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August-September 2019 — Vol. 28 #08-09



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

IRIS AUSTIN



Next Meeting:

TUESDAY, September 3, 2019

7 P.M.

Greene Room

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

Pot Luck

Rhizome cleaning and pricing for

IRIS RHIZOME SALE

SATURDAY, September 7, 2019

9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Norris Conference Center

2525 West Anderson Lane

Austin, TX 78757

Meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2019

REMEMBERING PAT BYRNE



Pat with her Best Yellow entry 'Notta Lemon' at the 2016 ISA Iris Show

Thoughts and prayers are appreciated for the family and loved ones of Pat Byrne, who passed away Sunday, August 11, 2019. Pat was a long-time, devoted member of the Iris Society of Austin and drove regularly from Katy to Austin to attend meetings. She served for many years as Chairman of Iris Shows, ISA President 2002-2004 and again 2013-2016, Treasurer, and Program Chairman (2nd Vice President). During her service as our president, she oversaw our hosting the Region 17 meetings in 2004 and again in 2012. She was also deeply involved in the 2008 American Iris Society Convention held at the Omni Hotel in Austin. Pat was a Master Judge and served as an officer in Region 17 AIS Meetings. She attended many National Conventions and worked in the Tall Bearded Iris Society.

2019 Region 17 Meeting Report

by Tracey Rogers

ISA members Jaime Hadley, Dara Smith, Don and Pat Freeman, Jim Landers, Ken Fuchs, Al and Barbara Elliott, Kathy Petheram, Ellen Singleton, and Tracey Rogers attended the 2019 Meeting in Weatherford August 9–10. The theme was Luau Texas Style, which was no exaggeration. The Fort Worth Iris Society put on a luau starting with the leis given out at registration. A beach scene was set up in the entry of the hotel for irisarians to have their pictures taken. After a delicious meal of



was based on the song “Pearly Shells.” Colette showed video of two of her daughters doing the hula to “Pearly Shells.” Another video featured a third daughter and her cousins doing the hula to Nancy Sinatra’s “These Boots are Made for Walking.” I really enjoyed that one as that is one of my favorite songs.



chicken tenders with all the fixings and vegetarian lasagna, Jim Landers won the tackiest Hawaiian shirt contest. The prize was a box of Hawaiian chocolates. Next, everyone was given a Hawaiian print bandana and each table had to come up with a list of uses. The winning table would have to demonstrate each use they listed. The winning group which included Nancy Slaughter and Al Elliot demonstrated all 43 uses to the laughter of everyone.

Colette Stewart of Region 22, Oklahoma gave a hula demonstration in preparation for Saturday night’s hula contest. There are 4 counts to the music. Bending your knees is an important part of hula dancing. Bending your knees helps your hips sway like the ocean. Hands on the side with fingers close together symbolizes walking through water. Dancers need to keep their shoulders straight. A flower behind your right ear means the dancer is available. If the flower is on the left, then the dancer is taken. Hands tell the story, which in this case the dance



Saturday morning hybridizer Dr. Kevin Vaughn from Salem, Oregon, conducted a three-hour Judges Training Class on the topic “Those Three Confusing Median Categories: IBs, BBs, and MTBs. His talk was very technical at times, but his great sense of humor, his wild hand gestures, and the many colorful pictures of his beautiful seedlings kept all of the attendees interested and eager to see more.

The Region 17 Business Meeting was held Saturday afternoon. Nominations for Region Vice President – Bonnie Nichols; Treasurer – Debbie Strauss, and Secretary

– Jerry Cage were accepted by acclamation. Mike Reed and Pam Lamb ran for Vice President. The result of the ballot count will be announced September 15th. Connie Ford gave the Treasurer’s report. Membership Chair Bill Pittman announced Region 17 was 2nd in membership with AIS members across the regions. We moved up from third. Historian Jim Landers announced the region held 12 shows with 137 participants. The Fort Worth and Waco chapters celebrated their 60th year and North Plains celebrated their 50th year.

Following the business meeting, the Region 17 iris auction was held. As usual, it was a little heated especially as there were only two Louisiana irises and one arilbred iris available. The highlight of the auction for me was when Ellen Singleton was bidding on a Tom Burseen’s ‘Pearls for Girls’ and Tom yelled over to us it was in the bag — the bag of rhizomes we bought for the club. When he let us know again that the one Ellen was bidding on was in the bag, I had to explain that she only was getting one from the bag. It was good to see Tom.



The Saturday evening banquet started with a story game written by Happy Carver. Seven people at each table were presented with a bag containing a tall bearded rhizome. Each bag had ‘Aloha Ya’ll’ written on it in a different color. We then had to listen closely to the story of the Wright family’s trip to Hawaii and be prepared to pass our rhizome around to the left or right depending on the word. The goal was to end up with the rhizome you started with, but there was naturally some confusion.



