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February 2017 — Vol. 26 #02

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 14
6:30 P.M. Pot Luck on **Valentine's Day**
Very Important Day for Feeding Irises
"Valentine's Iris Swap" – Bring in a
rhizome for your Valentine.
Program – Debra Strauss
Show Prep

FEBRUARY 11 and 12 10 A.M.- 4 P.M.
Orchid Show and Sale

FEBRUARY 14 10 A.M. Austin Area
Garden Council Board of Directors

FEBRUARY 18 Rose Society Workshop

MARCH 11 Workday to clean up the
front iris beds at Zilker

MARCH 25 and 26 60TH ZILKER
GARDEN FESTIVAL

APRIL 20-22 Society for Louisiana Irises
Dallas, TX www.louisianas.org

MAY 23-27 AIS CONVENTION
Des Moines Marriott Hotel
700 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
desmoinesmarriott.com 515 245-5500

At the February meeting we will have a
"Valentine's Iris Swap"!! Bring along a
rhizome for your Valentine!



IRISES IN SPACE

"Irises In Space" is the theme chosen for the April 8 Show that will be held by the Iris Society of Austin in the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road in Austin, Texas 78746.

This spring event is presented in conjunction with the American Iris Society. Winners will receive ribbons and the Best of Show will be selected for special ribbons and prizes. The show will be open to the public free of charge at 1 P.M. after the judges have made the selections that are placed on the head table. The Zilker Botanical Garden charges an entrance fee for entering the gate.

Shelia Senghas is the show chairman while Donna Little serves as president of the local society.

Peggy Cathey is the Region 17 Vice President.



ISA Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html

DEBRA STRAUSS INFORMS IRISARIANS ABOUT ENGLISH BOXES, COLLECTIONS, AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS

Debra Strauss, Master Judge and former editor of the AIS Region 17 Newsletter, presented an attractive, easy to understand Judges Training about English Boxes, collections of irises in a sanctioned show, and educational displays Saturday morning in the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin. Her inspirational speech enabled all to prepare enthusiastically for a fun show April 8 in the auditorium in the Zilker Botanical Garden.



Attendees included Marney Abel, Audrey Baker, Pat Byrne, Don Freeman, Pat Freeman, Ken Fuchs, Jaime Hadley, Jim Landers, Donna Little, Nelda Moore, Kathy Petheram, Tracey Rogers, Shelia Senghas, Ellen Singleton, and Dara E. Smith.



Debra used her lap top to show the text and illustrations for requirements when using Styrofoam covered with black or neutral cotton fabric to display irises that are the same such as all selfs, plicatas, space agers, amoenas or Siberians in orchid tubes or vials. The foam sheets are 24 inches by 18 inches. Use a template of thin cardboard to lay on top of the box as a guide when drilling holes with an electric drill bit for the vials. Drill holes all the way through both layers of foam from top to bottom. With one yard of fabric that is either 36 or 45 inches in width wrap the box, tucking and folding the ends neatly and securing several straight pins dipped in white glue to anchor. Then use an Exacto knife to cut holes in the fabric where the vials are to be placed. This box will cost slightly over \$5.

The entry tag for the English box is placed on the table in front of the box, but the theme is on front of

the box.

The five or six irises must be correctly identified by name on a 3 X 5 inch card that is placed on the box at center edge.

All irises must face the front, and the falls should not touch the box. Use your finger to judge this 1/4 inch space. Irises should not lean and all blossoms should be uniform in size and freshness, substance, and texture as they seem to float on air.



If you are showing MDBs or other tiny irises, the box should be smaller than the 18 X 24 inches as required in the Show Schedule. Normally the show schedule is your guide so write in something like this and submit it to the AIS person to see whether she will accept your addition.

Some of the examples displayed round boxes with 4 or 5 irises. A triangular box had 3 irises 8 inches apart in the center triangle with 4 inch spaces between the iris and the edge of the triangle.

The box is entered in the Horticulture Section, but it is not for Best of Show although it can count for the Silver or Bronze Medal if you win a ribbon on your display.

For any entry in the show, cultural perfection is expected since any hole or tear or insect or disease on



the irises will cause points to be deducted. Judges examine or tell a clerk to turn the entry so that they can see things that we try to hide!

