



# 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](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/isa_index.html)

## NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, **March 17, 2024** 1-3 P.M.  
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium  
2220 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78746

## IRIS SHOW COMES TO ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN APRIL 13



J. T. Class, February 18, 2024

“Celebrating Zilker Botanical Garden,” the beautiful Iris Show on Saturday April 13th will soon be here to enable our society to educate those in attendance to hover over the irises that can bloom without much water to create a unique landscape with their sword-like foliage. Many bearded irises have already begun to bloom after the rain and cooler weather in Central Texas. They will dazzle you when you gaze upon these blossoms that have been cleaned and groomed for your enjoyment.

In addition to the horticulture division, the photography, and designs using irises will delight and give the visitor some new ideas for creating their home table settings and their walls with iris landscapes.

## FUN WITH PICTURES

After studying the photographs in *IRISES: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society* for Winter 2024 on pages 48-55, carry your camera and look for irises. Then carefully select some to enter the show on April 13th because everyone loves colorful photographs and irises. The selections during the show last year were exciting and extremely artistic. After those drew a crowd you should enter the contest sponsored by the American Iris Society.



HELP!!

Can anyone identify this iris which bloomed in Debbie Hood’s garden on New Year’s Day, 2024?

## **JUDGES TRAINING WITH DELL PERRY HAD 22 IN ATTENDANCE ON FEBRUARY 18**

Dell Perry is an expert, delightful speaker and teacher who holds nothing from the student. She will teach all that you need to look for and know to become successful in the allotted time and she loves to start on time. With 22 in attendance, she was in command and answered questions expertly from those who wanted to know more about putting on an iris show. Her test was made up of several parts and discussed after each segment. Her questions enabled thought as you wrote the answer, and then response for the correct answer was presented. It was a joy to be in her classroom.

Food was plentiful and Nelda Moore invited attendees to take some of the wrapped goodies home.

## **IRISES RETURN TO ROSE GARDEN**

I.S.A. President Ellen Singleton, Treasurer Tracey Rodgers, and Nelda Moore planted irises in the new garden February 21. One of the raised gardens that is built out of concrete now holds cut rose plants, daylilies that circle the bed near the rim of concrete, and irises in a triangle between the rose bushes.

## **HORTICULTURE**

Irises have been fed, watered, and weeded. Since most of the rhizomes died during the summer of '23 when water during the wrong time of the day caused

them to cook and rot during the hottest summer on record, the new irises that have been replaced are growing perfectly.

If any gardeners have bloom and would like to bring them to Zilker Botanical Gardens on April 13th to enter the show, someone will help you with entry of the bloom stalk.

Remove any fingerprints on the stalk with a piece of cloth. Be neat and remove the insects and spiders from the blossom with a soft brush. If there is a spot at the top of the leaf, cut the leaf with a scissors exactly as the leaf should look as if nothing has been changed by you.

Any seedlings brought for the certificate should not be groomed. All flower blossoms even though they are spent indicate how productive the iris can be. Judges also want to study the specimen to note how different and vigorous it is compared with those on the market.

## **IRIS BECOMES MIXED-UP**

One unusual iris has blends of purple on one side and white on the other side of the bloom. It apparently has been influenced by bone meal and rose fertilizer around another type of iris, the hot and cold temperatures, and the handiwork affecting its being. Will it bloom like this next March or will it emerge by its name tag and look like itself from now on? It is my mystery of life!



**J. T. TEST TIME!**