The entertainment continued with the hula contest. Our President Jaime Hadley participated but unfortunately lost to Kerry McKennon of Petersburg TX. Jaime gave his all to the Hadley Hula. Before the dancers performed to a recording of “Pearly Shells,” we were entertained by our very own Dara Smith playing her ukulele.

Bill Pittman announced the membership awards for percentage of AIS members in area clubs. Austin has 71% AIS members; Fort Worth has 73%; East Texas has 80%; Waco is at 83% and Johnson County Iris Society is at 88%. Jim Landers won the judges raffle prize created by Al Elliot to encourage judge’s participation and was presented with a beautiful purple and gold quilt made by Al and



Barbara Elliot. Joel Vanderveer won the Region 17 Youth Award. Dell Perry was presented with the Region 17 Outstanding Achievement Award.

The program wrapped up with an entertaining presentation by Kevin Vaughn – “Hybridizer on the Loose.” Kevin not only hybridizes Louisianas, spurias, tall bearded , MTB, BB and SDB, but he also develops daffodils and succulents ‘Sempervivum Lipstick’ and ‘Patent Leather Shoes.’



Sunday morning after breakfast, we all headed home with an assortment of irises in our bags and fun memories of the weekend.

PREPARING RHIZOMES FOR THE SALE

The Iris Society of Austin appreciates the donation of any irises that you do not want. Please bring them to the meeting in the Greene Room on September 3 or to the sale on Saturday the 7th.

Dig the clump of irises and note the cultivar's name or if you can no longer identify the iris, bring it as an unknown variety. Either write the name on a leaf or attach a name tag near the rhizome for those you can identify. These irises move or travel and sometimes they mix up or change color. They really increase and then they must be separated in order to bloom even when fertilized.

Using a small amount of bleach in water, wash all of the soil off the irises and allow them to dry. You may cut or trim some of the roots, but do not shave them down to the rhizome. When you have done this and cut off some of the foliage like an upside "V," then place them in a paper bag.

For Louisiana irises dig them on Labor Day, wash them, and leave them in water until you are ready to wrap each rhizome in a wet paper towel and insert the rhizome in a plastic bag such as the newspaper comes in to your home. You can even wrap the rhizome in wet newspaper. Tie a name tag to the rhizome near the rubber band that holds the plant in the bag. For the display on September 7, you may offer these Louisianas for sale by displaying their pictures. Also give an instruction sheet that will enable the irisarian to plant and care for the water iris.

TIME TO PLANT DUTCH IRIS BULBS

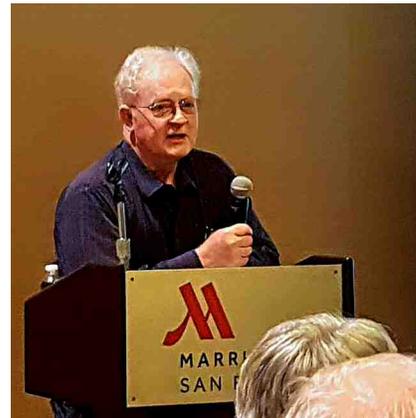
Do not forget to plant bulbs in the fall for more blooms in the spring. Dutch iris can be brought to the spring show in April for all to enjoy the beauty from bulbs. These can be white, maroon, purple, lavender, orange, and red or spotted. I planted 'Red Embers' but I never saw them bloom.

Have you noticed that squirrels including rock squirrels have begun to eat flowers? I mean buds and flowers from crape myrtles, begonias, irises, wildflowers and their seeds! This is a vegetarian menu! Nevertheless, HAPPY GROWING!



JIM LANDERS WRITES FOR IRISES

In the *IRISES_The Bulletin of the American Iris Society* Summer 2019 issue, Jim Landers has two articles. As president of the Reblooming Iris Society,



he encourages all of us to report any irises that bloom in the spring as well as in the fall. He asks us to purchase reblooming irises that double the bang for the same buck. There are nearly 400 known rebloomers of all

varieties. The group rejoices in having 25 new members.

Since Jim was one of our members who traveled to California in May to attend the 2019 AIS Convention, he introduced all of us to the Dry Creek Iris Garden, a unique landscaped fenced square with some long straight rows and several gently curving rows that form a beautiful aerial view in Union City, California. The garden is located near a mountain on one side, a level valley on the other, and the Hayward Fault. According to Jim the 1200-acre Dry Creek Ranch was donated in 1978 to form Dry Creek



Pioneer Regional Park. Wildlife abounds and butterflies flutter among the 300-year-old sycamore trees, oaks, and native habitat where all live wild and free. Some of the many irises that captured Jim's attention included Paul Black's TB of 2017 'Rise Like A Phoenix,' Joe Ghio's 2018 BB 'Coin Flip,' and his 2018 TB 'Fan Letter.' Others were Keith Keppel's 2018 TB 'Catch the Fever,' Mike Sutton's 2018 'Berry Blast,' and Rick Tasco's 2016 'Irresistible Charm.'