



IRIS AUSTIN

A Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin



Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

October 2024 — Vol. XXIV #8

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

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, **October 20, 2024** 1-3 P.M.
Zilker Botanical Garden - Auditorium
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746
Dues are \$18.

I.S.A. OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

President – Jaime Hadley
VP-Programming – Ellen Singleton
VP-Membership – Marney Able
Secretary – Dara Smith
Treasurer – Donna Little

MEETING DATES AND HOSTS

OCTOBER 20, 2024 - Nelda Moore

NOVEMBER 17, 2024 - Audrey Baker

JANUARY 19, 2025 - Nelda Moore & Marney Able

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 - Kathy Petheram

MARCH 16, 2025 - Ellen Singleton

APRIL 20, 2025 - Shirley Smith

MAY 18, 2025 - Dara Smith



Cantina 2—photo by Probst



Daughter of Stars—G. Spoon



Mariposa Skies Clamp—Mary

ALL ABOUT REMONTANT IRIS



Absolute Joy—Bill T



Bottle Rocket—Mike Sutton



Bee Monster—Anita Moran



Afternoon Delight—B. Addison

Ellen Singleton promoted remnant irises known as repeaters or rebloomers. These irises are known to rest for a time and then produce bloomstalks that try to come close to a hybridizer's dream of achieving an ever-blooming iris without climate change, weather patterns and nature interfering with the plant. This is a difficult task for an iris that blooms in winter when a freeze can damage the buds in many parts of the United States. At one time in Europe irises were pulled out of the ground and then replanted in the spring.



Eternal Bliss—M. Platner



Catswalk Queen—Rumyana



Teagan—D.Spoon



Starring Encore—Francine

Ellen instructed us to give these irises extra care — more water, more super phosphate or bone meal and ironite. Irises need to be trimmed of dead foliage and given more soil when the rhizomes kick out of the soil, which often happens before winter. They do not need mulch or compost. They do not need to be dug, tied in bunches with identification and hung in a garage over winter. They love our cold weather and plenty of sunshine in the spring and summer.

For more information about remnant iris, visit the Reblooming Iris website: <https://rebloomingiris.com/>

GET RID OF GARBAGE AND MAKE GOLDEN SOIL – THE ART OF COMPOSTING

With plenty of carbon-rich natural fibers, such as old flowers, herbs. Straw, hay, paper, dust bunnies, cotton swabs and some nitrogen-rich greens like potato peelings, corn cobs, apple cores, banana peels, egg shells stale bread, coffee grounds, houseplant trimmings you are ready to start composting.

It is time to keep these and more out of your garbage and into a bin or tumbler—3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet — work with nature to make soil for your garden by adding water and mixing until it is moist as a wrung out sponge. Mix occasionally and allow decomposition to occur for a few months. If it is cold, decomposition takes longer.

Never add meat or poultry products, waxed paper, synthetic fibers, weeds, plastic, metal. Glass, charcoal, greasy food, dairy products, big pieces of wood to your compost pile.

Check for odor. This needs more brown material after turning the heap.

Compost is not breaking down properly. Material is too big.

The pile is not decomposing, therefore, add more water and green. Turn the pile and add green.

When this pile is ready, you can test it by taking a jar and putting some water in it with some compost. Tighten the lid and leave it for about a week. Open the jar carefully and check for a smell like wet earth. Finished compost is dark brown or black and crumbly with a rich, earthy smell. Add it to your flower beds.

2024 A.I.S. REGION 17 – TYLER

by Tracey Rogers



ISA members **Ellen Singleton, Tracey Rogers, Kathy Petheram, Donna Little, Jacky and Diane Robers, and Jim Landers** attended the 2024 Region

17 meeting October 4-5 in Tyler., Hosted by the East Texas Iris Society. “Rebloomers Anyone?” was the title and theme of the meeting.



Guest speaker Delane Langton of Billings, Montana, lectured on Reblooming irises on Friday night. He is also the co-chair of the 2025 A.I.S. national convention in Billings, hosted by the Big Sky Iris Club. He gave a preview of what to expect at the



National Convention.