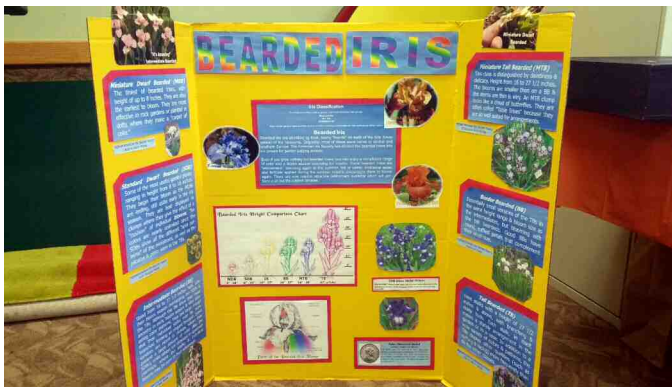
Iris flowers that you can use for the English box can be the only blossom at the terminal of a newly introduced iris, or the only bloom that has remained after all others are past their peak, or the iris stalk is not good for showing.

COLLECTIONS

When displaying collections of irises or 3 beautiful stalks from a clump, all of the vases are turned the same way so that the blossoms face the judge. All should stand tall and be of the same height. Tall bearded irises should never be cut too short.

EDUCATIONAL BOARDS

These boards can be purchased in Michael's, a drug or grocery store, or where school supplies are sold. These displays are trifolds so any illustrations or pictures can be used to get your message across to the



public quickly at a glance; therefore, the board is not busy with tiny pictures from an iris catalog or sloppy printing. Select one subject such as "How To Plant Bearded Iris," and then show step by step how to plant the rhizome or 3 rhizomes. Also have a handout that attendees can take from in front of the display with a small sign placed on the table saying "Free. Please take one."

Debra Strauss will return on February 14 to present an interesting program on Show Prep. We gladly await her presentation since she has the ability to tell so much and inspire us to work hard to have a great show.

SALE NEWS from TRACEY

To all members, if there is an iris you are really wanting in your garden, please send the name to

Tracey Rogers or Ellen Singleton. We haven't made our final decision on who we will be buying from for the 2017 sale, but catalogs will be coming out soon so let us know if there is something you've been wanting. We will probably go with Mid American again, but we're checking out a couple of other growers.

The wish list is limited to 1 to 2 irises per member. We can't guarantee we can make all your dreams come true, but if we get enough requests, we will try our darndest to find your iris. Call me at 512-280-4856 or email either of us at iriswede51@yahoo.com or rogers89@earthlink.net.

WHAT ARE NOVELTY IRISES?

Bearded irises that are promoted by the Novelty Iris Society include Space Age that have appendages on the beards that look like horns, spoons, flounces, or carnation-like buttons. They can also be flatties. Novelty irises can have variegated foliage, or the flower can have broken color such as Iris 'Batik,' where no two blooms are alike on the same plant.

IRIS GARDEN BECOMES WEED FREE AS IRIS VASES ARE RESCUED

Don Freeman and Nelda Moore destroyed weeds that covered the Adopted Iris Garden on Wednesday, January 11 from 9 A.M. until noon and Thursday, January 12 from after 12 to almost 3 P.M. Although this work was completed, the rain that came after this cleaning probably caused more seeds to take over; therefore, someone needs to watch these gardens and clean them before March 24th. Members of the society can water the irises if they get too dry, take care of the Spurias and Louisianas and ask PARD to fertilize the plants.

Don Freeman and Ellen Singleton worked with the Iris Society vases after the Austin Area Garden Council Meeting on January 10. All of the vases are in boxes and these are now on the bottom shelves.

Unfortunately, when Ellen opened one of the boxes, she was stung by a yellow jacket that came out of the hive on the bottom of the lid.



MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

January 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order and presided by Donna Little. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved as presented in the ISA Newsletter. Welcome to new member Charles Barksdale.

Announcements:

The February meeting we will have a "Valentine's Iris Swap"!! Bring in a rhizome for your Valentine. Ellen Singleton reported on the AAGC meeting for ISA – check the website for future dates of Zilker activities. Soon there will be a system on-line for logging volunteer hours. Start thinking of irises for the sale and let Ellen know what you would like to see offered for sale.

Judge's training sessions will be available Saturday (date) in Ft. Worth and Sunday (date) in Sherman.

Jaime Hadley has a set of 10 ga. stainless steel garden markers and paint pens (\$3.00 ea.) for sale contact him if you would like them.

Jim Landers made a special presentation from the Belton Iris Society 2016 Show of the American Iris Society Silver Certificate and Medal to Don and Pat Freeman for the highest number of blue ribbons!!

