



# IRIS AUSTIN

A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

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

## NO MEETING IN ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

### Officers of AIS/Region 17

- RVP – Bonnie Nichols
- Assistant RVP – Michael Reed
- Secretary – Jerry Cage
- Treasurer – Debbie Strauss
- Judges Training – Dell Perry
- Historian – Jim Landers
- Past RVP – Peggy Cathey

### Officers for Iris Society of Austin

- President – Ellen Singleton
- Vice President Programs – Nelda Moore
- Vice President Membership – Jaime Hadley
- Secretary – Dara E. Smith
- Treasurer – Tracey Rogers



## TEXAS SPEAKEASY: AIS/REGION 17 MEETING TO BE HELD JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1

As of May 15 the AIS/Region 17 “Texas Speakeasy” will celebrate irises Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1 in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 11425 Marsh Lane in Dallas. Former American Iris Society President Gary White from Nebraska will be the featured speaker for the 15 affiliated societies. He will also serve as instructor for Judges Training Saturday morning. A business meeting after lunch will include information about iris societies as well as how to attract new members and keep them coming and working for the good of the group. Each society will have a representative who will discuss the activities and events for 2019 and 2020 and then submit a written report for the newsletter. A silent auction as well as the exciting iris auction as members bid on the new irises from hybridizers in Texas as well as those throughout the United States will be lively events.

The registration fee is \$60 while the Judges Training is \$10 by July 14. The meals include hamburgers and vegetarian for Friday evening when the fun begins and rosemary chicken (all white meat or all dark meat) or pot roast for the banquet. The check should be sent to Dell Perry, 800 Purcell, Plano, Texas 75025 as soon as possible with the check made to IRIS SOCIETY OF DALLAS.

The registration form to send is in the AIS/Region 17 Newsletter Spring Edition. It is also available on the Region 17 website: <http://aisregion17.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Registration-form-2020.pdf>

## Our Iris Society of Austin

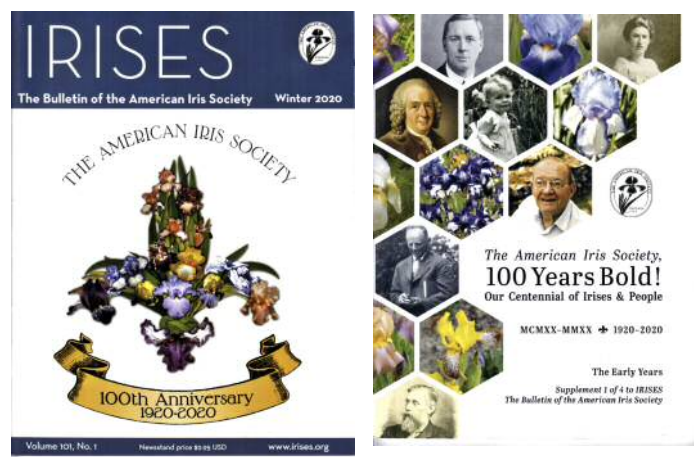
*Be an active member,  
The kind that would be missed.  
Don't be just contented  
That your name is on the list.  
Do attend the meetings  
And mingle with the crowd.  
Don't just crab and gripe  
Both so long and loud.  
Do then take an active part  
And help with hand and heart.*

Tracey Rogers has submitted the membership lists to AIS/Region 17 and to the AAGC with dues for each member.

Get ready for the September iris rhizome sale in the Norris Conference Room the Saturday after Labor Day. If you plan to visit Dallas, the Iris Society of Dallas will have a Rhizome sale on August 15 from 9 A.M. until 1 P.M. in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church.



'Lent A. Williamson' (Williamson1918)



*IRISES*, The Bulletin of the American Iris Society has come to you with new irises, winners, hybridizers, and useful articles for growing irises. It also included *The American Iris Society 100 Years Bold! Our Centennial of Irises and People 1920-2020*, Supplement 1 of 4 to the Bulletin of the American Iris Society. Have you read these treasures? Look at the iris pictured on page 58. The 'Lent A. Williamson' is the iris or one like the iris that I have been talking about that I received after dividing the clump at the French Legation in East Austin. Also pictured is 'Mme Chereau' by Lemon whose best loved iris still survives. It was planted in the older area in the Zilker Rose Garden after it was purchased from Rita and Cliff Snyder, who owned the Rainbow Iris Farm in Bartlett.



'Mme. Chereau' (Lemon 1844)

Most of the first cultivated varieties of the 1840s and '50s were bee crosses. Van Berg of Germany and Marie-Guillaume de Bure of Paris began naming them. Mr. Marie-Guillaume is known as the first to introduce a cultivar that he named 'de Bure's iris.' Later they were known as 'Buriensis.' In 1848 he had the largest collection of irises in France and is known for a role in the formation of events leading to iris societies.



In addition to reading and remembering about irises it is time to weed and by September 1 use bone meal or whatever you use to make tall bearded plants bloom with bigger blossoms for the spring show. The Louisiana irises need mulch in the container to keep the moisture and prepare the rhizomes for the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter. Rose food can be used around the Spurias that have become dormant. In July remove the foliage and get them ready for the cool that will bring them to life. They do not need much water since the rain will be sufficient until they sprout again and bloom in the spring. If you have evergreen varieties, then feed them 3 times a year. They are heavy feeders like Louisianas.

If you find time to divide clumps of irises in August for the sale, plant the trimmed cultivars in a pot and bring them to the sale. Please place a tag with the name of the iris in the container.

Looking forward to seeing you whenever we can meet. Play it safe around this serious virus. The life you save may be your own!



#### **AAGC NEWS (as of May 28, 2020)**

Following a Zoom meeting with 40 board members and reps, AAGC President Jeannie Ferrier shared the following:

“These are really crazy times and we are all trying to keep in touch in any way we can. Please reach out to our board if you need anything. We are a team!

“My newest news for you is that the garden will be opening to the public on Monday June 1. There is very limited parking and all entrance fees must be bought on line. Only online tickets, no money involved. This is a great time to support the garden and buy a membership on the website. Members will always get in free but will also go online to reserve a parking space. We cannot use the back-parking lot at this time, we are limited to the number of people in the garden at one time. A one-way path around the garden is suggested and of course they are asking that everyone stay 6 feet away.

“If you want to volunteer in the garden please contact Merredith and make plans. All staff and

volunteers must park next to the Bev shed. The garden center will NOT be open, only the bathrooms. Please visit the website [zilker garden.org](http://zilker garden.org) for updated details. This information will not be public until this Friday. Tickets go on sale Friday also, online only.

“We are planning another zoom meeting in July, Tuesday the 14th at 10am. We welcome anyone. Please be patient with everyone on the scheduling of all meeting, shows and sales. The calendar is on hold at this time. I hope to have a better idea in July, we will wait and see.”

#### **IN OUR GARDENS**



'Dreaming in Color' (Tracey Rogers, 05-07-2020)



'Isadora Belle' (Tracey Rogers. 4-25-2020)



# IT'S AN IRIS WORLD

Sajad Alipour, PhD of Ornamental plants, "Moderator of Iranian bulbous plants group in Facebook," recently shared these iris pictures from his homeland.



*Iris songarica* yellow form, 26 May 2020  
IRAN, Fars province, Altitude: 2250 m/7382 ft



*Iris acutiloba* subsp. *lineolata*, Iran, Fars province, Zagreb Mtns, 2350 m/7710 ft



Unidentified

Ken's cousins Barbara and Jim Parsons in Oregon spotted these "wild" irises (below) while nature hiking in May. Pacific Coast Natives ??

