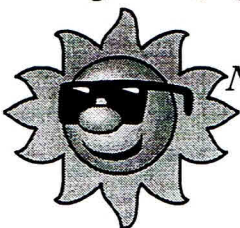


**I R I S**

**A U S T I N**



*Newsletter of The Iris Society of Austin, August 2000, Vol. IX No.8,  
Jim Landers, Editor*

## **I S A Officers**

President.....Kathy Makgill  
VP(Programs).....Mike Renfro  
VP(Membership).....Jan Sherrill  
Secretary.....Helen Kinnamon  
Treasurer.....Charles Aufill  
Historian.....Dana Lovvorn  
Librarian.....Mel Landers

## **August Meeting**

**August 8**

**7 P M**

**Zilker Park**

**Garden Center**

**Note change in time**



**Region 17**

**Annual Meeting**

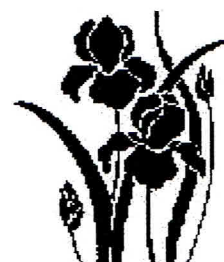
**August 18 & 19**

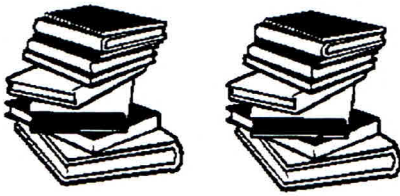
**Dallas**

## **NEW IRIS BEDS**

When planning your new iris beds remember tall bearded irises are sun worshipers. They need at least half a day of sun. You may want to consider raised beds for better drainage. If no raised beds make sure the site has excellent drainage. Tall bearded irises do not like and will not tolerate wet feet.

Proper soil preparation is a major factor in successful iris growing. Ideally you should prepare your beds well in advance of planting the irises. Plants breathe through their leaves and roots and get water and nutrients through their roots. Therefore they will perform much better in properly rototilled or deeply dug loose well cultivated soil. Till at least 9 inches deep. Your clumps will be deeper rooted, larger, healthier, and have more blooms. Add organic matter, sulfur, sand, (if soil is "heavy") and a balanced (10, 10, 10) fertilizer during this preparation and work well into the soil. Water all of this in well several times before planting. Tall bearded irises grow best in soils with pH of 6.5 to 6.8. In many areas of Central Texas the soil and water are very alkaline with a higher pH rating, and will not allow the plants to use the nutrients that are in the soil. Some things that can be added to the soil to reduce the pH value are copperas, compost, sulfur, ironsulphate, or cottonseed meal. Your County Agricultural Agent can do a proper soil analysis and give you specific recommendations to improve the pH value of your soil.





## BOOK SHELF

*The Gardener's Guide to Growing IRISES*,  
Geoff Stebbings, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon,  
1997.

Grown for their spectacular flowers in a wide variety of beautiful colors - some with distinctive striped and speckled markings - and for their architectural leaves, irises are an immensely rewards plant for the gardener and collector alike. The easy-to-grow bearded, Siberian and bulbous irises make a valuable addition to the perennial or mixed border and there are further groups suitable for rock garden, bog garden and water. The popular Pacific Coast irises are similarly adaptable.

*The Gardener's Guide to Growing IRISES* is a comprehensive and wide-ranging study of a large genus with a complex classification. A traditional classification chapter explains how the genus is made up and will prove fascinating for the more botanically minded. To ensure that the book is valuable to gardeners and specialists alike, the plants are grouped according to their place in the classification and their garden-worthy attributes are emphasized so that recommended species for the water garden, the shady garden, the rock garden, the cut flower border, the summer border and the specialist border are all prominently featured. The book features a wealth of practical advise on cultivation, propagation, pest and disease control and garden uses. Committed enthusiasts will enjoy the chapters on Irises for the specialist, Iris relatives and the information on hybridizing and modern developments.

The book is illustrated with superbly detailed photography and informative illustrations which inspire cultivation and collection of the plant and are excellent aids to accurate identification. *The Gardener's Guide to Growing IRISES* will delight iris lovers, convert those new to the genus and inspire a new generation of iris growers.

## IRIS

The "Goodness of the Rainbow" means  
I bring a message true:  
From Winter, Spring, to Summertime  
I've pushed my blossoms through.  
How thrilling in the dewy morn  
To see what overnight -  
Has taken place in our front yard,  
Most wonderful the sight,  
How marvelous the color scheme,  
Past artist's brush to yield,  
In color, mass, and single bloom,  
In tracery and form:  
In queenly grace she stands alone,  
Her equal yet unborn,  
The Cherry Blossom for Japan,  
While England has the Rose;  
And Holland has her Tulip beds,  
Yet everybody knows -  
That Iris is from every clime,  
The Old World and the New:  
Historic graves her colors bear  
Caught from the sky of blue.  
And standing with inviting air  
To stranger and to friend;  
The longer known, the more beloved,  
Her qualities attend.

