



IRIS AUSTIN

A Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

January 2023 — Vol. XXIII #1

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

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

6:30 P.M.

Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

POTLUCK

DUES ARE DUE

\$18 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

\$24 dual membership

The Iris Society of Austin usually meets in the Austin Area Garden Center on the second Tuesday at 6:30 P.M. and anyone interested in irises is always welcome to attend and learn more about this interesting xeriscape flower to enhance a landscape.



Tracey Rogers' 'Over and Over' - December 18, 2022

HOOKER NICHOLS TO TEACH ABOUT LOUISIANA IRISES ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14



Hooker Nichols, an award-winning hybridizer of bearded irises and Louisianas, is an active member of the American Iris Society. He and his wife Bonnie Nichols are an important team who work together to bring new irises in this world by growing different kinds of irises and operating Hillcrest Iris and Daylily Gardens. Their two-acre garden east of Dallas will be a tour garden for the 2023 American Iris Society Convention in Dallas April 12-16, for people from different parts of the world to admire and study their flowers.

This Judges Training class sponsored by the Iris Society of Austin is an important opportunity to hear Hooker Nichols on Saturday. Several members wanted important information about growing and showing Louisianas. This class will be held in Room 200 of the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Road, Austin, 78746. The cost is \$5 per person and breakfast items will be available with coffee by 9 a.m. Please come to this important class and enjoy the day whether or not you desire to be an iris judge. You will learn more about these water irises that you might enjoy in your landscape.

Hillcrest  Gardens

REGION 17 NEWSLETTER



The Region 17 Newsletter for Fall and Winter is a most beautiful magazine full of information when you can stop admiring a single digital iris or a blooming garden scene. Wow!

Michael Reed is the new AIS Region 17 RVP and Stephanie Sullivan is the editor of this exquisite work. Our own Jim Landers is historian, and it is he who always has a detailed report on past shows and new shows that dazzle our memories! Notice the seedling awards. These are new irises that received recognition without names for they have letters and numbers until they really have a name—a new variety for a hybridizer. This editor has read that one can reserve a name now. In the show this iris needs no grooming. Do not take off the old blossoms. Show them with the new blooms.

Is it worthy and different from all irises that you grow or have seen? Only then after years will it be an introduction priced at \$50.

Notice that Tracey Rogers has entered the Judges Training Chair Report as a candidate. We need judges every year and you have a chance to begin with points by taking the Judges Training for credit January 14. Dell Perry is AIS Region 17 Judges Training Chair.

There is something for everyone including Youth. March 21 is the deadline for entering the Ackerman Youth Contest 2023. The prize is \$100 plus a 2023 iris introduction. Debbie Strauss from Midland will announce the winners.

HORTICULTURE

In September you planted the bearded irises that you purchased, fed them a handful of bone meal around the rhizome and watered the food so that the roots could grow and hold the plant. Your garden was clean—no weeds because of the extreme drought. Then the rain came, autumn burst in flaming colors, and it was cool. Now you are still weeding to rid your

irises of horse herb, hen bit, grass, pretty dandelions, and young trees like hackberry and cedar that you can pull from the wet soil.

Your Louisiana irises are increasing after the acid fertilizer mix that you also used on the redbuds and azaleas. You are excited about bigger flowers this new year since last year these irises that did not freeze to death were recovering from the Arctic Blast that killed some of them. It was terrible to see a dead 'Lady of Lometa,' that blue Louisiana hybridized and introduced by Jim Landers. This year with 15 degrees this editor tipped the buckets to drain water and covered the containers with a tarp. They are beautiful in the 70 degree weather. They have another dose of acid fertilizer and water in the buckets. I really like these native wildflowers and their narrow leaves that I can use a pencil to work them in shapes for my artistic design.

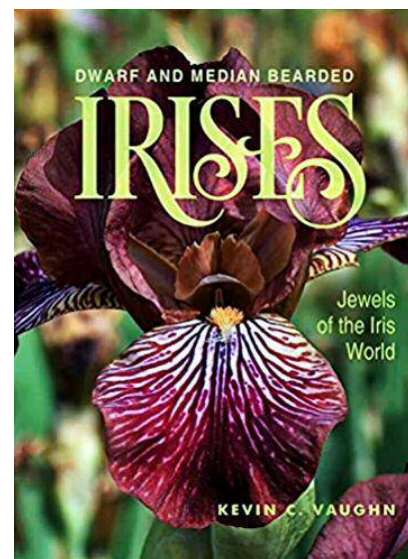
Spurias, however, need rose food and roses are now putting on a show after the rain. On February 14 or later during the month these roses need food and pruning unless it is a climbing rose so use the rose food on the roses and all of your spurias.

For the April 22 show you want big blossoms, strong stems, healthy foliage that will not have holes or brown spots. Sometimes it is necessary to take scissors and trim off part of the leaf, but whatever you do, shape it like the original leaf. Get rid of pests in your garden especially aphids that can give a leaf unwanted spots or holes.

Growing and grooming are an important part of successful gardening.

KEVIN VAUGHAN IRIS BOOK

Dwarf and Median Bearded Iris, Jewels of the World is a new book about mini dwarf, standard dwarf, intermediate, miniature tall and border bearded irises written by Kevin Vaughan. The book is \$30, and this includes shipping and handling from the American Iris Society.



MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING

by Dara E. Smith

The meeting was called to order and presided over by Ellen Singleton.

Welcome to our visitor Joe Moore!

The October 18, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as written in the November 2022 Newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report was not presented.

AAGC:

The AAGC dues for all active club members is \$13 each annually. This goes towards paying for meeting room and night staff. The garden is transitioning to GIVEPULSE.com and everyone is encouraged to register with this site used for tracking volunteer time. Notices can also be sent to registered accounts with notices for volunteering. There may be some concerns from members to register because the site has a disclaimer (related to injury while in the garden) that is required for registration.

There is a club directory that is being used to send out notices to club members from Lilith Atherton from membership.aagc@gmail.com.

ISA Business:

- Judge's Training - ISA will resume its regularly hosted Judges Training in January 2023!! 3 hours of Judges Training on Louisiana Irises for \$5.00. Nelda Moore has secured a location at the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church (7127 Bee Cave Road, Austin TX 78746 in Room 200) for a Judge's training on January 14, 2023. Hooker Nichols will be our invited presenter. Breakfast treats at 9a and class starts shortly after.
- Jaime Hadley circulated a sign-up sheet at the October meeting for anyone interested in purchasing the new revision of the AIS Judge's Handbook. ISA will make a club order for the paper only (no cover) for \$20 each. The pages will now fit in a regular 8"x10" 3-ring binder. Please let Jaime Hadley know if you want to order a new handbook.
- Iris Show - Nelda Moore is the 2023 Show Chair.

The theme for the show is:

"Celebrate Earth Day with Irises". The show is on April 22, 2023.

Important Dates:

- January Meeting: Tuesday January 10th, 2023
- Judge's Training Saturday January 14, 2023 at 9am @ Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church
- American Iris Society Convention April 12 - 16, 2023 Dallas, TX
- ISA Show April 22, 2023 at Zilker Botanical Garden

Program:

Time to fertilize Louisiana iris with azalea and camellia food. Also, time to fertilize Spuria iris with rose food. Ideas for show theme were "Earth Day" related. Design themes: earth/wind/fire/water. Seasons: Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall. Iris culture, conservation for loss of LA habitat, wetlands.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: January 10th, 2023

Approved on:



TRACEY ROGERS' DECEMBER BLOOMS



'Lo Ho Silver' - December 3, 2022



'Over and Over' - December 18,



Hillcrest Gardens

