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*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors* A Monthly Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin

# IRIS AUSTIN



**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**GATE CLOSES AT 6:30 P.M.**

**Meeting begins at 7 P.M.**

**Pot Luck Dinner**

**Saturday, April 9 – IRIS SHOW**

**Tuesday, April 12 – Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 10 – Meeting**

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**EVENTS:**

**Saturday, March 5 – Organic Gardener's**

**Plant Sale from 10 A.M. – Noon**

**Tuesday, March 8 – Austin Area Garden**

**Council 9:30 A.M. until Noon**

**Iris Society of Austin and Yaupon  
Garden Club serve as hostesses**

**Thursday, March 10 – Lawn**

**Maintenance for Water  
Conservation Seminar**

**10 A.M. – Noon, Auditorium of  
Zilker Botanical Garden Cost: \$10**

**Saturday, March 26 – Judges Training  
in Lubbock – Show rules, awards,  
ballots**

**Saturday-Sunday, April 2 and 3  
Zilker Garden Festival**

**Tuesday-Wednesday, April 19 and 20**

**Dallas Iris Society bus tour to view  
iris gardens Cost: \$65 per person**

**Saturday, April 23 – Belton Iris Show**

**May 16-June 24 Woodland Faerie Trail  
open to public Entry fee for faerie  
plot was \$25**

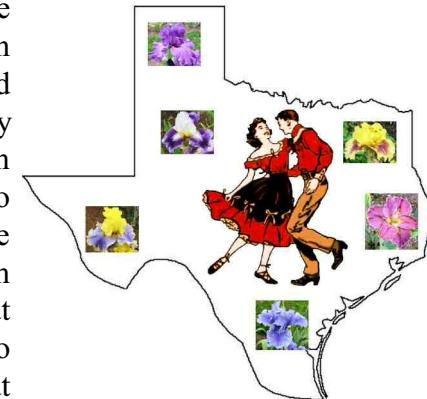
**May 23-28, 2016 – AIS National  
Convention in Newark, New Jersey**

## IRIS SOCIETY TO SPONSOR ACCREDITED SHOW APRIL 9

The members of the Iris Society of Austin have been working diligently cleaning, weeding, and feeding their irises so that the blooms can be entered in the 27th accredited Iris Show on April 9 in the auditorium in Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, 78746. Irises will be accepted at 7:30 A.M. after the entry tags have been completed by the exhibitors who have grown the irises and have groomed each of them for the show. The title of the show is "Waltzing Across Texas with Irises." Horticultural and Artistic Displays plus educational exhibits will be open to the public from 1 - 4 P.M.

Nelda Moore and Donna Little will serve as show chairs. Ken Fuchs will accept entries and classifications. He is also secretary and awards chairman. Don Freeman and Mike Renfro will do staging and properties while placement will be done by Jim Landers and Nelda Moore. Pat Freeman will secure members who will enter the Artistic Designs. Pat Byrne is in charge of clerks and judges. Hospitality includes all members, but when it comes to the food for judges and members, Marney Abel and Tracey Rogers will provide their expertise. Publicity will be done by Nelda Moore and all members will distribute flyers to their friends and neighbors.

This is a friendly competition for all who abide by the rules of the American Iris Society. It is also an educational lesson about irises, and all members will be showing the best side of the flowers that we love to grow in this area of Texas.



## GROOMING FOR THE IRIS SHOW

How does an exhibitor groom an iris for the Iris Show that will be held Saturday, April 9?

Since the iris in the Horticultural Section needs to be fresh, it is wise to cut the bloom stalk in the morning of the show. Turn the stalk downward and allow the moisture to drip to the ground. Then take a soft rag and wipe off the sheen from the stem to remove fingerprints. Look for dirt or bugs and spiders that might be hiding in the blossom. By using a Q-tip or tweezers carefully rid the stalk of foreign matter before placing the iris in the bottle that had a tag with the cultivar's name and all other information needed. Then take another look to see that the iris is lined correctly so that the bloom is facing the judge and the entry tag held by the rubber band is under the face of the iris--its best face forward! Examine the whole entry again. Is the cultivar positioned too high or too low in the vase? Use the insulation provided or a piece of greenery with the insulation to keep the bloom stalk erect.

