

the Texas Rainbow NEWSFLYER



volume II number 11 — November 1987
Bulletin Editor L. Dragon

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NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY OFFICERS:

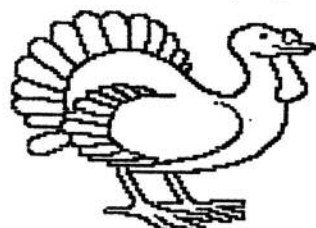
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HELLO FOLKS

And a nice November day
to you. Fall is in the air
and isn't the change refreshing.

I would like to use this space to
welcome all our new members and to
say THANKS for joining us in a
rewarding hobby. You will reap
your reward each Spring when the
beautiful and lovely Tall Bearded
bloom, as well as other times in the
year if you grow Rebloomers,
Louisianas, Spurias etc.



Well Gobbler Day
is coming up this
month. Enjoy, but
remember don't over
do it. We all have so
much to be thank-

ful for and I think Freedom must be
first.



WORD TO THE WISE...

OUR
WISE
OLD
OWL

SEZ:

Use TERRACHLOR for MUSTARD SEED
FUNGUS (CROWN ROT) or BOTRYTIS
(WINTER ROT) and leaf diseases
caused by FUNGUS. Spray in FALL
8 to 10 weeks before FROST. Then
spray again in SPRING just before
BLOOM TIME.

REMEMBER TO READ MANUFACTURER'S
INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING ANY
(POISONS) CHEMICALS. DON'T SPRAY
OR DUST ON A WINDY DAY.

THE IRIS LEGEND

WRITTEN BY DORA WALL

Printed in THE A. I. S. BULLETIN
JAN. 1970

There are stories about how "our flower" came to bear the name of "IRIS" the Goddess. It is certain that the Ancients believed the flower to be especially loved and endowed by the Gods.

One story has it that the Gods held a party for all the flowers. They all came bedecked in their finest colors. But one poor little flower - the Cinderella of the Flower Kingdom - appeared wearing only the dull, tattered dress of a cinder girl. And the heart of Iris was touched. She told the poor little flower: "You shall be clad even as I!" At the next party that little flower appeared in the most dazzling dress of all, a dress that contained all the colors of the rainbow. Ever since, this flower has been known as Iris, the rainbow flower.

Another version of basically the same story says: One day the flowers all assembled at the invitation of Juno (the Roman equivalent of Hera, the Greek Queen Goddess), to celebrate the birthday of Iris. They all came in their prettiest dresses and were having a fine time when three new sister flowers were seen approaching, dressed in gowns of red, yellow, and purple, and wearing gorgeous jewels, but no one knew who they were. As they were without names,

they were christened Iris, because they wore the colors of the rainbow, and thus it is that they bear the name of the messenger of the Gods.

Below the Gods were the Kings and rulers who also loved the Iris and who attributed some God-like powers to it. In the ancient and medieval world the Iris was widely used as a symbol of Power.

The Egyptians introduced the Iris into their architecture as a symbol of Eloquence and Power. It was placed upon the brow of the Sphinx and also on the sceptre of their rulers. In Ancient Babylonia it was recognized as one of the symbols of royalty. In the Amber Palace near Jaipur in India there is a bas relief of an Iris.

Clovis, reported to be the first Christian King of France, was supposed to be the first to carry the Fleur-de-Lys insignia. According to one story, Clovis, in 507, when fighting with the West Goths, came upon a river too deep to cross. The clatter of his troops startled a deer, which ran to a spot from which it crossed safely, indicating to Clovis the safe place to cross. At this point, the water irises were growing. He picked one and then crossed safely and later won a victory. Believing his victory due to the influence of the iris, he henceforth regarded it as a symbol of victory. We know that the iris is the national flower of France, where it was first called Fleur-de-Lys. There are several

legends in regard to its adoption . One of these also concern Clovis . His wife , who was a Christian , endeavored by prayers and good deeds to bring about the conversion of her war-like husband . For a long time he resisted , but finally , when he was in danger of defeat by the Huns , he called for assistance from the God his wife worshipped . The tide of battle turned; he won a complete victory and upon his return was baptized in the Christian Faith . The following night an angel appeared to a holy hermit who dwelt near the castle and gave him a beautiful shield emblazoned with three golden Fleur - de - Lys , which he bade the Queen to give to Clovis .

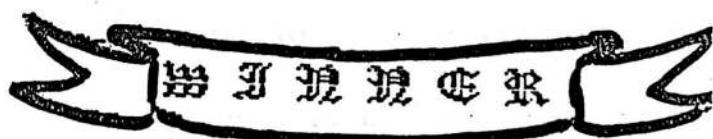
A later tradition ascribes the Fleur - de - Lys to Louis VII of France . About to start on his Crusades to the Holy Land , the white Banner of the French Crusaders was found one morning to be covered with purple Fleur-de-Lys . Louis regarded it as evidence of Divine approval , and adopted it as the emblem of France , and had it engraved upon his signet ring . The soldiers called it Fleur - de - Louis , which later was contracted to Fleur - de - Luce , and finally to Fleur - de - Lys . It was incorporated into the Arms of France and used in the decoration of the Crown itself . Charles VI reduced the number of flowers to three - supposedly in recognition of the Holy Trinity .

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH .

MUM JUDGING

Ray and I will be on the Mum (Chrysanthemum , that is) trail starting Oct 23rd and running into November . We will fly to Albuquerque , N. M. on Oct. 23rd to judge a show and then the next week-end will find us on our way to Atlanta , Ga . to help judge at the National Chrysanthemum show . We will judge at Dallas and Houston . Ray will be the Awards Chairman at our Regional Show in San Antonio . The Capitol Area Chrysanthemum Show will be at the Westgate Mall on Nov. 19th . CACS has a " Mum " bed at Zilker Gardens and the plants are coming into bloom now . So if you get out that way , don't forget , go see the colorful "Mums" .

Oh and guess who is taking their first airplane trip(s) . The person who is afraid of heights ; the person who had to psyche herself out just to climb a high ladder (to paint the house) . Yes yours truly . Oh well I just never had the need to fly before now (or the nerve) .



congratulations to the
winner of the Iris Soc-
iety of Austin drawing :

SHERRI VAN DYKE
AUSTIN , TEXAS

W A P P D

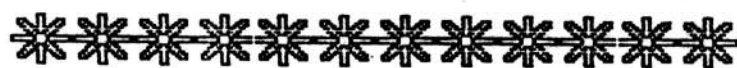
W A P P D

B I R T H D A Y T O



BLANCHE PEAUEY	NOVEMBER	4
MARY SMITH	NOVEMBER	7
LILLIAN LUDWIG	NOVEMBER	13
JAMES ALLEN	NOVEMBER	17

Happy Birthday to you !



IRIS , MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER

Iris , most beautiful flower ,
 Symbol of life , love and light ;
 Found by the brook , on the meadow ,
 Or lofty , on arable height .

You come in such glorious colors ,
 In hues , the rainbow surpass ;
 The chart of color portrays you ,
 In petal , or veins , of your class .

You bloom with the first in Winter .
 With the last , in the Fall , you still
 show ;

You steal the full beauty of Spring-
 time ,
 With your fragrance and sharp color
 glow .

Your form and beauty of flower ,
 An artist's desire of full worth ;
 So, iris , we love you and crown you ,
 MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER ON EARTH !

Edith Buckner Edwards

A I S Bulletin Jan . 1961

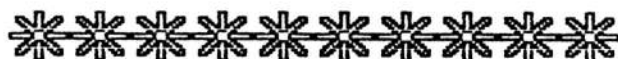
MEETING

THE IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN WILL
 MEET NOVEMBER 10 , 1987 / 7:30 pm
 AT THE ZILKER GARDEN CENTER .
 DON FREEMAN WILL PRESENT A
 SLIDE SHOW ON LOUISIANA IRIS . WE
 WILL HAVE TALL BEARDED IRIS (IN
 POTS) AS " DOOR PRIZES " .



THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY
 WILL MEET NOVEMBER 17 , 1987 AT
 THE FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND
 LOAN BLDG . IN NEW BRAUNFELS .

GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE A WELL
 KNOWN GROWER AND HYBRIDIZER OF
 LOUISIANA IRISES ; MR. JOSEPH
 K. MERTZWEILLER OF BATON ROUGE,
 LOUISIANA WILL GIVE THE PROGRAM
 " HYBRIDIZING OF LOUISIANA IRISES "



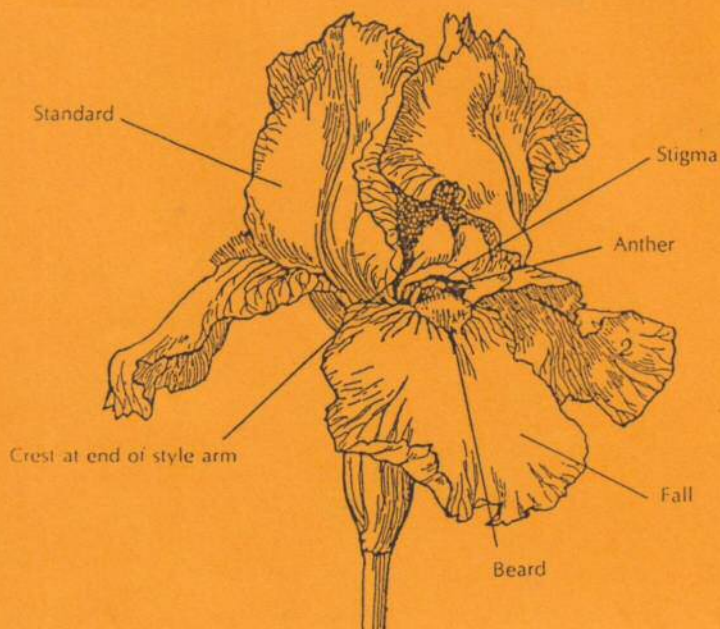
LOUISIANAS (LA) are
 native to the American
 Gulf Coast; they require
 soil that is somewhat acid
 and wet in the spring. The
 blooms are usually very
 wide petaled and open,
 showing brightly colored
 style-arms and sharp
 signal-crests.

IRISES

FOR EVERYONE

W. George Waters

Parts of an Iris Flower



Irises are distinct in having flowers with three of everything: three upper petals called standards; three lower petals, or sepals, called falls; three anthers carrying pollen; and over each anther a pollen-receptive stigma. Iris seed pods also have three compartments. In those irises which have them, the beards sit on the falls partly beneath the style arm which carries the stigma. It is tempting to suppose therefore that beards contribute to the pollination process — perhaps by attracting insects — but their function, if any, is not known.

