Clarence Mahan is an internationally recognized authority on irises. A past president, honorary life member and emeritus judge of the American Iris Society, he has written many articles and papers on irises. He has given many programs and lectures on irises to horticultural societies, garden clubs, and iris groups. He is the past president of the Historic Iris Preservation Society, the Society for Japanese Irises and the Reblooming Iris Society. He was president of the panel of judges at the International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy in 1999. The American Iris Society honored Mr. Mahan with its Distinguished Service Medal in 2004. He is also an honorary life member of the Society for Japanese Irises and a recipient of the Historic Iris Preservation Society’s Distinguished Service Award.

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