

in this issue >>>

- *Iris Show April 8*
- *Photography Program*
- *Floral Design Judges*
- *Debbie Strauss – Do's and Don't's*



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

# IRIS AUSTIN



## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 14 6:30 P.M.

Celebrating St Patrick's Day

POT LUCK

PROGRAM: Photography

MARCH 11 Workday at Zilker

MARCH 12 Daylight Savings Time begins

MARCH 25 and 26 60<sup>TH</sup> ZILKER  
GARDEN FESTIVAL

APRIL 7 3-5 P.M. Show Set Up

APRIL 8 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
"IRISES IN SPACE" – 2017 Iris Show

APRIL 11 Iris Society of Austin Meeting

APRIL 20-22 Society for Louisiana Irises  
Dallas, TX [www.louisianas.org](http://www.louisianas.org)

MAY 23-27 2017 AIS CONVENTION  
Des Moines Marriott Hotel  
700 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
[desmoinesmarriott.com](http://desmoinesmarriott.com) 515 245-5500

## IRIS SHOW COMING APRIL 8

The Iris Society of Austin will educate the public about the Central Texas irises during its accredited show on April 8 from 1 P.M. until 4 P.M. in the auditorium in Zilker Botanical Garden located at 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78746.

Sheila Senghas, Show Chairman, has selected Jaime Hadley to be her Co-Chair for the event while members of her committees include the following: Ken Fuchs, Schedule, Awards, and Secretary; Dara E. Smith, Entries and Classifications; Carolyn Wylie, Placement; Lori Anderson, Artistic Design; Marney Abel, Photography; Pat Byrne, Clerks; Jim Landers, Judges; Nelda Moore, Hospitality for Judges and Members; Kim Gass, Public Hospitality; Tracey Rogers, Publicity; All Members for Clean Up.

For this 28th show entitled "Iris in Space" the event will be held and judged under the rules and regulations of the American Iris Society as set forth in the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, 7th Edition, 2007, which cannot be violated. Entries will be accepted from 7:30 A.M. until 9:45 A.M. Judging will begin at 10:15 A.M.

There will be Division I for Horticulture, Division II Seedlings with no grooming, Division III Youth Horticulture, Division IV Artistic Design, Division V Educational exhibits, Division VI Commercial Exhibits, and Division VII Photography.

All entry tags must be filled out completely, but address labels can be used where that information is required. All exhibitors must have an entry number from a separate paper.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



ISA Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html)

## BRIAN LOFLIN TO SPEAK ON PHOTOGRAPHY MARCH 14



Brian Loflin, a multiple award-winning photographer, author, teacher, and photographic consultant, will be the speaker when the Iris Society of Austin convenes on Tuesday evening. He is a biologist with an extensive background in marketing and communications that has

spanned four decades in advertising, aviation, bio-medical and publishing industry. During his early career he was a medical photographer and a freelance photojournalist whose photographs have been published in international magazines, books, and other

publications distributed by major news agencies of the world.

Currently Brian teaches photography at the University of Texas at Austin. He has also provided training at the University of California and Riverside Community College. He actively conducts seminars and workshops and also leads nature photography expeditions and private explorations in a variety of global destinations.

Brian and his wife have designed, authored, and photographed *Grasses of the Hill Country, Texas Cacti, and Texas Wildflower Vistas and Hidden Treasures*. He has also recently photographed and published a highly-praised coffee table book about Austin's Waller Creek. His blog <http://bklofin.wordpress.com> and web sites, [www.loflin-images.com](http://www.loflin-images.com) and [www.thenatureconnection.com](http://www.thenatureconnection.com).



### OUR FLORAL DESIGN JUDGES

Shelia Senghas, Show Chair

MONA FRENCH-HOLLAND joined the Sooner State Iris Society in 1992 and was quickly infatuated with iris. She was encompassed by the welcoming arms of hybridizers, Paul Black, Perry Dyer and Cleo Palmer, who taught her their various hints & secrets in hybridizing. Mona has held several jobs in the Sooner State Iris Society and Oklahoma Iris Society, including membership chairman, show chairman and newsletter editor. She also edited the Region 22 Iris News for many years, and enjoys being registrar for the Region 22 Annual Meetings.