Having a big beautiful flower is the work of the grower who has fed the irises with bone meal, rose food, or azalea food at least twice — in the fall and in February. With the drought upon us again, the irises must be watered. The Louisianas had to be watered each week to keep the soil moist in the container. The acid fertilizer on them has really helped the foliage to become green and tall. If you have spurias the foliage is quite beautiful and a bit thinner in width so that it can be used in a flower arrangement either rolled with a pencil or trained to be more decorative with the flowers. It is still time to feed and water a bit more since the rains have not come as expected.

## ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

At this March meeting tell Pat Freemen which artistic designs that you want to enter so that the space can be reserved. The choice for showing your irises can be in the form of a line arrangement in the Japanese styles, a line-mass arrangement with a strong line of Japanese styles with the massed effect of European designs, or a mass arrangement. The Ikebana has very few irises in the heaven, man, and earth arrangement. The Line-mass arrangement has a clean, uncluttered look, with definite line, a well-defined mass, and plenty of open spaces. Contrast of texture, color and line are important features. The mass arrangement has a thick, full-look, with a closed silhouette. Color is important in a mass arrangement. Round or mass shapes usually dominate, but spiky or linear forms are good for triangular arrangements.

## THE EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY

An Educational Display for the Iris Show is designed to inform and instruct the viewer about growing and working with irises. The subject is done in a simple way — almost at a glance for the person interested in stopping for a visit to learn about the topic.

The Iris Society of Austin needs several educational displays that will be on a separate table. This can be helpful to the public in learning about the local society, the Region 17, or even the American Iris Society. What does the Iris Society of Austin do to attract members? Why are the members having so much fun? What do we do during meetings?

Other subjects or topics can tell the story of iris pests and how to fix the problem, how to divide a clump of irises, how to plant the irises, how to prepare an iris for the show, how to make a floral design with irises, what is a Region 17 Convention, what is needed to become a flower or garden judge, how does one use irises in a landscape design.

All of the members serve as hospitality for the public. Why not teach by telling the public on paper about growing and grooming an iris for the show? It might be that a picture board is worth a thousand words.

## SMALL DESIGNS (no more than 15" high)



Jaime Hadley 2015



Tracey Rogers 2015



Dara Smith 2015

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has announced the following slate of officers for 2016-2017 for consideration:

President Donna Little

First Vice President (Programs) Pat Byrne

Second Vice President (Membership)

Jaime Hadley

Secretary Dara E. Smith

Treasurer Marney Abel

Historian Tracey Rogers

Nominations may be taken from the floor. Voting will be held immediately by ballot if there are other nominations.

The newsletter is written by Nelda Moore and any members may provide information by submitting the articles by the 15th of the month to her or to Ken Fuchs, who provides the layout of the pages and supplements the edition with pictures members have sent him or that he has taken during meetings or conventions. Color copies are sent electronically to all members who have an e-mail address. The black and white copies are sent to certain members who do not have a computer or those members who specifically request paper copies.

Ellen Singleton and Tracey Rogers will chair the Iris Rhizome Sale September 10, 2016.

The Executive Board will name the instructor for Judges' Training and the time and place where this annual instruction will be held. (The deadline for having this announced in the Region 17/AIS Newsletter is September 15, 2016)

## IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN TO SELL BOTTLED WATER

Members of the Iris Society will sell water during the Zilker Garden Festival. As volunteers each person will be entitled to a tee-shirt. During the March meeting sign the list and give the size of the shirt that you will be wearing.

Marney Abel is using the logos from the past tee-

shirts to make a quilt for the silent auction that will benefit the gardens.

The Zilker Garden Festival is a fun time in Austin for meeting gardening authors who will autograph copies of their books, learning from food demonstrations, visiting the beer garden and eating at anytime with the food vendors in The Oak Grove, watching the children enjoy the activities in Kid's Corner, purchasing plants, flowers, jewelry, garden items, and then visiting the beautiful flower show and special exhibits of bonsai and begonias. The Gift Shop will have 20% off for any club member who selects to purchase merchandise on those days. Music will also be featured in several areas.

