

- *Iris Show Set Up*
- *AIS Convention 2016*
- *Election of Officers*
- *Region 17 Youth News*



*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



## Next Scheduled Meeting:

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**  
**GATE CLOSSES AT 6:30 P.M.**  
**Meeting begins at 7 P.M.**  
**Pot Luck Dinner**  
**Saturday, April 9 – IRIS SHOW**  
**Tuesday, May 10 – Meeting**  
**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

## EVENTS:

**Saturday-Sunday, April 2 and 3**  
**Zilker Garden Festival**

**Tuesday-Wednesday, April 19 and 20**  
**Dallas Iris Society bus tour to view**  
**iris gardens Cost: \$65 per person**

**Saturday, April 23 – Belton Iris Show**

**May 16-June 24 Woodland Faerie Trail**  
**open to public. Entry fee for faerie**  
**plot was \$25**

**May 23-28, 2016 – AIS National**  
**Convention in Newark, New Jersey**

## IRIS SHOW SET UP APRIL 8

In order to arrange the tables and set up the show supplies for the 27th accredited Iris Show, please come to the Austin Area Garden Center on Friday at 3 P.M.

You may also bring the background for your flower arrangement in the Artistic Division. This is the time that all of the tablecloths will be placed on the tables and the room will be organized for horticulture and photography.

Ken Fuchs emailed the 2016 Exhibitor's Sheet in PDF format to all ISA members with email addresses. The Exhibitor's Sheet is also available on our website. You should fill out the sheet with the variety name and other info for each iris, design, or other item that you plan to enter in the show. This information can then be copied to the entry tags, which will be available in the Greene Room Saturday morning. Bring address labels with you so that you can save some time by not writing your name and address so often. The entry tag should be completely filled in with the proper information and left open so that Ken can check your entry with the information on your Exhibitor's Sheet.

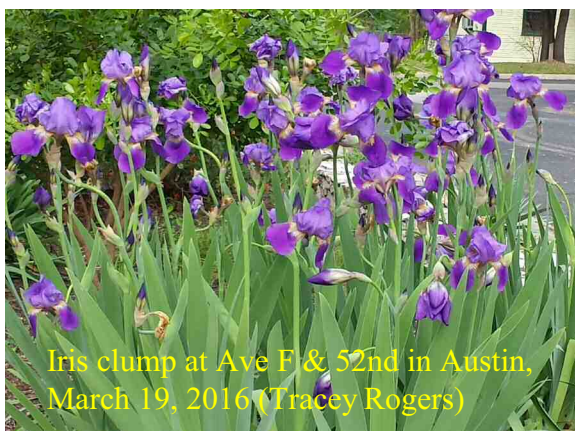
Don Freeman and Mike Renfro will be working with the bottles from Bev's Shed. They will take the vases and insulation pieces to the Greene Room so that Saturday morning at 7:30 A.M. you can begin placing the entry tag around the neck of the bottle and carefully securing the best face of the iris forward.

Ken Fuchs has already given the 2016 Show Schedule to those who were present at the March meeting. The judges for the show should be receiving them soon.

Most of the artistic arrangement can be started at home and only a small part of it will have to be completed in the auditorium. If the arrangement needs to be raised, please bring your own books or block of wood or stand.

Don Freeman said that the wooden niches are no longer in Bev's Shed. The artistic designer can bring a trifold that is 24" X 40" for the background. If a fabric or drape is used, it should not clash with the arrangement and must be free of any wrinkles. If you do not use the fabric, you can use a paper background in mute colors. Use a card that is 3" X 5" to explain your interpretation of the theme "Waltzing Across Texas with Irises."

(continued on the next page)



Iris clump at Ave F & 52nd in Austin, March 19, 2016 (Tracey Rogers)

## Educational Exhibit

March 31 is the deadline for entering the Educational Exhibit. Call Nelda Moore at 512-327-0401.

## English Box

Follow the instructions for constructing your English Box for showing irises that do not have a long stem. Directions are on pages 18 and 19 of the Show Schedule.

All of the irises in an English Box are the same, such as all tall bearded, all spurias, all Louisianas, all plicatas, all border bearded. They must have a name written on a 3x5 card so that one can look at the box and learn the name of each iris in the floral pick/orchid tube of water in the top of the box that is a neutral color or non-reflective paper. The box can be smaller in size if you are showing small irises.

## AIS CONVENTION DEADLINE MAY 2



When irisarians travel east in May, they will be walking in gardens where world-known hybridizers once gathered to admire irises that flourish in the wet acidic soil of New York and Pennsylvania. They will see lilacs, unusual trees, and irises that do not like central Texas.