Mona and her husband Greer Holland are Oklahoma natives. They are both Master Judges with the American Iris Society and enjoy traveling Oklahoma, Kansas & Texas judging spring shows for various iris clubs. Their garden contains over 300 named varieties, including tall bearded, border bearded, intermediate bearded, miniature tall bearded, standard dwarf bearded, a few species, and Mona's favorite: arilbreds. She has introduced 2 irises - an SDB Origami in 2003, and a pink MTB Florence French in 2009 (named after her Mother). Florence French won an AM in last year's AIS votes. She

continues her small backyard hybridizing program, breeding pretty irises to pretty irises (mostly looking at them with an artistic eye). Greer is hybridizing for an orange over black TB, in honor of this alma mater, Oklahoma State University. Their backyard has become a seedling patch with mostly arilbred and median seedlings (Mona's) and lots of orange/almost black TB seedlings (Greer's).

JUDITH BOECKNER is a native of Illinois and relocated to Texas in 1993 from Davenport, Iowa, choosing to retire in the San Antonio area because of the activities that were available. Judith has been married to Brad Boeckner for 54 years. They are the parents of two sons, grandparents of two and the great grandparents of five. The love of gardening and flowers was cultivated by her grandmother and mother and has matured over the years. Floral Design and Landscape Design have been long time hobbies. Gardening is an activity that she shares with her husband.

Judith held offices in her club, San Antonio Garden Center, District VII and Texas State Garden Clubs, Inc. She is District VII Trustee, Presidents Reports Chairman for Texas State Garden Clubs. She is a member of Castle Hills Garden Club and has held

office of president three times. She is a board member at the San Antonio Garden Center, District Trustee to the Texas State Garden Clubs and a State Chairman. She is a National Accredited Flower Show Judge.

ELIZABETH O'BRIEN has been a Flower Show Judge since 11/10/1993. She resided in Cloudcroft, New Mexico for 20 years before moving back to Corpus Christi, Texas. She said, "You can take the Girl out of Texas but never take Texas out of the Girl!"

While she was New Mexico State Garden President, she attended the National Garden Club (called National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.) 2000 and she was able to take 13 iris specimens from her 50 specimen Iris garden for competition and 12 of

her Irises placed in the show and one of them won the Award of Merit. "I received a silver tray that I cherish to this day," she said.

While living in New Mexico she judged many Iris design show divisions as there were several Iris Societies in New Mexico, and since she was an Iris grower, she got the opportunity to judge a lot of Iris shows. She said, "My mother grew Iris in 1946. One of the Iris she purchased for .25 cents was pictured on the front cover of an Iris catalog and we still have that Iris in our Gardens. My Mother belonged to the Temple, Texas Iris Society .She had many prize Iris. I was 10 years old and I remember her Iris very well. I have passed on my love of Irises and irises from my garden to my family, and friends, many of whom have named their gardens, Elizabeth."



#### DEBBIE STRAUSS — To Do or Not To Do Before the Show

With the rains and the February 19 storms that peppered the windows around midnight obliterating the world around us, the irises have been watered and now the bloomstalks should emerge. Perhaps it is wedge time for a few stalks that are too close to the main stem.

Spring is in the air; therefore, the warmth will affect irises, but in order to get them to bloom, one can fertilize the plants if they are still too small. Use some bone meal or Hasta Grow. By all means, eradicate the weeds and remove debris that has fallen during the storm or tornado.

In April exhibitors should have a tackle box with a sharp knife, Q-Tips, a film canister with water, scissors, cosmetic brush, loose facial powder to add the sheen to the bloomstalk to remove fingerprints. If you choose, you can remove all of the sheen with an old tee shirt. The Iris Society will supply insulation wedges, vases, rubber bands, and entry tags. The show schedule will be available at the next meeting. You may also be issued your exhibitor number.