Mrs. W. W. Brown

## Metric Equivalents

1 centimeter.....	0.3937 inch
1 inch.....	2.54 centimeters
1 foot.....	0.3048 meter
1 meter....	39.37 inches or 1.0936 yds
1 yard.....	0.9144 meter
1 rod.....	5.029 meters
1 kilometer.....	0.621 mile
1 mile.....	1.609 kilometers



## 2000 Symposium

All members of *The American Iris Society* are urged to participate in the ballot for your favorite 25 Tall Bearded Iris varieties so that a wide consensus may be obtained of the Tall Bearded Iris varieties that grow and bloom best in the gardens throughout America. The ballot is in the July 2000, *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*. Mail the completed ballot by September 1, 1998 to:

**Bonnie Nichols, RVP**  
**3365 Northaven Road**  
**Dallas, TX 75229**

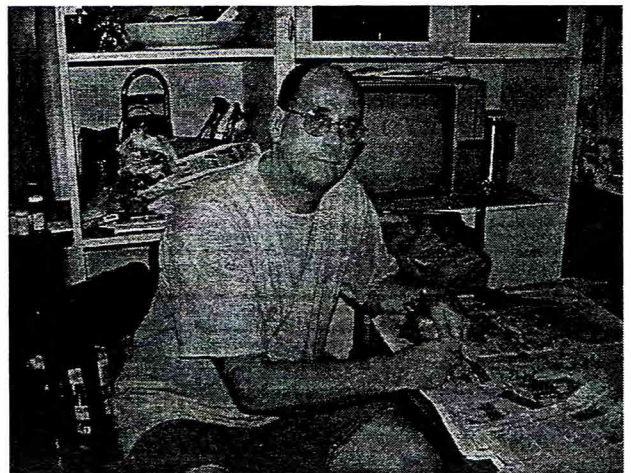
Final results will be published as the popularity poll in a future issue of the *Bulletin*.



Jim with irises.



Jim digging in convention garden in July.



Ken marking irises.



Paper bags of irises in Lew's house.  
Photo of Ken by Lew Begley.  
All other photos by Ken Fuchs.



Nicholas watching bags of irises.





## June Minutes

Kathy Makgill called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. The May meeting minutes were accepted as published. Treasurer's report was accepted as read by Charles Aufill.

**ORDERS FROM COOLEY'S.** Jan Sherrill said there is still time to turn in the order forms for Cooley's. She will order from Cliff Snyder first.

**SALE.** There will be a work party at Cliff's Rainbow Farms September 2nd. There will be set up for the sale September 8th and the sale will be September 9th. Members were reminded to save their brown paper bags and plastic bags for the sale.

**PUBLICITY.** There is a need for a publicity chairman for the sale and show. Please contact Kathy Macgill if you are interested.

**PRICING & MARKING.** A motion was accepted to use marking pens. There will be two prices for rhizomes. A final vote will be taken at the work party September 2nd.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to spend \$200.00 for Spurias and \$250.00 for Louisianas.

Rhonda Quinn received iris from Hillcrest Nursery in Dallas. They are ready for planting. Rhonda will call Hooker Nichols to find out the data on them.

Eleanor Harris will no longer cultivate irises and wants to sell hers at the sale for \$2.00 per rhizome. Kathy Makgill will talk to her.

**Dues** for 2000/2001 are to be given to Charles Aufill.

The active members list is at check in, please remember to sign in. A member is considered active who attends 5 meetings or activities..

**HORTICULTURE.** Carol Canfield reported that grasshoppers are very bad this year. Keep your gardens clean.

**LIBRARY.** Mel Landers has records for previous shows and information on tally sheets that Pat Byrne turned in to him. A motion was made, seconded and passed to discard these sheets because there are permanent cards with the necessary information. Pat will keep the records for year 2000.

Don Freeman brought in a white tub to show the group what works well for Louisianas. These tubs cost \$3.00 each and he took orders for those interested. Carol suggested that the Louisianas grow better if they have some afternoon shade. Don said that white tubs work better than black ones.

**GARDEN COUNCIL.** Don Freeman reported that the new horticulturalist is Justin Williams and the new president will be C. L. Williams.

**MEDALS.** Pat Byrne presented two medals. Carol Canfield received the Silver Medal for the most blue ribbons in the show, and Jim Landers the Bronze Medal for second most blue ribbons.

**SPACEAGERS.** Pat Byrne asked if there should be a category for spaceagers. After discussion, it was decided Pat would check this out at the national level.

**PROGRAM.** Kathy Makgill suggested we separate into 3 groups at 8:30 pm to discuss the following: (1) Beautification and Education, (2) Activities and Special Projects, and (3) Mixed Bag such as Format, Membership, etc. The groups were called back together at 9 pm and a speaker from each group spoke on what was suggested by that group. After discussion each member was to pick 5 things they felt were important. There was no time left to vote and these suggestions will be voted on at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Kinnamon

## *Notice*

*There will be  
special door prizes  
at the August meeting*