Reservations must be made by Monday, May 2, for the American Iris Society National Convention that will convene May 23 and end with an awards banquet May 28. The Convention is hosted by AIS, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Essex County, New Jersey. Headquarters will be Newark Liberty International Airport Marriot, 1 Hotel Road, Newark, New Jersey 07114. The room rate is \$114 plus tax per night. In order to receive the discount ask for "American Iris Society Event."

The convention fee until April 30 is \$310 for Welcome Reception, Awards Banquet, Garden Tours, Judges Training, and Convention Booklet. After April 30 the cost is \$325.

For Garden Tours only (May 26, 27, and 28) the cost is \$205 until May 1 when it will be \$215. Dinners only – Welcome Reception (May 25) \$40; Awards Banquet (May 28) \$73.

The Optional Tour on Tuesday, May 24, will be to

The U.S. Independence National Historic Park and Morris Arboretum for \$60, which includes bus, admission, and lunch.

Payment may be made by check or credit card. Make checks payable to AIS Convention 2016 and mail to Ken Fuchs, 710 N. 11th Street, Temple, TX 76501-3016. No cancellations after May 10 will be accepted unless there is a death in the family.

Choice of Awards Banquet meal will be sliced tenderloin of beef or roasted Tuscan Chicken.

See AIS Bulletin Winter 2016 page 37 for the registration form or visit [www.ais2016convention.com](http://www.ais2016convention.com).

## TOUR GARDENS

**Presby Memorial Iris Gardens** located at 475 Upper Mountain Avenue in Upper Montclair, New Jersey contains 1500 plus varieties in all iris classifications. Ninety-three or more hybridizers sent 887 new varieties that includes 93 beardless guest irises. Display beds arranged in 2 half arcs resembling a rainbow were designed by John Wister as a tribute to Frank H. Presby, horticulturist and founder of the American Iris Society as well as a prominent Montclair resident.

Historic irises are on the "Rainbow on the Hill."

Barbara Walther and her husband Fred purchased the Upper Montclair property alongside the 7 1/2 acre Mountainside Park in 1918 to build a home. This is where there are iris archives that rival the AIS Library.

**Hildenbrant Garden** farm is near Slatington in the Lehigh valley of eastern Pennsylvania. In the beginning there were TBs and ABs from Lester, who sold irises for 50 years in Lexington, Nebraska. He has added SDBs and MTBs so that his collection now has aphyllas, pumilas, tetraploid arils, and other median species.

**Glenara Gardens** – Six acres in the Pocono Mountains hold a koi lake with Louisianas, Siberians, and Pseudacorus irises that were collected by George and Carol Boyce, who had been inspired to develop these gardens over a period of 50 years by living near Cypress Gardens in Florida and then going to Maine and Vermont. They have collected new plants from all over the world. Here are lilacs, rhododendrons, azaleas, peonies, and unusual trees.

In 1990 the National Japanese Iris Convention honored Dr. Currier McEwen in these Glenara Gardens. This was the setting that hosted the world's greatest hybridizers.

## AUSTIN BRINGS LOCAL ITEMS FOR TEXAS RAISIN' REGION BASKET

Members of the Iris Society of Austin have generously donated unique items for the Region 17 – Bigger Than Texas – Basket. Marney Abel, D Boyle, Pat Byrne, Donna Little, Nelda Moore, and Tracey Rogers have combined their findings for the great New Jersey convention that will be held May 23-28 at Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel. Recent items besides the big Texas cookie cutter include Texas Wild Mesquite Bean Jelly, Habanero Jam, Texas Chile Seasoning, Historic Texas Book of Days, an iris apron (a perfect fit for anyone attending the convention), and some exquisite doilies – hand made especially by Tracey for irisarians.

Debbie Strauss and her husband will be driving with everything they need plus all of the donations from the 15 affiliates.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Iris Society of Austin elected the following officers by ballot during the meeting March 8<sup>th</sup>:

President: Donna Little 1005 Shinnecock Hill Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628-1192  
*donna@littleshouse.net*

First Vice President: Pat Byrne 1102 Aster Drive, Katy, TX 77493-1825 *patb1@consolidated.net*

Second Vice President: Jaime Hadley P.O. Box 143417, Austin, TX 78714-3417

*jaime@hadleyspace.com* (Membership)

Secretary: Dara E. Smith 2703 Park View Drive, Austin, TX 78757-2338 *dara3smith@gmail.com*

Treasurer: Marney Abel 8045 Chalk Knoll Drive, Austin, TX 78735-1706 *marneyabel@austin.rr.com*

Historian Tracey Rogers 4608 Hoffman Drive, Austin, TX 78749-3600 *rogers89@earthlink.net*

These officers will be installed in their respective stations in May. Show your support for each of them.

The editors of the newsletter will be Ken Fuchs and Nelda Moore.

