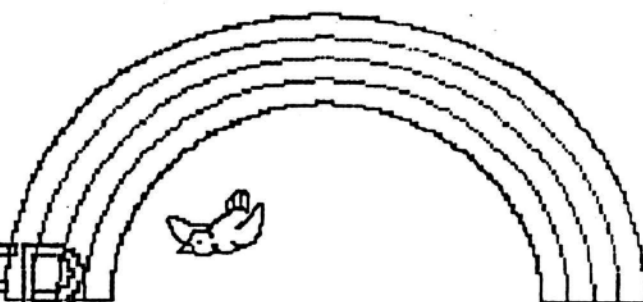


TEXAS RAINBOW NEWSFLYER

MARCH/APRIL 1989

L. DRAGON, EDITOR



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In ancient mythology IRIS, symbolizing the rainbow, is often referred to as the "GODDESS of the RAINBOW". But she had no such important position on Olympus. She was the personal attendant and messenger of JUNE, spouse of the great ZEUS.

Her name has been perpetuated in a great genus of plants because of their unusual color quality, a shimmering changeability under varying lights and positions, which has given us the descriptive word, "iridescent". This quality was

contained in her clothing, according to Vergil, who wrote: "Iris, of saffron wings, displaying against the sun a robe of a thousand varying colors".



A GLIMPSE AT THE PAST

I browsed through some of the old issues of the American Iris Society Bulletins that I have and came up with some interesting facts of the past .

I will list the names of the NBIS Show winners of the Silver and Bronze medals , as well as the exhibitor and iris that won Best of Show. Many of the winners are still active in the NBIS . I do not have all the past issues of the Bulletin , therefore there will be some years that will not be listed here .

SILVER MEDAL WINNER BRONZE MEDAL WINNER BEST OF SHOW WINNER

1962	Mrs. C. A. Oney	Gale Nelson	Mrs. C.A.Oney	"Yeiled in Mystery"
1964	Mr. J. R. Allen	Mrs. J. T. Young	Mrs. M. Dean	"Orange Parade"
1968	Mrs. H. G. Borne	Mr. J. R. Allen	Mrs. H. G. Borne	"Goddess"
Exhibition Certificate / Mr. J. R. Allen , "Crystal Canyon"				
1969	Dr. C. P. Denman	Rev. B. Federwisch	Dr. C. P. Denman	"Yalhalla"
Exhibition Certificate / Mr. J. R. Allen , "Royal Canyon"				
1970	Rev. B. Federwisch	Mrs. C. C. Rockwell	Mrs. M. Dean	"Indiglow"
1974	Mrs. C. C. Rockwell	Rev. B. Federwisch	Rev. B. Federwisch	"Debby Rairdon"
1975	Mrs. C. C. Rockwell	Mr. K. Triesch	Mrs. E. Harris	"Hall of Fame"
1976	Mr. & Mrs. D.R.Skinner,Jr.	Mr. K. Triesch	Mrs. E. Harris	"Mary Sunshine"
1978	Mr. K. Triesch	Mrs. H. Borne	Mr. K. Triesch	"Frances Elizabeth"

GET A LIFT FROM IRIS

ZEFFA JONES

Take a look at the iris.
They make you feel so gay.
There's a new supply to cheer you,
Blooming every day.
Some like the snow-capped mountains.
Some like the heavenly hue,
Some like the beautiful rainbow,
All covered with glistening dew.

They start to open in the morning,
Bright like the golden sun.
They make the day more pleasant
And fill it with joy and fun.
They fill your day with surprises,
With beauty and content—
A day spent with the iris
Is a day happily spent.

SHOW TIME

What better way to gain an appreciation of irises than to grow them for show. Often a grower will enter irises in a show and the irises seem to be passed over because the grower failed to groom the irises properly, or was not careful in selection, perhaps did not fill in the entry card correctly, used the wrong name, etc.

When you decide to enter a show, be sure to obtain a SHOW SCHEDULE and read it so that you will have a full understanding of the rules of the show. This could mean the difference blue ribbon and disqualification. Also be sure to pick up entry tags, so that you can fill them out at home, where you will have more time.

Several weeks before show date take a walk through your iris garden to find some nice looking specimens. When you see some with 3 or 4 way branched bloomstalks, stake them to maintain an erect stalk. I like to tag mine so that I can locate them easily in the dark, by flashlight at night. (that seems to be the time that I manage to get around to cutting them each year. I have read and heard that one can cut the bloom stalks several days before the show (I have never been able to do this--so I do not know how well the iris hold up). I do try to pick specimens in their prime, with firm erect stems, foliage that is free of insect damage, well-developed buds and at least one partially opened bloom.

