



IRIS AUSTIN

A 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

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:30 P.M.
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
POT LUCK

IRIS RHIZOME SALE September 9

The Iris Society of Austin will sell rhizomes September 9, 2023 in the **Norris Conference Center** near the Walmart Supercenter located in Northcross Mall at 2525 W Anderson Lane, Austin, 78757.

2024 Society for Louisiana Irises/Spuria
Iris Society Convention April 26-28
Dallas, Texas

2024 AIS/Japanese National Iris
Convention June 26-29
Portland, Oregon
Holiday Inn Portland-Columbia
Riverfront
909 N. Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217



'Ginger Twist' - Schafer-Sacks 2009

HOW TO GROW SIBERIAN IRISES



'Ginger Twist' - Schafer-Sacks 2009

Although they do not grow in Texas' extreme climate, Siberian irises are some of the easiest irises to grow and bloom in the temperate climate zones where their graceful stems, blooms, foliage and neat habit of growth make them the most adaptable irises for perennial borders for landscaping along the edges of ponds. These European irises originated in an area from northern Italy across Turkey and into southeastern Russia. They grow on the west coast and southeastern United States where they have good drainage. They thrive in rich moist soil with a mild acidity. Successful growers also use 10-10-10 or 14-14-14 fertilizer in early spring and again after bloom season to encourage growth for next year. Many use foliar feedings monthly with Miracid.

A mulch of organic material will benefit the plants in summer by conserving soil moisture, keeping the soil cooler, preventing frost heaving, and reducing weed germination.

Although Siberians are more resistant to disease than other garden irises, they do suffer from scorch and the iris borer, but we usually do not have the iris borer. Nevertheless, one application of Cygon 2E or Orthene applied when the weather

hits 70 degrees in the spring will control borers. Keeping the garden clean at all times is very important.

Spring is the best time to divide the plants with August as the second choice. They do not appreciate the summer drought.

Now that you know that Siberians are like us, you might enjoy the Siberian Iris Get Together in Ames, Iowa May 23 to 24 in 2025. That is correct. 2025!



'At the Crossroads' - Schafer-Sacks 2009



'Humors of Whiskey' - Schafer-Sachs 2007



'Kilauea' - M. Smith 2006



'Lucy Locket' - Schafer-Sachs 2009



'Miss Apple' - Schafer-Sacks 2009



'Summer Sky' - Cleveland 1935



'Tree of Songs' - Schafer-Sacks 2006

HORTICULTURE

PLANTS DO NOT BLOOM DURING THIS TERRIBLE HEAT THAT REMINDS YOU THAT YOU ARE WORKING INSIDE A FURNACE. Irises in addition to wildflowers as well as annuals are having problems trying to stay alive without rain for these long periods of time. The lakes are showing dry land. Water is restricted, not to be used to wash cars, not to be wasted. Stop the flow of water in fountains, water landscape once per week from 4 A.M. to 6 A.M. Will it do any good to water if you can't stop the heat from crisping the leaves? Then a kind note comes from a friend in Houston who says it rained for lilies to bloom all 4 days that they got rain. There is a first time for everything and this is the first time that we are trying to survive in this climate change.

2023 AIS REGION 17 MEETING

by Pug Parris

Reprinted from the Lone Star Iris Society August 2023 newsletter



RVP Mike Reed welcomes the 2023 R17 Meeting Attendees.

The August 4-5, 2023, meeting of AIS Region 17 was hosted by the Fort Worth Iris Society. This was my third consecutive state meeting, and I always come home from these events with more information . . . and more irises.

The hosts made an excellent choice for site selection. Rather than have participants battle the traffic in Fort Worth, the meeting was held in nearby Weatherford at the First Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The theme for the event was "Fort Worth, Where the West Begins" and many participants donned cowboy shirts for the festivities. The stage was decorated with western relics, including hay bales and a wagon wheel.

The goody-bags presented to the participants were full of surprises, but my favorite was the personalized mailing stickers with a small photo of a different iris on each of the 30 labels.

There's a lengthy check-in time on the afternoon of Day 1, which gave the 130+ attendees a chance to purchase rhizomes in the sale room and bid on an array of items in the silent auction. Lots of attention went to the 2022 Tom Burseen irises!

The Welcome Dinner on Friday night included an invocation by the church's senior pastor, Joseph Nader, and I had a chance to chat with him briefly that evening.

Friday post-meal events started innocently with a sing-a-long of Texas songs. Then the shenanigans changed to games and competition. The word search puzzles were challenging, but the *#\$\$! "hit the fan" when each table competed for the best marketing plan for the specific manure-product! It was hilarious.



The featured speaker on Saturday was hybridizer Howard (Howie) Dash of Las Cruces, NM. Howie has dozens of arilbred and tall bearded registered irises, including 'Chihuahua Night' the 2022 National Convention President's Cup winner. He provided an

an Arilbred session on Saturday morning with two-hours credit for those interested in judging . . . or for those simply interested in arilbred irises.

Meals were spectacular, with a cookie bar featuring donations from the various chapters. I brought 4 dozen chocolate chip cookies for LSIS. I was also privileged to offer the LSIS report during the Saturday business meeting. One of the topics for consideration at the business meeting was the feasibility of raising prices at our rhizome and potted plant sales. Hmmm. Inflation exists, but many clubs have successfully increased revenues by upping prices.

Due to a Saturday evening obligation back home in Abilene (I cannot miss seeing the grandsons in their musical theater performances), I had to leave after Saturday's business meeting and missed the closing banquet.

I have finally caught up with planting my stash of rhizomes from the 2023



Mike Reed presents the 2023 R17 Service Award to Bill Pittman of North Plains IS



Gordon Carver conducts the rhizome auction



R17 Historian Jim Landers presents a certificate for most show awards to Johnnie and Daphne Fetsch of North Plains IS and South Plains IS



Hooker Nichols gives out 2023 introductions to all attendees