Attendees who arrived early enough on Friday were given a tour of the Tyler Botanical Gardens which included the reblooming iris bed as well as the Tyler Rose Garden.

Two one-hour judges training sessions were given Saturday morning. Debbie Strauss spoke on Ethics which is a required class for candidate judges. Ethics in judging is basically common sense.

One suggestion to keep judges from looking for errors in exhibitors’ entries at shows was to write in black ink on your entry cards. If you use a distinctive ink color such as green and if you mis-identify an entry, the judges are more likely to look closer at other entry cards written in green.

The second hour was presented by Dell Perry on

reblooming irises. The original term for reblooming irises is *remontant* from the French which literally means “rising again.”

Reblooming irises need to be fed fertilizer more often. Reblooming irises were first noted in the 1880s in England. In order to expand the list of reblooming irises, always report your rebloomers to your Reblooming Iris Society representative who in our area is Gailmae Suite metx65@yahoo.com.

A host club is needed for the 2025 Region 17 meeting. Johnson County Iris Society of Cleburne will be hosting in 2026 and the South Plains Iris Society (Lubbock) will be hosting in 2027. ‘Perry Dyer’ AB (-OGB) (Black 2017) won the American Iris Society’s 2024 Dykes Medal, which is the highest honor an iris can win. As Perry Dyer was from Oklahoma, rhizomes of that iris were given to all of the Region 17 officers in honor of the win.

Bill Pittman and Stephanie Meyers are keeping Tom Burseen’s legacy going. According to Bill, Tom wants Region 17 to benefit from his irises. While Tom has stepped away from hybridizing, his irises are being grown by others and his seedlings have been passed on.



Georgia Finchum from Amarillo gave a report on the Region 17 website update which will soon be available. Region 17 is gaining a new affiliate society in Abilene. It is called Big Country Iris Society and will officially begin in February 2025. Half of the



attendees at the meeting joined this new society as Charter Members.



At the final dinner, Jim Landers presented a certificate to Dell Perry for winning the most top show awards for the 2024 show season.

I encourage members to attend the Region 17 meetings. You usually get some free irises and there is the live auction of iris rhizomes. This year, there were TB, BB, IB and SDB as well as louisianas and arilbreds. Several of the TB were hybridized by French hybridizer Robert Cayeaux. It was one of the best selections as far as variety as I’ve seen in a while at a live auction and most of them went for a reasonable price. The East Texas Iris Society, the hosts for the meeting, had a fabulous silent auction which included 2024 Tom Burseen irises as well as a 2025 seedling yet to be named.

THE IRIS SOCIETY OF DALLAS CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY

by Tracey Rogers

As candidates for Region 17 judges, Donna Little and I attended the judges training and program given by Kevin Vaughn as part of the Iris Society’s celebration of their 70th anniversary on September 28, 2024.

There was a fabulous cake and a wonderful lunch provided. The best part of the program were the presentations by Kevin Vaughn. If you ever have an opportunity to hear him speak, go for it. The title of the judges training was “Those Pesky Median Iris Classes.” Originally all medians-border bearded (BB), intermediate bearded (IB) and median tall bearded (MTB) were all in one class-medians. The British still



The Dallas Club Members present with their 70th Anniversary club shirts

keep them in one class.

We do not have a copy of his book *Dwarf and Median Iris: Jewels of the Iris World* in the club library which he referenced in the program. We do have a copy of *The Louisiana Iris: The Taming of a Native American Wildflower* edited by Kevin along with Marie Caillet, J Farron Campbell and Dennis Vercher. In 1958, Fitz Randolph insisted the category be broken down and held everyone on the tour bus at the 1958 AIS convention hostage until the class was broken down. Kevin wasn't able to tell us how long they stayed on the bus.

The class wasn't just on the differences between the classes which can be found in the Handbook for Judges, but he also gave the history of how they came about genetically. BBs were a result of smaller TB bred to create the BB and then the BB were crossed with each other. IBs were the result of SDB crossed with TB. MTB were started by putting mixed pollen on runts which created what was originally referred to as table irises as they be used in table arrangements and dinner guests could see one another across the table.