Keep in mind that the foliage is judged as well as the bloom, so you must groom the specimen that you are going to enter. Wash the stems and leaves with a damp cotton ball or soft cloth. Also be aware that the stems have a thin filmy coating and they will pick up your finger prints, these too should be wiped off. Use a soft brush on the blooms (very carefully) if you need to get a critter or dirt off the bloom. Try not to bruise the bloom or it will not hold up well for the show. If you have a stalk on which a bloom is past its prime (starting to close), remove it carefully and close up the sheath (the dried up area just under each bloom) - do not try to trim this area as it is normal for it to be dried. But do not leave the nubby ends of the old bloom exposed. I keep the temporary tag on the bloom stalk and remove it after I place the entry tag around the container neck.

Keep in mind your transportation mode, measure the available head space. You should have a stalk that is in proportion with the bloom. But be sure that you have the head room in your automobile to transport the bloom(s).

Irises travel best in an upright position. One can use large soda bottles in carrying cases or pails with hardware cloth or chicken wire over the top. When I use the pails I like to ball up some chicken wire and place in the bottom of the pail, thus I can insert the end of the stalk in the balled up chicken wire. This will help to hold the iris in a more upright position and you will be less likely to rub the bloom against anything that could bruise it. Last year I used rolled up newspaper (like tubes) and placed in the pails. I inserted the iris stalk in the center of this tube. The irises traveled well - but my hands were a mess from the newsprint. It does wash off - but it also rubs off (on the iris stalks). I finally decided to use a paper towel when I handled the "groomed" irises, so I would not have to keep cleaning them.

Arrive at the show site slightly before opening time, so you will not feel rushed. If you have groomed your irises at home and filled in the entry tags, then all you will need to do is fill the display containers with water and insert your irises in each container. Then place the tag around the container. Do not forget to remove the temporary tag from the iris stalk.

SHOWTIME TOO !

I am typing this on a very dreary day , but after the cold spell we all went through a short time back , it seems almost nice . But wait spring is just around the corner and we all know what we can expect COME SPRING . YES , IRISES in glorious bloom - oh I can hardly wait . Also it will soon be SHOWTIME . When I take a walk through my iris garden , I just think it can't be possible that my little "boogers" will "wake-up " from their winter nap in time to grow into full fledged iris plants with all their beauty and colors . But I know they will . And of course they will expect me to take them to the "SHOW" so they can be seen by many people . And I hope not to disappoint them . I will certainly try to pick the best looking specimens . I will groom them carefully . Handle them gently . And make sure they are snugly packed in containers so they will not get damaged in transport to the show . They may not smile and wink at the judges , but I am sure that they will put forth their best poise . And just perhaps they will win a blue ribbon for their beauty . But even if they do not , they will have made me proud because they are so lovely to look at .

THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY WILL HOLD THEIR 25th SHOW
THIS YEAR AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN
NEW BRAUNFELS .

" SILVER ANNIVERSARY "

MARCH 15,1989 12:30 PM untill 5 PM

THE IRIS SOCIETY of AUSTIN WILL HOLD THEIR FIRST IRIS SHOW
THIS YEAR IN THE AUSTIN AREA GARDEN CENTER AT
ZILKER PARK .

" IRIS EXTRAVAGANZA "

APRIL 16 ,1989 from 1 PM untill 5 PM

IRIS SOCIETY MEETINGS

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN will meet on MARCH 14 ,1989 at 7:30 pm in the Green Room at the AUSTIN AREA GARDEN CENTER in ZILKER PARK.

IRIS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN will meet on APRIL 11 , 1989 at 7:30 pm in the Green Room at the AUSTIN AREA GARDEN CENTER in ZILKER PARK.

THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY will meet on MARCH 21 , 1989 at 7:30 pm in the meeting room at the FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN in NEW BRAUNFELS. GRACE and MARVIN SCHAEFER will give a program explaining the correct way to fill in IRIS SHOW ENTRY CARDS .

THE NEW BRAUNFELS IRIS SOCIETY will meet on APRIL 18 , 1989 at 7:30 pm in the meeting room at the FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN in NEW BRAUNFELS .

DO NOT FORGET , MARK YOUR CALENDAR SO AS NOT
TO MISS ANY OF THESE MEETINGS.

Mouthwash Aids Cut Flowers

Listerine can extend the life of cut flowers . A solution of 2 oz . listerine with a gallon of water will help cut flowers last longer .

Also a mixture of half SPRITE (the soft drink) and half water will aid in extending the freshness of your cut flowers .

These 2 tips were taken from a past Region 17 Newsletter . I have tried the " Sprite " solution and truly I don't know if it worked or not . You might want to test these on some irises well in advance of show time . I am this year (if I have the time) .