

## **IRIS AUSTIN**

**Newsletter of the Iris Society of Austin**  
An Affiliated Society of the American Iris Society in Region 17  
October, 2006, Vol. XV, No. 9

*Nelda Moore, Editor*

*Neldamoore@hotmail.com*



### **HOSPITALITY:**

**PAT BYRNE, CHAIRMAN**

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Marney Abel | main dish        |
| Ken Fuchs   | salad            |
| Nelda Moore | dessert          |
| Lila Lewis  | squash casserole |
| Pat Byrne   | drinks           |

Please bring a dish for the meal  
which begins at 7 P.M. on  
Tuesday, **OCTOBER 10.**

### **WELCOME: NEW MEMBERS**

VIC APPEL

DOROTHY CARROLL

CHARLES EVANS

JOYCE EVANS

ROXANNE HARDWICK

GEORGE B. PATTERSON

JOHN LEWICKI

DELLA THOMPSON

JOANNA L. VARNER

OLIVIA M. VILLARREAL

DEANNA A. VILLARREAL

NANCY EDISON

**MEETING: OCTOBER 10**  
**PORTLAND CONVENTION**  
**RHIZOME EXCHANGE**

### **ARIL AND ARILBRED IRISES ARE EXOTIC AND DIFFICULT**

Aril and arilbred irises have exotic flowers with various rich colors and unusual shapes, textures, and patterns including self, blend, bitone, bicolor, and amoena.

Overlapping standards have a round, domed look. If they are reflexed outward on the sides, the characteristic is called flagging. The rounded falls, which can flare, recurve, roll under, or have some combination of any of these traits are small compared to the standards. Veining and stippling or dotting occur on the falls and may also be found on the standards. One of the most distinguishing features of these flowers is the dark, round spot or signal that appears at the tip end of the broad beard, which may also be linear and range in color from white to nearly black.

The aril irises are the oncocylus and regalia species from the Middle East and hybrids having only aril in their ancestry. Arilbreds are hybrids between aril irises and bearded irises.

Arils are named for the white collar that surrounds the helium, the spot where the seed is attached to the seedpod. These fleshy appendages may be as large as the rest of the seed.

Oncos are rhizomatous and have stems with only one flower.

The eight known species of Regelia irises usually have two flowers per stem and beards on both standards and falls. They grow on rocky, sandy hills and have a dormant summer period.

## HOW TO SELECT ARILS

When selecting these diverse irises, choose award winners. Plant them in an area with plenty of sun and good drainage. Apply general-purpose fertilizer in fall and spring since arils prefer soil with a higher pH than other bearded irises. Arils may be lifted out of the soil in July and planted again in October. They increase rapidly and must be divided every year.

According to Tom Tadfor Little aril irises "are unapologetically temperamental, sometimes thriving for 4 or 5 seasons and then simply dying for no obvious reason."

Some have speculated that the lilies of the field mentioned in the Bible were aril irises. In 1573 *Iris susiana* was brought to Europe from Constantinople. Oncocyclus are native to the Middle East and are found from Israel all the way to southern Russia. Desert plants can thrive on extreme heat and very little water, but native mountain 'oncos' can endure cold, wet weather of the high steppes.

## ALL IRISES SHOULD BE FED NOW

It is still time to plant those irises that you purchased. Dig the soil and turn it, adding bonemeal for bearded irises and acid fertilizer such as azalea food to the Louisianas. In February add super phosphate to both kinds, although Louisianas and spurias are heavy feeders. Keep the Louisianas damp and add mulch over the rhizomes that surface during the winter. Water spurias as they begin to emerge from the soil after a summer of dormancy.

If heavy rains have washed too much soil off the bearded iris, simply add more compost, leaving about a ½ inch of the fleshy root exposed near the foliage. New white roots formed in the damp soil will soon anchor the plant deep in the raised bed. Bearded iris do not need too much water.



## IRIS SALE SUCCESSFUL

Ken Fuchs processed Master Card and Visa sales of \$1063.75 September 9 using the credit card machine acquired by our society.

The sale raised over \$5000. Marney and Roger Abel continued with the sale in front of Albertsons at 701 Capitol of Texas Highway in West Lake Hills. Don Freeman and Ashley Lewis assisted by selling the remaining rhizomes.

The Sweet Shop Bake Sale yielded \$61.25 for Lone Star State in 2008 American Iris Society Convention that will be hosted by our society. Pat Byrne, Helen Kinnamon, and Nelda Moore provided fudge, cookies, strawberry bread, and chocolate cakes.

Frannie Hazlett and Margaret Putzier kept the raffle exciting while Ashley and Lila Lewis showed slides featuring the iris society members at work. A video about growing and showing irises by Carolyn Hawkins played in the corner of the auditorium.