## APOLOGY

In the article on Judges Training in the February Newsletter, Nelda Moore did not spell two names correctly and she sincerely regrets those mistakes. Apologies to Nicolas Sadler and Dara Smith. (The old eyes are not what they used to be!)

## NEW IRIS BEDS REPORT by TRACEY ROGERS

I was at Zilker yesterday (February 25) and checked out the new beds. The attached pictures are of ones blooming in the new bed.

'Oh So Yummy' is getting ready to bloom in the old bed. 'Bragging Rights' is in the middle and 'Cinnamon Girl' was about over. There is an unidentified iris about to bloom. I hope to get up there to verify what it is. It may be 'Jean Queen.'

'Matrix' was bloomed out in the new bed. 'Grain Exchange' is in full bloom, which is really early for it. 'Jesse's Song' was open as were 'Casino Cruiser,' 'Honeycomb' and 'Purr Form Mints.' 'Out of the Blue' has buds and should be opening up in a few days. The bed was in good shape, but if anyone goes out there, watch out for the huge ant bed at the front end. I'll be calling it in to report it.



## MINUTES OF THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

### February 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order and presided by Pat Byrne. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved as presented in the ISA Newsletter.

#### Announcements:

19 attendees were present for last month's Judges Training!

We have received Thank You letters in acknowledgment of the AAGC Memorial for Joe Montgomery and the recent Conservancy donations.

Thank you to everyone that contributed rhizomes (purple) for the request from Southwestern University.

Donna Little has volunteered to set up a Faerie display sponsored by the ISA.

Region 17 meeting will be August 19-20, 2016 in Waco, TX. There is a registration form in the Newsletter.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The ending monthly balance for January 2016 was \$16,497.24. The current balance on February 9, 2016 is \$15,806.54. Recent activity includes ISA affiliation dues to AAGC and AIS membership renewals.

#### AAGC Council Report:

Conservancy – Sid Teague is circulating a petition to the City of Austin and collecting signatures for support of the Conservancy.

Zilker Garden Festival is April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. ISA will sell water. Sign up for a time slot to volunteer. Volunteers receive a free t-shirt and free tickets. Tickets are available to ISA members at 2 tickets for \$2.00 each. General admission tickets are available for \$8.00 adult/

\$2.00 children pre-sale March 1 – 28 and will be \$10.00 / \$4.00 at the gate (\$5.00 parking).

This year ZGF will have a Beer garden and authors will be part of the Speaker Series.

#### Iris Society of Austin Club business:

1. ISA Dues will be collected by Jaime Hadley.
2. The next garden activity will be the preparations to move the Louisiana plantings up to the front bed area.
3. A motion was made to give the same amount of money we gave last year in support of the ZGF and water sales. Passed.

#### Important Dates:

Iris Society of Austin – Next Meeting –

Tuesday March 8th, 2016.

Zilker Garden Festival – April 2 and 3, 2016

Iris Society of Austin Show - Saturday April 9, 2016.

AIS National Convention Newark, New Jersey –

May 25 – 28, 2016.

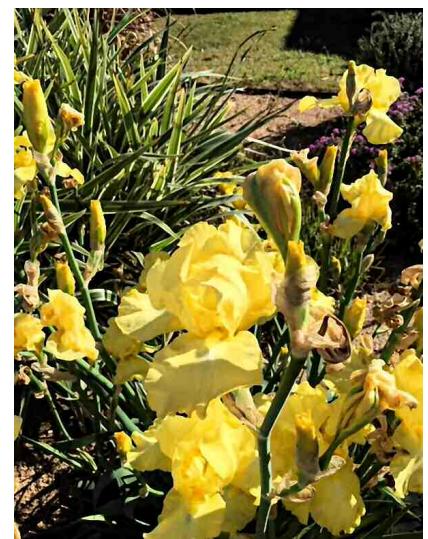
2016 Region 17 Meeting - August 19, 2016.

The meeting program members shared their stories of discovering the world of irises!

The meeting was adjourned.

Dara E. Smith, Secretary

Submitted for Approval on: March 8, 2016.



Yellow irises on the corner of Chestnut and East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Feb. 6, 2016, photo by David and Susan Kraemer.