Treasurer's Report:

Ending balance December 2016 15,943.05 compared to the January 2016 beginning balance 15,598. We should consider discussions on how to manage our money.

Austin Iris Club business:

- ▶ There was some discussion for ISA to research ideas for hosting the 2018 Region 17 meeting.
- ▶ We discussed suggestions for the show theme. The top 3 suggestions were "Iris Odyssey," "Van Gogh In The Garden," and "Irises In Space.". The theme chosen for this year's show is "Irises In Space."

2017 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION IN DES MOINES, IOWA

"Rhythm of the Prairie" will be the theme of the American Iris Society Convention in the Des Moines Marriott Hotel May 23 to 27. (515)245-5500 Ask for

- ▶ ISA will host a judges training class January 14, 2017 (8am – breakfast, 9am class) on English Boxes and Collections. This will count towards 2 hours of training and will be led by Debbie Strauss. Location: Ross Hall at the Westlake Presbyterian Church.
- ▶ Fort Worth Iris Society will host a judges training class on Arilbred Irises Saturday, January 21, 2017. Dell Perry is the instructor.
- ▶ Texoma Rainbow Iris Society in Sherman will host a judges training class on Louisiana Irises Sunday, January 22, 2017. Hooker Nichols is the instructor.
- ▶ Jaime Hadley is collecting Membership dues for 2017. Membership fees \$12 Individual and \$18 joint.
- ▶ ISA will have a "Weeding Party" ahead of the Zilker Garden Festival. We will meet at the front bed March 11th, 2017 at 9:00 am.

Important Dates:

- ISA Meeting – Tuesday February 14, 2017 at Zilker.
- ISA Weeding Party at Zilker - March 11th, 2017 at 9:00am.
- IDS Meeting – Tuesday March 14, 2017 at Zilker.
- Zilker Garden Festival – March 25 & 26, 2017.
- 2017 AIS Show – April 8th, 2017 at Zilker.
- 2017 Louisiana Iris Convention – April 20–22 Dallas, TX.
- 2017 American Iris Society Convention – May 23–27 Des Moines, Iowa.

The meeting program was presented by Ken Fuchs – 2016 AIS Convention Presby Memorial Iris Garden in Montclair, New Jersey.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: February 14, 2017.

the American Iris Society Event Rate. Reservations must be made by May 2.

Go to <https://ais2017.wordpress.com> to print the Registration Form for each Adult who will attend. On or before Jan. 31 pay \$250, Feb.1 to March 15 \$275.

After March 15 \$325. The registration fee includes welcome reception, convention book, two-day tour of 5 gardens with lunches, all programs, judges training, awards banquet, and admission to iris auction. For the Awards Banquet Saturday evening, you have a choice of Pork, Chicken or Vegetarian or Dietary Needs.

Make check payable to AIS, Region 21 and mail your registration to Kristin Jurik, 5658 195th Street, Ames, IA 50010, or you may e-mail your registration form with CC information in PDF format to k.jurik@yahoo.com.

There is a Geek Dinner for \$35. Contact Joanne Prass Jones joanne@usjoneses.com to make a reservation.

NELDA'S EGG BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

At the Judges Training class on January 14, breakfast items were provided for participants. In addition to bagels and fresh fruit, one dish really stood out and Nelda has shared her recipe:

8 eggs
6 slices of bread
1 cup cheese
1 lb. sausage such as Jimmy Deans
2 cups of milk (I used Pet Evaporated milk and used some water with the milk or use whole milk)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon dry mustard
pepper to taste

Beat the eight eggs slightly. Add 6 slices of bread (white) cut into cubes, 1 cup grated cheese such as cheddar, 1 pound of cooked sausage, 2 cups of milk, 1 teaspoon salt, pepper to taste, and 1 teaspoon dry mustard.

Place in greased 9 X 13 pan. Refrigerate 8 hours or overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until done.



December 17, 2016



December 24, 2016

A Note from Al Elliott (1-29-2017): We are enjoying the snow and cold. Took Barbara out on the 12 inches of ice covering the lake to watch some ice fishing. Six inches of snow yesterday. We have had at least 3 feet so far this year. Most is still on the ground.

My memoirs are in the final edit. Got two editors working with me. It will be done when we leave Vermont on March 11. Barbara has done 10 plus quilts and loves the weather and experience. We will do a sleigh ride at Stowe next week. – Al