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Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 6:30 P.M.
Auditorium:
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
Pot Luck

Events:

October 5-7, October 12-14
Zilker Botanical Garden closed for
Austin City Limits

October 20-21 1-4 P.M.
Violet Crown Flower Show

October 27 10:30- 4:30
Porcelain Arts Sale, including other
clubs—Bonsai, Iris, African Violet

October 27 9 A.M.—4 P.M.
Roots & Wings (formerly Monarch
Day)

November 3 Moonflower Herb Fest

November 10—11
Plein Air Austin Art Show and Sale

January 8, 2019
ISA will co-host the Zilker Botanical
Garden Conservancy Committee
Meeting.

AAGC News

The Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy will schedule a visit to each garden club soon.

In October an agreement about the AAGC/ZBGC merger will be signed. Building and docent tours will remain the same. Financial support is a responsibility of club members as well as volunteering that may include taking entrance fees, working with Weeding Wednesday, or Gift Shop Receptionist or other duties such as helping in the Cactus and Succulent, Children's Garden, ponds, butterfly garden, and presenting garden information at other events. AAGC officers will include president, vice presidents for education and volunteers, public information, membership, recording and corresponding secretary, treasurer, and historian.

Executive committee will meet 4 times a year on the 2nd Tuesday in the auditorium in January, March, April, and September. The Iris Society of Austin and the West Lake Hills Garden Club will serve as hosts in January, 2019.

Donna Friedenrich needs club news at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Telephone 512-925-1165 website only

Officers of Iris Austin

President - Jaime Hadley jaime@hadleyspace.com

Vice-President (Programs) - Marney Abel and

Donna Little (marneyabel@austin.rr.com;
donna@littleshouse.net)

Vice-President (Membership) - Nelda Moore

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Secretary - Dara Smith dara3smith@gmail.com

Treasurer - Tracey Rogers rogers89@earthlink.net

ARILBREDS IN NEW MEXICO



'Bold Awakening' Tasco 2016 OGB

Rick Tasco's 2016 AB (OGB) 'Bold Awakening,' Sharon McAllister's 1998 AB (OGB) 'Point Well Taken,' and Thomas Johnson's 2013 AB (OGB+) 'Dubai' continue to attract the attention of iris lovers who peruse the Summer Edition of *Iris*, the Bulletin of the Iris Society. These Arilbred irises bloomed



'Point Well Taken' McAllister 1998 OGB

beautifully in the desert sand in full sun or the cooler river-valley clay during the Aril Trek in Las Cruces, New Mexico April 6 and 7. The Encanto Hotel served as headquarters with its swimming pool surrounded by palm trees, and it will be a refreshing oasis in 2021 for the A.I.S. Convention, the 101st Anniversary. With so many types of irises in bloom this year, this should be a fantastic display for irisarians — another

oasis even though temperatures may vary depending on which side of the mountains the trip will take conventioners.

The Aril Society International and the Mesilla Valley Iris Society of Region 23 hosted the Aril Trek in the Chihuahuan desert where the average rainfall is often less than 10 inches a year.

Arils need raised beds and good drainage or rain cover, but the plus ones have more than half Aril heritage, while the minus Arilbreds have less than half Aril heritage, but at least 2 Aril traits, and grow better in this sandy alkaline loam.



'Dubai' Thomas Johnson 2013 OGB

In the valley the finest bloom of Arilbreds was in a raised bed where the clay soil was amended with well-rotted horse manure and ground alfalfa pellets. Then 2 inches of gravel was placed on this mixture. Some seedlings grew in mounds mulched with pecan shells and watered by flood irrigation between the mounds. BR-61 was used for fertilizer semiannually, and the beds are reworked every 3 to 4 years.

Arilbreds have been growing everywhere throughout the United States. They have bloomed in the convention gardens. All that is needed is the challenge to create the conditions that the iris needs like the Louisiana iris in the desert soil in Las Cruces.



'Gideon's Lamp' McGrath 2004 OGB

ISA RHIZOME SALES by Tracey Rogers



Well we survived another rhizome sale. According to Square we had 56 customers who spent an average of \$50. Having the psychology conference next door definitely helped sales along with Don Freeman calling into the local garden programs during the sale. Six- and eight-dollar irises were the most popular. We had fewer varieties than some years, but definitely more of a selection than 2017. Thanks to Debbie Hood for bringing in 'Notta Lemon' so we could show off one of



'Notta Lemon'

the 2018 Wister Award winners. Congratulations to Tom Burseen for winning the Wister Award for 'Notta Lemon.'