## THE NEW BED BEGINS TO BLOOM (D Boyle)



## REGION 17 YOUTH NEWS

2016 Youth Photo Contest — deadline for entries is July 31, midnight California time. These are the categories:

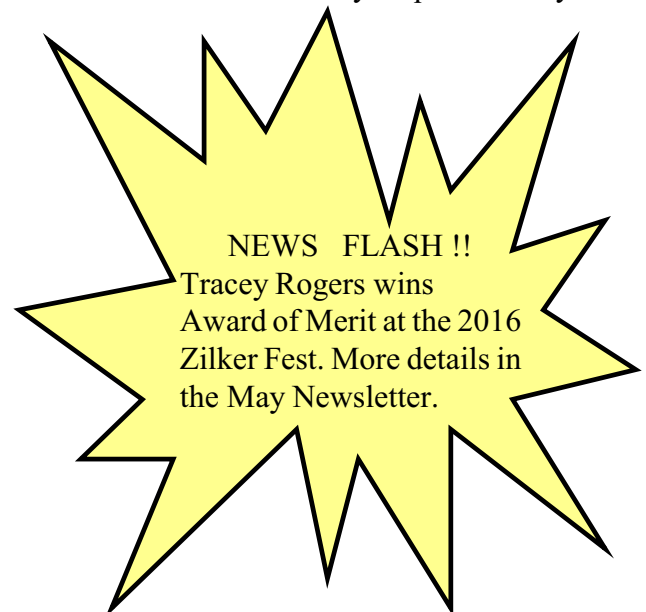
- 1) Show the iris in the garden landscape.
- 2) Irises in a field or home garden.
- 3) Person or people at iris events or tours.
- 4) Close up (whole flower) of an iris or irises.
- 5) Iris photos – art effects or macro (close up).
- 6) Photos of pets, wildlife, or garden art with irises.

The American Iris Society Youth Coloring Contest had 83 entries. The winner was Alexander Brase of Region 21. The age group winners were Aiden Strauss from Region 17 and a member of West Texas and Permian Basin Iris Societies in Midland and Odessa and Rebekah Brase from Region 21 in the 7-9 year old, the overall winner.

Kendall Lisle from the Fort Worth Iris Society received his cash prize in the 16 and over category. All winners received cash awards.

Region 17 also had the most participation with 6 youths in 6 Iris Shows. In Youth Best Specimen there were 14 winners and 16 in Design.

The future of the Iris Society is quite healthy.



# MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

March 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order and presided by Pat Byrne. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved as presented in the ISA Newsletter. Welcome to our new member Debby Cole from Seattle, WA!

## Announcements:

Region 17 meeting will be August 19-20, 2016 in Waco, TX. There is a registration form in the February Newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report:

The current balance on March 8, 2016 is \$15,325.55. Nelda Moor donated \$150.00 for water and ISA sent \$150.00 donation for water sales to ZGF. For \$300.00 we should be able to have our group name on the ZGF volunteer t-shirts!

## AAGC Council Report:

Zilker Garden Festival is April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. ISA will sell water. Sign up for a time slot to volunteer. Volunteers receive a free t-shirt and free tickets. Tickets are available to ISA members at 2 tickets for \$2.00 each. General admission tickets are available for \$8.00 adult/ \$2.00 children pre-sale March 1-28 and will be \$10.00 / \$4.00 at the gate (\$5.00 parking).

This year ZGF will have a Beer garden and authors will be part of the Speaker Series.

## Iris Society of Austin Club business:

1. Donna Little acknowledged the \$80.00 donation from Southwestern Univ in Georgetown.
2. Thank you to Jaime Hadley for collecting the iris they requested for their memorial planting.
3. Debby Cole invited everyone to the Sun City Horticulture Club Plant Sale March 19, 2016, 10a-2p.
4. Tracey Rogers has the breakfast sign-up for the day of the show. She is also collecting money and

a count for lunch which is \$12.00.

5. If you are around Zilker when the iris in the new bed are blooming. D. Boyle has asked for photos so we can make sure that the names are correct in the planting bed and the diagram.

Ballots were presented for the election of 2016-2017 ISA Officers.

## Nominees were:

Donna Little - President

Pat Byrne - Vice President-Programs

Jaime Hadley - Vice President-Membership

Marney Abel - Treasurer

Dara E. Smith - Secretary

Tracey Rogers - Historian

## Important Dates:

Zilker Garden Festival - April 2 and 3, 2016

Iris Society of Austin Show - Saturday April 9, 2016.

Iris Society of Austin - Next Meeting - Tuesday April 12, 2016.

AIS National Convention Newark, New Jersey - May 25 - 28, 2016. (See picture below.)

2016 Region 17 Meeting - August 19, 20, 2016.

The meeting program - Members Don and Pat Freeman shared their tips to prepare yourself for a great show. Don gave advice on horticulture - transport and display. Pat gave some interesting information on design and technique.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on April 12, 2016.

