

- *Preparing rhizomes for the sale*
- *Region 17 Meeting in Addison*
- *A Portland Side Trip*



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Next scheduled meeting:
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
6:45 P.M. Gate closes at 7 P.M.

ISA Annual Rhizome Sale

When: Saturday, September 12, 2015
 9 AM to 3 PM
 Where: Norris Conference Center
 At the corner of Anderson Lane and
 Burnet Road, Austin

Zilker Botanical Garden Fall Plant and Porcelain Art Sale

Saturday, September 26, 2015



PREPARING IRIS RHIZOMES FOR THE SALE SEPTEMBER 12

Bearded irises that members want to provide for the sale should be dug, washed, dried, and labeled correctly. Cut the foliage so that you leave about 5-6 inches of the leaves on the rhizome. Usually the top is cut in an upside down "V." Either attach a paper to a leaf bearing the name of the iris or use a felt tip pen to write on the outer leaf. Place the rhizomes in a bag, attach a picture of the iris to the outside of the bag, and bring them with you to the sale on September 12 at the Norris Conference Center, off Anderson Lane near Wal-Mart.

Louisiana and Spuria Irises should be the last irises to dig. Clean them and then place a wet paper around each rhizome. Sometimes some of the roots can be trimmed so that the rhizome fits in a baggy or plastic bag from the newspaper. Be sure to keep these irises cool and wet for the sale.

Hopefully all of the rhizomes will sell on the Saturday after Labor Day, but all left-over irises will be sold during the Plant Sale in the auditorium of Zilker Botanical Garden on September 26.



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A message from Rosalie Russell, Travis County Master Gardeners Association member:

"For Gardeners. By Gardeners." is the theme of the upcoming **Inside Austin Gardens Tour** sponsored by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association on **Oct 17**. We hope to see you at the Inside Austin Gardens Tour.

REGION 17 A.I.S. ANNUAL MEETING IN ADDISON

Michael Reed, president of the Iris Society of Dallas, welcomed the attendees to the banquet held Saturday, August 15, 2015, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, near Dallas. Bonnie Nichols gave the invocation and later encouraged members to join the Novelty Iris Society, a newly approved section of the American Iris Society, recognizing irises of broken color, verigated foliage, flatties, and space agers with unusual beard appendages — some resembling carnations attached to the end of the beard.

RVP Dawn Boyer called for a moment of silence in observance of those who had died during the year.

Paul Gossett, director and 2016 Convention Chair, received recognition by the American Iris Society for his outstanding work. Bonnie J. Nichols presented the prestigious award to him.

Dan and Peggy Cathey and Dell Perry received certificates for their show achievements by Historian Jim Landers.

The Region 17 Annual Convention was hosted by the Iris Society of Dallas that also sponsored tours of iris gardens in the spring. On Friday, August 14, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:45 p.m. they provided barbecue with cole slaw, green beans, rolls, and cake with much fun and games in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 11425 Marsh Lane.

Hugh Stout was the guest speaker at the Saturday banquet, where many irises that won awards were shown and evaluated. Some of the irises including flatties were given to banquet attendees by the North Plains Iris Society. The iris auctions and iris donations brought in several thousand dollars and gave the members an opportunity to grow new irises in their gardens.



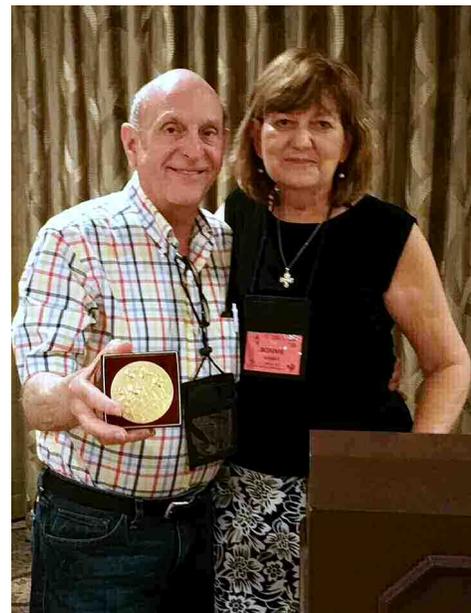
Region 17 RVP Dawn Boyer



Guest speaker Hugh Stout



Rhizomes for the auction



Paul Gossett receives the prestigious A.I.S. Gold Medal from Bonnie Nichols

PLANTING IRISES

To improve the conditions for bearded irises spade or rototill the soil to a depth of 12-15 inches before mixing in a generous layer of compost or peat moss and some bulb food or bonemeal. If the soil is already rich garden loam and well drained, the addition of bulb food will provide ideal conditions for superior growth and blooming.