Queen & President Bonnie Nichols

Before Kevin's afternoon program, Hal presented Bonnie Nichols with a crown pin, a tiara, and flower beauty queen banner and a bouquet. Bonnie is the

next American Iris Society president.

In the afternoon, Kevin presented a program titled "Hybridizer on the Loose." Kevin started out hybridizing hostas and has gone on to develop succulents, lungworts and irises too. He is now getting into daffodils. Pictures of his iris seedlings and succulents that are on the market were shown with lots of oohs and ahs.

MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Jaime Hadley opened the meeting and welcomed members. 12 members present This is the first meeting after summer with our new officers. Jackson and Madeline are our visitors (Audrey's grand kids)!

Jaime asked are there any members we need to be thinking of or caring for?

- Ken and Jim are doing fine.
- Caroline Wylie was not able to make today's meeting.
- Ellen is taking care of health and stepping back from some of the club duties and downsizing her garden.
- Russell, lives out of town.
- Bob Van Lier has retired - Iris4U hybridizer from Colorado

Minutes from the May 2024 meeting were published in the Summer 2024 Newsletter sent out July 21, 2024. Accepted and Approved.

Treasurer's report, including Rhizome Sale data..

New Treasurer - Donna Little

- 750.00 cash deposited
 - 500.00 Norris Conference Center paid
 - 45.00 additional sale
- 8/15/24 \$12,395.61 balance

Tracey — sale report (spreadsheet passed out) - \$396 profit

Discussion — Is it worth it to the club on volunteer time and paying for rent to have a sale in the same manner

At the next meeting we will discuss ideas on different ways to hold a sale that can maximize our profits. On-line sales? With pick up at a meeting.

AAGC Report, including upcoming events and a handout from PARD on the status of projects around the garden including the Greene Room

By Tracey:

- TWIG coming up — Roots, Talks and Walks in the Garden. We can have a booth. Email 2 weeks beforehand if we need to cancel.
- Festivals — Bamboo and then Begonia, Tejas club meeting, Zilker 60th Oct 25th, Zoom training Sept 20 w/ Alice Watts
- Look for Aug/Sept Volunteer Report
- Green Room — lots of hold ups on the project, looking for completion in first of 2025.
- Eddie Musgrove arch will go to the Oak Grove (beer garden). They have the Don Freeman bench but do not have a location to place it in the garden.
- Butler Window is finished.
- Partnership A — like the Master Plan that was abandoned. For ALL of Zilker Park.

AAGC Dues Question: \$14 per member or \$15. Vote on an option. Every year ISA pays dues to AAGC for every member. 2023 dues were \$13.

Motion: We cast the ISA vote for \$14 per member AAGC Dues.

A motion was entertained by Marney and seconded. Motion Approved.

ZBG Iris and Daylily Workday, Oct 2, 9:30a-11:30a CT

Discussion — Would we like to donate \$100 to the East Texas Iris Society for the Region 17 meeting? The airfare for Delane Langton is over \$800. Motion & Vote

Motion: ISA to donate \$100 to the East Texas Iris Society.

Dara made the motion. Motion was Approved

Nominate new VP of Programs. Motion and Vote
Ellen Singleton has resigned as VP of Program chair.
There are some materials for programs.

Reminder — Region 17 Meeting - October 4&5 - Tyler, TX - Registration Deadline Sept 15 Registration form attached

- Delane Langton is speaker.
- 2 judges trainings.
- Rhizomes for sale and auction.

New business

- Hospitality - Nelda Moore October and January
- Notes for January — Membership. Annual Individual is \$18, Joint is \$24

Medal Awards for 2024 ISA Show

- Silver - Dara E Smith
- Bronze - Ellen Singleton

Rhizome Door Prize Drawings from Eagle Nest (Montana)

Program - "Growing Reblooming Irises" - Ellen Singleton. Ellen gave a handout of 'Reblooming Iris Information'

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted for approval
Dara Smith
Secretary