We had over 75 known varieties of tall bearded and Louisiana irises this year. In addition to 'Notta Lemon,' Mike Sutton was kind enough to

substitute one of our choices with his newly introduced 'Luminate.'

A few of us were very excited to get the \$50 intro for a much more reasonable price. True they weren't the biggest rhizomes, but a new introduction for \$6 is nothing to turn up your



'Luminate'

nose at. This year we had 3 black irises available — 'Lord of the Night,' 'Black Suited' and 'Yosemite Nights.' The color gardeners were looking for this year was pink but they were particular. It couldn't be too pale, but it

couldn't be too intense either. 'Coral Point' seemed to fit the bill for many.



'Lord of the Night'

This year, for the first time we participated in another sale only a week after the first, so rather than knock prices down and worry about potting leftovers, we stayed at full price all day Saturday in anticipation of selling the leftovers the

following Saturday at the Bamboo Festival held at Zilker Botanical Gardens.

Once again, we had the best spot. At the Norris Conference Center, we were in the first room to your left as you entered. At the Bamboo Festival, we were again on the left as you entered. Due to the wet weather, Carol Meckes, president of



'Coral Point'

the Texas Bamboo Society, had to squeeze all the participating vendors into the main meeting room at Zilker. She deserves special kudos for getting everyone in there but still having room for visitors to move around. Special thanks to Erin Boyle, Nelda Moore and Kathy Petheram who came out both weekends to help.



The total profit of the two sales combined was \$1382.18. This is slightly less than what we made last year at the Norris, but more than what we made at the 2016 sale. The remaining leftovers will be used to fill in the gaps in the Zilker iris beds.

Thanks to all the members who helped set up

Friday and those who came on Saturday and gave of their time and knowledge. It is always nice to have plenty of members there to answer all the questions-how can I get them to bloom, how much sun do they need, how much water, etc.

We missed having Imre, Pat B., Donna and Carolyn at the sale. We were afraid Donna wouldn't stay off her foot and come to help. For those who were there Saturday morning, and heard about Sheila's raging waters, they weren't flooded out, but the water got close. We missed her and Lori greeting the customers but happy they are safe.

IRIS GARDEN AND WORK

Some members of the Iris Society of Austin will add compost and irises to the Zilker Garden where mushrooms grew by many of the plants that eventually died. Some of the tall bearded irises have increases and are healthy after these storms. During this Work Day the Louisiana irises can be replanted and other varieties can be added.

Ellen Singleton and David Kraemer have worked diligently during the summer in the garden where weeds have been growing with some tiny soapberry tree seedlings. Thank you for your work with the botanical garden as well as with the sales in the Norris Conference Center and the special sale in the auditorium with the Bamboo Society. Tracey Rodgers and many other members have done an excellent job.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT IRISES

Take new purchases from the plastic bag or the box and plant them in amended soil in a sunny location before the freeze. The irises love the cold weather and need it.

Do not plant the bearded varieties too deep.

Do not overwater the bearded irises. Water deeply after planting; then allow the soil to dry.

Visit the garden to see that all irises are still planted. Did an animal dig the rhizome out while checking on the bone meal? Deer do not like these tough rhizomes. Did they pull them out of the ground so that their forbes will have a chance? Animals enjoy helping!

Do not mulch bearded irises. Some people pour the mulch over the clump and the iris will not

bloom if covered under several inches of matter. They may rot!

Louisiana Irises and Spuria Irises are heavy feeders. Acid fertilizer is used for Louisianas and Rose food helps Spurias.

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION 99 YEARS IN 2019



"The Sun Sets on Rainbows" is the theme of the 2019 AIS Convention in San Ramon, California on April 23-27. The schedule can be found at www.aisconvention2019.org.

Most of the gardens on tour will be on acres of flat land. The beautiful California landscape will provide 5 gardens: Fran and Russ Shields Garden in Elk Grove, Mary Ann Horton Garden in Loomis, Joe Lawrence and Rudy Ciuca Gardens in Sonoma, Irene and Jim Cummins in Scotts Valley, and Dry Creek Garden Public Park in Union City.

If there is enough interest, a tour of San Francisco will be arranged on April 28, the Sunday after the convention.

OTHER CONVENTIONS

2020 Median Iris Society Section Convention
April 16-18 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2020 AIS National Convention
May 18-23 Newark, New Jersey

2021 AIS National Convention
April 12-17 Las Cruces, NM