris Society, and the Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix (of which he is a past President) and many other National sections of the American Iris Society, such as the Tall Bearded Iris Society, the Median Iris Society, the Reblooming Iris Society, the Aril Iris Society International, Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA), and the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS).

Superstition Iris Gardens has been official display gardens in the past for the Historic Iris Preservation Society, the Median Iris Society and the Aril Society International.

Rick has been growing iris for over 45 years and has grown iris in 3 very different climates—the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington DC, Arizona's Sonoran Desert, and currently in Central California's Sierra Nevada foothills.

He has hybridized, registered, and introduced 123 iris with the American Iris Society since 1993, and has garnered quite a few AIS awards and medals. His introductions have won Favorite Guest Iris at 3 American Iris Society National Conventions during the last 15 years: **GOLDEN PANTHER** in 2002 at Memphis and in 2004 at Fresno, and **SPLASHACATA** in 2003 in Virginia. He has won 11 AIS Medals including 2 **DYKES MEDALS**: 2005 for **SPLASHACATA** and 2009 for **GOLDEN PANTHER**. He has also won 5 **JOHN C. WISTER MEDALS**: **SPLASHACATA** in 2004, **GOLDEN PANTHER** in 2006, **ABSOLUTE TREASURE** in 2013, **BLACK MAGIC WOMAN** in 2014, and **TEMPORAL ANOMALY** in 2015. He has also won 4 **C.G. WHITE MEDAL**: **CHOCOLATE MINT** in 2004, **NOBLE WARRIOR** in 2012, **AZTEC PRINCE** in 2015, and **SAND DANCER** (this year 2017). He was also awarded the **HYBRIDIZER'S MEDAL** in 2011 by the American Iris Society Board of Directors.