Irises require at least one inch of rain each week.

Feed the irises in early spring (February 14) before blooming and again after flowering is done. As flowers fade, cut stems back to the rhizomes. Feeding and watering is especially important to aid in early fall repeat blooming. When fall comes, trim away all dead foliage. Trim all other foliage to 4 to 5 inches and clean around the plants.

Irises can be divided every 4 to 5 years. August is the best time to do this. Dig shallow holes 10 inches across and 2 to 4 inches deep. Make a ridge of soil down the middle of the hole, dividing it in half. Place iris rhizome on the ridge, spreading roots to both sides. Then cover with soil and firm with hands. In clay soil, the top of the rhizome should be slightly exposed. In sandy soil, it can be covered with just an inch of soil. Water thoroughly and deeply.

For Louisiana irises or water irises place the rhizome in a container with some holes only at the top so that rain water that accumulates can drain from the irises. The soil can be landscapers mix with soil, but there is no hole in the bottom of the pot. Plant the damp Louisiana in the mixture and water. If it does not rain, please water the iris once per week. These irises are heavy feeders and need acid fertilizer at least three times per year. When buds form, do not fertilize.

Keep dead foliage trimmed and cut off any bloom stalks immediately after the last flower fades. Do not let the stalk form a seed pod since some of the energy from the rhizome is used for this formation. If you set the seed and not the bees, then leave the pod until the seed ripen or until the pod becomes black and tries to open by itself.

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Are you ready for some football?



'Football Hero'
Linda Miller
2015



Figure 1:
Build up a small mound of soil in the center of the planting hole.



Figure 2:
Center the rhizome on the soil mound and spread out the roots on either side.



Figure 3:
Firm the soil around the roots. Newly planted rhizomes should be watered thoroughly.

A PORTLAND SIDE TRIP

by Ken Fuchs

On Tuesday, May 19, 2015, Jaime, Dara, and I drove to Astoria, Oregon, following the Columbia River on the Washington side of the river. All along the way we were overwhelmed by the towering Douglas Fir trees and the many flowering trees, unlike any seen in Texas. As we drove through the small towns, we saw rhododendron bushes in full bloom adding brilliant pink, lavender, and white colors to almost every yard. Wherever there was standing water in small pools and ditches along the roadway, pseudacorus added patches of bright yellow. At one point we stopped to take pictures, and as Dara got out of the van, she put her foot down on a snake, which rapidly slithered away into the tall grass. I'm not sure who was more startled.

As we approached the coastline near a long bridge that crossed over the Columbia to Astoria, we stopped at a rest area known as Dismal Nitch. It was located at the site of a camp where Lewis and Clark and their guide Sacagawea were stranded for a week by a dangerous storm in November 1805, before they finally reached the Pacific. We crossed the long bridge and entered the port city of Astoria, where we had lunch in an old brewery, built in 1924 on the grounds of the old Fort Astoria. After lunch we climbed the 300-step spiral staircase inside a large column decorated on the outside

with a spiraling mural depicting fourteen significant events in the early history of Oregon with a focus on Astoria's role including Captain Gray's discovery of the Columbia River in 1792 and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. From the top we had a spectacular view of Astoria, the long bridge, ships in the harbor, and the Columbia as it flowed into the Pacific.

We followed the coastal highway all the way down to Tillamook, stopping several times on the beaches at Surf Pines, Seaside, and Cannon Beach, where we recognized the enormous Haystack Rock which ISA members visited during the 1994 Convention. There were white specks all over Haystack Rock, and a sign stated that every spring a colony of Tufted Puffins return to Haystack Rock from their long winter at sea. One of the pictures I took with my camera lens zoomed in to the max reveals that those white specks were indeed puffins. As we drove through Cannon Beach, we noticed cute white, black, and orange/tan bunnies leisurely munching grass along people's driveways. They were wild, yet looked like colorful Easter bunnies. In Tillamook we arrived too late to visit the large cheese factory, which also produces excellent ice cream, but we found a charming country restaurant on the outskirts of town where we had dinner. I had perhaps the world's largest club sandwich that was at least four inches thick.



Irises at Dismal Nitch



The long bridge viewed from the Astoria side of the Columbia River.



Texas Gypsies atop the Astoria Column

Not everything was business and judges training at the Region 17 Meeting in Addison. After a good barbecue dinner at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Friday evening, we engaged in several competitive games.



A Side Trip to Astoria and Tillamook