The sharp knife is used to sever the bloomstalk at the base of the plant at the rhizome. Check the blooms for all of their flower parts — 3 standards and 3 falls. You have then turned the stalk upside down to remove bugs and water from the flower. Use the Q-Tip to clean pollen off the falls, pick up spiders,

bugs, aphids, dirt, and spider webs. A manicure scissors can remove up to one-fourth inch of foliage damage made by leaf spot or insect holes. Do not bring spent or closing blossoms. All flowers should be fresh cut the night before or in the early morning before taking them to the show.

Do not write the name of the iris with a permanent marker on the stalk below the water level in the bottle. If, instead, you used a tape around the stalk or bottle, remove this. Insert the bloomstalk so that it faces the judge, center it straight, and over the entry tag. The name of the iris must be correct and correctly spelled. Use an R and I Book.

When transporting the stalks to the show, do not allow the stalks to touch each other. Insert the container in a wire cell or a box with dividers, but do not look at the flowers as you drive. They will be shaking, but you should have them wedged with paper towels or something else that will hold each entry upright.

A tip from Debbie is to cut the stalks and keep them in a container that holds 4 gallons of water to which you have added one cup of white Karo syrup mixed in for 30 minutes. These irises will last longer and can be displayed in clean bottles at the show without water.

# MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

February 14, 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 visitors Lisa Shipley, Debbie Strauss, Mary Ann Holman, and Karen Woods – Pres of Belton IS.

## Announcements:

Ellen Singleton reported on the AAGC meeting for ISA – check the website for future dates of Zilker activities of upcoming shows and sales. Soon there will be a system on-line for logging volunteer hours and sign-up for ZGF.

If you have early irises, consider bringing them to the ZGF Flower Show. Flower entries are accepted March 24th from 8:30a – 9:30a.

Start thinking of irises for the sale and let Ellen know what you would like to see offered for sale.

## Treasurer's Report:

There was no February Treasurer's Report.

## Austin Iris Club business:

- ▶ The ISA has an approved Show Schedule for the April 8, 2017 Show "Iris In Space"! Start planning your entries for horticulture, artistic design, photography, and educational exhibits. There are some updates to our classification of entries and we will go over some of the new show rules at the next meeting.

The Show Committee hopes that the updated rules and recent judges training encourage more entries in all Classes and will inspire more entries for Collections and English Boxes.



## AIS REGION 17 BIGGER THAN TEXAS BASKET FOR '17 CONVENTION

Debra Strauss announced that AIS/Region 17 Bigger than Texas Basket is in desperate need of local items such as Texas barbecue sauce, pralines, peanut brittle, rhizomes, hand-crafted items showing Texas scenes such as bluebonnets, Texas aprons, etc. that she will be taking to "Rhythm of the Prairie", the AIS Convention in Des Moines, Iowa at the Marriott Hotel May 23-27. The Silent Auction proceeds will

- ▶ Don Freeman suggested we purchase fertilizer to be applied to the iris in the ISA garden beds. Shelia so moved and the motion was Approved.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Jaime Hadley handed out new 2016 – 2017 Yearbooks.

## Important Dates:

- ISA Weeding Party at Zilker - March 11th, 2017 at 9:00am.
- ISA 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 Debbie Strauss "Tips to prepare for the Show!!". She had some great ideas and horticulture "secrets" to give us inspiration for showing our best flowers. Pat Byrne won the raffle of "kit" supplies. Add these to your own kit: glue stick, tape, post-it, micro fibre cloth, cotton q-tips, shower to shower shimmer powder, small scissors. Thank you, Debbie!

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: March 14, 2017.

provide the American Iris Society with a tidy sum of money for their publications. Thank you for any item that you can bring to the meeting in March.

## ISA YEARBOOK FOR 2016-2017

Jaime Hadley issued the Iris Society of Austin Yearbook for 2016-2017 to 25 members at the meeting February 14. It provides the history of ISA, a calendar of events, a member directory, and lots more.