In the Greene Room Don Freeman demonstrated how to plant irises.

Many thanks to all of the members who were present to make the sale a success.

# LONE STAR STATE IN 2008

7P.M. to 7:40 P.M. Meet, Greet, and Eat

Meeting commenced at 7:40 P.M.—Marney Abel welcomed everyone and announced that we have a new old member—Nancy Edison.

Minutes from the June meeting—no additions or corrections and the minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter of June, 2006.

#### REPORT FROM OFFICERS:

Treasurer's Report—Pat Byrne

May 6, 2006, balance \$5800.06. In May there were \$318.84 in checks written and \$245 in deposits leaving a balance of \$5726.22.

June—One check for \$320.65 was written and \$45 in deposits leaving a balance of \$5450.57.

July—Checks for \$200 and \$15 in deposits leaving a balance of \$5265.57.

August—Checks for \$910.48 and \$15 in deposits leaving a balance of \$4370.29.

#### READING OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN BYLAWS—KEN FUCHS

New proposals will be voted on at the October meeting. They were published in the last newsletter. These were proposed and accepted by the Executive Committee.

- Society's calendar year change—from May 1 to April 30 to January 1 thru December 31. This change will allow the Society's membership calendar to coincide with the parent clubs' calendar and make the paying of fees less complicated.
- Annual membership fees—The proposal is to increase the annual membership fees for an individual from \$10 to \$12 for the year and for joint from \$15 to \$18/year. If a member joins after the first calendar month, the rest of the year will be prorated \$1 per month. Additionally, if the calendar change proposal is accepted, for the 2007 year, members in May will pay \$6 for the rest of 2007 and \$12 will be due in November for 2008.

Additional discussion about memberships—Ken stated that after tonight's meeting all members on the roster who have not paid their dues for 2006 will be removed. New sign-in sheets and tracking of all club related time should be recorded on the sign-in sheets to be counted for active member status. A minimum of 5 meetings (of volunteer events) must be attended to be considered an active member.

#### REPORT FROM 2008 COMMITTEE—JIM LANDERS

Iris beds in San Marcos tourist center were featured on the front page of the San Marcos newspaper. There are 7 gardens in the works and the rhizomes are beginning to arrive.

SATURDAY RHIZOME SALE PREPARATION—The remainder of the meeting was devoted to preparing and pricing the rhizomes for the sale on Saturday, September 9, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Reeh, Secretary

## OFFICERS

**Marney Abel—President**  
**Jim Landers—Vice President**  
**Programs**

**Ken Fuchs—Vice President**  
**Membership**

**Patty Reeh—Secretary**  
**Pat Byrne—Treasurer**  
**John Kinnamon—Historian**  
**Pat Colacino—Librarian**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

For the October meeting we will have an iris rhizome exchange. Everyone is asked to bring one iris rhizome from the garden to the meeting. Don't worry if you are not currently growing irises. There will be extras for you to use for the exchange. If possible have information about your rhizome available. Describe the color, height, variety, year of introduction, and any other facts about the iris. Give the name of the hybridizer.

At the meeting you will be assigned an exchange partner, whom you must seek out and exchange rhizome and information.

## A NOTE TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

A GIFT IRIS RHIZOME IS WAITING FOR YOU. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOUR INTEREST AND LOVE OF IRISES. PLEASE COME TO THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

*THANK YOU to all who worked so hard during the last meeting, during the set up for the sale, and during the sale.*

*The Iris Society of Austin also received donations from Pat Byrne, Don and Pat Freeman, the French Legation, Charlie and Sonja Hensley, David Kraemer, Jim Landers, Nelda Moore, John and Rosie Nieman, and*

*Lee and Sandy Schroeder.*

*THANKS to all who made the sale possible through publicity by creating the website and the flyers.*

*THANKS to Don Freeman who promoted the sale on the radio.*

*Now it is up to us to get these in bloom for the show April 7.*

*Marney Abel*

Did you know that **Night Mood, Understated, and Wild Petticoat**, all intermediate bearded irises in the guest gardens, are Spec—X aphylla cultivars that will lose foliage in late autumn, but will come back with increased vigor.

Yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*) thrives in full sun, wet and compacted soil, and hosts a soil-dwelling bacteria that can destroy soil-borne nitrogen. The plant releases its nutlets before chemical herbicides are able to kill it. To control the nutgrass dig everything you can in early summer when the nutlets are "worn out" from producing growth all spring and before new ones form. You can also put down a layer of landscape fabric before planting.

[www.GardenGateMagazine.com](http://www.GardenGateMagazine.com)

"When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant." Backyard Living

*LOVE STAR SALE IN 2008*